



# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Immediate NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Utility Scam asking Consumers for Immediate Payment***

**ORONOCO, MN, December 11, 2017** – A member of People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) was the target of a phone scam today threatening disconnection if they did not pay within one hour.

The scam involved a telephone caller claiming to be from the Cooperative and stating the member was past due on their account and that their meter was programmed to disconnect in one hour if payment was not received. When the member indicated they were out of town, the caller asked for a zip code of their location and indicated a store in which they could buy two prepaid cards in the amount of \$499 and \$500. They then said to call them back with the routing numbers. Thankfully the member recognized it as a scam and called the Cooperative and authorities.

PEC would like to remind members of the public that if they receive a call from someone claiming to represent a utility company, and the caller is pressuring them for immediate payment or personal information, hang up and call the customer service number on your bill. It is very important to remember that PEC will never request bank or payment information from members over the phone. Member service representatives will only ask for information to identify who a member is. Members of People's Energy Cooperative who receive such a phone call are encouraged to hang up and call PEC directly at 507-367-7000.

#### **About People's Energy Cooperative**

People's Energy Cooperative is a member-owned electric cooperative celebrating 80 years of delivering retail electric power to its nearly 18,900 member-owners in Olmsted, Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Wabasha and Winona Counties. People's Energy Cooperative is a Touchstone Energy® cooperative and a member-owner in the Dairyland Power system of electric cooperatives that generates and transmits reliable electric power in 62 counties of four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois).

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