



## Immediate NEWS RELEASE

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### Phone Scam Alert

**ORONOCO, MN, January 22, 2026** — Multiple members of People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) have been targets of a phone scam this week being threatened with disconnection without immediate payment. The scammer called and indicated that they were past due and needed to pay immediately or be disconnected.

PEC reminds everyone that if they receive a call from someone claiming to represent a utility company, and the caller is asking for personal information or threatening disconnection without immediate payment, hang up and call the customer service number on your bill. It is very important to remember that PEC staff will never request bank or payment information from members over the phone. Member service representatives will only ask for information to identify who the member is.

PEC members can check their account status through SmartHub or over the phone by calling our secure payment line at (844) 965-1335. **The Cooperative does not disconnect service without sufficient prior notice.**

We appreciate that these members called to report the scam so we can warn others.

#### About People's Energy Cooperative

People's Energy Cooperative is a member-owned electric cooperative celebrating 90 years of delivering retail electric power to its 20,000 consumer-members 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). People's is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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