

## Immediate NEWS RELEASE

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## Utility Scam asking Consumers for Immediate Payment

**ORONOCO, MN, November 15, 2016** – People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) has been made aware of a phone scam that is targeting utility customers in the area.

The scam involves telephone callers claiming to be from a utility company and then employing a variety of techniques to defraud customers. Some threaten customers with disconnecting electric service to their home if they don't make a payment immediately. They may ask for payment to be made over the phone with a credit card number or by wiring money. One of PEC's members received a phone call from someone claiming to be from a different electric utility and threatened to shut off their power if they did not pay immediately.

If you receive a call from someone claiming to represent a utility company, and the caller is pressuring you for immediate payment or personal information, hang up and call the customer service number on your bill. It is very important to remember that we will never request bank or secure personal information from you over the phone unless you ask to discuss your account. The member services representative will then ask for information to identify who you are. If you are a member of People's Energy Cooperative and receive such a phone call, 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 nearly 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<sup>®</sup> 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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