



Thank a lineworker!

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC), we bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our communities receive reliable power 24/7/365.

A lineworker is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States. This is understandable, as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Becoming a lineworker takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment. Lineworkers are willing to leave the comfort of their home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions. This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. This is why NPEC joins in celebrating National Lineworker Appreciation Day every April.

While the U.S. Senate established April 18 as National Lineworker Appreciation Day, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association considers the second Monday in April as the day to honor lineworkers, this year landing on April 10.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers who bring, keep and restore electricity to their communities. NPEC has 23 lineworkers who are responsible for maintaining 6,685 miles of power lines across 11 counties that serve more than 8,000 members. Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent NPEC, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 10 or April 18 and any time you see a lineworker, we hope you'll join us in thanking them for their exceptional service. We also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep. ■

APRIL 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Annual meeting June 13
- Call before you dig
- Youth Tour winner announced



NPEC lineworkers, north crew, left to right, back row: **Josh Cabler**, operations manager, **Randy Thomson**, **Bob David**, tree crew, and **Chris Schroeder**. Middle row: **Barry Heisler**, **Stan Pierson**, **Brian St. Germaine** and **Dave Jager**. Front row: **Wayne Randle** (recently retired), **Doyle Schwanke**, **Jordan Omile** and **Jon Tandeski**. Not pictured: Brad Johnson and James Rosencrans.



NPEC lineworkers, south crew, left to right, back row: **Jamie Harrington**, **Brian Backer**, **Keaten Mikkelsen** (north crew) and **Jon Sjostrom**. Middle row: **Tom Zink**, **Josh Cabler**, operations manager, and **Trevor Wick**. Front row: **Laine Hoyt**, **Shannon Petersen**, **Dustin Peterson**, **Beau Bredahl** and **Tom Moravec**. Not pictured: Brad Weninger.

NPEC line personnel	Years of service through 2023	NPEC line personnel	Years of service through 2023
<i>Rolla Crew</i>		<i>Carrington West Crew</i>	
Brian St. Germaine, foreman	25 years	Shannon Petersen, foreman	12 years
Chris Schroeder	23 years	Tom Zink	45 years
Jon Tandeski	14 years	Jamie Harrington	4 years
<i>Cando Crew</i>		<i>Carrington East Crew</i>	
Randy Thomson, foreman	19 years	Brad Weninger, foreman	1 year
Keaten Mikkelsen	5 years	Tom Moravec	5 years
Jordan Omile	3 years	Laine Hoyt	2 years
Barry Heisler, warehouseman/lineworker	27 years	<i>Jamestown Crew</i>	
Bob David, tree crew	24 years	Beau Bredahl, foreman	21 years
<i>Rugby Crew</i>		Brian Backer	7 years
Stan Pierson, foreman	44 years	Jon Sjostrom	19 years
Dave Jaeger	17 years	<i>Woodworth/Robinson Crew</i>	
James Rosencrans	1 year	Trevor Wick, foreman	26 years
<i>Maddock Crew</i>		Dustin Peterson	11 years
Doyle Schwanke, foreman	26 years		
Brad Johnson	1 year		

Scholarship opportunity for class of 2023

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) invites member dependents who are in the graduating class of 2023 to join us for our annual meeting. NPEC strongly believes in the future of area students and takes pride in helping develop future leaders, so much that the NPEC board approved two \$1,000 scholarships to be given away at this year's meeting in a luck-of-the-draw format.

Qualifications:

- 1) Student must be a graduated senior, class of 2023, who will be attending college in the fall semester of 2023.
- 2) Student must be a dependent of an NPEC member. Student will need to register using their guardian's account information.
- 3) Student must be present to win.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, at the Benson County Event Center in Maddock. Registration and meal will be from 5 to 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6 p.m. ■



Why do I pay a service availability charge?

As a member of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC), you make an investment in the co-op every time you pay your bill. In addition to the amount you pay on your individual energy usage, your payment includes a monthly service availability charge that helps us cover the expenses of maintaining our overall electric system.

The service availability charge is a flat fee designed so all NPEC members pay their fair share of the cost of investment in the poles, wires, transformers and equipment it takes to provide you with electric service. It also supports required services such as line maintenance, right-of-way clearing, fleet maintenance and general administrative responsibilities. Regardless of how frequently or infrequently you flip on the light switch or turn on the TV, these costs are part of the overall business operations. This is because whether you use a lot of electricity or just a little, the cost of providing electricity to each location still remains.

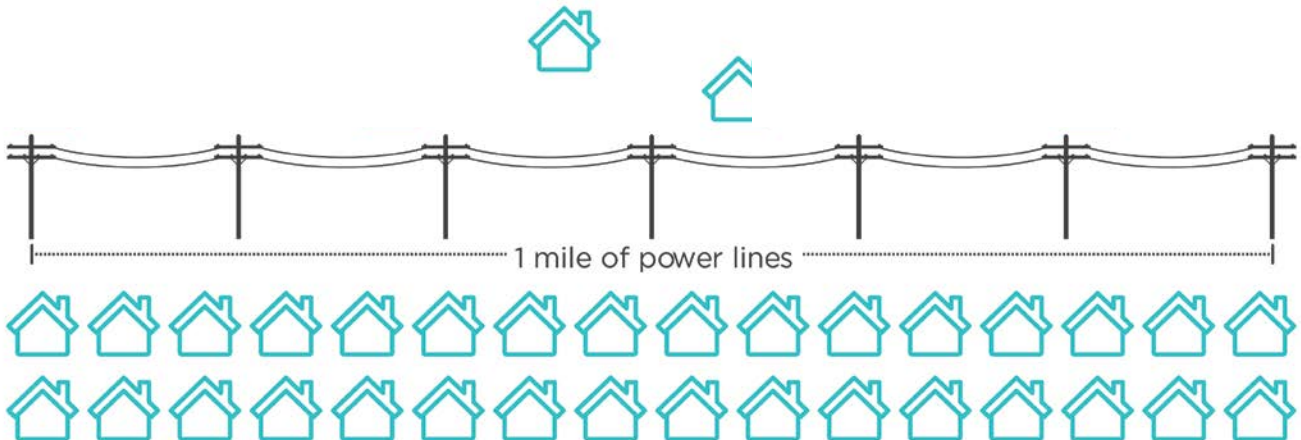
As an electric cooperative, we purchase and distribute

power to members who live across a vast region. Our service territory covers portions of 11 counties and includes nearly 6,700 miles of electric lines and 74,000 utility poles, averaging 1.7 members per mile of line. We are sparsely populated, but we still have to inspect, purchase and replace poles, conductors and transformers throughout our entire service area using a fleet of 60 vehicles and tracked/all-terrain vehicles. Regardless of whether there are a dozen services per mile or one service per mile, the cooperative must build and maintain the infrastructure to make service available and keep it reliable.

One way to think of service availability is like insurance. As damage occurs to the electrical system from ice, wind or lightning, the repair costs are covered by the service availability charge. The charge ensures you have a safe, reliable electric service and helps guarantee each member of our cooperative is paying their fair share. ■

GOING THE EXTRA MILE | Did you know electric co-ops power fewer consumers per mile of line compared to other utilities?

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
Serves 1.7 consumer-members per mile of line



OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES
Serve 32 consumers per mile of line

What is a Service Availability Charge?

A service availability charge covers the fixed cooperative expenses that are necessary to ensure safe, reliable power is available when you need it.



- Computers
- Software
- Offices



- Utility poles
- Power lines



- Maintenance
- Fleet trucks
- ATV's
- Parts



- Meters
- Transformers
- Electrical equipment

Youth Tour winner announced



Kaitlyn Erickstad

Kaitlyn Erickstad, a junior at Starkweather High School, has earned a seat on the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, a learning experience sponsored by the National Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

The daughter of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative

members Jodi and Jonathan Erickstad of Webster, Kaitlyn will participate in an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this summer, compliments of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.

During the weeklong tour, Kaitlyn and other students from across North Dakota will tour the sites, attractions, monuments and congressional offices in the Washington, D.C., area. The students will learn

about electric cooperatives and discuss issues facing their community and the nation.

Applicants were asked to write an essay on this topic: "If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?"

Kaitlyn's winning essay described the ways she would have helped the Jewish refugees aboard the S.S. St. Louis who were denied admittance into the United States, a decision that ultimately led hundreds to their death.

Kaitlyn is active in volleyball, basketball, speech, drama, art and reading. Congratulations, Kaitlyn! We know she will represent our cooperative well. ■

North Dakota Electric Cooperative

YOUTH TOUR

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Planting a tree? Planning construction work? Remember to contact North Dakota One Call first! The first step to any project is safety, and damaging an underground facility while you dig can cause injury or even death.

Numerous utility lines may be buried on your property, ranging from electric and telephone lines to water and sewer lines, but North Dakota One Call will help you locate these lines before your project begins.

Contact North Dakota One Call and utility line owners will locate and mark their lines. These locates do not include any lines you may have installed to your private facilities, such as detached garages, wells or yard lights.

Go online at www.ndonecall.com or call 800-795-0555 or 811.

It's free, it's simple and it's the law. ■



PRIVATE FACILITIES: WHAT DOES NOT GET MARKED?

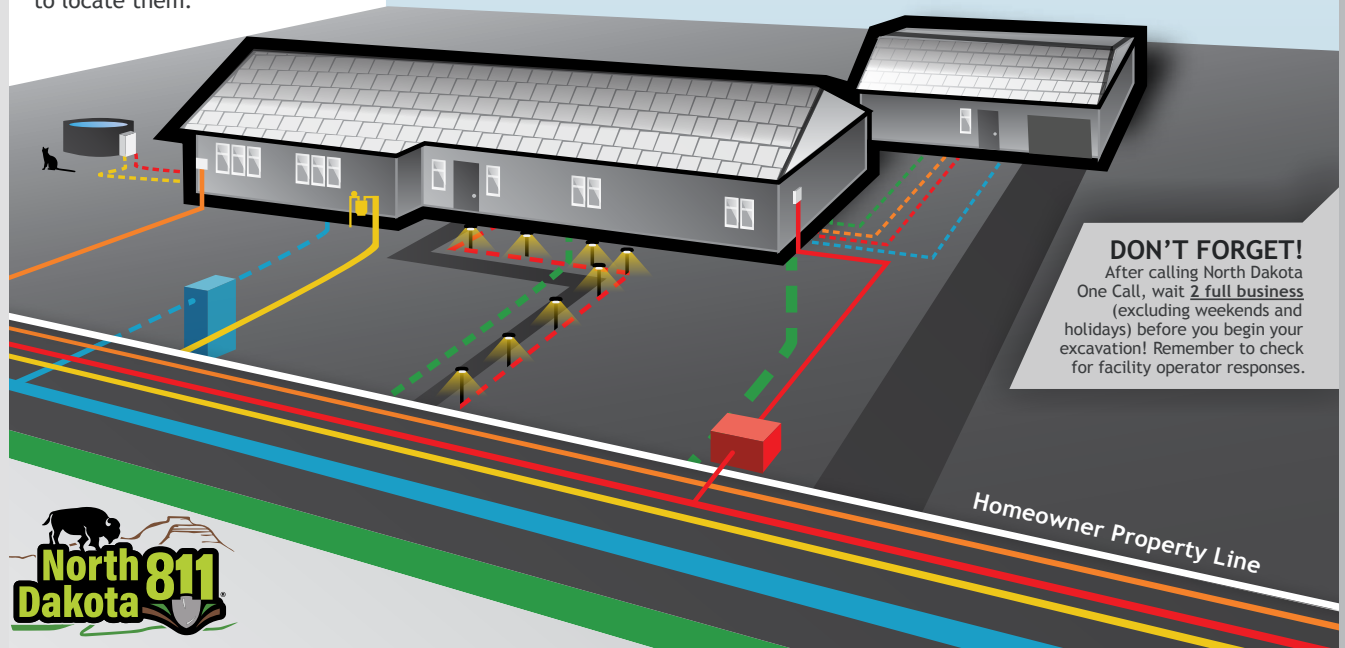
Private underground facilities, such as private utility lines and private distribution networks, do not get marked by facility operators. When a property owner or tenant has any type of private underground facility, they are responsible to locate those facilities or hire someone to locate them.

- ELECTRIC
- GAS, OIL, AND PROPANE
- PHONE AND CABLE
- WATER
- SEWER

Customer-owned lines usually include any that serve outbuildings, hot tubs, security lighting, pools, and natural gas grills.

The free locating service available through North Dakota One Call (NDOC) applies **ONLY** to public facility operators. The diagram below shows a variety of utilities, some owned by the utility and some by the homeowner.

Those utilities marked by dotted lines are typically owned by the property owner. Those lines will NOT be marked by contacting NDOC. Private locating services will mark these for a fee.



DON'T FORGET!
After calling North Dakota One Call, wait **2 full business** (excluding weekends and holidays) before you begin your excavation! Remember to check for facility operator responses.

Homeowner Property Line



SAVE THE DATE



NORTHERN PLAINS

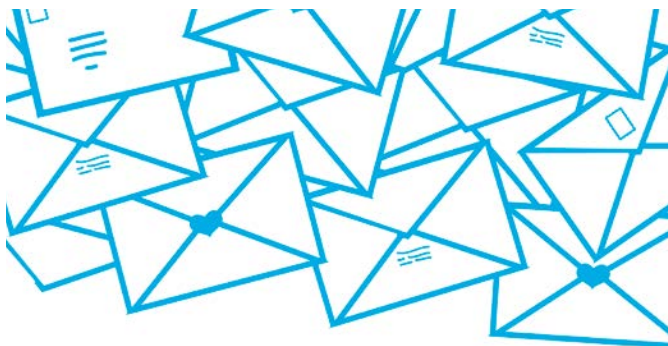
Electric Cooperative

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Benson County Event Center
Maddock, North Dakota

Registration/Complementary meal: 5:00-6:00 P.M.
Meeting: 6:00 P.M.



Vote by mail

Elections will take place at the annual meeting to fill three positions on the board of directors. However, the membership will be mailed ballots prior to the annual meeting as a voting option. Under the bylaws, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. A qualified member of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election by submitting a petition no later than April 10. To obtain a petition, members must request forms from our office in either Carrington or Cando or call for more options, 800-882-2500.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to all members in mid-May. ■



Why attend your annual meeting

- Every member has a voice. Make yours heard.
- Learn cooperative updates and industry issues and how they affect your electric service.
- Elect three members to serve on the board of directors.
- Enjoy a free meal and door prizes.
- Two \$1,000 luck-of-the-draw college scholarships will be given out.

More information can be found at
www.nplains.com

BUDGET BILLING

Sign up now through May

Are you having trouble budgeting your monthly bill? If so, budget billing is available to all residential members who have a zero balance and have established a 12-month history with Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC).

Budget billing allows you to pay a set amount, despite the fluctuations in energy usage as seasons change. To determine your budget billing amount, NPEC will average your current and last 11 months of bills. There will be variations each month, but the change will not be as drastic and will make budgeting easier.

If you would like to sign up for budget billing, call NPEC's office to see if you qualify. To sign up, you will need to apply before May 31. Members who do not have electric heat may be able to sign up during the off season.



PLAY TO WIN
\$25 CREDIT
 from
Northern Plains Electric

Congratulations to our latest winner,
Sandy Wolfe from Esmond!
 Thank you for entering the February
 bill insert word scramble contest.

Regularly check bill inserts for future contests.

NORTHERN PLAINS

Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

CANDO OFFICE:
 609 4th Ave.
 Cando, ND 58324

OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday-Friday
 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CARRINGTON OFFICE:
 1515 West Main
 Carrington, ND 58421

www.nplains.com
 justask@nplains.com
 800-882-2500

BOARD & MANAGEMENT:

- President Tracy Boe, Mylo
- Vice president..... Curtis Wiesz, Heaton
- Secretary/treasurer Randall Simon, Oberon
- Assistant secretary/treasurer..... Dave Teigen, Rugby
- District 1 Mark Brehm, Cando
- District 1 Bruce Olsen, Cando
- District 3..... Lori Carlson, Jamestown
- District 3..... Judy Geier, Heaton
- District 3..... Curtis Hanson, Pettibone
- General Manager Seth Syverson
- Manager of Engineering Ashten Dewald
- Manager of Operations Josh Cabler
- IT Manager Scott Buchholtz
- Business Manager Cheryl Belle
- Northern Notes Editor Brittnee Wilson