



ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

AND DISTRICTS THREE, FIVE, & SEVEN *ELECTION OUTCOMES*



John Winter, Jeff Orth, and Jerry Wooner take the oath of office.



PEC Employees are ready to take registrations before the meeting begins.



THE COOPERATIVE'S 86TH ANNUAL MEETING was held at the Rochester International Event Center on Thursday, March 23, 2023. There were over 200 members and guests in attendance. Five candidates vied for three seats with three-year terms on PEC's Board of Directors.

In **District 3**, John Winter defeated Mike Hintz for the seat once held by Bob Hoefs who did not seek re-election after 21 years of service. Winter won with 1,074 votes and Hintz received 908 votes. **District 5** incumbent Jerome Wooner of Eyota ran unopposed and received 1,881 votes. **District 7** incumbent Jeff Orth of Rochester Township defeated challenger Theresa Hornberg. Orth won with 1,422 votes and Hornberg received 576 votes.

Board Chair Jerome Wooner addressed the Cooperative members in attendance and talked about the challenge of delivering on the mission to provide affordable electricity in today's economy. Wooner stated, "The biggest challenge we're facing from a rate standpoint right now is the rate of inflation and its impact on the cost of materials required to deliver reliable electric service and the cost of fuel that is driving up the cost of power."

President and CEO Mike Henke shared the Cooperative's success in hitting key metrics relative to delivering reliable power in 2022. Henke shared stats around two key factors in measuring reliable electric service, the frequency of outages and how long they last. Henke said, "In 2022, on average, each member experienced an average of 0.37 power outages. Keep in mind this is an average, so if you do the math, about one-third of our members had an outage and two-thirds did not last year." Henke also stated, "Of the 8,760 hours in 2022, we delivered electric service 8,759 hours—which equates to 99.991% of the time."

If you missed the meeting, you can still watch it on the Cooperative's Facebook page, YouTube channel, or on our website peoplesenergy.coop.

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06. Bob Hoefs Retires From PEC's Board

09. Bill Payment Options That Work for You

10. Save With Home Energy Audits and Rebates

CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

Since early 2022, we have experienced significant delays in our expected transformer delivery dates for padmount transformers. These are the green metal boxes that can be found around our service territory and may even be in your front yard. Padmount transformers are used for underground service and are a critical piece of equipment in the electric grid. They transform, or “step down” the voltage level so electricity can be safely distributed to homes and businesses.

There are several contributing factors to the delays such as increased product demand, supply chain issues, labor shortages, and trucking issues. The issue started with constricted operations at transformer factories caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which significantly slowed down production.

Following the pandemic, the nation saw a spike in new housing developments, further increasing demand. Add to that destructive storms and wildfires that required the replacement of existing transformers and you can see how demand is outpacing supply.

Other challenges include a global shortage of electrical steel which is a key component in transformers; labor shortages at U.S. shipping ports are causing delays in receiving imported components; and a lack of truck drivers and warehouse workers are hindering deliveries of finished product.

We typically order transformers in January for delivery in March or April. In 2021, we started

experiencing delays and recognized the need to order them 48 months earlier than normal. For example, we placed two orders for transformers in October of 2021 for expected delivery in May and June of 2022 from two different suppliers. To date, we have only received partial shipments of these orders and recently learned the rest have been pushed out to July of this year. What was once a four-month turnaround time has stretched out to almost two years.

Factoring in the current transformer delays, we estimate that the earliest we will be able to schedule any new padmount transformer installs that we do not currently know about until July/ August, assuming that there are no further delays. We will be allocating transformers to projects based on when we receive the requests and when the line extension costs are paid. We have reached out to building contractors and solar installers encouraging them to plan accordingly for any interconnections requiring a padmount transformer installation or replacement.

If you are planning to build a home or business or to interconnect a solar array or wind turbine, please make sure you contact the Cooperative right away. We will do our best to accommodate your electrical needs but know that some things are out of our control despite our best efforts to plan ahead.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Henke,
President & CEO,
(800) 214-2694



LET'S GET SOCIAL!

We utilize Facebook and Twitter to share information about topics such as electrical safety, energy efficiency, cooperative events, and peak energy alerts. We also provide information when major outages occur.



MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

highline

Vol. 87 • Issue 04

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on March 31. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *recognized Friedrich for 10 years of service and Lauritzen for five years of service; update on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act grant application; all 2021 storm damage funds now received; Oronoco sewer project delay; ACRE rebranded to become America's Electric Cooperative Political Action Committee; renewable energy credits; training on cybersecurity threats from phishing emails; and discussion about recent collapses in the banking industry and the need to ensure the financial integrity of the Cooperative.* A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ Appointed Jerome Wooner as Board Chair, Jodie Tvedt as Vice Chair, and Tracy Lauritzen as the Secretary/Treasurer.
- ▶ Appointed Art Friedrich as the Dairyland Power Cooperative Director and Tracy Lauritzen as the alternate Dairyland Director.

- ▶ Approved revisions to Policies 303, 304, and 306.
- ▶ Approved acceptance of the 2022 Financial Audit for the Cooperative.
- ▶ Approved acceptance of the 2022 Financial Audit for the People's Energy Cooperative Trust (Operation Round Up).
- ▶ Approved a 3.621 mill PCA credit adjustment for Legacy members for March usage billed in April.
- ▶ Approved an 11.290 mill PCA adjustment for SMEC members for March usage billed in April.
- ▶ Reviewed and accepted the 2022 Safety, Reliability, and Service Quality Report.
- ▶ Approved delegates for the Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting.
- ▶ Set April 26 as the date for the next Member Advisory Committee meeting.
- ▶ Moved the April Board Meeting date to April 28, 2023.
- ▶ Rejected an offer for the sale of land in Oronoco Crossings.

MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,
President/CEO

Patrick Nelson,
Director of Engineering
and Operations

Michelle Olson,
Director of
Member Services

Gwen Stevens,
Director of Cooperative
Relations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1:

Jon Kroening
(507) 884-0160, jkroening@
peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 2:

Jodie Tvedt
Vice Chair
(507) 218-2141, jtvedt@
peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 3:

John Winter
(507) 990-5648, jwinter@
peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen,
Secretary/Treasurer
(507) 261-8740, tlauritzen@
peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 5:

Jerry Wooner,
Board Chair
(507) 259-7217, jwooner@
peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich
Dairyland Director
(507) 951-0590, afriedrich@
peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth
(507) 254-6358, jorth@
peoplesenergy.coop

Visit peoplesenergy.coop
for a listing of the areas
covered by each district.

Business Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F



BIG NEWS!

Lemonade Day!™

ROCHESTER, MN

**IS
COMING...**

**JUNE 10
- 2023 -**

[LEMONADEDAY.ORG/ROCHESTER-MN](https://lemonadeday.org/rochester-mn)

**Learn to save,
spend, and share
through this fun,
free program!**

*Lemonade Day is
a fun, experiential
program that
teaches kids how
to start, own, and
operate their very
first business – a
lemonade stand!*

About the Upcoming 2023 Rate Change

This year is the final year of our Five-Year Rate Restructure Plan. It was intended to be the year when we simply verified members were on the appropriate rate and ensured the new rate structure met revenue requirements.

While those two tasks are complete and held true, we also need to incorporate a rate increase. Despite our best attempts to avoid it, historic inflation is making it necessary to implement an across-the-board, average rate increase of four percent (4%). The increase will go into effect on May 1, 2023, and will be reflected on June billing statements.

RATE INCREASE: The tables below show the actual increase in rates for the most common ones and encompasses approximately 90% of PEC members. Please note that summer is June through August, and winter is September through May. A full listing of rates is available on our website.

GENERAL IMPACTS: The average energy use by residential accounts on the Residential-Rural Rate

is around 925 kWh per month, resulting in an average increase of \$5.40 per month. Members on the Residential-Urban and Residential-Single-Phase Rates use around 710 kWh per month on average, which will result in an average increase of \$4.84 per month.

WHY THE INCREASE? As a not-for-profit organization, it is necessary to recover the costs of doing business, as well as maintain enough margins to reinvest in the system to ensure reliable electric service and to cover repayment of debt. The increased cost of goods and services, along with increased power costs, have made it necessary to increase both the basic service charge (BSC) and energy charges.

More details about the rate increase were mailed out with the bills in early April and are available on our website. To learn more about the challenges that led to the rate increase, we encourage you to watch Board Chair Jerry Woerner's message from the Annual Meeting on our Facebook page or our YouTube channel.

| RESIDENTIAL | RATE | BSC – NOW | BSC – MAY 1 | CURRENT ENERGY RATE | ENERGY RATE EFFECTIVE MAY 1 |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| | Rural | \$52.00/month | \$53.70/month ▲ \$1.70 | \$0.1200 / kWh (Summer) \$0.1000 / kWh (Winter) | \$0.1240 / kWh (Summer) ▲ \$0.0040 \$0.1040 / kWh (Winter) ▲ \$0.0040 |
| | Urban and Single Phase | \$30.00/month | \$32.00/month ▲ \$2.00 | | |
| GENERAL/COMMERCIAL RATES | RATE | BSC – NOW | BSC – MAY 1 | CURRENT ENERGY RATE | ENERGY RATE EFFECTIVE MAY 1 |
| | Small General Service < 25 kW | \$52.00/month (Single-phase) | \$53.70/month ▲ \$1.70 | \$0.1100 / kWh (Summer) \$0.0900 / kWh (Winter) | \$0.1140 / kWh (Summer) ▲ \$0.0040 \$0.0940 / kWh (Winter) ▲ \$0.0040 |
| | | \$115.00/month (Three-phase) | \$122.50/month ▲ \$7.50 | | |
| | Medium General Demand Service > 25 kW | \$52.00/month (Single-phase) | \$53.70/month ▲ \$1.70 | \$0.0610 / kWh (all-year) Demand: \$15.75 / kW (Summer) \$12.25 / kW (Winter) | \$0.0630 / kWh (all-year) ▲ \$0.0020 Demand: \$17.00 / kW (Summer) ▲ \$1.25 \$13.50 / kW (Winter) ▲ \$1.25 |
| | | \$115.00/month (Three-phase) | \$122.50/month ▲ \$7.50 | | |
| | Large Power and Lighting > 50 kW all months | \$115.00/month | \$122.50/month ▲ \$7.50 | | |

2023 PEC Board Election THANK YOU NOTES

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

District 3 Director: John Winter – “My thanks to the Nominating Committee for nominating me as a candidate for the Cooperative Board. Also, many thanks to the members that voted in the election process, fulfilling one of the seven Cooperative principles, democratic member control. Member engagement in our Cooperative is very important and appreciated. I am truly honored to be elected to serve on your Cooperative Board. My humble thanks to Bob Hoefs for more than two decades of service, and to my opponent, Mike Hintz, who took the time and effort to stand for election.”

District 3 Candidate: Mike Hintz – Thank you to the Nominating Committee for selecting me as a candidate for the District 3 Director position. Thank you to all the People’s membership who voted for me. While I did not win, I look forward to continuing as an active member in our cooperative as we move into the challenging times ahead!

District 5 Director: Jerry Wooner – I would like to thank all the Cooperative members who took the time to vote in this year’s elections and to the members who attended the Annual Meeting. The Cooperative is stronger when we all participate. Thanks to all the candidates who were willing to give their time on the Board. I am honored and humbled to be serving another three years on the People’s Energy Board and I will continue to serve all members to the best of my abilities.

District 7 Director: Jeff Orth – Thank you to the People’s Energy Board Nominating Committee and membership for the vote of confidence in the 2023 Board Election. Special thanks to all individuals who accepted the nominations to run for the Board. Thanks also to friend and colleague Robert Hoefs for his years of service to Peoples. I am honored to represent District 7 and look forward to navigating the challenges for Peoples Energy with the recent carbon free initiatives.

District 7 Candidate: Theresa Hornberg – A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the election, from staff to the Nominating Committee to the membership. I was honored to be nominated. Member representation on the Board of Directors is part of what makes a cooperative such a meaningful form of business. I look forward to many more years of reliable electricity, superior customer service, and innovative energy solutions from People’s Energy Cooperative. Thanks again and have a wonderful spring!

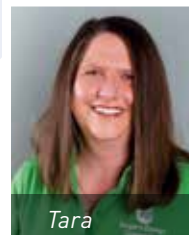
Thanks to several employees marking recent milestones!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

- **Tara Stockman, 20 years**
Human Resources Manager
- **Cody Black, 5 years**
Engineering Manager
- **Jim Wiste, 5 years**
Member Programs and Data Specialist

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- **Dave Patterson, 15 years**
IT Manager
- **Shawn Varpness, 15 years**
Journey Lineworker
- **Jason Campbell, 10 years**
Line Superintendent
- **Dakota Hanson, 5 years**
Journey Lineworker



Tara



Cody



Jim



Dave



Shawn



Jason



Dakota



**Thank
you all
for your
service!**



Thanks Bob!

FOR YOUR DEDICATION & SERVICE

BOB HOEFS RETIRES FROM THE COOPERATIVE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For over two decades, Bob Hoefs has served as a director on the People's Energy Cooperative Board. He retired from the Board at the end of his term.

Hoefs, who represented District 3, first joined People's Energy Cooperative as a member in 1967 and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2002. At the time, he recalls putting his name in as a director candidate because he hoped the business experience he had would be useful for the Board. Hoefs spent 30 years as the owner of a John Deere dealership. "I am a paying member like anybody else," Hoefs is quick to note. "I tried to represent everybody well."

Over the years, Hoefs served in the roles of Vice Chair and Secretary on the Board of Directors. During his time on the Board, he says he witnessed many changes. "Years ago, they always advertised that 'electricity is penny cheap.' As more electrification came, it presented many challenges to be able to service the growing load," Hoefs explains. "Today, everybody just flips a switch, and they expect the power to go on. They don't think about what it takes to get that electricity."

Hoefs mentions how the Board is always faced with the challenge of making sure members' energy bills remain as affordable as possible, while still

maintaining a reliable system. In many cases, saving money in the short term might end up costing members in the long run. Thirty-three thousand seven hundred sixty-one.

One of the most significant changes Hoefs was a part of while on the Board was the decision to build a new headquarters building in Oronoco. He recalls, "It was quite an undertaking to sell our old building, buy some bare land, and put up this new building. At the time when we did that, it seemed like a lot of money. Looking back, I think it was a good decision and I am thankful we now have room for expansion." Another important decision with positive impact he was involved with was the acquisition of Alliant Energy's service territory in Minnesota.

Looking forward, Hoefs says he hopes People's Energy Cooperative can continue to handle the increase in demand for power.

"We need to make sure we look into the future so we can ensure there is enough power for everybody. It is a challenge to be able to provide good, reliable power with reasonable rates. I would like to thank all of the members for their support over the years, I hope I did a good job for everybody." – Bob Hoefs



The PEC Board of Directors in 2010, including Bob Hoefs, at the groundbreaking for the new headquarters building in Oronoco.



Bob Hoefs joins members and other Board members for the annual trip to La Crosse for Dairyland Power Cooperative's Annual Meeting in 2018.



OPERATION ROUND UP® SPOTLIGHT:

ART ENCOURAGEMENT STUDENTS CREATE WITH “ART ON THE FLY”

When her art classes would come to a close, Tiffany Erie noticed that many of her students weren't ready to stop. To encourage them to continue creating at home, she imagined a system of bags full of art supplies that students could take home with them.

Today, she has 16 “Art on the Fly” bags filled with a variety of supplies ready for students to check out from the classroom.

Erie is an art teacher at Franklin Elementary / Montessori at Franklin. She started the Art on the Fly concept several years ago thanks to a \$600 Operation Round Up grant through People's Energy Cooperative. “We received a grant in 2016 to start this project, but since then supplies have been depleted,” Erie notes. To help purchase new art supplies to replenish the bags, a \$620 grant was recently approved through Operation Round Up.

“The bags give my young artists an opportunity to continue their creative process at home or dive into a new idea. We only have art once every six school days for 45 minutes, which equates to about 30 times that they get to be in the studio,” Erie says. “Kids can borrow the bags (and add to them if needed with supplies from the studio) and go home and create.

This extends their short art time and they come back to school with their bags in the morning so proud to share what they did. It's impossible to put a price on that smile.”

Art on the Fly bags are offered to third, fourth, and fifth graders at the school. Students have access to four drawing bags, four paint bags, four collage bags, and four fiber arts bags. Grant funds will be used to purchase new supplies for the bags, in addition to a few surplus supplies that will be stored and added into the bags as items are used up.

Many students at the school do not have the tools to continue their work at home, so the bags are serving as an important link between what is happening in the art room and at home. The bags allow students to further explore art methods they are interested in. Students have the opportunity to try out new tools and materials, with the freedom to take their art in whatever direction they want.

“The young artists of Franklin and I are so thankful for all of the members of People's Energy Cooperative for opting into Operation Round Up. That little amount of money you elect to give to others makes more of a difference than you'll ever know.”

NRECA YOUTH TOUR



CONGRATS TO OUR 2023 WINNER!

Congratulations to Jamie Stucky of Plainview for being selected to represent People's Energy Cooperative at the 2023 NRECA Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!

Jamie is a junior at Plainview-Elgin-Millville High School in Plainview and the daughter of Judd and Amy Stucky. What interested her most about this experience was the educational opportunities that will be available. She's always been interested in the government system and wants to become a civil servant someday. Plus, it's always been a dream of hers to see our nation's capital! ***We look forward to hearing more about her trip when she returns!***

PEC Distribution Grid

ACCESS FEE CHANGE & COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Cooperative conducted its annual calculation of our distributed generation rates per Minnesota State Statute and the Board of Directors approved them at the board meeting held on February 23.

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All changes to what the Cooperative pays members for excess energy take effect with the May usage period. The Cooperative's Cogeneration and Small Power Production Tariff filing can be viewed on the Cooperative's website.

The distributed generation rate changes include a change in the Distributed Generation Grid Access Fee. This fee has been adjusted and is applied to all qualified small power or cogeneration facilities (*under 40kW*) interconnected on or after May 1, 2016. Twenty-two thousand seven hundred eighty-one.

Effective with May usage, the distribution grid access fee will be applied monthly as follows:

| TYPE OF SERVICE | KW IN EXCESS OF 3.5KW | NOT TO EXCEED* |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Residential Service | \$2.49 per kW | \$20.00 |
| Small General Service | \$2.44 per kW | \$24.00 |
| Med. General w/Demand | \$1.70 per kW | \$62.00 |

* Where the Cost of Service Study determined value is greater than is possible to charge a system under 40kW the maximum possible charge is shown.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH

People's Energy Cooperative's (PEC) adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, PEC is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers, who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility.

PEC is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements.

All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases is subject to resolution by the PEC Board.

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Interested members should contact the Cooperative by emailing DERInterconnect@peoplesenergy.coop or calling (800) 214-2694.

Solar\$ense

Interested in your own solar energy system?

Residential members can choose to receive an up-front rebate for installing a "properly-sized" solar system. *For more information, visit: peoplesenergy.coop/member-owned-renewable-energy-systems*



An opportunity for members to benefit from Solar Energy



Budget Billing

A MORE BALANCED PAYMENT OPTION

At People's Energy Cooperative, there are several ways to pay your electric bill.

One of them is budget billing. This payment option allows members to pay more balanced monthly payments and is available for residential and small general service accounts only. It is not allowed for accounts on demand billed rates. Eleven thousand nine hundred eighty-seven.

- ▶ **HOW IT WORKS:** When you sign up for budget billing, a payment amount is calculated based on the most recent 12 months of energy consumption. Once a year, that amount is recalculated to reflect the most recent 12 months of energy consumption. This change is reflected on the July billing statement. Beginning this year, members enrolled in budget billing will experience a 'true-up' month with May usage that will be reflected on their June billing statement. The true-up month is to bring the accounts receivable balance to zero if there is a balance due.
- ▶ **HOW TO QUALIFY:** To qualify for budget billing, a member must have lived at the same location for at least one year and have no more than one reminder/delinquent notice in the preceding consecutive 12 months. While on budget billing, members must pay the designated budget amount. If members have a reminder/delinquent notice during a consecutive 12-month period, they will be mailed a letter advising them that if they are late again (during that 12-month period), they will be removed from budget billing and will owe the total amount due on their account.
- ▶ **GET SIGNED UP:** To enroll in budget billing, visit peoplesenergy.coop/budget-billing and provide the required information.



Simplify your life. Pay online safely and securely.

- ▶ Account management at your fingertips.
- ▶ Pay your bill online using a bank account or credit card.
- ▶ View detailed account info and energy usage.

Available in both Apple App and Google Play Stores!

Register today! Visit: peoplesenergy.coop/smarthub



HOME ENERGY AUDITS & REBATES



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A PROFESSIONAL HOME ENERGY AUDIT

Are you considering a remodeling project and want to make sure you opt for energy-efficient upgrades? Are you curious how your home uses energy? Would you appreciate having an energy audit of your older home to see where efficiency improvements could provide the greatest benefit? If so, consider scheduling a home energy audit.

People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) offers our members home energy audits performed by trained professionals. "Energy audits can give homeowners the information needed to help them prioritize what projects can help their home be more energy efficient," explains Jim Wiste, PEC's member services programs and data specialist.

Wiste recommends that members consider scheduling a home energy audit before undertaking any large home improvement projects. The audits are also beneficial for providing information that can help with planning for future HVAC or home improvement projects. After an audit is conducted, members receive a detailed report that includes the estimated savings that would accompany various improvements.

When an approved audit is performed and recommended improvements are implemented, PEC members may qualify for an Audit Recommended

Improvements rebate of up to \$500. The program only applies to efficiency upgrades for which PEC does not already have a rebate offer in place. Twenty-nine thousand seven hundred thirty-nine.

PEC members Matt and Kristi recently worked with the Cooperative to complete a home energy audit. "The energy audit was a valuable tool for us to learn how to improve our energy usage and helped us troubleshoot some cold spots in our house. The auditor was very knowledgeable and thorough," they said of their experience, adding how, "The rebate process through People's Energy Cooperative was fast and easy."

For more information about home energy audits or to schedule one today, call us at (800) 214-2694 or visit peoplesenergy.coop/energy-audits.

HOME ENERGY SAVINGS KITS HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY

OUR HOME ENERGY *savings kits contain simple tools that enable you to evaluate your energy usage and identify areas where you can make improvements.*

We have partnered with the following local libraries and city halls to make home energy savings kits available for you to check out for free:

- Chatfield: *Public Library*
- Dodge Center: *Public Library*
- Dover: *City Hall*
- Elgin: *City Hall*
- Eyota: *City Hall*
- Hayfield: *Public Library*
- Kasson: *Public Library*
- Lake City: *Public Library*
- Pine Island: *Public Library*
- Plainview: *Public Library*
- Stewartville: *Public Library*

Work Zone AWARENESS

STAYING AWARE KEEPS OUR LINeworkERS SAFE

When most people are sleeping peacefully during the night or safe at home in the middle of a storm, our lineworkers are out working at all hours, often in harsh conditions, to keep the power on for our members. Lineworkers put their lives at risk each day – distracted drivers add even more risk to an already dangerous job. To raise awareness about the importance of slowing down when driving by work sites, April 17-21, 2023, is recognized as Work Zone Safety Awareness Week.

During this week, and throughout the year, People's Energy Cooperative urges drivers to consider their driving practices in work zones and help protect the lives of utility crews, first responders, road construction crews, and others. We want to make sure our lineworkers return home safely to their families each day.

In Minnesota, it is a state law that drivers move over for flashing lights. When traveling on a road with two or more lanes, drivers must be one full lane away from stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights activated – this includes first responders and work crews. The law also states that drivers must reduce their speed if they are unable to safely move over a lane.

If you see a People's Energy Cooperative crew working on the side of the road, please do your part to give our lineworkers the space they need to work as safely as possible. Safe Electricity offers the following advice to help keep roadside crews safe:

- ◆ **SLOW DOWN** and keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.
- ◆ **BE PATIENT.** Delays are sometimes unavoidable, so allow time for unexpected setbacks.
- ◆ **OBEY ALL SIGNS** and road crew flag instructions.
- ◆ **MERGE EARLY** and be courteous to other drivers.
- ◆ **USE YOUR HEADLIGHTS** at dusk and during inclement weather.
- ◆ **MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS.** Avoid activities such as texting, operating a radio, applying makeup, or eating.



ROADSIDE SAFETY: Our crews use many different tools to keep themselves safe while working on the side of the road. If you see **ANY** of these in use, slow down and move over if you are able.

ORANGE SAFETY CONES: Cones create a barrier around the truck keeping pedestrians out of the work site and giving the truck space from passing vehicles.

LIGHTS: Lights on top of the truck draw attention to the work site giving fellow motorists time to slow down and move over.

SIGNAGE: Especially for jobs lasting longer than 15 minutes, signage is another way our lineworkers draw attention to their work site allowing pedestrians and motorists the time to slow down, move over, and give them space.

HIGH VIS CLOTHING: Our lineworkers work at all times of the day and in every weather condition. To help keep them visible and safe, everyone working on the side of the road wears high vis clothing.

FLAGGERS: Sometimes, work sites require all of these tools, and still more warnings are required. In these circumstances, you may see someone standing near traffic with flags directing traffic or drawing vehicles away from the work site.



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

HIGHLINE HI-LITES • April 2023 • Vol. 87 • Issue 04

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Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

*Highline Hi-Lites, 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S.
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.

(507) 367-7000 or (800) 214-2694

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

\$30

*Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **(800) 214-2694** or **memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop** to receive a \$30 credit on your bill.*

GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!

MINNESOTA'S COLD WEATHER RULE

IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT BEGINNING MAY 1.

It is important to make sure that you are not past due on your account to guarantee continued electric service. If you are in a position that makes it difficult to pay your bill, please contact us immediately, during business hours, to make payment arrangements. Failure to communicate and/or have active arrangements in place may result in disconnection. As a reminder, energy assistance is available to help. Visit peoplesenergy.coop/energy-assistance to learn more.

Need to report an OUTAGE?

Just send us a text! It's easy, fast, and convenient! Visit peoplesenergy.coop/outage-texting for more information and to register.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2023

*During the month of May, **Carr's Tree Service** will be working in portions of Pleasant Grove, Orion, Jordan, and Sumner Townships. **New Age Tree Service** will be working during this time in portions of High Forest, Marion, and Pleasant Grove Townships. If you have any questions regarding the vegetation management program, please call the Cooperative at **(800) 214-2694** or email **poconnor@peoplesenergy.coop**.*

