



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

THERE'S A VARIETY OF WAYS TO *ENGAGE AT THE COOPERATIVE*

People's Energy Cooperative was founded in 1936 by residents of rural Olmsted County to provide electricity to farms and rural communities that other local utilities chose not to serve because of the higher costs involved with serving low-population and low-density areas.

As a member-owned and governed distribution electric cooperative, our success and deep connection with the communities we serve are due to the active participation of members, like you.

There are a variety of ways for you to serve through positions on the Cooperative's Operation Round Up Board, Member Advisory Committee (MAC), Nominating Committee, and Board of Directors. The following are brief descriptions of these opportunities to become engaged:

OPERATION ROUND UP:

The PEC Trust Board administers the Operation Round Up (ORU) program which distributes approximately \$100,000 annually in grants to local charities, schools, and service organizations in our region. The program is funded by members who voluntarily "round up" their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. ORU Board members are appointed by PEC's Board of Directors and meet quarterly to evaluate applications and approve grant funds. The Board is currently seeking a member from District 6 to serve. District 6 includes Stewartville, sections one through four, nine through 16, 21 through 28, and 33 through 36 of High Forest township, sections 19 through 36 of Rochester township, and sections one through three of Racine township. Please contact the Cooperative if interested.

MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Board is currently seeking out members to serve on the Member

Advisory Committee (MAC). The MAC serves in an advisory role to the Board of Directors and management staff on the needs, desires, and concerns of the Cooperative's members. This committee includes five member representatives from each district, city representatives, and former board members. Meetings are typically held three to four times a year to discuss current issues and developments affecting the Cooperative. If you are interested in serving on the MAC, please contact the Cooperative to place your name on a list of interested members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The Nominating Committee seeks out and vets board candidates to run for the People's Energy Cooperative Board of Directors. It is comprised of at least five Cooperative members who reside in the districts where board seats are up for election. The seats up for election in 2022 are for Districts 1 and 6. *(continued on page 5...)*

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CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

As mentioned in last month's cover article, we continue to move forward through the five-year rate restructuring plan that went into effect in 2019. We are now in the third year, which is the final step for most rates.

To recap, when the Cooperative acquired service territory from Alliant Energy in 2015, we increased our membership by 50 percent. With this growth came more lines, poles, and equipment to maintain; more employees and the fleet required to maintain the system; more administrative work; and another power-supplier through Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC). The acquisition enabled us to grow membership which is good because it helps spread our fixed costs across more members.

At that time, the rate disparity was significant between Legacy (*accounts served by PEC prior to the acquisition*) and SMEC members (*accounts acquired from Alliant*), with the SMEC members paying significantly less. Restructuring rates has been necessary to ensure all members are contributing equitably to the fixed costs through the monthly basic service charge (BSC), which enables the Cooperative to provide reliable electricity and superior customer service.

We're very deliberate to talk about it as a "rate change" because while the BSC is increasing for many members, energy rates are decreasing. The average legacy member will see a decrease in their overall bill, while others may experience only a slight increase. Prior to the rate restructure plan, some of the fixed costs were being collected in the energy charge. This meant that some members may have been paying more than their fair share of the fixed costs, and some may not have been paying enough depending on their energy use. By shifting all the fixed cost recovery into the fixed charge (BSC), it allows for a decrease in the energy charge which helps offset some (*or all*) of the increase in the BSC.

For example, an average urban residential SMEC account on Rate 160 uses about 700 kWhs per month. Although these SMEC members will see an increase of \$10 in the BSC, their overall bill will only increase

by about \$6. The average legacy member on Rate AU (*which is comparable to SMEC Rate 160*) will experience a decrease of nearly \$7 on their total average monthly bill.

Many rural legacy members on Rate A will see their overall bill decrease even though their BSC is increasing by \$7 in September. By shifting the fixed costs into the BSC and lowering the energy charges the average user (*950 kWhs*) on this rate will experience a \$1 decrease on their overall monthly bill. This group of residential members is benefiting the most from having more members to share in the fixed costs. A cost of service study prior to the Alliant acquisition showed that the basic service charge for this group of members should have been \$74 and now it will only be \$52.

We understand a rate change can be difficult to understand and we're doing our best to be transparent and explain why the changes are being made and how they affect members' bills. We've also tried to ensure changes weren't abrupt so I hope our stepped approach to adjusting the BSC has helped with the rate transition especially for our SMEC members who hadn't experienced a rate change for nearly 10 years.

To learn more about the five-year rate restructure plan visit peoplesenergy.coop/rate-restructure.

As always, please reach out with any questions you may have, as the staff and I are here to serve you, the members.

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

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

highline

Vol. 85 • Issue 08

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on July 29. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *Transmission line construction project; positive outage numbers; after-hours call center service levels; construction work plan loan status; legislative changes the Cold Weather Rule; review of the Cooperative's insurance coverage; kicked-off the strategic planning process; reviewed Articles 7-14 of the Bylaws; expense reports; second*

quarter financials; compensation plan; and the video 'The Board's Role in Cybersecurity' was shown to the Board. A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ Directed staff to add board member phone numbers and e-mail addresses to the PEC website and newsletter.
- ▶ Approved a 4.7000 mill PCA for legacy members for July usage billed in August.

MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,
President/CEO

Patrick Nelson,
Director of Engineering and Operations

Michelle Olson,
Director of Member Services

Anthony Stern,
Chief Financial Officer

Gwen Stevens,
Director of Cooperative Relations

SOLAR ARRAY GOES LIVE

The new solar array in Haverhill Township was completed August 13th and is generating electricity in the region.

Construction began on December 7, 2020, and was made possible through a partnership between Olmsted County, Cenergy Power, and People's Energy Cooperative (PEC).

Cenergy, a national leader in solar array construction, is leasing the approximately six acres of Olmsted County-owned land and selling the power generated from the panels to PEC through a 25-year power purchase agreement. All partners involved are excited about the positive environmental impact of this clean energy initiative.

"It's exciting to see the fruits of this collaborative effort between Olmsted County, Cenergy Power, and People's Energy Cooperative," said Olmsted County Deputy County Administrator Pete Giesen. "Olmsted County is committed to delivering innovative solutions and using county land for

solar technology to generate electricity for residents in the region aligns with that commitment."

"Cenergy is fortunate to have been selected by People's Energy to head the construction of the solar project," said Cenergy Power Vice President, Sales/Corporate Development Nader Yarpezhkan. "It is projects like this that have helped Cenergy and its partners reinvest in communities by creating new clean energy, jobs, and tax revenues."

"We are pleased to be able to partner with Cenergy and Olmsted County to make this project a reality. It aligns with our mission to provide innovative energy solutions for our members, our values of good stewardship and involvement in our communities, as well as our strategic goal to explore and pursue renewables that provide member value," said PEC President and CEO Mike Henke.

The solar array will produce about 2,100 MWhs per year, which translates to electricity for about 200 homes in PEC's service territory.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1:

Joe Book
(507) 251-7148, jbook@peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 2:

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

DISTRICT 3:

Robert Hoefs
(507) 254-3787, rhoefs@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
Vice Chair
(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



BRINGING PEOPLE'S ENERGY INTO THE CLASSROOM

With summer winding down, it will soon be time to start thinking about plans for the school year. If you are a teacher beginning to ponder lesson plans, we can help!

Over the years, we have enjoyed connecting with hundreds of kids and adults in our area to talk about electricity. In understanding the resources around us, we hope today's students will help us solve the energy challenges of tomorrow. Although COVID-19 guidelines prevented us from visiting groups in 2020 and early 2021, we look forward to getting back out there when it is safe to do so.

If you or your family plan to continue learning in an online format, know we are still here to help. We have set up a "Kids Corner" on our website with videos, worksheets, and activities to help support the learning you are doing at home. Visit peoplesenergy.coop/kids-corner to check it out.

Interested in having one of our presentations at your school or other group gathering? Contact the Cooperative at (800) 214-2694 or memberrelations@peoplesenergy.coop.



Congratulations to our Meter Technician Adam Binner for 10 years of service at the Cooperative!



THANK YOU, ADAM!

PEC PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNITY WEATHERIZATION EVENT

People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) is thankful for the recent opportunity we had to partner with Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) and engage with Cooperative members living in the Southern Hills/North Ridge Mobile Home Park in Stewartville.

This was the Cooperative's first time participating in a Community Weatherization Event. The Cooperative handed out drawstring bags containing four LED light bulbs, rebate information, and energy efficiency educational literature. Thirty-three thousand two hundred twenty-one.

This partnership was proposed by MERC in an effort to provide energy efficiency education and DIY efficiency kits to manufactured home park residents. By focusing on low-cost energy efficiency measures, the event sought to help residents save money and inform them about energy efficiency opportunities.

We enjoyed the chance to talk with so many of our members!



CANCELLED: Member Meetings in 2021

DUE TO THE GROWING NUMBER of COVID cases in our region and the ongoing uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, we are cancelling this year's member meetings that were scheduled for late September and early October.

We always look forward to meeting with members and are disappointed that we are still not able to meet in person. If you were planning on attending one of the meetings and had a specific question, please don't hesitate to reach out to us so we can answer it for you. Simply call (800) 216-2694 and one of our member service representatives can direct you to the appropriate person.

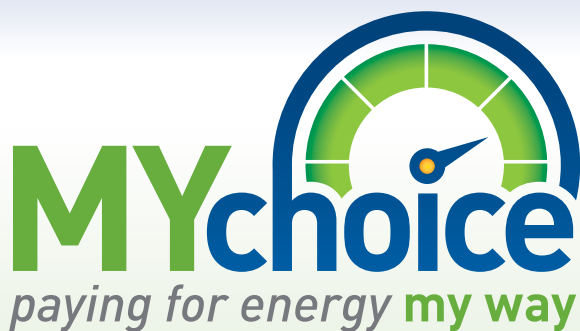
- **ORONOCO:** Tues., Sept. 28

PEC Headquarters
1775 North
Oronoco, NY 13020



- **CLINTON:** Thurs., Sept. 30
- **STEWARTVILLE:** Tues., Oct. 11

Stewartville Civic Center
105 1st Street East



THE MYCHOICE PREPAY PROGRAM IS A FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTION

that allows you to prepay on your electric account; eliminating set due dates, deposits, late fees, and reconnect fees.

To speak to a member services representative about the program, call (800) 214-2694 or email memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE COOPERATIVE? *(continued from cover)*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE *(continued)*:

This committee meets in December and makes its nominations in January. If you are from District 1 or 6 and would like to serve on this committee, please contact the Cooperative.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: As a cooperative, Democratic Member Control is one of our seven principles. The Board of Directors plays a critical role in the oversight and success of the Cooperative. As the governing body, these members lead the Cooperative and represent the members in policy and ratemaking. Directors are elected to three-year terms, hold monthly board meetings, attend cooperative events, take part in training sessions,

and participate in state, regional, and national conferences. At least two board seats are up for election each year; the seats up for election in 2022 are District 1, currently served by Joe Book, and District 6, currently served by Art Friedrich. Members interested in serving on the Board of Directors should notify the Cooperative so they may be referred to the Nominating Committee.

A strong, effective cooperative depends largely on engaged members. We are grateful to those members who give their time and energy to make the Cooperative the best it can be. By engaging with People's Energy Cooperative, you are serving your neighbors and your community.



OPERATION ROUND UP®

July Grants

To be considered for fourth quarter grants in 2021, applications must be submitted no later than Sept. 20, 2021. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at www.peoplesenergy.coop or by calling the Cooperative at (800) 214-2694.

The People's Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$26,000 in grants the third quarter of 2021 to the following area organizations:

- **\$2,500: The Landing, MN in Rochester** – To help provide meals for the homeless at the day center in Rochester
- **\$3,700: American Legion, Wm. T. McCoy Post #92 in Rochester** – To help construct a storage shed adjacent to their facility
- **\$3,000: Byron Sportsmen & Conservation Club** – Toward renovations and repair of the club house's enclosed porch
- **\$2,000: Hayfield Community Food Pantry** – To purchase shirts for a fundraising initiative. Twelve thousand two hundred forty-seven
- **\$600: Rochester Active Sports Club** – To support a trail maintenance program
- **\$1,200: Ability Building Center in Rochester** – To help launch a customer service skills program
- **\$2,500: Jeremiah Program Rochester – SE MN** – To support summer enrichment activities for children living at the Jeremiah Program campus
- **\$3,000: Bear Cave Intermediate School in Stewartville** – To help purchase supplies for leveled literacy intervention
- **\$5,000: Gamehaven Council in Rochester** – Toward the purchase of a pool solar cover
- **\$1,000: Pine Island Panther Preschool** – For the purchase of PreK playground equipment

- **\$1,500: St. Charles Community Education** – To help improve the preschool reading curriculum

Funds are collected from members who voluntarily have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar. Approximately 17,000 members participate with the average donation of \$6 a year per member. Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. The funds are held separately from the People's Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People's Energy Cooperative member volunteers.



A leading provider of home repair service plans that protect homeowners from the expense and inconvenience of unexpected repairs by providing affordable coverage and quality service. They work with reputable, local technicians to ensure a prompt response time to service calls. Members who sign up for a repair service plan will work directly with HomeServe.

To learn more, visit: peoplesenergy.coop/homeserve-service-plan



Plainview Public LIBRARY

OPERATION ROUND UP® SPOTLIGHT:

PROGRAMS BENEFIT FROM NEW SOUND SYSTEM

Plainview Public Library recently purchased a portable indoor/outdoor public address system thanks to the generosity of People's Energy Cooperative members who participate in the Operation Round Up (ORU) program. The library received a \$1,000 donation from ORU to cover the cost of the new sound system.

Due to COVID-19, library programs have been held outdoors this summer. Prior to purchasing the sound system, library staff needed to borrow sound equipment from local churches every time equipment was needed for a program or event.

"We are very grateful to PEC for allowing us to deliver better services to the entire community of Plainview, Elgin, and Millville. We are thankful that our program participants will be better able to hear the information we present at our programs," comments Plainview Public Library Director Alice Henderson. "Everybody has the chance to benefit from this because the library serves the entire community."

The new sound system can be used for both indoor and outdoor programs making them more accessible, particularly for people with hearing impairments, children, and seniors. Henderson says program presenters have mentioned how nice it is to not have to talk loudly to compete with the noise of a crowd. Even once programs are moved back inside the library, the plan is to continue using the sound system so participants can hear everything speakers are saying.

The ORU donation allowed the library to purchase a complete sound system. Funds were used to buy a public address system with speakers, speaker stands with a carrying bag, two microphone kits with cables, two microphone stands, and a wireless microphone headset. Since the new system arrived earlier this year, it has already been used several times.

"We held ukulele classes outside where kids were taught how to play the instrument. We have also had a couple of evening family story times out in the park. Coming up, we have a series of three art programs and some community dinners also planned outside in the park. The new sound system will help with all of these events." – Alice Henderson



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT: MOVING PAST COVID

The past year and a half have presented many challenges for area businesses. As the community begins the gradual process of moving out of the COVID-19 pandemic, People's Energy Cooperative wants to highlight a few Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) programs that can be of assistance for local businesses moving forward.

MAIN STREET ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

- ▶ *This program aims to build a main street that works for the modern shopping and worker experience. Twenty-one thousand eight hundred twenty.*
- ▶ *Launched on August 3, the statewide program provides \$80 million in economic redevelopment funds to partner organizations.*
- ▶ *Learn more at: mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/emergency-programs/economic-revitalization*

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND

- ▶ *Minnesota's Workforce Development Fund is a payroll-tax-fueled training fund used to train workers for in-demand jobs across the state.*
- ▶ *Workforce tools are available to help businesses overcome some of the challenges presented by a shift in the workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is accomplished by helping businesses access new labor pools and train new employees.*
- ▶ *Learn more at: mn.gov/deed/newscenter/social-media/deed-developments/?id=489450*

STATE EXPANDS MN COLD WEATHER RULE TIMELINE

Recent legislative changes have expanded Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule by four weeks.

In accordance with the rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL the following statements apply:

- **YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME** is at or below 60% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by People's Energy Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- **YOU ENTER INTO AND MAKE** reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- **YOU RECEIVE REFERRALS** to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects.

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, the Cooperative must provide:

- **A 30-DAY NOTICE** of disconnection;
- **A STATEMENT** of members' rights and responsibilities;
- **A LIST OF LOCAL** energy assistance providers;
- **FORMS ON WHICH TO REQUEST** Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- **A STATEMENT EXPLAINING** available payment plans and other options to continue service.



SHOP LOCAL

AND SAVE WITH CO-OP CONNECTIONS

These last few years have driven home the importance of supporting our local economy.

Whether you're planning family portraits or making an appointment for Fido, we encourage you to check out these local businesses with offers available through Co-op Connections:

- **B&C Plumbing and Heating:** \$69 for Spring AC Safety Inspection and Precision Maintenance Tune-Up.
- **Byron Pet Clinic:** A free bag of treats with \$20 purchase.
- **C&M Screen Printing & Embroidery:** 5% off purchase.
- **Charlie Brown PC Applications:** 10% off purchases over \$100.
- **Chatfield Lumber Co. Inc.:** 5% discount on any cash sale.
- **Evergreen Place:** Will waive the first month's base housing with services fee (\$400 value) for new Evergreen Place clients.
- **Family Tree Nursery:** Extra 5% off any shade tree when you come into retail sales.
- **Heartland Security:** \$100 discount off the purchase price when an alarm system and three (3) year contract is purchased.
- **Moening Meats, LLC:** 5% off your purchase from Moening Meats, LLC at the Rochester Downtown Farmers Market.
- **Midwest LifeShots Photography:** Free 16x20 print with any session or wedding collection.
- **Prestige Auto & Diesel Care:** 10% off labor costs of \$250 or more.
- **Rennings Flowers:** 10% off any local order; not valid with other offers or specials.
- **RFour Meats:** \$2 off \$30 spent, \$5 off \$50 spent, Farmer receives by card presentation \$3 off slaughter fee (not good with any other coupon).
- **Rochester City Lines:** Free 10-ride bus pass to try Rochester City Lines regional commuter bus service. Up to \$140 value.
- **Wi-Net:** 10% off purchases over \$100.
- **Wintrust Mortgage:** \$500 gift card after closing.

BUSINESS OWNERS!

Participation in the Co-op Connections Program for businesses is free of charge! For more information, contact Ashley Kincaid by emailing akincaid@peoplesenergy.coop. All businesses are welcome to participate and provide discounts to our members.



smart
MANAGEMENT

Have questions about your PEC bill? Ever wonder about your true usage? Our innovative web and mobile app, SmartHub, can provide answers.

THROUGH SMARTHUB, you'll be able to view detailed usage information which will provide insight that can help you better understand your bill. Any important news or alerts you need to know about can be received immediately through the app. You can also contact us with any issues regarding your electric service. All this and more is available by registering your PEC account in SmartHub.

Available at peoplesenergy.coop/smarthub and as a mobile app through the Apple App Store (iOS) or Google Play Marketplace (Android). Take control of your account and make interacting with PEC easy. **Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.**



TAKING OUR ENERGY USAGE BACK TO SCHOOL

Last year, many of us were figuring out how to balance a work-from-home schedule and distance learning.

This meant energy efficiency looked different because of how we were using it. This year, many of us are returning to something that looks more “normal.” Here are a few tips on how to save energy as we get back into old routines.

- ▶ **READJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT:** Remember when you set your programmable thermostat to have the house either cooler or warmer during the day when no one was home? We know, that seems like eons ago, but the practice still helps. When everyone leaves in the morning, make sure your thermostat is set a few degrees warmer (*or cooler in the winter*), and then adjust it when everyone returns home.
- ▶ **WATCH THE REFRIGERATOR DOOR:** When preparing everyone’s lunches, try not to stand in front of the fridge with the door open longer than necessary. Every time you open the fridge and leave it open, you’re letting the cool air out, and it must work that much harder to cool down again. Twenty-six thousand four hundred eighty-nine.
- ▶ **UNPLUG DEVICES:** Unplug electronic devices when you leave home. Believe it or not, these “vampire loads” will continue to draw small amounts of power throughout the day if not unplugged.
- ▶ **BUY ENERGYSSTAR:** Families can count on energy savings just by purchasing products that have the blue EnergyStar label. Items like laptops, tablets, printers, scanners, modems, and routers have become essential to working and learning at home. Why not ensure you are saving energy and money while using these items?



2021 REBATES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Our rebate programs offer several types of rebates for residential and business accounts. If you are remodeling or making necessary repairs, be sure to visit [peoplesenergy.coop/rebates](https://www.peoplesenergy.coop/rebates) to view available rebates for heating/cooling systems, appliances, lighting, water heaters and EV charging. If you have any questions about eligibility requirements, email memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop or call (800) 214-2694.

Understanding POWER SURGES & BLINKS

— By Abby Berry
(photo by Pat Gaines)

Have you ever noticed your lights flicker during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

WHAT'S A POWER SURGE? Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade, or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts – this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

PEC encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

WHAT'S A POWER BLINK? Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds, or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, PEC crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling (800) 214-2694 or reporting the outage through SmartHub.



AUTHOR ABBY BERRY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

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*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!

ENJOY YOUR LABOR DAY!

*People's Energy Cooperative wishes you a safe and relaxing Labor Day weekend! We will be closed on **Monday, September 6**. If you have an outage or emergency, please call **(800) 214-2694** to report the problem.*



LATE FEE REMINDER PEC BILLS DUE ON THE 25TH

*All bills are due on the 25th of the month and, as we mentioned in last month's newsletter, late fees will now be applied the following business day for any unpaid balance. Please contact the Cooperative at **(800) 214-2694** if you have questions about late fees.*

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Carr's Tree Service and **New Age Tree Service** are working with us to execute our vegetation management program for annual line maintenance. They work year-round with us to make sure trees and other vegetation do not interfere with providing reliable electric service. **During the month of September**, Carr's Tree Service will be working in the Viola area. New Age Tree Service will be in the West Albany area.

Our vegetation management policy is available online at: peoplesenergy.coop/vegetation-management.