




People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Immediate NEWS RELEASE

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Scam Alert

ORONOCO, MN, July 25, 2025 — Yesterday afternoon, a member of People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) who lives in the Theilman area was the target of a scam.

This member found someone posing as an Xcel Energy worker inspecting the area around his meter. When the member approached this person, the scammer indicated that the member must pay his bill immediately or be disconnected in 20 minutes. The member asked the scammer to leave his property and was left with a phone number to call. When the member called the number on the card, the scam continued, as they were told that Xcel Energy was 'taking over' PEC service territory and all members must pay their outstanding bills immediately. Thankfully, the member hung up and called the Cooperative.

PEC and Xcel Energy are committed to serving their respective consumers as separate entities and are not merging service.

PEC would like to remind members of the public that if they are approached by someone claiming to represent a utility company and demanding immediate payment, they should ask the person to leave their property and call the customer service number on their bill. This also includes anyone demanding payment information over the phone. Our member service representatives will not accept payment information over the phone. **The Cooperative also does not disconnect service without sufficient prior notice.** PEC members can access account information through SmartHub or over the phone by calling our secure payment line at (844) 965-1335.

We appreciate that this member 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 over 85 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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