



CURRENT CONNECTION

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Memorial Day Storm – Left 11,000 People Without Power >>>

If the Memorial Day storm is any indication that the predictions of a hot and stormy summer are accurate, we better get prepared.

Two storms hit the Crow Wing Power service area on May 30 – One smaller storm came through around 5:00 a.m. that cut power to about 2,400 cooperative members mainly south and east of Brainerd. Line crews were just finishing restoring power for those members when a second super storm hit around the 6:00 hour that evening, cutting off electricity to 11,000 members in a short period of time.

The majority of damage was north of Brainerd from Leader to Pequot Lakes, Pine River, Crosslake, Fifty Lakes and Emily. However large numbers of power outages were north and east to Thunder Lake as well.

Restoring power took a massive team effort with an additional 38 contracted utility construction workers working side by side with Crow Wing Power crews. Sixty to seventy power line and field workers were on the ground throughout the week. Contractors included 13 linemen from Highline Construction; 3 from Skyline Utilities; 10 tree clearing men from New Age Tree Service; 10 linemen from Legacy Power Line and 2 from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.

It took 72 hours, from the time the storm hit Monday night until 8:30 Thursday night, to restore power to the approximate 11,000 members whose power was knocked out.

An EF1 tornado that passed through Poplar Township, near Leader, destroyed 14 power poles in a row. In addition, strong winds left the power company needing to replace over 50 broken poles throughout the entire service area, a labor intensive process.

This storm caused the largest number of power outages at one time for Crow Wing Power, since the major summer storms of 2015 and 2016. On July 12, 2015 straight line winds damaged a dense 24 square mile swath of land north of Brainerd. It took four days to restore power to 9,000 people from the 2015 storm. One year later on July 21, 2016, a very strong storm caused wide-spread destruction putting 10,000

people without power, some for almost 6 days.

Our crews and outside contractors were put to the test this Memorial Day and their perseverance paid off. Our hats are tipped to the men in the field who worked diligently, to the many support employees who worked long hours, handled phones, dispatched, delivered materials to crews and prepared and delivered food so men in the field could keep working.

We are very grateful for the overwhelming messages of support and understanding from cooperative members and for the patience people showed for enduring lengthy periods of time without electricity.

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Join us for a three day, two night bus trip to see how your power is generated in North Dakota...Pg 3.





A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

Regional Power Outages – Could it Happen? Yes, but Unlikely. >>>

In June, we shared the latest industry news that the Midwest could experience ‘rolling blackouts’ this summer. (In essence, that means that under certain conditions, power suppliers could invoke periodically-controlled power outages to limited groups of consumers if the demand for power exceeds availability.)

That information was brought to light after the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), our regional manager of the electric grid in Minnesota and 14 other states, said it was possible based on the prediction of hot and stormy summer weather and the projected capacity of available power.

MISO is the premier electricity authority in charge of both the electrical grid as well as balancing the purchase of power in our region. MISO would call the shots if a supply/demand problem were to occur. Our power supplier in the MISO region reassures us the chances of that actually happening where we live are slim, but nonetheless, we should all be prepared for power outages, no matter what the reason.

There are many steps that would be taken to alleviate stress on the Midwest electric grid before periodic controlled power outages would be enacted.

Load control – Utilities across the grid would activate load control. For instance, Crow Wing Power has 12,000 members on load management programs and Great River Energy (GRE), our wholesale power supplier, has ways to shed load which can go a long way to reduce the demand for electricity. Load control alone could “fix” the need.

Energy Conservation Alerts - Utilities like Crow Wing Power could issue Energy Conservation Alerts on local radio stations, social media and our website – asking people to reduce their electric use during high demand times, usually somewhere from 2 to 8 p.m. in the summer. Conserving electricity when demand is high is always a good practice because that’s when the cost of power is most likely to skyrocket.

As a last resort, after other steps are taken to reduce demand, GRE and other transmission owners could be told to shed X amount of load immediately. GRE could hit the switch cutting power to one or more of our 28 substations, if need be, for a period of time.

Providing reliable service to you is our top priority, so we continually prepare for a lot of different outage scenarios. Although periodically controlled power outages would not fit in a “disaster” category, Crow Wing Power has an Emergency Restoration Planning process that

documents what we would do under certain “conditions”. An employee group meets at least annually where they prepare for potential real-life disaster situations.

Unfortunately, our Memorial Day storms were a reminder that it’s a good idea for members to also plan for unexpected power outages. This news from MISO is yet another reason.

During peak demand days, and when prompted by our energy providers, we would use available communication tools to inform the public on the status of MISO power. Follow Social Media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). Check our website. We could send SmartHub alerts for online account users. If possible, we could use automated phone calls to members in certain geographic areas that could be affected. We would also send information to all area radio stations.

Details of our communication tools and plans for such an event can be found on our website at cwpower.com.

***Correction** - In the June CEO report, there was a reference that MISO is 90% dependent on coal for the region’s energy sources. That was a typo. The correct figure is 30%.

I’ll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO

Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power’s Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, May 19, 2022. A quorum of directors was present. President Bob Kangas opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- Finance Committee report
- Directors and CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- May Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the April 21, 2022 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports for April 2022

Members can review detailed minutes at cwpower.com/board-and-meetings or by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website. June minutes will be published after approval in July. The next board meeting is July 21, 2022.

Two New Directors Join the Board after the June Annual Meeting >>>

Giles Radtke and Mark Ronnei join the Board of Directors after Crow Wing Power held its 85th Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, June 11 at Arrowwood Lodge in Baxter. Mark Ronnei fills the board seat left vacant by retiree Gordon Martin of Pillager and Giles Radtke replaces Doris Mezzenga from Crosslake. A total of 5,783 ballots were cast in this year’s Board of Directors election.

- In District 1B, Giles Radtke was elected with 3,165 votes over incumbent director Doris Mezzenga, who received 2,565 votes.

- Mark Ronnei will take the District 2A board position previously held by Gordon Martin who retired. Ronnei won that seat with 1,542 votes. Other candidates vying for 2A were Russ Nygren with 1,443 votes, Rod Veith with 1,375 and Greg Booth, who received 1,342 votes.
- In District 3 At-Large, incumbent Paul Koering received 3,486 votes over Sherry Habighorst with 2,232 votes.

This was the first year electronic voting was added to the mail ballot process. Of the 5,783 votes, 552 were received electronically.

A Perfect Day at the Ball Field! >>>

The setting was perfect at Oscar Kristofferson Park on Saturday, June 18 for the Minnesota Twins Youth Baseball Clinic. Participants gathered on the field eager to learn fundamental skills of baseball, while the cheers from the crowd attending the coinciding youth baseball tournament filled the park.

Boys and girls ages 6 – 12 spent time with three Twins clinicians for a few hours learning proper techniques on batting, fielding, and throwing, mixed in with a few life skills.

Each player received a Twins bag and baseball cards, a water bottle and treats but the real takeaway was a whole lot of fun.

We were proud to host this great event with help from the Brainerd/Baxter Baseball Association and were pleased with the smiles on faces throughout the event.

This program was made possible through a partnership that Great River Energy (our wholesale power supplier) has with the Minnesota Twins Foundation.



Join Us October 4-6 for a Trip to Bismarck, ND >>>

It's back! Crow Wing Power members are invited to a 3-day, 2-night trip to Bismarck, North Dakota to tour the Basin Electric generation facilities. The trip is scheduled for October 4 - 6. The cost is \$150 per person and includes two nights lodging in Bismarck, four meals and an excellent time. Seating is limited to 48 people.

Basin Electric is a generation and transmission cooperative that we purchase power from. They are one of the largest electric generation and transmission cooperatives in the United States. They provide electricity to 2.8 million customers and 131 electric cooperatives in nine states. While on tour we will visit the following:

- Coteau Properties (Freedom Mine) – This mine delivers more than 16 million tons of coal per year, making it the largest lignite mine in the United States in deliveries.

- Dakota Gasification Company – that produces natural gas from coal and byproducts of the coal gasification process.
- Antelope Valley Station – a coal-fired electric generating plant with a capacity of 900,000 kilowatts.
- Wilton Wind Farm – an 8,000 acre wind farm that produces enough power for 30,000 homes.



BASIN ADULT TOUR REGISTRATION

Sign me up for the Basin Electric Adult Tour, October 4 - 6. Send your check (\$150 per person) with this registration form or a similar information note to: Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd MN 56401. No phone reservations – mail only please.
Exclusively for Crow Wing Power members

Name: _____ Additional person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ No. of persons attending: _____

Account # _____



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Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

Who: Crow Wing Power members and family
What: Stand-alone Pancake Breakfast
Where: Crow Wing County Fairgrounds Curling Building
When: Saturday, July 23; 8-11 a.m.

Beat the Heat – Let's all Work Together to Save Energy >>>

When it's hot outside, the demand for electricity rises tremendously and so does the cost. Even though it may not seem like it would make a difference, if we all work together to conserve energy during hot days, we can reduce costs and protect our electric power grid.

These tips can help save energy:

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortable. 78 degrees is recommended. The smaller the difference between the inside and outside temperatures, the lower your energy bill will be.
- Close blinds and curtains on sunny days.
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Avoid using the oven. Grilling outside helps a lot.
- If you have a whole-house fan, use it to pull cool air into your home at night. Turn the fan off and shut the windows during the day.
- By using a ceiling fan in a counter clockwise direction, you'll feel cooler and be able to raise the thermostat by as much as 4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Replace standard bulbs with light-emitting diodes (LED).
- Change air filters regularly. A dirty air filter makes an HVAC system work harder, which uses more energy.
- Run your dishwasher, washing machine and dryer at night when it's cooler and demand for electricity is down. Run full loads. Consider air drying dishes. Ditch the dryer and hang clothes outside.
- Avoid using hot air when drying your hair. Despite their small size, blow-dryers produce plenty of heat. Letting your hair air-dry in the summer avoids blow-dryer heat and leaves your scalp feeling cooler as water evaporates. If using your blow-dryer is unavoidable, use the cool-air setting.
- When you know a heat wave is coming, unplug anything you don't intend to use.



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Board meetings are held the third
Thursday of each month beginning at
9:30 a.m.

Directors. Here to Help!

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telephone numbers:

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