



The grid: A complex set of wires, devices and tech keeping your lights on

When you unplug your phone, you expect it to be fully charged. When you go to flip a switch, you expect the lights to turn on. And when you press the button on your coffee maker, you expect to smell the sweet aroma as the good stuff begins to pour. But how does it all work?

Your electric cooperative, Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE), and its wholesale power provider, Great River Energy (GRE), work



(18-27-14) together to ensure your electric devices operate as intended each time you go to use them.

“Together, we keep the electrons flowing from power plants, wind and solar farms so that they reach you just as intended,” GRE’s Director, Transmission Operations and Services Dick Pursley said.

A complex set of wires, substations, transformers and switches are

interconnected to ensure you have electricity when and where you need it. High-voltage power lines efficiently carry electrons at a larger and faster rate, so they can flow on distribution lines. Those electrons then “step down” to smaller voltages at substations eventually reaching your home, farm or business.

GRE owns more than 4,500 miles of high-voltage power lines and over 100 substations to provide resilient, reliable electric service.

When planning for new power lines or substations, GRE engineers look for the most robust solution at the lowest possible cost. With new technologies maturing every day and lower pricing available, GRE works with NCE to ensure a resilient grid able to meet growing demand and address the complexities of integrating renewable resources.

Energy saving tip

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

Feb. 17 Presidents’ Day
Feb. 25 Electric bills due
Mar. 8 Daylight savings time



Find your location number and win a \$10 credit

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.



A word from your
General Manager
Adam Tromblay

hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

You will notice that throughout the year, we create opportunities and attend events in order to hear from you. These include our annual meeting, parades, career fairs and town celebrations, as well as programs like Operation Round Up and It's All About YOUth.

We gather feedback so that we can plan for new initiatives, technical upgrades and improvements on existing co-op programs and services. Our planning is led by local members just like you who understand the needs of the community and are looking out for the long-term interests of the larger community.

We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector, as

technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix is impacting long-term planning. These are complex issues that we will be navigating in the coming months and years. This is why it's so important that we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course for the future.

NCE works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op (15-4-24) and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective. You can always reach me directly at 507-666-6059 – I'm listening.

We would like to hear from you

We live in a device-driven world. Our smart phones, tablets, laptops and an assortment of other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening on the other end?

At NCE, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you call us, respond to a survey or social media post, send an email or simply stop by and chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. NCE exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. We

Has your organization
applied for an
Operation Round Up
grant?



NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 2

Download an application today!
www.noblesce.coop/operation-round-0

With your help we can do a lot!



ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action®

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®) is the political action committee of the nation's electric (5-8-167) cooperatives. For over 40 years, ACRE has been working to support candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who understand and support electric cooperatives and their member-owners. Through ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, you as a member-owner have the ability to strengthen this support and join over 30,000 ACRE members who form a strong grassroots network dedicated to the long-term success of the electric cooperative program. The ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® program is an exciting opportunity for you to raise your voice and participate in the political process.

We hope that you will consider this program. Together we will continue to fight for a viable environment for electric cooperatives and the quality of life of the people and communities that cooperatives serve.

Yes! I want to help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the state and national political process by participating in Co-op Owners for Political Action.

- Regular Member (\$25 per year)
- Century Club (\$100 per year)
- Vice Pres. Club (\$250 per year)
- President's Club (\$500 per year)
- Other \$ _____

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Location No.: _____

Signature: _____

Do your part to keep lineworkers safe

It's nearing 5 p.m. on a workday. Your boss wanted that last-minute report and your kids need to be picked up from soccer or play practice. You jump in your car and on the way you approach a work zone. You don't have time to slow down so you rush through it and ignore the orange work zone signs.

You're having a garage sale and you think posting a sign on a utility pole won't hurt. Everyone does it, right?

Either of these scenarios could injure or kill one of our lineworkers.

The job of an electric lineworker is not easy. Lineworkers take great pride in providing safe and reliable service, but their job involves working on and around live power out in the elements. We ask you to do your part to (32-30-15) keep them safe:

- Slow down and move over in work zones. Cars or trucks that go too fast

can endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put a lineworker who is working high up in a bucket in danger by causing it to move or sway.

- Do not post anything on a utility pole, especially with staples, nails or tacks. These can puncture insulated gloves or other protective clothing and expose workers to high voltages.

- Never plug a generator into an indoor or outdoor wall outlet. The power that backfeeds into the electric line could electrocute a utility worker.

- Please be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to efficiently and safely restore power.

We appreciate your help in keeping our employees safe. For questions about employee safety, contact NCE at 800-776-0517. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

2020 Rebates available

RESIDENTIAL

Replacement refrigerator or freezer
with recycling of old unit

\$75

Electric clothes dryer

\$25

Dehumidifier

\$25

Ground Source Heat Pump

\$200 per ton

Air Source Heat Pump

SEER 14.5 = \$480

SEER 15 = \$580

SEER 16+ = \$630

Cycled Air Conditioning

SEER 14.5 to 16

\$50

BUSINESS

NCE has many business and agricultural rebates available including rebates for lighting, compressed air systems, ground source heat pumps, cooling, heating, ventilation, motors and more.

Be sure to contact NCE for your commercial and industrial rebate details, the requirements and applications. We would be happy to help you with all of your business needs.



Rebates are only for products purchased on or after January 1, 2020. The products must be installed where electricity is supplied by the cooperative. Rebate submittal must follow the guidelines outlined by NCE. Rebates are a first-come, first-served member benefit.

Country Cupboard

Easy Clam Chowder

1 can (10 3/4 oz.) cream of celery soup

1 can (10 3/4 oz.) cream of potato soup

1 pint half and half

1 can (6 1/2 oz.) minced clams, drained

1 can (10 3/4 oz.) New England clam chowder

Pepper to taste

Mix in large pan. Heat thoroughly without boiling. This recipe needs no salt.

Send your favorite **crook pot** recipe to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries (539-37-094) must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by February 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.

Sharyn Busswitz
Avoca



**Nobles Cooperative
Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Official monthly publication

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7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County

Randal Maha - 507-274-5261

Nobles County

Adam Feste - 507-690-2741

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

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Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*

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Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*

Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903

Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455*

*Telephone prefix 507

Next Board Meeting

February 25, 2020

*This cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*

