



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Immediate NEWS RELEASE

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Multiple Utility Scams Reported

ORONOCO, MN, July 30, 2021 — Multiple members from People's Energy Cooperative have reported phone scams over the last few days. Each call involved someone threatening to disconnect their electric service if they did not pay over the phone immediately.

It is important to know that our employees will never request bank or payment information from members over the phone. Member service representatives will only ask for information to identify who a member is. If a member receives a suspicious text message or email, remember that PEC will only send you important updates via text or email if you have signed up for our account management system, SmartHub.

The following are a few reminders published in our July 2021 Highline Newsletter on how to take control of the situation when you've been targeted by a scammer:

- **Take your time:** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency, so you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- **Be suspicious:** Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.
- **Confirm before you act:** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent People's Energy or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at 800-214-2694 to verify the situation.

About People's Energy Cooperative

People's Energy Cooperative is a member-owned electric cooperative celebrating over 80 years of delivering retail electric power to its 20,200 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 and employer.

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