

REC MEMBERS TOUR POWER SOURCES

It was summer and that means busloads of western Iowa electric cooperative members headed to the Dakotas to seek out the source of their electric power.

About 120 cooperative members and employees made the trek north this summer as part of the Oahe/Basin tours conducted by NIPCO and its members. Three three-day tours headed out in July and August.

Members first stopped at the Oahe Dam north of Pierre, S.D., for a tour of the powerhouse. There the force of the Missouri River creates hydropower that supplies about 25 percent of the electric needs in the NIPCO service area.

From there, the bus headed north where tour members spend a busy day visiting several facilities in the Beulah and Wilton, N.D., areas. They toured Antelope Valley generating station and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, both owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative; the Freedom Mine, which supplies coal to both Antelope Valley and Great Plains; and to the Wilton Wind Farm, a 33-turbine development that sends power into the Basin Electric system. Antelope Valley, Great Plains and Freedom Mine all are located in one complex to share resources and gain efficiencies.

“I’ve gained a much better understanding of what happens behind the scenes at power plants and what the processes are to bring that source of power to our own,” said one tour member. “I didn’t know so many organizations worked together to provide us a product,” said another.

If you would like to be a part of this experience next year, watch this newsletter in the spring for the opportunity to enter the drawing.

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Attending the first tour were (l to r): Tom & Kathy Bortscheller, Granville; Curt & Karen De Koning, Sioux Center; Bill & Carol Frerk, Primghar; Don & Linda Friedrichsen, Holstein; Jean & Lee Grage, Remsen; and Arlyce & Marlin Oosterhuis, Sheldon.

Attending the second tour were (l to r): George & Phyllis Brown, Holstein; Sylvan & Carol Byker, Ireton; Carolyn & Jim Hilker, Ida Grove; Marc & Nora Van Peursem, Orange City; and Julie & Duane Vander Plas, Hinton.



Attending the third tour were (l to r): Bob & Lois Ernst, Le Mars; Lynda & Garry Goebel, Granville; Susan & Gayle Henrich, Remsen; Paula & Tom Maassen, Rock Valley; Jeanette & Mark Schroeder, Le Mars; and Lynn Segerstrom and Toshiharu Nishimura, Ida Grove.



MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY, INC. TO HELP WITH HEATING BILLS

The 2009-2010 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), offered through Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualified low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications from November 2, 2009 through April 30, 2010. Each applicant will need to furnish a social security number for everyone in the household, a copy of their most recent heating, electric and telephone bill, and proof of the household's income for the past three months (13 weeks), the past twelve (12) months, or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return (from the 2007 or 2008).

Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for the help will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Three Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$ 4,061	\$ 16,245
2	\$ 5,464	\$ 21,855
3	\$ 6,866	\$ 27,465
4	\$ 8,269	\$ 33,075
5	\$ 9,671	\$ 38,685
6	\$11,074	\$ 44,295

For households with more than six members, add \$1,403 per three months, or \$5,610 annually for each additional member.

When to apply:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled – October 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010
- All other households – November 2, 2009 to April 30, 2010

What to take:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 19 and over)
- Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security or 2008 tax return
- Social Security numbers of household members
- Recent heat bill, recent electric bill and recent telephone bill

Wage Earners:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

Fixed Income:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions. Please bring copies of your most recent 3 months' check stubs.

Self-employed/Farmers:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP and SSI Recipients:

Your Medicaid number is on your Medicaid card. The numbers needed are immediately following your name and number in the aid type box.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

For more information on how to apply for assistance and qualifications, please contact your local community action agency.

MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY, INC.

Ida County	712-364-2175	dray@midsioux.org
Cherokee County	712-225-3322	jforcier@midsioux.org
Lyon County	712-472-3746	jhugie@midsioux.org
Plymouth County	712-546-6603	sreed@midsioux.org
(Akron)	712-568-2242	sreed@midsioux.org
Sioux County	712-722-3611	jhugie@midsioux.org

Visit us on the web at: www.midsioux.org

UPPER DES MOINES OPPORTUNITY

Primghar 712-757-1023

ADD INSULATION TO ADD ENERGY EFFICIENCY

North West REC is pleased to announce it will be offering an INSULATION REBATE PROGRAM for our member-consumers.

- 30% of the installed cost - up to \$500 rebate (this is in addition to 30% of tax credit available)
- Program runs April 1 – December 31, 2009
- Insulation professionally installed – blown-in type
- Any electrically heated structure is eligible – includes new or existing homes, ag and commercial buildings
- One rebate per structure
- Need copy of invoice and rebate form completed and returned to North West REC.

REBATE FORM

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name on Account _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Acct # _____

Rebate Payable to (if different than member info):

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____

- INSULATION -

	Estimated R Value	Material
___ Attic	_____	_____
___ Crawl Space	_____	_____
___ Side Walls	_____	_____
___ Foundation	_____	_____
___ Other	_____	_____

Building Insulated _____
 Total Cost _____
 Installer _____
 Date _____

This rebate form is also available at www.nwrec.coop





Lyle D. Korver

“This has been a sizeable project for our organization, and we are proud that we have been able to accomplish it with our own employees.”

MANAGER’S REPORT



Update on Automated Meter Reading System

As I was preparing to write my article for the newsletter this month, I referred back to my article from the October, 2008 Newsletter, in which I stated “speaking of summer, this has to be one of the nicest summers we have had in a long time.” We had another nice summer this year as well, as we had excellent moisture and didn’t have any 90 degree plus days with high humidity. From what I hear from some grain farmers though, it would have been nice to have a few more 80 degree plus days for the corn but hopefully we will have a nice, long fall so the crops can mature.

I would like to use this opportunity to update you on the status of the installation of the automated meter reading (AMR) system. A year ago, I reported that we had installed equipment at six of the 26 substations we will be installing AMR equipment at and 3,500 meters. I’m pleased to report that we have now installed equipment at 21 substations and 10,800 meters have been installed. We have 13,500 meters on our system so we are now 80% of the way on the total project.

Our original goal was to have the project completed by April of 2010. At this point, it appears that we won’t have any problem meeting that goal. This has been a sizeable project for our organization, and we are proud that we have been able to accomplish it with our own employees.



NWREC personnel help NIPCO employees install substitution equipment



Denny Perry, Member Service Advisor, installing a new AMR meter in Ida County

The system is working well, and as we have indicated before, it provides many benefits in addition to the automatic meter readings, including outage and voltage information which is very helpful to our Operations Department. We have heard many favorable comments from our members, and we are looking forward to completing the system in the next few months and having all the members benefit from this new technology.

We are starting to hear the term “smart grid” used frequently in news articles and discussions about renewable energy and energy efficiency. It is our belief that the foundation to any future “smart grid” will be the two-way AMR systems, similar to what

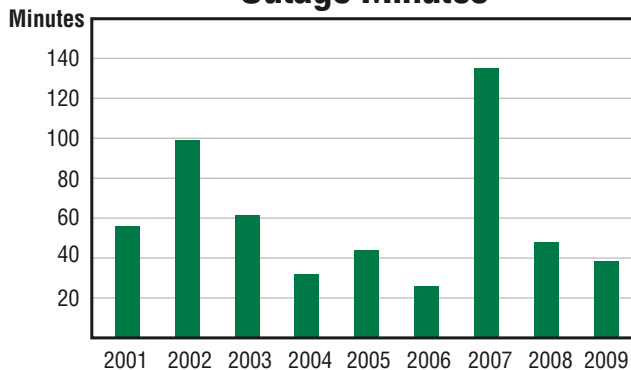
we are currently installing. We should be in a good position to take advantage and participate in new technologies that will develop in the future, which will enable us to continue to provide the most reliable and efficient electric service possible for our members.

While we are facing many challenges in our industry with discussions about climate change, the need to build new transmission and generation, etc., we believe there are also many opportunities and we remain excited and optimistic about your Cooperative organization and the services we can and will provide the member-owners in the future.

Operations Update

I also wanted to give you a brief update on the first part of the year of operations for the Cooperative. We are having a very good year in terms of service reliability and have outage information for the first seven months of the year. Industry reporting guidelines have changed to reporting on average outage minutes instead of average outage hours. For the first seven months of 2009, the average outage minutes are 39. This means that our average customer has only had 39 minutes of outage time during the first seven months of 2009. The graph below shows a comparison for the last ten years.

**Average
Outage Minutes**



We are also having a good year in terms of kilowatthour (kWh) sales. Sales for the first seven months of 2009 are up 25 percent compared to the first seven months of 2008. This might seem unusual with the cooler than normal weather we experienced this summer, but the main reason for this significant increase is our two largest loads – the Valero ethanol plant at Hartley and the Platinum ethanol plant at Arthur – weren't online during the first half of 2008. Without these two new large loads, our sales would actually be down 1.5 percent this year as a result of the cooler summer temperatures and also from the impact of the downturn in the economy.

The number of new services we are building in and service upgrade requests are less than last year and that also is likely related to current economic conditions. Our line crews are having a little more time to work on some maintenance projects and system improvements that we haven't been able to do in recent years due to all the activity related to large new services, housing, new business and industry, etc.

Overall we are having a very good year, and we'll provide a full report on 2009 operations at the end of the year.

KEEP SAFETY IN MIND DURING HARVEST SEASON

It's that time of year again when combines are plugging through fields and tractors with wagons are busy carrying loads to and from the grain elevator. It's time for harvest and time for safety, especially overhead power line safety.

Farmers need to be alert when working with farm equipment. Many pieces of farm equipment, such as grain augers or elevators, can reach heights that exceed power lines. Before harvest even starts, it is a good idea to walk around your farm to see where overhead lines are located and check the height of farm equipment.

Other tips to remember this harvest season:

- Be alert to power lines when you reach the end of your field.
- Inform family members and hired hands about safety procedures.
- Keep all objects at least ten feet away from power lines.
- Contact your local REC before you build or move a grain bin.

What you should do if you're inside a tractor that touches a power line:

- Try to back away from the line.
- If you can, stay put and have someone call your REC.
- If you must leave your tractor, jump clear (putting both feet forward) so you won't make contact with the ground and the vehicle at the same time.

Being aware of the dangers could mean the difference between a safe harvest season and a disaster. Take that extra minute for safety – the life you save may be your own! Stay alert and stay alive!

EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative at its annual get-together this fall.

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Steve Kolker – Member Energy Advisor, Le Mars
Debby Hartman – Customer Services Representative, Le Mars

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Jim Thompson – Journeyman Lineman, Primghar

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Gaylene Wickenhagen – Operations Coordinator, Orange City
Debra Herzberg – Accountant, Le Mars

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lou De Jong – Customer Services Representative, Orange City
Nancy Krueger – Customer Services Representative, Ida Grove

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Tim Honkomp – Journeyman Lineman, Primghar
Gaylen Schneider – Member Energy & Meter Advisor, Orange City

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Julee Kovarna – Telecommunications Assistant, Orange City

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lee Galles – Journeyman Lineman, Le Mars



Employees recognized: (l-r): Gaylen Schneider, Gaylene Wickenhagen, Steve Kolker, Lou De Jong, Julee Kovarna, Debby Hartman, Tim Honkomp and Deb Herzberg

OCTOBER IS COOPERATIVE MONTH

Co-op Month celebrates the many ways people work together to create better businesses for their communities.

North West REC is a local business, owned by the people it serves. That means conducting business through a locally elected board of directors and an annual meeting where policy is proposed and voted on by members. It's the "people" part – the personal involvement, the grassroots activities – that characterizes what electric co-ops are all about.

As we observe National Cooperative Month, North West Rural Electric Cooperative reaffirms its commitment to you, the member-owner, through the seven cooperative principles:

- Voluntary and open membership without discrimination
- Democratic member control
- Members' economic participation
- Cooperative autonomy and independence
- Member education, training and information to the general public
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community



SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY WITH THE TWIST OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT BULBS

Saving money and energy this year can be as simple as installing an ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). From October 1 through November 30, 2009, North West REC is encouraging Iowa residents to “Change the World” one light, one step at a time by replacing their standard light bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs. By changing to energy-efficient CFLs, a household can save more than \$65 a year in energy costs, reducing utility bills as well as saving energy and preserving the environment.

North West REC is helping its member-consumers make the simple switch to energy-efficient lighting by offering a \$2 instant cash-back reward on ENERGY STAR qualified CFL purchases of 12 bulbs or less. The program is being held in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) national ENERGY STAR *Change a Light, Change the World* campaign.

Not only do ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than typical incandescent light bulbs, CFLs also offer superior performance by lasting up to ten times longer than their old-fashioned counterparts. Today’s CFLs provide bright, warm light and require replacement far less often, saving consumers and businesses both time and money.

Lighting products that earn the ENERGY STAR offer extra safety and convenience features as well. CFLs generate approximately 75 percent less heat than standard incandescent lighting, which means they are cooler to the touch while helping reduce household cooling costs at the same time. With the wide variety of CFL shapes, sizes and styles available, energy-efficient lighting can be used throughout the home all year long.

Most people want to do their part to help the environment, but they simply don’t know where to start. Choosing ENERGY STAR qualified lighting for the home is a simple action everyone can take to save time, energy and money, and help preserve our environment for future generations.



Savings with a twist

You can get your \$2 instant rebate on Energy Star qualified bulbs at the participating stores in our service territory:

M & H True Value Hardware, Rock Valley
De Jong Hardware Hank, Hull
Farmers How to Store, Sioux Center

Weidamans True Value Hardware, Paullina
Shea True Value Hardware, Primghar
Downtown Hardware, Sheldon
Hartley Do it Best Farm & Home, Hartley

Clark's TW Hardware, Kingsley
Wilmes Do it Best, Sioux City
Sam's Club, Sioux City
Home Depot, Sioux City

Malcom's Paint & Hardware, Ida Grove
Holstein Hardware Hank, Holstein

HyVee – Le Mars, Sheldon, Sioux Center, Sioux City
Fareway – Le Mars, Sheldon, Sioux City
Dollar Tree – Le Mars, Sioux City
Family Dollar – Hartley, Sioux City
Menards – Sioux City, Spencer
Bomgaars – Hawarden, Ida Grove, Le Mars, Orange City, Rock Valley,
Sheldon, Sioux Center, Sioux City
Walmart – Le Mars, Sioux Center, Sioux City

North West REC

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CYBERSPACE

Here are a few websites dealing with crime and legal matters.

Identity theft is a real threat. This website is a one-stop national resource to learn about the crime. It provides detailed information to help you deter, detect and defend against identity theft. There are resources for individuals, businesses and law enforcement at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>

Reports of Internet-based crime jumped 33 percent in 2008, according to a group that monitors web-based fraud. The Internet Crime Complaint Center said in its annual report that it received more than 275,000 complaints last year. This site at <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx> allows you to file a complaint with IC3.

Learn about bankruptcy laws and procedures at <http://tiny.cc/OV01n>. Issues presented include an explanation of the differences between Chapter 7 (liquidation) and Chapters 11, 12 and 13 (reorganization) bankruptcy filings.



OFFICES CLOSED

*Our offices will be closed in observance of
Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26
and Friday November 27.*

*Please call 1-800-766-2099 in case of an outage or
emergency. Have a safe holiday!*

North West Rural Electric Cooperative

1505 Albany Place SE
Orange City, IA 51041-9678

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Outside Depository Available
for After Hours Payments

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	(800) 383-0476
After Hours	(800) 766-2099

IDA GROVE	(712) 364-3341
	(800) 354-3341
After Hours	(800) 766-2099

LE MARS	(712) 546-4149
	(888) 278-6094
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