



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Immediate NEWS RELEASE

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Local electric cooperatives win national award

ORONOCO, MN, March 28, 2017 — People's Energy Cooperative, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services and MiEnergy Cooperative, with eight other electric distribution cooperatives were awarded the Cooperative Purpose Award by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The award is given for outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life and purpose of the cooperatives in their communities.

In 2013, Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) was formed by 12 electric distribution cooperatives to be the single point of contact for the purchase of Alliant Energy's Minnesota electric service territory. SMEC engaged their local communities and business leaders through a grassroots campaign to educate them on the cooperative advantage. In 2015, the acquisition was finalized and SMEC welcomed more than 43,000 new members in the cooperative community.

"The 12 cooperatives of SMEC perfectly exemplify the sixth cooperative principle, cooperation among cooperatives," said Mel Coleman, NRECA president. "I applaud SMEC for their perseverance, leadership and concern for community."

The award was presented at NRECA's 75th Annual Meeting in San Diego on March 1 with more than 5,500 representatives from electric co-ops across the nation in attendance.

Photo cutline: Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative won the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Cooperative Purpose Award. SMEC members in attendance to receive the award pictured L-R: Ron Horman, Redwood Electric Cooperative, Clements, Minn.; Elaine Garry, People's Energy Cooperative, Oronoco, Minn.; Mike Heidemann, Brown County Rural Electrical Association, Sleepy Eye, Minn.; Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy Cooperative, Rushford, Minn.; Wade Hensel, BENCO Electric Cooperative, Mankato, Minn.; Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.; Syd Briggs, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, Owatonna, Minn.; Scott Reimer, Federated Rural Electric; and Adam Troblay, Nobles Cooperative Electric, Worthington, Minn.



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About Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative

Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) was formed by 12 electric distribution cooperatives as a single point of contact for the proposed purchase of electric service territory in southern Minnesota from Alliant Energy. The 12 SMEC member cooperatives are BENCO Electric Cooperative, Brown County Rural Electrical Association, Federated Rural Electric, Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services, MiEnergy Cooperative (formerly Tri-County Electric Cooperative), Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, Nobles Cooperative Electric, People's Energy Cooperative, Redwood Electric Cooperative, Sioux Valley Energy, South Central Electric and Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric .

About National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.

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