



October 2024

Beyond the Plug: Regional Transmission

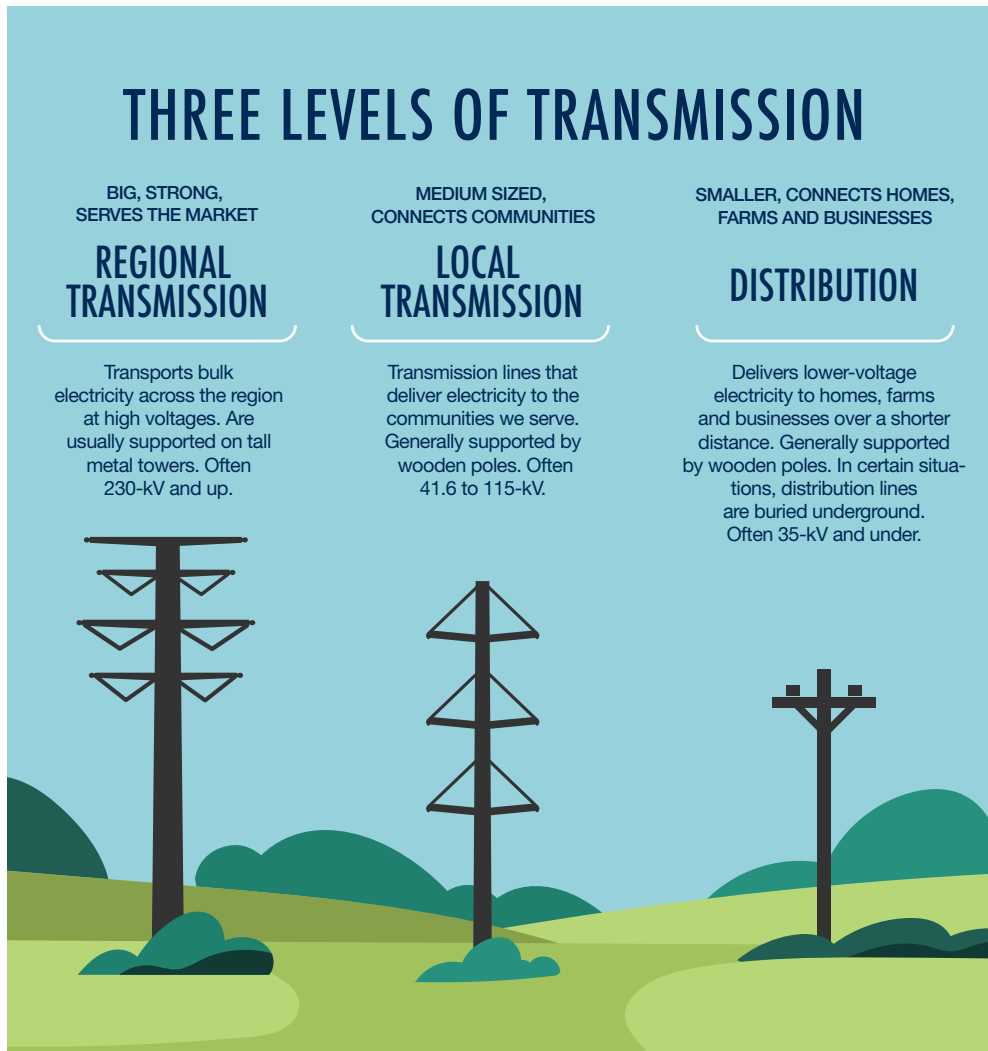
Regional transmission lines transport bulk electricity across the region at high voltages.

Great River Energy, a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative serving 27 member-owner distribution cooperatives — including South Central Electric — is the owner or partial owner of several regional transmission lines that help ensure continued reliable electricity around the Upper Midwest.

Regional transmission lines are usually supported on tall metal or wood towers and transport power long distances at voltages of 230 kilovolts (kV), 345 kV and higher. Great River Energy owns and operates more than 700 miles of transmission lines at these voltages, which help carry electricity from where it's made to where it's needed.

The region's grid operator, MISO, is working with Great River Energy and many other utilities in the region to plan for a series of transmission upgrades that will support continued reliable electric service as the power supply continues to evolve from primarily fossil fuels to more renewable energy like wind.

One of these projects is the Northland Reliability Project, which Great River Energy



is co-developing with Minnesota Power. This 345-kV transmission line will span 180 miles from Grand Rapids to Becker. It is being developed with two significant technology additions: more resilient structures to better withstand wind as well as “twisted pair” conductors, which are more resilient to ice buildup from winter weather.

Regional transmission is key to helping deliver reliable energy across the Midwest

every day. New regional transmission projects, like the Northland Reliability Project, will allow the power that comes to South Central Electric and is passed on to our members to be cleaner and more reliable than ever before. There is a critical need for more regional transmission lines in the Upper Midwest and more are expected to begin development in the coming years.

Local Organizations Can Apply for Funds

Are you a local organization that helps improve the lives of the residents of Watonwan, Cottonwood and Martin counties? Your organization can apply for funding from the South Central Electric Association Trust.

The South Central Electric Association Trust distributes funds contributed by South Central Electric members through its Operation Round Up program. The independent Trust Board, which consists of South Central Electric members, evaluates local funding requests and distributes the funds. The South Central Electric Trust has provided over \$100,000 to local organizations and student scholarships since the program began in 2015.

The Trust Board is seeking applications for its fall round of funding. Local organizations that improve the lives of area seniors, educate, provide emergency response, community service and other charitable programs may be eligible for funds. The deadline for submitting applications is October 25, 2024. You can download the application from South Central Electric's Operation Round Up page under the Community tab on our website: www.southcentralelectric.com or call South Central Electric at 375-3164 to request an application.

FARMFEST 2024

Electric Co-op Booth Drawings

Thanks for stopping by the Electric Cooperative Booth at Farmfest. The winners from the drawings are:

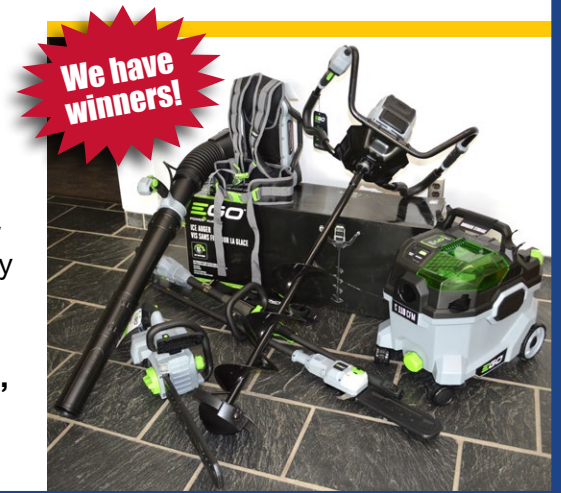
Ice Auger – Andy Peterson, Lambertson, Redwood Electric Cooperative

Backpack Blower – Ron Post, Willmar, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative

Shop Vac – Ron Mortensen, Hector, McLeod Co-op Power

Pole Saw – Wayne Wels, New Ulm, Brown County REA

Chain Saw – Randy Ascheman, Appleton, Agralite Co-op



ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.



Cold Weather Rule Outlines

Process to Avoid Winter

Disconnection & Loss of Electricity

The state’s Cold Weather Rule guides utilities on winter disconnections as long as customers follow these main guidelines.

Residential Customer Notice

An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 1 and April 30 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit **and all of the following conditions are met:**

1. The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. The electric cooperative may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer meets the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any public assistance, including energy assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income;
2. A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household; and
3. A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer’s energy bills. In addition, an electric cooperative must, between August 15 and October 1 of each year, notify all residential customers of these provisions.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer between October 1 and April 30, an electric cooperative must provide:

1. A notice of the proposed disconnection;
2. A statement with the customer’s rights and responsibilities;
3. A list of local energy assistance providers;
4. Forms on which to declare an inability to pay; and
5. A statement explaining available time-payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.

Emergency energy assistance phone numbers

Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services (Cottonwood County).....	831-1891
Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services (Jackson County)	847-4000
Jackson County Sheriff’s Department	847-4420
Martin County Human Services	238-4757
Martin County Sheriff’s Department	238-4481
MN Dept. of Energy Services (Ask for fuel assistance).....	1-800-657-3805
Minnesota Valley Action Council	1-800-767-7139
Brown County	354-3138
Martin County	238-1663
Watonwan County	375-5748
Salvation Army’s Heat Share (Jackson & Martin Co.)	238-9797
Watonwan County Human Services.....	375-3294
United Community Action Partnership (Jackson & Cottonwood Co.) ...	1-800-992-1710

If you live in an area that is not listed, call your electric co-op for details.

2024 REBATE

PROGRAMS



Recipient must be a South Central Electric member. Any checks or credits will be made in the name or account of the member. The program will end when funds are exhausted; additional rebates may be added at a later date. The completed applications will be processed on a first come first served basis as they are received in our office. Rebate applications can be requested by calling the St. James office or available on line at www.southcentralelectric.com.

REBATES:



Must be an Energy Star[®] appliance to qualify.

Please see rebate applications for details.

- Dehumidifier**\$20 Credit applied to the energy bill
- Air Source Heat Pumps**\$350 HSPF rating over 9.5 \$600
- Ductless Heat Pump**\$350 HSPF rating over 9.5 \$600
- Ground Source Heat Pump**\$350/ton (*Limit 10 tons*)
- Air Conditioner Tune Up**\$30
- Managed Electric Heat**\$20/kW
Radio controlled, qualifies for discount of \$.031/kWh on system usage.
Stored or dual fuel heat. Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.
- LED Yard Light**.....\$25/ea. limit 3

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL REBATES:

Rebates are available on a custom basis. Rebates will be based on kW reduction on retrofit projects. To be eligible for a rebate the project must have a minimum savings of 1kW. We do not have rebate programs for new construction. Call SCEA for information on these rebates.

SCEA WATER HEATER PROGRAM

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program.

The cost for water heaters is **\$750**. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



Official monthly newsletter

South Central Electric

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Board of Directors

- President, Ron Jorgenson
- Vice President, Michael Miest
- Secretary, Brad Asendorf
- Treasurer, Matt Peters
- Brent Imker, Director
- Mark Sandberg, Director
- Bill Kunz, Director

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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