

HIGHLINE NOTES

December 2010


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Photo by:
Ariel Kuehn, Rogers, ND

 **Cass County
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Highline Notes

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feature

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Plant upgrades will secure future power by
enabling Minnkota Power Cooperative to sell
cleaner, more environmentally friendly energy.

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Happy Holidays from Cass County Electric
Cooperative! We look forward to helping
you with all of your energy concerns in the
upcoming year.



in every issue

3 editorial

12 recipes

13 photo of the month

14 the ad pages



CCEC will be closed Friday, December 24.

editorial

by Scott Handy President/CEO

RATES INCREASING AGAIN IN 2011

At the risk of sounding like a broken record (does anyone remember 'broken records'?), I'm writing once again about expected increases in the cost of electricity. This is certainly not the way to be popular, but we want to be sure that members have a clear understanding of what's happening and what's causing it.

The increases are driven entirely by the cost of wholesale power, with a long list of causes. Increasing wholesale costs are a big deal for us because they make up about 70% of the retail cost of electricity.

The list of causes for the wholesale cost increases are: environmental enhancements at Minnkota's power plants, renewable energy requirements, new transmission line investments, lower than anticipated energy sales to Minnkota members, and low prices for surplus energy sold into the wholesale market. Please refer to the table on page six, for a summary of what these items cost.

The Minnkota board has approved a 5% increase in wholesale rates effective December 20, 2010. Unfortunately another increase will be needed as soon as March 20, 2011, and that increase could be as large as 16.9%. We will be working very closely with Minnkota between now and then to

find ways to reduce that number. The net impact on retail electric bills will vary, but could average between 10 and 15 percent for 2011.

Increasing rates are frustrating for everyone, including Cass County Electric. We've worked very hard over the years to hold the line on the costs we can control. Our cost for delivering one kilowatt hour from the substation to your meter – the reason we are in business – has remained flat for 12 years at about 2.2 cents per kWh. Later this year we will be submitting a proposed 2011 operating budget to our board of directors that will be less in total dollars than our 2010 budget.

What your cooperative is doing to hold the line on expenses:

- Holding the line on budgets, with a 2011 operating budget that is less than the 2010 budget.
- Continuing a freeze on the number of employees even as the company has grown; our 2010 full time employee count is 96, compared to 101 a couple of years ago, even though we have added over 14,000 new accounts in the past 10 years.
- Extending the life of vehicles and equipment through an aggressive maintenance program.
- Aggressive debt management has significantly

lowered the interest rates on long term debt.

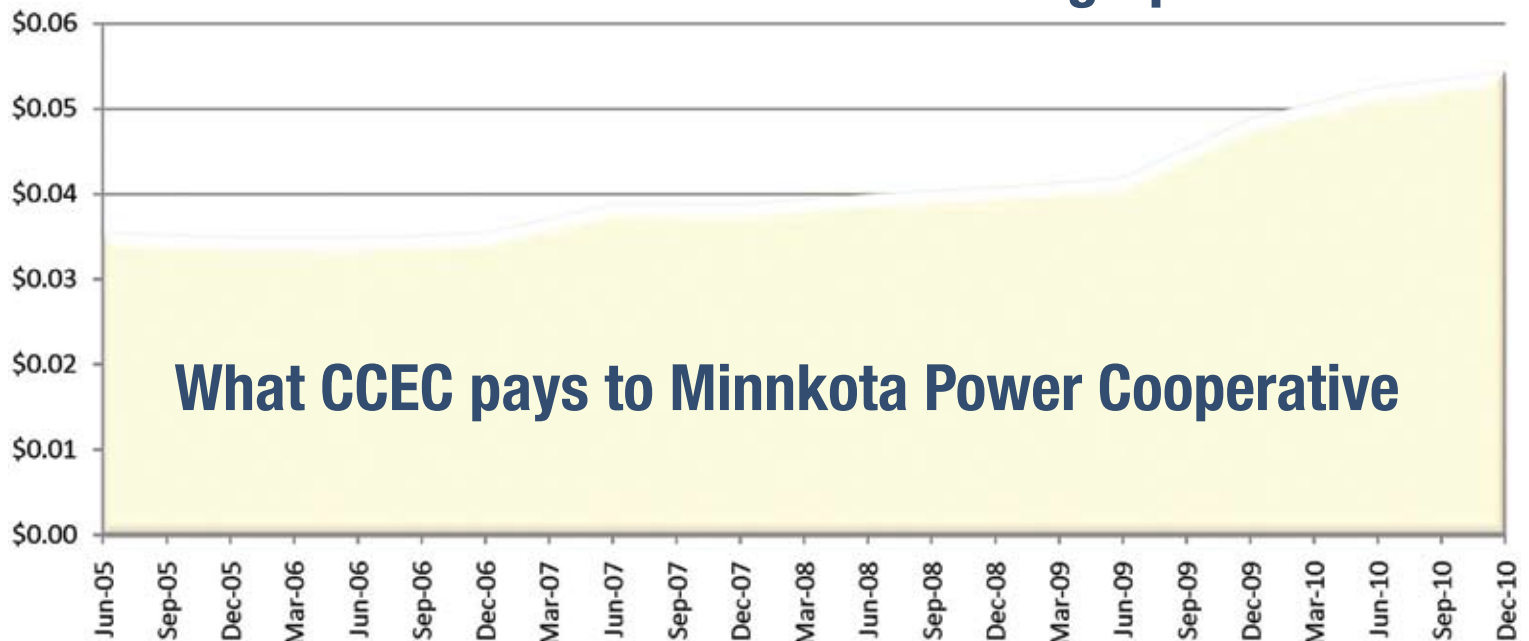
- Helping members find ways to lower energy costs even as rates rise by encouraging energy efficiency and conservation.
- Using technology to become more efficient and do more with less.

What you can do to minimize cost increases?

- Become more energy efficient by being aware of how you use energy and practicing common sense energy conservation.
- Go to www.kwh.com for tips on using energy wisely.
- Make sure your heating and other electrical equipment is well-maintained.

Our electrical power system, as part of the Minnkota Power Cooperative family, is well-positioned for adequate power supply and reliability for at least the next two decades with no new generation facilities required. We're in this strong position because Minnkota has added the resources needed and has kept the resources it has in top operating condition and ever-more-stringent environmental compliance. We're feeling the pain of paying for these investments now, but I believe we will be thankful they were made as we move into the future.

Wholesale Power Costs Going Up



Even with the cost of environmental upgrades, costs are less than new generation.



Future in focus

This year has been no different than the one before it when it comes to energy prices – it has been challenging. Unfortunately, the next few years will follow suit.

Although there are several reasons why our rates are increasing, as mentioned in this month's editorial (page 3), one major reason is plant upgrades.

Before explaining why the plants must be upgraded, it is important to understand why this upgrade affects Cass County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) and, consequentially, its members. CCEC is a distribution cooperative. This means that CCEC buys its power from Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC) in Grand Forks at a wholesale rate and then sells it to its members. Since the wholesale rates are increasing, the rates at which CCEC sells electricity will increase too. Wholesale

power costs comprise more than 70 percent of members' monthly electric bills. As a not-for-profit cooperative with a democratically-elected board of directors, we only charge rates to cover expenses and necessary margins.

When referencing plant upgrades, the plants are the Milton R. Young 1 plant and the Milton R. Young 2 plant, often referred to as Young 1 and Young 2 and named for the late U.S. senator from North Dakota. The plants are located near Center, ND. The Young 1 plant became operational in 1970 and the Young 2 plant in 1977. The plants have served well for many years, and while they are in good shape, the plan is to keep them that way until 2042, or after, and that requires upgrades and maintenance.

Some of the upgrades are due to the upkeep of the plants. These reasons include the need to

improve equipment. This includes taking out the old equipment, pulling the wires out and installing new equipment, according to Tom Anseth, plant manager-maintenance.

Another reason that is important is the need to meet environmental compliance requirements as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). MPC has come up with a plan to accomplish this through plant upgrades. There is a lot of work to be done in order to meet environmental requirements. It is a key objective to ensure that the Young Station is environmentally compliant.

A major investment of about \$422 million is being made to accomplish this goal. The primary upgrades are environmental controls for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) on both units. By the end of 2011, the Young Station will remove 95 percent of SO₂ emissions and reduce more than 60 percent of NO_x emissions. The improvements to remove SO₂ will cost \$260 million; NO_x controls will be \$30 million.

Additional infrastructure to support the emission control equipment will require \$130 million in electrical improvements.

Planning for Young Station environmental upgrades spans several years to comply with federal standards and requirements. MPC signed a Consent Decree with the Environmental Protection Agency in 2006, that requires the application of Best Available Control Technology (BACT), which is a pollution control standard mandated by the United States Clean Air Act.

In addressing SO₂ removal, MPC will install an absorber system (scrubber) on Young 1 and upgrade the existing scrubber on Young 2.

When coal combustion gas (also called flue gas) passes through the scrubber's absorber vessel, a water and lime slurry moisture is sprayed. The flue gas reacts with the lime to produce a gypsum-like sludge that removes the SO₂ and prevents it from being released through the unit's chimney.



Jason Bjerke, apprentice technical maintenance technician, works on wiring a new protection upgrade panel during Young 2's electrical overhaul.

Why are rates rising?

What	Cost	Reason	Result
Power plant environmental controls	\$422 million over 5 years	To meet EPA emission standards	A major reason for wholesale rates increasing from 5% on December 20, 2010 and 14-16.9% in April of 2011
Wind energy surcharge	\$.005/kWh 2010 and 2011 About 8% increase in cost	Stagnant economy and low wholesale market prices	\$4,100,000 reduction in Minnkota Power's revenue
Extended plant outage (due to unforeseen plant maintenance)	Repairs covered under Siemens warranty	Unexpected shorts in Rotor, sent to NC to repair	\$6,000,000 of replacement energy will be needed to cover the longer outage
Reduced energy sales	4.3% less than budget	Primarily due to weather	\$1,700,000 revenue shortfall for Minnkota Power
Transmission line investment	\$400 million over 5 years	Reliable delivery of wind and additional baseload generation	Increased cost for additional lines



The lime slurry needed for SO₂ removal required the construction of two 2,700-ton silos built to receive, store, prepare and distribute the alkali reagent. The system also includes two vertical ball mill slakers and an additional slurry tank.

Young 2's upgraded scrubber will be in service following the outage, while the new Young 1 scrubber will be operational in 2011.

The wet, scrubbed flue gas that is released from the Young 2 scrubber also requires a much larger chimney. Construction of a 550-foot chimney began in 2008 and will be put into service in conjunction with the start-up of the unit. The structure has a 140-foot diameter foundation with walls 11 feet thick. During the outage, new fiberglass reinforced plastic ductwork will connect the scrubber to the Young 2 chimney. At that point, the existing Young 2 chimney will be prepped for Young 1 to use. Significant upgrades will be made to the existing Young 2 chimney so that it will be compatible with the new Young 1 scrubber.

MPC's other environmental upgrades focus on NO_x reduction. There are two methods to reduce NO_x that are being used at the Young Station. Young 2 will have Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) in place following the outage. SNCR is a process where a mixture of urea and water is injected directly into the upper boiler furnace through a series of ports and nozzles. The reaction breaks down NO_x to nitrogen, carbon dioxide and water. Young 1 will have the SNCR process completed by 2011.

Both units are also equipped with over-fire air (OFA) systems, which were installed in 2007 (Young 2) and 2009 (Young 1). OFA is a process where a portion of the combustion air is diverted from the cyclones to limit NO_x levels in the lower furnace. The diverted air is then re-injected back into the furnace at a higher elevation to complete the staged combustion.

Plant improvements have taken place in the fall of 2009 and 2010 and there are plans to continue in the spring of 2011. When one plant is undergoing improvements, power is produced by the other plant as well as made up for by wind energy, hydro-electric energy, and additional power that is purchased from the wholesale market. Even with the cost of environmental upgrades, costs are less than new generation. These upgrades have been well-planned and successful, all in an effort to provide power in the future.



happy holiday



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food

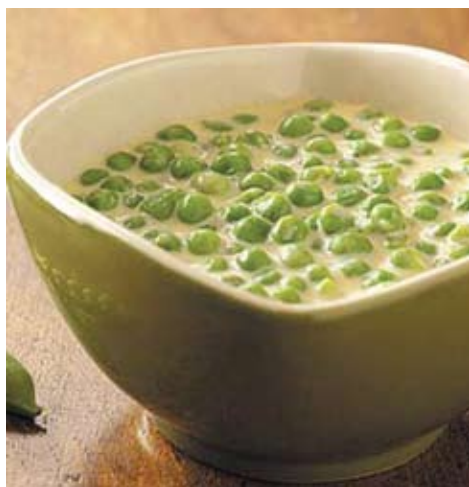
RECIPES FROM YOUR KITCHEN

French Peas

Kristi Grandalen, Argusville

- French Peas
- 1 lb bacon
- 1 lg onion
- 2 cans peas
- 1 pint cream

Brown bacon, cut in 1-inch pieces, add chopped onion. Drain off all fat and pat with paper towels. Mix peas, bacon and onion in casserole. Cover with cream. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.



Wasabi Deviled Eggs

Ashley Lipp, Fargo

- 8 large eggs
- 1/3 cup mayo
- 1 1/2 teaspoons wasabi paste
- 2 teaspoons unseasoned rice-wine vinegar
- 2 large scallions, minced (3 tablespoons)
- Coarse salt
- Pinch of curry powder and sprouts for garnish

Prepare an ice-water bath. Place eggs in a medium saucepan. Add enough cold water to cover eggs by about one inch. Bring to a boil. Cover, and remove from heat. Let stand 13 minutes. Drain, transfer eggs to ice-water bath until cold.

Peel eggs and halve lengthwise. Transfer yolks to a medium bowl, and mash with a fork until smooth. Stir in mayonnaise, wasabi, vinegar, and scallions. Season with salt. Spoon filling into whites. Garnish.



Pineapple Cheeseball

Melinda Schadler, Fargo

- 2-8 oz. pkgs. cream cheese
- 1-8 oz. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 T. onion, finely chopped
- 1 T. green pepper, finely chopped
- 1/4 tsp. seasoned salt
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans

Mix first 5 ingredients then sprinkle with pecans and refrigerate.



Send us your recipe!

Email to recipes@kwh.com or mail:
Cass County Electric Cooperative; Attn: Carrie Joyce
3312 42nd St S, Suite 200, Fargo, ND 58104

photo

NORTH DAKOTA THROUGH YOUR EYES



Kerosene Sunset

by Debby Van Hal, Valley City

“BE ALWAYS AT WAR WITH YOUR VICES,
AT PEACE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND LET
EACH NEW YEAR FIND YOU A BETTER MAN.”

~Benjamin Franklin

CCEC would like photographs taken by members. We look forward to publishing member photos that encompass anything “North Dakota”. Please e-mail your photos for publication to photos@kwh.com in a high resolution format along with the first and last name of the photographer. One photo will be published per month.

ads

PLACE YOUR FREE AD IN FRONT OF THOUSANDS

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34 Hard cover volumes WWII Time-Life books, orig cost \$14.95/ea, your cost, \$250. Pro-Line deluxe Insulated chest wader w/ shoulder harness-used once, all tags attached, \$40. mcmorrowfargo@cableone.net

Cableflex personal gym, \$15. HP Office jet 6110 , all-in-one, fax, print, scan & copy, \$20. Little People ride-on fire-truck, lights & sounds work, \$7. Playskool activity table, older version, \$5. Both toys ages 12-24 months. 701.318.3534

Full tower computer, MSI mother board w/ ADM Athalon 1.67 GHZ, Ethernet port, 256MB memory, GeForce MX400 Video card w/ 64MB memory, 30GB Hard Drive, Windows XP Pro SP2 installed, 6 USB ports two in front, \$40. External CD burner by Memorex, \$10. IBM ThinkPad 1200 series for parts, no hard drive, \$15. 701.793.4324 or rhfinley@aol.com

Sears NordicTrack Elliptical, bought Jan 08, ASR 630, model # 831.23765.0, interplay music port interactive card, hardly used, exc cond, folds up, \$300. 701.492.3920

Sm square bales. Grass, \$3. Straw, \$2.50. Alfalfa, \$5. Enderlin 701.799.1255

Farm King snow blower, 2 augers. Commuter three wheeler, Kolher engine. 701.762.3665

Baldwin piano w/ bench Howard model in walnut, very gd cond, \$500. 701.274.8831

England/Corsair brand sofa, chair & ottoman, cream colored background w/ plum & olive

colored floral print, nonsmokers, no pets, great cond, \$150. 701.282.0535

2-old liquor decanters, \$30/ea. 1900 Antique wood stove, \$150. 4 X 4 bird cage, \$100. English antique oak buffet 1957 origin, \$400. 1920's Shaker dining table, 2 leaves, \$400. 1920's wood chair, \$25. 1950's Queen Ann chair, \$25. 1940's wood chair, \$45. 1930's child's chair, \$30. Swivel desk chair, \$25. Elec fp (needs new tube to work), \$20. Antique bird cage, \$20. 100 yr old Chinese screen, \$400. 701.552.1449

X-324 John Deere rider all wheel steer, 22 HP Kawasaki w/ bagger, only 56 hrs \$3900. Marlin goose gun model 55 bolt action 3" 12 gauge w/ sling \$125 701.437.2863

89 Rockwood 33' bsmnt model motor home. Ford 460 v8 engine on John Deere chase, 33k everything works, ready to go, clean mint cond, all orig furnishings, \$8000 firm. 701.282.3469

1928 IHC 2236 antique tractor has had \$2000 engine work, new paint, and decals on rubber, 2 parts tractor one on steel to go \$3500/OBO. 701.428.3872

98 Polaris Indy Lite snowmobile, 340cc, elec start, 2000 mi, \$800. 701.668.2530

48" snow blade to fit a 99 Polaris Sportsman ATV, used one winter, \$225, 701.237.3377

12 chains, 12 snap binders, 4 ratchet binders, MO. 701.412.1920

John Deere model E 1 1/2 H.P. stationary engine 1928, restored, running & comes complete w/ cart. 701.297.1813

Oak light wood ET ctr, side shelves, 58" L x 21" W, new cond, \$200. 701.645.2465 or 701.238.8281

98 Cadillac Deville, 100k, gd cond, uses coolant, \$2,800. 28" Craftsman snow blower, elec start, 8.5 hp, exc cond, \$450. 701.306.0289

Air hockey table, 7', like new, BO. TV, 45"

rear projection, BO. GE microwave, full size, countertop, white, brand new in box, BO. 701.840.1384

99 Lexus ES 300 4 dr sedan, gray, 87,570 mi, new struts, AstroStart, another set of whls/tires, \$7000/OBO, firm. 701.298.6483

Set of 4 cloth padded barstools w/ light oak wood arms & engraved wood above back padded portion. In exc cond, \$200 for all 4, 701.261.7110.

Violin , completely redone, over 100 yrs old, \$400. Beautiful quilts, full/queen, \$150 to \$200. 701.293.2930

Aristocrat alto sax mint cond. \$425, 5th wheel hitch \$200. 701.753.7851

ProForm 545 S elliptical machine, has speed, time & dist, \$50. 701.367.9168

Moose snow plow, 48" for atv, \$400. 701.973.2189

2 - Kerosene heaters both prof checked & work as new, handy to find in ND snow or ice blizzard w/ no elec. 701.645.2553

Sm square alfalfa bales, 3rd cutting, \$5. 701.799.1255

Hot Spring/Grand hot tub, sets 6 w/ leather cover, size 90 x 90 x 36 exc cond, \$5,400. 701.282.2892

Hard to find new Firestone 11-2-24 traction field & road tire. Craftsman 10-36 riding mower. 701.361.1758

Amish fireplace, "oak", used one year, \$200. Elec radiator htr, \$10 LM. 701.356.0625

Agua VU Scout XL underwater camera, infrared lighting, 7" B/W screen, only 3 times, 100' of cable, waterproof case, Bluegill fish camera w/ video output, addl acc. incl, \$185. 701.232.7046

Western saddle 14" seat, tan, \$225. 701.371.4075

88 Yamaha Exater Snowmobile, 2575 mi, elec

start, warmer cover, exc cond, \$950/OBO.
701.347.5253 or 701.428.3889

New in boxes, never used, Kitchen Aid 325watt stand mixers w/ pouring shields. Silver metallic, 4.5-qt. bowl/lift MSRP \$329.99 sell for \$220. White 5-qt. Artisan MSRP \$359.99 sell for \$250. Rest warmer dual ctrl htd queen mattress pad, \$50. RIDGID 9-gal wet/dry shop vac MSRP \$79.95 sell for \$40. New artificial X-Mas trees 6.5-ft cost \$40 sell for \$20. 6-ft \$20 sell for \$10. 701.237.0125

Hutch & China Buffet w/ silverware drawer, 51" W X 79" H, walnut Thomasville \$350. 44" round walnut dining room table w/ 18" leaf & 4 chairs w/ wicker insert on back & upholstered seats, \$150. 701.282.3679

I have a 1/2 Aussie 1/2 Red Heeler cross 6 mo old male puppy. Doc wants to work, & is a very loyal pup. Does not run, or chase vehicles, loves to hang w/ livestock, loves people of all ages, current on shots, a good home is a must, Only reason I am getting rid of him is because we don't have cattle anymore. 701.683.5921

Snowboard & boots, sz 9M, \$50. Lg dog Kennel (carrier), \$50. Ventilating unit model #150 CFM 5350 made by Champion. Blower, 76 1/2" H x 65 1/2" W x 26", offer. Air dryer model PS 150 made by Pure Aire, Inc, voltage 115/1/60, 3/4 hp, Freon cap, 7 lbs, offer. 701.293.9039

30" G.E. elec stove, nice. 4 - 215/65R - 16" tires, 50% rubber. 701.271.4772

Full size Trimline treadmill, grt cond, \$300. 3-twin metal bed frames, brwn, exc, like new cond, \$20/ea. Gorgeous white lace wedding gown & vale, sz 6, vacuum sealed, \$275. Ruby, sapphire & diamond rings, \$150/ea. Weed whacker (needs sm engine repair), plus like new tiller attach, \$20. Fax machine, \$10. 701.282.4084

Fireplace surround & mantel. 61"H, 86"W, 8"D, fireplace set & screen inc, \$125. Armoire, \$150. 66"H, 45"W, 22"D 5 drawers, 2 side units w/ mirrors, \$155. 701.298.3456

Heavy duty wood burner for garage or shop, forced air unit w/ dampers stove pipe, & elbows 3" W, 4" T, 4" D, \$150. 701.840.5353 or 701.845.6957

87 Ford Econoline conversion van 86k, V-8, w/ AC, auto, very clean, always shedded, \$3500. 701.428.3239

94 Gulfstream Class C motor home, 30', sleeps 5-6, rear bedroom, kitchen area, sitting area, A/C & furniture all work, 100 hrs on, new Oran generator, \$15,000. 701.428.3239

99 Windstar van, 95k, nice shape. 701.762.3666

2010 Scooter, Jazzy Select power chair, \$3000/OBO. 2- color TVs. Ladies scuba gear. Many books on growing gardens & craft books. All in good cond. 701.297.6417

96 Spirit snow blower, 8 HP, electric start, 27", \$300.00. 701.371.2095

New complete 17 piece Willow Tree nativity set with crèche & star backdrop. Still in boxes. Valued at \$332, asking \$225. Like new Nordic Trac ski machine, still in box, asking \$150. 701.212.8275

P/up bed w/ tires & hitch, works good for wood, b/o. 7 ea 24x48 new glass table tops, vintage bedroom set, desk w/ curved glass, old school desk, vintage fuel oil heating stove 50's era, solid oak, high headboard + foot board, stock tank heaters. 2 windows 24x48 1 16x48. 701.361.3484

WANTED:
Fireproof home safe, lock combo good working cond. To store hunting rifles & items. 701.281.5917

Used Gun cabinet w/ ammo storage. 701.793.4324 or rhffinley@aol.com

1 or 2 kayaks for a reasonable price, could also be a "sit on top" kayak. 323.851.7978

Life size nativity scene for roadside display, Becky. 701.866.6825

Roto tiller that will fit a 312 A. C. garden tractor. 701.967.8594

Antique Duncan Phyfe mahogany china cabinet, no open shelves (corner cabinet okay). 701.361.7971

AD POLICY

- All ads must be 35 words or less.
- Ads will be abbreviated following our guidelines.
- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published for members at no charge as space permits on a first-recieved-first-printed basis.
- Ads are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication.
- Members may submit only one ad per issue.
- Ads must be resubmitted to run an additional month.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- Mail ads to:

Editor, Highline Notes
4100 32nd Ave SW
Fargo, ND 58104
Email ads to: ads@kwh.com (preferred)
Fax ads to: 701.356.4586

Students, Win a trip to Washington, D.C.!

June 11-17, 2011

Here's your ticket for an
all-expense-paid trip to
the nation's capitol!

- To enter the essay-writing/poster contest, you must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2011.

- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Cass County Electric Cooperative.

- Poster can be any size. Essay is not to exceed two standard 8½ - by 11-inch typewritten, double-spaced pages.

- Submit your essay or poster in hard copy or electronic format to Cass County Electric. Electronic submissions should conform to the two-page, double-spaced guideline described above. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, school and grade in 2011, parent or guardian's name, address and telephone number.

- The deadline is Monday, Jan. 24, 2011. E-mailed entries should be directed to cjoyce@kwh.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Cass County Electric Cooperative, 3312 42nd St S, Suite 200, Fargo, ND 58104.

If you have a question, contact Carrie Joyce, Cass County Electric, at (701) 356-4534.



A poster or essay is to be created considering this topic: Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a member-owner and future decision maker for your cooperative, describe ways in which new technologies and social media can be used to connect and communicate with you and other young adults.

www.youthtour.coop

P.O. Box 8, Kindred, North Dakota 58051
800-248-3292
www.kwh.com

Announcement of 2011 Director Elections

Incumbent District 2 director, Bill Bertram, has decided not to run for re-election.



**Jeff Triebold, Fargo
District 4**



**Steve Swiontek, Fargo
District 5**

At the 2011 CCEC Annual meeting scheduled for April 18, 2011 elections will be held in districts 2, 4, and 5. If you are a Cass County Electric member residing in one of these districts and are interested in becoming a director, contact Jane Lindemann at (701) 356-4405 for a petition packet. The district map below can help you determine which district you live in. Petitions must be received in the Kindred office ninety (90) days before the annual meeting date (no later than January 18, 2011).

Directors up for re-election are:

District 2	Open position
District 4	Jeff Triebold, Fargo
District 5	Steve Swiontek, Fargo

Directors are elected by ballot for a three-year term. In accordance with Article III, Section 3.6, of the Bylaws:
Section 3.6. Nominations. Members who are eligible to serve as a Director may be nominated for election to the Board as set forth below.

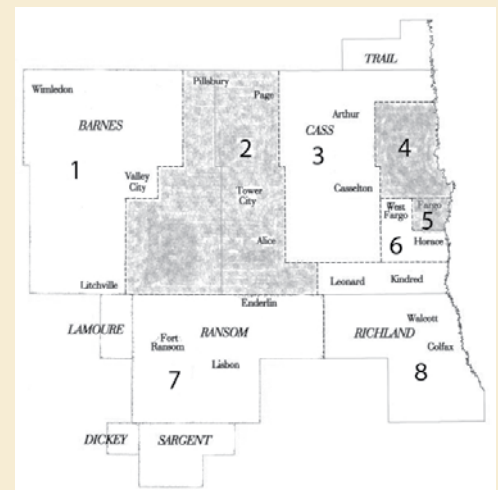
(A) Nominating Petition. Persons who desire to serve as a member of the Board must deliver to the Cooperative office in Kindred, North Dakota each of the following at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of the Annual Member Meeting at which an election will be held:

(i) a petition signed by fifteen (15) or more Members or spouses of Members who reside in the district from which nomination is to be made, placing in nomination the name of a bona fide Member residing in such district. In the event of Joint Membership, the signature of only one of the Joint Members may be counted toward the fifteen Member requirement; and

(ii) biographical information and such other information as the Board or Credentialing Committee may require to establish and verify the qualifications of the proposed Director to serve.

The names of all candidates who submit the required information in the time and manner specified in this provision will be submitted to a credentialing committee consisting of between 3 and 8 members, as determined by the board

of directors. The credentialing committee may require candidates to provide and verify additional information deemed relevant by the credentialing committee. (CCEC Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation can be found at www.kwh.com; a written copy is also available upon request.)



CCEC's District Map