

Wild Rice Electric's Rural DeLight

May 2008
volume 68 - number 5

News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomon MN 56557
www.wildriceelectric.com

Issue Highlights...

- * May is Electrical Safety Month
- * Staff Comments - Ken Otto
- * Taking sign-ups for Power Plant Tour

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Wild Rice Electric's office will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. In the event of an emergency or outage, please call our after-hours service at 218-935-2517 or toll free 1-800-244-5709 for assistance. Have a Safe Memorial Day weekend and holiday!

the facts

About Electrical Safety...

(From the Electrical Safety Foundation International for May Electrical Safety Month)

Electrical Safety is no accident

Protect your home and family from fires and electrocution.

Hazards commonly found in older homes are increasingly causing fires and fatalities in the United States.

However, by taking a few simple steps and by incorporating newer technology, you can protect your home from many of these dangers. Each year the Electrical Safety Foundation International sponsors May as National Electrical Safety Month. For this year's campaign, the foundation is helping consumers to take an active role in identifying older home hazards and in safeguarding their families from the dangers these hazards pose.

Home electrical problems account for nearly 55,000 home fires every year. These fires cause over 500 deaths, injure more than 1,400 people, and account for \$1.4 billion in property damage. Older homes are at even greater risk to fire. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, half of the homes in the United States were built before 1973.

"As each year goes by, Americans are using more energy in their homes," said Brett Brenner, president of ESFI. "Many homes and electrical systems in the U.S. are simply being overburdened leading to fires, deaths and injuries."

How can consumers help protect themselves from electrocution and electrical-related injuries?

Consumers should check for problems with their home electrical systems, and be ever vigilant for electrical hazards around the home and the workplace, like cracked or fraying cords, overheating cords and wall plates, and the presence of overhead and buried power lines when working outdoors. Check outlets and cir-

cuits to be sure they aren't overloaded. Make sure to use only the proper wattage light bulbs in light fixtures and lamps. Use extension cords only on a temporary basis, and be sure they are properly rated for their intended use. And always follow appropriate safety precautions and manufacturer's instructions on all electrical items.

Consumers should also remember to test their smoke alarms and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) monthly. Replace smoke detector batteries twice a year. Make sure GFCI protection covers all circuits that come near water sources, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and outdoors, and consider it for whole house coverage. Consider also having arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) installed in your home's electrical panel, particularly for older homes.

Consumers can use ESF's *In Home Electrical Safety Check* and *Outdoor Electrical Safety Check* booklets to conduct an electrical safety audit of their homes. And visit www.electrical-safety.org for all these and other electrical safety tips.

If you have an old house with old wiring, how do you know if repairs are necessary? How extensively and costly can such repairs be?

Electrical systems age and deteriorate just like any man-made product, and as they get older need to be monitored more frequently. As homes grow in their dependence on electricity with the addition of rooms, appliances large and small, and entertainment and computer equipment, electrical systems designed to handle lower electrical demands expected at an earlier point in time can become overburdened and problems can develop.

Continued of page 4



STAFF COMMENTS

KEN OTTO
Line Superintendent

This is my last article for the Rural DeLight. I will be entering the "retirement life style" starting in June. It has been a pleasure to serve the many members of Wild Rice Electric as Lineman and as the Line Superintendent. It has given me the chance to work visit with many of you. Remember... Safety First.

Electrical Safety Steps during Storms

Now that spring and summer are here, so is the threat of thunderstorms. Thunderstorms are not only dangerous, but they can also cause damage to power lines and facilities. To lessen the risk that storms will damage overhead lines into your home, have any trees that have grown near these lines cut. If your power goes out, disconnect appliances and turn off lights. If you see a downed power line, assume that it is live. Do not go near it or attempt to remove anything in contact with it. If you are inside a car in contact with a downed line, stay inside. You can safely use a cell phone, if you have one, to call for help. Never

drive across a downed power line. To report an outage or a downed power line you can call Wild Rice Electric at 800-244-5709 or 218-935-2517.

Pole Burning

Every spring and fall many landowners light their road ditches on fire to burn off excess grass and farm fields to remove stubble getting them ready for another planting season. Left unattended, these fires may destroy everything in their paths, including electric utility poles. Pole damage ranges from charring to destruction, and may cost the landowner anywhere from \$2,000 on up, depending on the location of the pole and severity of the damage. Sometimes, the damage can lead to power outages. Please use care when burning near Wild Rice Electric's poles.

New Services

It is a busy time of year for everyone, including the Wild Rice Electric crews. Along with

building new services that were carried over from last year, the crews are also busy working on the new services that have applied this season. The process a new service application goes through, from the time the applicant calls into the office until the service is built, can take up to 20 days or longer depending on the circumstances. If you are going to need a new service built, it is a good idea to call our office as soon as possible to increase your chances of having it built by the date you need it. Several new service calls have already come in this season and we expect many more.

Right of Way Maintenance

Right-of-Way Maintenance means trees and brush that have potential for interfering with Wild Rice Electric power lines or power line repair will be trimmed or removed. Right-of-Way Maintenance has been started for this year. Carr's Tree Service will be mowing, trimming and spraying the right-of-ways throughout

Wild Rice Electric's project area. Their vehicles are clearly marked. If homeowners have any questions regarding right-of-way maintenance, please contact Wild Rice Electric's Line Service Department at 1-800-244-5709 or 218-935-2517.

Safe Springtime Tree Planting Tips

Trees growing too close to electrical lines can create power outages, shock and fire hazards. Trees conduct electricity and can also create a safety hazard when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact of electric wires with a tree limb or person playing or trimming around the tree could be fatal. To avoid future electrical hazards, remember these safe planting tips:

- Consider the mature height of trees. Don't plant near overhead power lines any tree that can grow up into the lines. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended.

- Don't plant near underground utility services, electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment. Tree roots and vegetation can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Utilities may need access to these facilities to make repairs, which could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.

Organizations such as the Arbor Day Foundation at www.arborday.org and International Society of Arboriculture at www.isa-arbor.com have a wealth of material related to trees.

For more information on electrical safety visit www.safeelectricity.org.

CFLs contain mercury. For disposal information see: www.earth911.org or call the MN Pollution Control Agency at 1-800-657-3864.

Rural DeLight

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Wild Rice Electric's Center Tour set for June 26th & 27th

Sign me up for the June 26th & 27th Center Tour!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

No. Attending _____ Amount Enclosed _____
(\$65 per person)

The Wild Rice Electric consumer tour to the Milton R. Young Station has been set for Thursday and Friday, June 26th and 27th, 2008. The cost has been changed to \$65.00 per person and includes all meals, transportation and lodging. Again this year there will only be one tour offered through Wild Rice, so sign up early to assure yourself a spot on this memorable tour.

Return the form to the left along with the fees to **Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomon, MN 56557.**

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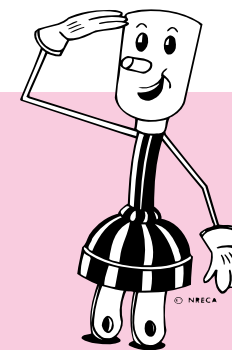
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May is National Electrical Safety Month

(continued from page 1)

The CPSC and ESFI recommend electrical inspections for the following:

- ☞ any house more than 40 years old
- ☞ any house 10 years old and older that has had any major renovation or major appliance added, and
- ☞ for any home at the time of resale, by the new owner who can then begin their relationship with the new home with a clear understanding of the home's electrical system's capacity, limitations, potential hazards and opportunities.

An “electrical inspection” is different from a “home inspection” in that it comprehensively covers only the electrical system and other aspects of the house. Local electrical inspectors that service Wild Rice Electric's project area include: For **Clay & Norman County** - Rod Schaffer, (701) 235-2840; For **Mahnomen & Becker County** - Lowell Bradbury, (218) 342-3345; and for **Polk County** - Willie Nephew, (218) 281-5900.

The inspection will help identify problems like frequently blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers, loose connections at outlets, older and deteriorated wiring, and outdated and overburdened electrical service. Repairs could be minor and nominal in cost, such as the cleaning and tightening of connections or the addition of outlets, or more involved running into several thousand dollars, such as the addition of circuits and subpanels, replacement of degraded wiring, or, particularly with older homes, a “heavy-up” – that is, upgrading the electrical service from, for example, 60 amp or 100 amp service to the home to 200 amp service better able to handle today's electric demands. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine if repairs or upgrades are necessary and can estimate the cost.

How does a three-prong plug work? What is the benefit of using it?

The third prong on a plug provides a path to ground electricity that is straying or leaking from a product. This helps protect the equipment and can help prevent electric shock. Consumers should never remove or bend the third prong to fit a two-slot outlet. An adapter may be used safely only if the grounding wire or tab is physically connected to an electrical ground. A safer approach is to find or have installed an appropriate three-slot outlet.

How does a polarized plug work? What is the benefit of using it?

A polarized plug is a plug with one large or wide prong and one narrow one. It ensures that the plug is inserted correctly in a socket for proper flow of electric current, and reduces the risk of electrical shock. Consumers should never force a polarized plug into a non-polarized outlet, or shave the wide prong down to fit. Use an adapter or find an appropriate polarized outlet.

What is the device now found on the plugs of such appliances as hair dryers?

The large box-like device found on the ends of some appliance cords could be an appliance leakage circuit interrupter (ALCI), an immersion detection circuit interrupter (IDCI) or a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Though they work in different ways, they all protect the user against accidental electric shock and electrocution by acting immediately to shut off power to the appliance upon the detection of a “leak” of electric current as may happen when a hair dryer falls into a sinkful of

water. Even with these devices, if that happens, unplug the device or shut off power to the circuit *before* reaching in to retrieve the appliance.

What size extension cords should a consumer use? How can you tell if an extension cord is appropriate for the intended use?

Before purchasing or selecting an extension cord for use, consumers should consider how the cord will be used. Make sure the rating on the cord is the same as or higher than the number of watts needed by the product that will be plugged into the cord. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis, and unplugged and safely stored after every use. Outside the home, use only cords rated for outdoor use, and consider using a portable GFCI.

Children's safety at risk: Organizations want use of safety outlet expanded despite criticism

Childproofing your home just got a little easier for parents. The new National Electrical Code calls for tamper resistant receptacles to be installed in all newly-constructed homes which will help protect the seven children who need hospital treatment for burns from electrical outlets each day.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International, as part of its National Electrical Safety Month campaign in May, is highlighting tamper resistant receptacles and encouraging parents to adopt them into their homes whether new or old.

Most of the 2,400 injuries which occur each year are the result of small children placing ordinary household items such as keys, pins or paper clips into the outlets with disastrous consequences. A tamper resistant receptacle works like any other electrical outlet except it has a built-in shutter system that prevents children from sticking objects into the slots. The shutters do allow plugs to be inserted and removed as usual. These outlets are so effective at preventing injuries that for over two decades hospitals have been required to use them.

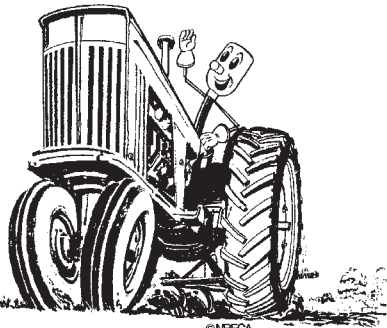
Unfortunately, some parents may not benefit from this added protection. As states begin to adopt the new Code into law, important safety provisions are coming under attack from unlikely opponents. Home builders and similar groups have criticized tamper resistant receptacles claiming that the additional cost will make new homes unaffordable. In actuality, the total increased cost for the average new home is less than \$50. Most parents say it is a small price to pay for piece of mind.

“The focus of the debate should be on child safety. The great thing about tamper resistant receptacles is that they provide automatic and continuous protection for children,” said Brett Brenner, president of ESFI. “The new code requires them in all new homes, but owners of older homes can have them installed just as easily. For as little as \$2 an outlet, an older home can be a much safer place for children.”

Safety products are intended to help reduce the possibility of accidental injury and make a home a safer environment. But, as manufacturers of safety devices point out — and what should be common sense to all parents: no safety product is a substitute for proper adult supervision at all times.

Consider Electrical Hazards During Spring Planting Season

Many farm workers are killed each year when their farm equipment makes contact with overhead power lines. These tragic accidents are preventable. Before heading back into the fields, Safe Electricity urges farm workers to review farm activities and work practices that take place around power lines.



Make sure everyone who works on the farm knows the location of power lines and keeps farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them. The minimum 10 foot distance is a 360-degree rule – below, to the side and above lines.

It may take a little more time, but ensuring proper clearance can save lives.

Many farm electrical accidents that involve power line contact happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while performing maintenance or repairs on farm machinery near power lines. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help.

Today's larger farms require transporting tractors and equipment to fields several miles away. Before transit, avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors. Also, many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems and have antennas extending from the cab to fifteen feet above the ground that could make contact with power lines.

Some other equipment safety considerations:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet- before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!

As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination. Do not try to clear storm-damage debris and limbs near or touching power lines or near fallen lines.

The overhead electric wires aren't the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral; but, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Don't do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call the electric utility.

It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line. It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire. In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Line Clearance Rules for Grain Bins

Are you building new grain bins this summer? Are your present grain bins near power lines? If the answer is yes, we encourage you to read the National Electrical Safety Code requirement for the construction of overhead power lines near grain bins.

The drawings below illustrate that power lines erected within a designated distance near a bin must have a minimum clearance of 18 feet above the highest filling or probing part of the bin.

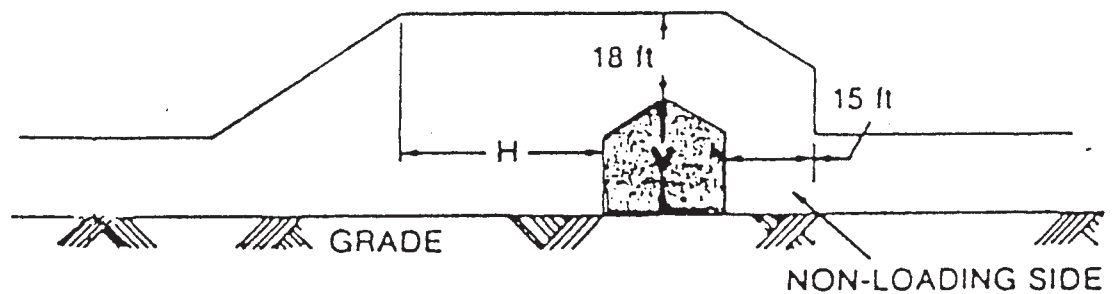
This means that the required total height of the lines above the ground, (normally 18 feet over agricultural lands) could easily double to 36 feet or more in areas around grain bins.

The intent of the requirement is to reduce injuries and deaths which occur when grain augers or elevators accidentally contact overhead power lines.

The requirement contains separate descriptions for

bins using permanently installed versus portable augers or filling equipment. The illustration pertains to bins using portable filling equipment. In this case, an elevated line clearance must be used in areas surrounding bins at the height of the highest filling or probing part of a grain bin, plus 18 feet. Beyond this distance, a sloped clearance must be used to bring the line down to a lower clearance.

Property owners with overhead lines above these structures or farmers planning to build new grain bins should call Wild Rice Electric to make sure line clearances are within the safety code requirements. Call 218-935-2517 or 800-244-5709. We will gladly review your planned construction and the code requirements with you to ensure you have a properly sized service to meet your needs.



$$V = \text{Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin}$$

$$H = V + 18 \text{ ft}$$

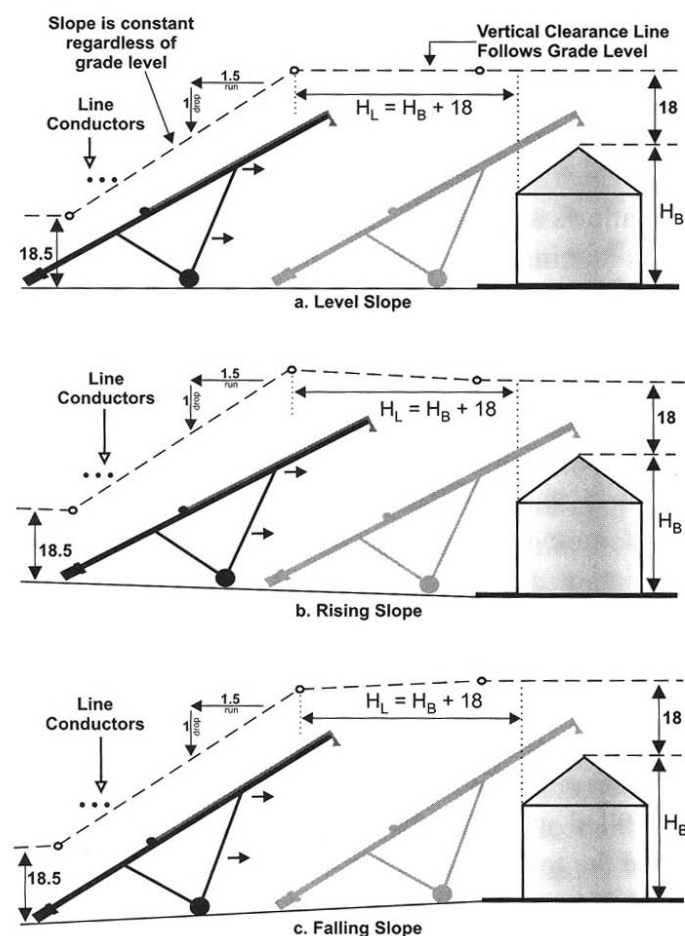


Figure H-234-4(b)

Vertical clearance above flat or sloping ground near grain bin filled with portable augers

Consider Electrical Hazards During Spring Planting Season

(continued from page 5)

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy pathways where many farm activities take place. If planning a new out building or farm structure, contact your power supplier for information on minimum safe clearances from overhead and underground power lines.

Landowners bear responsibility for damage from ditch, field burning

Every spring, many landowners set ablaze road ditches to burn off excess grass, and farm fields to remove stubble residue of grain and other crops in preparation for another planting season. Left unattended, these fires may destroy everything in their paths – including electric



utility poles. Landowners who have signed easements allowing utility poles to be placed on their property are liable for such damage.

If burning must be done, the area around the pole should be worked up and free of all vegetation at least four feet around the base. The pole should also be watched so the fire doesn't accidentally ignite it.

Damage from field fires occurs to poles belonging to Minnkota and the 12 member-owner electric distribution cooperatives, including Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.

Pole damage ranges from charring to destruction, and may cost the landowner anywhere from \$2,000 on up, depending on the location of the pole and severity of the damage. Sometimes the damage can lead to power outages.

The majority of pole damage to the Minnkota transmission system occurs along 69-kilovolt (kV) power lines. Poles on Minnkota's 115-kV, 230-kV and 345-kV transmission lines are typically more expensive. When these incidents happen, photographs are taken on the damage and landowners are interviewed to determine liability.

Wild Rice Electric encourages caution when burning around or near power lines and power poles. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 218-935-2517 or toll free, 1-800-244-5709.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Did you install Easy Heat XDETS Twin 12 watt cable as part of your homes heating system between 1996-2000?

If you did, whether the cable has failed or not, you should contact the Easy Heat Corporation regarding possible reimbursement for faulty cable. For more information call the Claims Administrator at 1-800-371-7365 or go to www.easyheatclassactionsettlement.com



Yes! I want to help make a difference.

Please round up my bills to the nearest dollar amount, or accept the specified amount and donate the proceeds to a local charity or educational organization.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Account Number(s) _____

Signature _____

STRAY VOLTAGE HELP AVAILABLE

If you suspect that you may have stray voltage, the first step is to have your electrician check your equipment in the barn and balance the load as nearly as possible.

If indications of stray voltage still exist, contact **Wild Rice Electric** and ask for assistance. A bulletin for \$2, "Stray Voltage Problems With Dairy Cows" #AG-BU1359 is available at your County Extension Office.

If you would like to request a stray voltage investigation at your farm, call **Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. office at 935-2517 or 1-800-244-5709.**

INSPECTIONS ARE THE LAW!



Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, remember that Minnesota State law requires a State Wiring Inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work.

The state of Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in the best interest of you and your family. Improper wiring can damage your property and equipment and injure or kill the people you love.

The inspectors for the counties Wild Rice Electric Co-op serves are:

Clay & Norman

Rod Schaffer

(701) 235-2840

Mahnomen & Becker

Lowell Bradbury

(218) 342-3345

Polk

Willie Nephew

(218) 281-5900

The best time to contact them by phone is between 7 and 8:30 a.m.

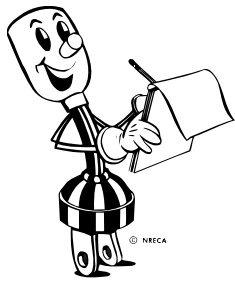
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RCI Electric, Ulen.....	596-8114
Rick's Electric, Fosston.....	435-1436
Roger's Electric, Hawley.....	483-3186
Roger Wirth, Callaway.....	847-6087
Roy Electric, Mahnomen.....	935-5712
Schatt's Electric, Detroit Lakes.....	847-5255
Sorenson Electric, Ada.....	784-2497
Todavich Electric, Bemidji.....	751-1699
Stundahl Electric, Gary.....	584-5533
Wiebolt Electric, Bemidji.....	444-8661
Zitzow Electric, Vergas.....	342-3268

PLUMBING & HEATING

Dick's Plumbing & Heating, Fertile.....	574-2371
Jason & Chad's Plumbing & Heating, McIntosh.....	563-7868
Johanneck Plumbing & Heating, Red Lake Falls.....	253-4117
Laney's, Detroit Lakes.....	847-1309
Melby Heating & Air Conditioning, Detroit Lakes.....	439-6405
Modern Heating & Air Conditioning, Detroit Lakes.....	847-7459
Neil's Plumbing & Heating, Bagley.....	694-6544
Northwest Heating & Air Conditioning.....	800-691-0613
Pearce Plumbing & Heating, McIntosh.....	563-4230
Proulx Refrigeration & Heating, Crookston.....	281-1370
Roger's Heating & Plumbing, Winger.....	938-4447 or 938-4449
Rural Energy Services, Bagley.....	694-6829
Sand Hill Plumbing & Heating, Erskine.....	687-5351
Town & Country Heating & Air Conditioning, Hawley.....	483-1225
TRI Town Mechanical, Hawley.....	962-3238
Wilcox Plumbing & Heating, Red Lake Falls.....	253-2464



1. Regular office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 218-935-2517 or 800-244-5709 day or night. To view the Cooperative's web site go to www.wildriceelectric.com. After hour calls are switched over to an answering service. If the lines are busy or your call is put on hold, please understand that numerous other consumers may also be calling to report the outage. For accurate response, please have your name, account number and location number available.

2. All consumers have self-meter reading devices commonly referred to as "Turtles" on their main meter and off peak meter, therefore it is not required that you read your meter each month. Wild Rice Electric does recommend that you compare the reading on the meter with

the one on your billing. For billing purposes, the meter is automatically read by WRECI on or about the eighteenth of the month. Any differences should be reported to the office immediately. As a consumer, you will be held responsible for any usage unrecorded by the Turtle.

3. If your meter has stopped, please report it immediately to the WRECI office. Your account will be adjusted after installation of the new meter. A non-registering meter does not exempt you from paying your average bill.
4. Bills are mailed in order to reach the consumer on or about the first day of the month. Payment is due by the 12th and if not received by that date, a late fee of 1.5% or \$1, whichever is greater, is assessed. One late payment will be allowed without a late fee. A night depository located at the front door of the Mahnomen office is available for bill paying.
5. If payment isn't received on a bill, the outstanding amount is included on the next bill. If payment still isn't received by the due date, a late fee is assessed and a "Notice of Disconnection" is sent. The notice contains the amount due and the date of disconnection.
6. An automatic payment plan whereby WRECI will debit your bank account on or about the tenth of each month is available. A copy of the bill is provided each month to the consumer. Contact WRECI office to sign up.

7. If you have been a consumer of WRECI for at least one year, you can take advantage of the budget-billing program. Budget billing allows you to make equal monthly payments year-round regardless of the seasonal highs and lows.
8. A fee of \$25 will be assessed all returned checks and the account will be subject for disconnection.
9. When it is necessary to come out and collect or disconnect an account for nonpayment, a charge of \$40 will be made. If service is disconnected, all charges must be paid including the collection fee, a reconnect fee of \$40, and a security deposit of at least \$125 before service will be connected during normal working hours. Should a reconnect be requested after normal working hours, the reconnect fee will be \$100.
10. It is important to promptly notify WRECI of any change in address or if you are moving on or off your place. If you are moving off and WRECI is not informed whether or not someone is immediately moving back on, the electrical service will be disconnected.
11. All consumers are required to become members of WRECI. There is no membership fee; however, completion of a membership form is required. A nonrefundable processing fee in the amount of \$25 is required for each account requested.
12. A member can request to have their meter tested for accuracy by sending in \$20. The meter is sent to an independent testing laboratory and if it registers over two percent inaccurate, the \$20 is refunded and the billing adjusted according.
13. WRECI has trained personnel that will come out to your home to inspect and evaluate present heat losses and give you advice on what you can do to conserve energy, including approximate pay back time for the cost of recommended improvements. The fee for this service is \$10 per inspection.
14. Electric heating, certain agricultural production and some public entities are exempt from sales tax. To qualify for the sales tax exemption, an exemption form must be completed.
15. Wind Energy – members can voluntarily purchase a block of 100 kilowatt hours of wind produced energy for an additional price of 50¢ per 100 kilowatt hour block per month. Contact Wild Rice Electric Cooperative for sign-up opportunities.

OUTAGE REPORT FOR MARCH 2008

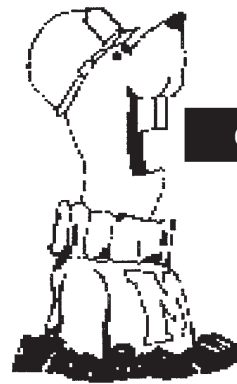
During the month of March we experienced 28 outages due to all causes. Of these, 9 were individual and 19 were line outages.

Cause of Outage	Individual	Line	Consumer Hrs	Consumer Hrs
	Outages	Outages	Individual	Line
Power supply	--	0	-----	0.00
Scheduled	0	8	0.00	107.73
Major Storm	0	0	0.00	0.00
Equipment/installation	2	1	3.42	11.08
Age/deterioration	2	3	2.75	203.22
Weather	1	0	1.08	0.00
Birds/animals	1	1	1.33	2.67
Member/public	0	2	0.00	134.67
Unknown	3	4	4.30	78.55
TOTAL	9	19	12.88	537.92

Total outage hours this month:		2008	2007
Y-T-D outage hours:		550.80	367.15
Y-T-D outage hours/consumer/year:		4,085.11	3,647.15
2008 Major storm hours to date:		.32	.29
Y-T-D Outage Hrs/Consumer/Year Minus Storm Hrs. =		.32	.29

Gopher State One-Call

The Law says:



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Phone: 811

**OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday thru Friday**

*Emergency 24 hours per day, 365 days per year
-- Closed on normal holidays.*

LINE REPORT, MARCH 2008

During the month of March the crews built 0.1 miles of primary and 0 feet of secondary and service wire to serve 1 new consumer. They upgraded the services of 9 consumers to increase their capacity, while retiring 0 services at the owner's request. The crews also changed out 142 poles that were due for replacement, installed 0 association and 8 rental Street Lights, 40 Guy Guards and 4 MOV arresters on the underground system. They also worked on line patrolling, line surveying and some brushing.

OPERATING REPORT FOR MARCH 2008

Take a look!

	<u>Mar. 2008</u>	<u>Mar. 2007</u>	<u>YTD 2008</u>	<u>YTD 2007</u>
Revenue from KWH Sales	1,771,702	1,478,922	5,912,140	5,178,902
Other Revenue	14,104	12,988	28,794	26,373
Total Revenue	1,785,806	1,491,910	5,940,934	5,205,275
Cost of Purchased Power	1,075,106	859,277	3,529,400	2,912,831
Operations and Maintenance	132,772	172,598	511,181	524,814
Billing, Admin. & General	143,267	134,011	445,817	401,214
Customer Service & Sales	27,203	22,864	64,648	70,621
Interest, Depreciation & Other	192,445	172,976	566,481	527,049
Total Expenses	1,570,793	1,361,726	5,117,537	4,436,529
Operating Margins	215,013	130,184	823,397	768,746
Non-Operating Margins	22,215	23,632	119,580	37,040
Net Margins	237,228	153,816	942,977	805,786
Kilowatt Hours Purchased	29,372,854	24,474,908	101,265,188	89,137,674
Kilowatt Hours Sold	27,412,419	22,898,676	93,101,903	83,876,349

	<u>Mar. 2008</u>	<u>Mar. 2007</u>
Total Active Services	13,564	13,441
Miles of Energized Line:		
Overhead	3,463	3,457
Underground	390	375
Farm and Residential Statistics:		
Average Kilowatt Hour Usag	1,908	1,590
Average Monthly Bill	122.76	102.84
Average Cost per Kilowatt Hour	6.40¢	6.50¢

FOR SALE

Aluminum boat lift for 16' boats, \$600 OBO. Ph: Matt at 218-483-3272 or 218-790-2759.

1968 Silver line 16 foot boat, 95 HP Mercury, runs great, \$1,500 OBO. Ph: 218-439-3543.

14 ft. Smoker Craft fishing boat with 9 HP Mercury motor also electric trolling motor. Ph: 218-483-4203.

1989 Glatron 16' boat, 3.0 I/O Fish-N-Ski, bow mount trolling motor, fish locator, 4 swivel chairs, ski pole, Karavan trailer, sun top, power trim, Mercury outdrive, in excellent condition. Asking \$5500. Call Kevin Olmstead 701-352-1557 or 701-520-2812. Can be seen at Tulaby Lake by appointment.

1974 Winnebago, low miles, runs good, nice shape \$1,500.00 OBO. Ph: 218-375-4054 or 612-247-6144.

Registered China - Royal Prestige brand "Midnight Lace" pattern. Full 12 place settings, water goblets & wine goblets are black. Dishes are white with black lace pattern around the edges with silver inner ring & silver outer ring. Dishes include dinner plates, wide shallow salad bowls, dessert plates, cups & saucers. Also includes butter dish, gravy bowl, large oval serving platter, large round serving bowl, oval serving bowl, sugar bowl & creamer. Ex. condition, \$300. Ph: 218-938-4482.

Toddlers pink soft "Dora the Explorer" chair, good cond., bought new for \$40, will sell for \$15, can email pics; Black satchel purse from Target, brand new, bought for \$20 will sell for \$7, can e-mail pics. Ph: 218-937-5441.

1,500 lb boat lift in good cond., \$200. May deliver within the area. Ph: 218-483-4468 (Hawley) or 218-849-7927 (cell).

Coachman travel trailer, 1976, 28ft. good condition, A/C, tandem-axle, sleeps four, \$975. Ph: 701-772-8591.

Gas powered post hole digger, 8" auger, 2 extensions, new in 2005, ex condition, \$300; 1978 40 HP Evinrude OB motor, remote controls, ES, looks and runs great, \$400. Ph: 218-584-5545.

5 HP MTD chipper shredder, like new condition; "Simer" submersible utility pump, model 2300, new Geyser classic 5 amps/60 HZ; Sears submersible utility pump, like new condition. Ph: 218-574-2744.

Gibson 8.3 cu. ft. chest freezer, 16 yrs old, works fine, we just don't need it anymore, \$70.00; wood bridge for yard decoration, made from treated 2 x 4's, almost 6 ft. long, \$90. Call 218-584-5380.

1978 Skidoo Everest 340 Snowmobile, used the last 6 years, perfect to restore, have owners manual, \$150 OBO. Matt 218-483-4595.

Retired Precious Moments confirmation figurine for boy "Oh Worship the Lord". Ph: 701-388-8942.

Superior dirt bucket 42" wide, \$50; 7 1/2 ft snow bucket built by Waubun Steel used one winter, \$400. Ph: 218-473-2432.

24 ft Class C motor home, only 59,000 miles. Ph: 218-563-4357.

Big Mow lawn mower with new Tecumseh 7 HP engine, \$100. Ph: 218-563-4357.

Old rake, drill, and manure spreader wheels, motor block for W.C. All's. Ph: 218-945-6858.

24' Alum. extension ladder, \$150; 32' Alum. extension ladder, \$200; 4x6 - 2 wheel trailer, \$150. Ph: 218-483-4143.

Ertly "Precision" 1/16 model John Deere 730, asking \$95.00; Ertly 1/16 model Farmall Super M, asking \$15.00; Classic Raleigh "Sports" 3 speed bicycle, \$204.00 in 1981, make offer. Ph: 218-238-5707.

FOR SALE

One Fondue set, in original box, complete w/burner, server tray & 6 forks in box; 3 doz like new "Kerr" & "Ball" pint jars, w/rings, & 4 doz reg. size Kerr lids, new in boxes; 4 wood salad bowls, new 1 qt. Thermos bottle; Complete 12 pc. place setting "Sango" china, "Julie" pattern, used very little, perfect; set of 4 gold-colored "Tupperware" canisters. Ph: 218-563-7339.

15 treated wood posts 5 x 8; 15 steel posts; quantity of used oak planks, 2x6x10. Ph: 218-435-2960.

1972 18 ft tandem-axle Trailblazer camping trailer, \$850. Ph: 218-935-5276.

Some very nice Black Hills Spruce trees; some Flowering Crab trees; P T O pump; good compressor pump; 220 motor; 7 inch side grinder; large hydraulic pump. Ph: 218-563-2365.

Boat: 16' Starcraft, 35 HP Chrysler motor, heavy duty trailer and shore master boat lift with canopy. Cormorant area. Ph: 218-532-3854.

John Deere riding mower; 14 ft Lund fishing boat; new Amana air conditioner; older small refrigerator. Ph: 218-287-1740 or 701-388-1403.

1983 18' Lund Mr. Pike boat, 50 HP Mariner, Minnkota trolling motor, 2 fish locators, livewell, electric anchor & winch, tarp, Yacht club trailer. Ph: 218-277-9635.

Coronado frost free 14.5 cu ft refrigerator. Ph: 218-938-4155.

Shore Station boat lift, complete w/ canopy & skids, Model SS36108A, 9' width, \$3500. Ph: 701-741-5702, evenings.

1977 Crestliner 775 Crusader boat 140 hp - OMC - Ex. shape, trailer included, \$3500. Ph: 701-741-5702, evenings.

Shoremaster aluminum boat lift model 25108, excellent condition. Ph: 218-935-2671 (h), 218-935-5431 (w).

Port-a-lift aluminum boat lift with white canopy \$1600; New Vision fiberglass topper off a 2007 Sliverado shortbox, white, like new, \$700. Ph: 218-791-0856.

7 1/2 sqs. of D-4 steel horizontal siding, 5 sqs. of D-5 steel siding both are Autumn Brown in color, \$60.00 a sq.; also an 8x12 storage building, new construction. Ph: 218-435-6724.

New 7' x 10' wood frame utility building, wood floor, corrugated aluminum walls, corrugated steel roof with sky light, double steel doors 6' opening, \$750.00. Ph: 218-435-6820.

Old records, 150, By Hank Thompson, Lorretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette and many more. Ph: 218-668-2838.

Woods Zero Turn lawnmower, Model 5180 front mount deck, 18 HP, \$1250.00. Ph: 218-567-8297.

Yellow Lab female 18 months old, \$100.00; big shed to be moved or torn down. Ph: 218-435-1419.

201 Melroe pressdrill, rubber packer wheels, 16 foot, good condition, lots of extra parts. Ph: 218-532-7273.

1997 Gulf Stream Travel Trailer, 30 ft. H/AC, back bedroom queen bed, bumper pull, very good condition, \$6750.00 OBO. Ph: 218-584-5516.

10 month old male peek-a-poo, neutered, current on all shots, very friendly, great with kids. Owners not home enough. Ph: 218-687-3377.

Rod Iron daybed with walnut posts, trundle with 8 inch mattress included. Daybed is new! Ph: 218-687-3377.

King size comforter, shams, bedskirt, taupes with Fluer-de-lis pattern, clean, excellent condition. Ph: 218-687-3377.

FREE WANT AD SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

Make use of the Free Want Ads. Each ad runs once ONLY. Ads will be printed on a First-Come First-Serve basis with no guarantee of publication. All ads must be in no later than the 5th day of each month. Ads can be Faxed to 218-935-2519 or mailed to WRECI, PO Box 438, Mahnomn MN 56557.

A qualifying free ad must include your name and address. If you wish for your name to be withheld from the ad, please include such instructions.

The classified ads are for Buy, Sell, or Want ONLY - No business ads or real estate ads.

Please **TYPE OR PRINT** ad copy. **ILLEGIBLE COPY WILL NOT BE PRINTED.** Also, please clearly separate each item if listing more than one on an ad.

AUTO

For sale: 1994 Dodge Grand Caravan, 175,000 miles, newer transmission, runs great, \$2250.00 OBO. Ph: 218-439-3543.

For sale: 1985 S-10 Chevy Blazer. Ph: 218-483-4203.

For sale: 1952 F4 Ford truck, Collector's item. Ph: 218-937-5536.

For sale: 1999 Chevy Cavalier Z-24 convertible, loaded, 87,000 miles, black on black, new tires, brakes, tune-up, excellent shape, \$5850.00. Perfect Graduation gift! Ph: 218-983-3923.

For sale: 2006 Chrysler 300, V-6, all power, aluminum rims, 30 mpg, silver, mint, book value \$17,000.00 sell for \$12,900.00. Ph: 218-995-7777 or cell 701-306-8448.

For sale: 89 Subaru GL 4 wheel drive, \$600.00. PH: 218-375-2205.

For sale: 1999 Dodge Durango, 4x4, leather seats, 7 passenger, P.W., P.S., P.L., AM/FM stereo w/CD player, tow package, air bags, roof rack, 122,000 miles, great condition, \$6,000 OBO. Ph: 218-846-0153 or 218-849-9757.

For sale: 1952 Ford truck - F4. Ph: 218-937-5536.

For sale: 1997 F-150 4x4 in good condition, just spent \$1400 to fix front end, asking \$5400.00 OBO. Ph: 218-280-7400.

For sale: 1987 Mercury Sable, good condition, 85,000 miles. Ph: 218-287-1740 or 701-388-1403.

For sale: 1991 Pontiac Grand Am, 2 dr., auto, Alpine Co., nice condition, 33 mpg, \$975.00; 1998 Ford E450 Super Duty 24 ft. Food Concession truck, 7.3 turbo diesel, auto overdrive, 16 mpg, fully equipped, ready to go, offers, trades? Ph: 701-306-3809.

For sale: 1997 Ford Explorer, black, 4 door, 110,000 miles, V-6, 4 wheel drive, \$1950.00. Ph: 218-435-6820.

For sale: K2500 H.D. Chevy pickup, 2003 Silverado extended cab, 103,000 miles. Extended warranty 11,000 miles or 16 months left. Box liner and fifth wheel hook-up, excellent condition, book value \$16,400.00 asking \$14,800.00. Ph: 701-212-7590.

For sale: Fuel pump for Chev. Impala, electric in gas tank type, \$50.00. Ph: 218-567-8297.

For sale: \$40.00 4-F78 x 15 Goodyear Power Streak Bias ply tires. Excellent for a trailer. Ph: 218-668-2006, leave message.

FARM RELATED

For sale: New Holland 273 small square baler, field ready, \$400.00. Ph: 218-983-3310.

For sale: 12 volt electric drill fill auger. Ph: 218-483-4203.

Wanted to buy: Used, portable, steel coral panels. Ph: 218-847-4830.

For sale: Versatile sprayer with new 500 gal tank, hydraulic driven pump, 66 ft booms in good field ready condition, \$750.00 OBO. Ph: 218-935-5021.

Wanted: Out door hog feeder. Ph: Armin Ross at 218-687-2072.

For sale: Yellow Golden and Red Golden pheasants, \$20.00 each. Ph: 218-847-8059.

For sale: 15 yr old dabble gray mare, grade, well trained, 14 1/2 hands, \$625.00. Ph: 218-375-4054 OR 612-247-6144.

Wanted: 1-2 Peacocks for middle of June. Ph: 218-937-5441.

For sale: 1994 42 ft John Deere 1010 cultivator new teeth and in very nice shape. Ph: 218-935-2661.

For sale: 1983 MF combine with pickup head and 18' flexhead. New tires & batteries. Combine has never sat outside overnight. Excellent soybean combine. Mint condition. Everything for \$7500.00.

Wanted: 8, 10 or 12 ton running gear for silage wagon, front must be in good condition, rear condition not important. Ph: 218-935-2156.

For sale: Spider Duals, rims only for old tractors, 12 x 28 1 pair, 12 x 38 1 pair, \$100.00 a pair OBO; IH truck 1958 with 6 cyl engine, 17 1/2 ft box and hoist, stored inside, runs good, \$1500.00; 6 row mounted cult, rolling shields IH. Ph: 218-962-3313.

Wanted: 40 HP or less tractor, must be wide front, bucket, 3-point and PTO; Gravity box or anything to haul and store corn. Ph: 218-846-9928.

For sale: Butcher Hog, approx. 225 lbs. live weight, \$165.00 delivered to D.L. Market or \$150.00, you pick up. Ph: 218-846-9928.

For sale: John Deere 14 T square baler, good condition. Ph: 218-849-5651.

Wanted: 4 to 6 plastic hut calf pens. Ph: 218-280-7400.

For sale: J.D. 6 row cultivator - 3 pt; J.D. 18 ft field cultivator. Ph: 218-935-5301.

For sale: 1566 IHC tractor C.A.H. duals; 2070 A.T.A. gravel truck; 83 Chev 1 ton duals, flat bed fifth wheel hitch; small pickup trailer. Ph: 218-687-3872.

For sale: 348 John Deere sm. sq. baler w/ Gandy applicator, hydr. Pump, multi-lube and heavy duty pto and 499 N.H. Haybine (both low acres). Also 6-8 & 10 ton running gear with racks. Call 701-388-7727 or leave message at 218-584-8579.

For sale: Buhler Farm King 6.5 ft notched tandem disc/3 point; 7 ft notch blade/tow, hydraulic; 5 ft blade 3/point. Ph: 218-784-4425.

AUTO

For sale: 1984 Corvette, excellent condition, 350 engine, four speed automatic, PW, PB, Pseat, AC, Cruise, rare two tone blue paint, \$9150 (\$3000 below book) OBO. Ph: 218-841-1016.

For sale: 1988 Chevy Pickup, 2 wd, low mileage, make offer. Ph: 218-936-5677 or leave a message.

For sale or Trade: 1997 Subaru Outback wagon good shape, 217k, \$2850. Ph: 218-238-6144.

WANTED

A new or used stationary swim raft with anchor. Please call 218-983-3689.

3 point landscape rake; power lawn vacuum. Ph: 218-945-6639.

Gold & silver items; paying \$1 for dimes before 1965 buying 25¢ & 50¢ pieces also, paying \$1.25 for 1965-1970 half dollar (50¢) pieces; buying gold class rings & all gold jewelry, broken or good; also buying gold crowns (dental with or without the teeth. Ph: 877-847-1027 (Toll free)

20 to 40 acre parcel of land, 50% tillable, between Mahnomn and Detroit Lakes area. Call 218-983-3299.

Children's school desk. Prefer the old school house desk w/chair not attached but would look at anything. To be used as student desk. Ph: 218-937-5441.

Snowmobile, Arctic Cat Bearcat - Skidoo Skandic or similar work sled. Prefer mid to late 90's model. Ph: 218-734-2230.

14 ft. John Boat. Ph: 218-687-2150.

Keyboard player for Old Time and Country music, must know chords well and be able to improvise. Ph: 218-563-4357.

2" galvanized or black pipe for swing set. PH: 218-847-6928.

Looking for small lift for paddle boat. Ph: 701-520-9936 or 218-791-4762.

Big Red 250 ES Honda 3 wheeler. Ph: 218-435-1419.

Caterpillar D7 for repair or parts. Ph: 218-435-2429.

Mark V outboard motor, for parts, need not run. Ph: 218-280-1380.

Doublewide mobile home in good condition and reasonably priced. To move to my lot near Detroit Lakes, would consider small home to move as well. Call 701-202-6164.

FOR SALE

Spare prop for OMC #382763 - 13 3/4 x 15, like new, rebuilt (for 1/0), \$50. (Dan, I still have this) Ph: 218-938-4482 or 218-734-2482.

LX255 John Deere Lawn Tractor - 42" with automatic transmission. Call 701-388-7727 or leave message at 218-584-8579.

AKC Black Lab puppies, 6 female, 4 male, family raised mom has great temperament, potential hunters, ready June 3rd. \$225 for females, \$200 males. Ph: 218-937-5786.

Shopsmith home woodworking shop, sells for new \$3000, asking \$1900; Craftsman rototiller 7 hp 19" rear tine 350. John Deere LX188 riding lawn mower, 48" cut, \$1100. Ph: 218-937-5786.

Attention reloaders: For sale 6000 small pistol primers, \$18 a thousand or trade for large rifle primers. Call 218-238-6144.

Rare Air Cooled CASE 4 cyl inline engine, good running condition, electric start, \$300. Ph: 218-281-2766 or 218-280-8452.

Old 4 cyl water cooled Kohler Gen. 1500 watt, 110 volt AC, engine runs good, \$250. Ph: 218-281-2766 or 218-280-8452.

Soft Strider Tread Mill, in real nice shape. Ph: 218-563-3274.

Mini Rex rabbits; 5 solar panels. Ph: 218-238-6049.

Radial Arm Saw, \$300. Ph: 218-847-3565.

TO GIVE AWAY

Give away: Pint and quart canning jars - Kerr and Ball jars. Ph: 218-563-4165.