

Connections

 **South Central Electric**
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative


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November 2026

Holiday Hours: Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 26th for Thanksgiving

PowerOn Midwest is for you — and your future

Projects to enhance the grid are designed to preserve and improve electric service

By Priti Patel, Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer



When you hear about a proposed transmission project like PowerOn Midwest in your community, it's easy to assume the benefits will be felt somewhere else.

But PowerOn Midwest is for you. And it's for your future.

It's for the farmer deciding whether to invest in equipment for the next generation. It's for the small business looking to grow. And it's for families who count on the lights coming on, even in extreme weather.

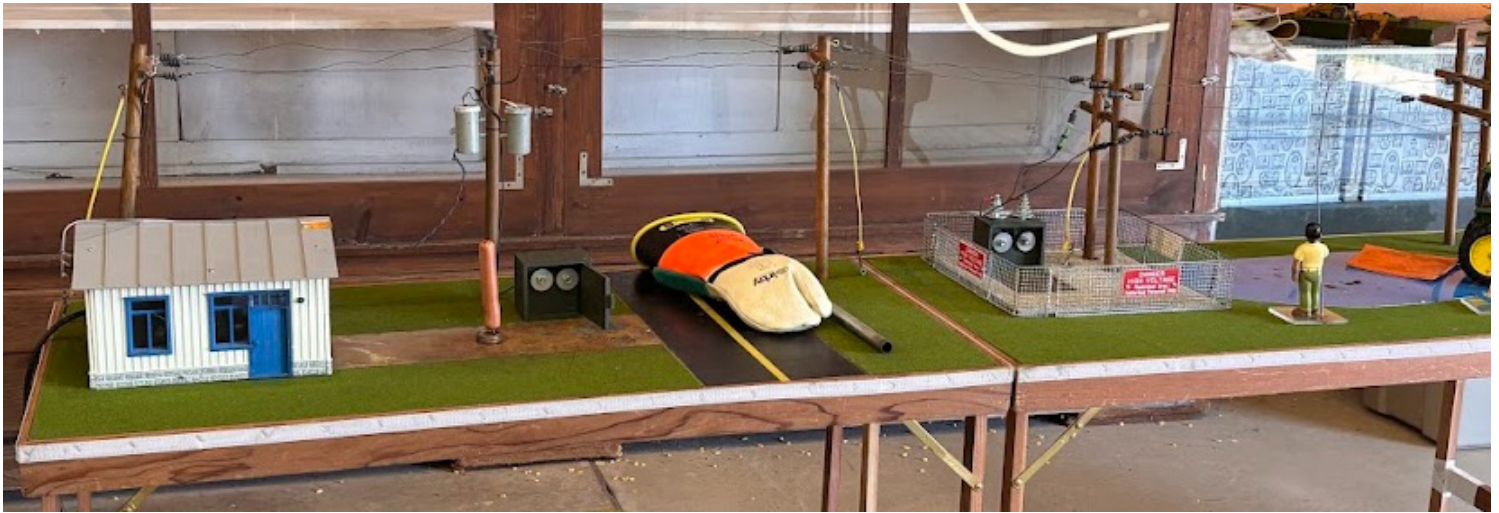
Great River Energy takes seriously our responsibility to meet those needs. That means investing in the grid today to ensure reliable electricity tomorrow.

Demand for electricity is growing. Farms are using more technology. Businesses are expanding. And the way electricity is generated and delivered is changing. As these changes reshape our energy system, investments in transmission are increasingly important to maintaining a stable, reliable electric grid that can meet the needs of our communities.

That's why Great River Energy and our project partners are proposing PowerOn Midwest, a new 765-kilovolt transmission project that will strengthen the regional electric grid and help ensure reliable power is available to our communities where and when it's needed. It's not about data centers.

Yes, this project benefits the entire region. But we invest in high-voltage transmission projects like this to ensure our members have the reliable electricity and capacity they need in their communities to thrive. Today, Minnesota imports more power than it exports, making transmission essential to exporting excess generation and importing power when we need it. Great River Energy plans decades ahead to build tomorrow's grid today.

We're invested in your success. Whether that means expanding farms, welcoming new businesses or building new homes, we want South Central Electric Association's members to have the reliable electricity and capacity they need to grow for generations to come.



Area 4th Graders Learn About Electric Safety

The start of the school year brings an important annual learning opportunity for area 4th graders through Field and Safety Days. Coordinated by the Cottonwood County Extension Office, this four-day event takes place at the Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton, MN and features a variety of educational and safety-focused programs.

As part of the event, South Central Electric and East River Electric, an SCE power provider, conducted engaging electrical safety and energy education demonstrations, helping students learn how to stay safe around electricity and better understand how electric power is delivered to their homes and communities.

Similar safety and education programs were also presented during two additional days for Watonwan County schools at the fairgrounds in St. James and Martin County schools at the Heritage Acres in Fairmont, MN.

Over six days of electrical safety presentations, South Central Electric shared their safety message with more than **1,000 students**, reinforcing the importance of electrical awareness and helping build safe habits that can last a lifetime.

THANK YOU VETERANS

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED!

Small battery habits lead to big safety benefits

Battery-powered devices are part of everyday life — from phones and laptops to power tools, toys, e-bikes and lawn equipment. Many of these products use lithium-ion batteries, which are rechargeable and convenient but can pose a fire risk if they are damaged, charged incorrectly or thrown away improperly.

A few simple habits can help keep your home and family safe:

1. Use only the battery and charger recommended by the manufacturer.
2. Charge devices on a hard, flat surface away from any bedding, paper, clothing or other materials that can burn.
3. Do not charge or use a battery that has been dropped, crushed, punctured, exposed to water, swollen, leaking, smoking or overheating.
4. Store batteries in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, heaters and hot vehicles.
5. Keep loose batteries in their original packaging or a protective case so the terminals do not touch metal objects.
6. Never place lithium-ion batteries in household trash or regular recycling bins. Take them to an approved battery recycling or household hazardous waste collection site.

If you notice that a battery-powered device smells odd, makes unusual noises, changes shape, smokes or catches fire, stop using it immediately. If there is smoke or fire, leave the area and call 911.

Recycle before you toss

Lithium-ion batteries should be recycled properly to help prevent fires in garbage trucks, recycling facilities and landfills. Before recycling loose batteries, cover the terminals with electrical tape or place each battery in its own plastic bag.

Safe charging, smart storage and responsible recycling are small steps that can make a big difference in keeping homes and communities safe.



BATTERY SAFETY TIPS



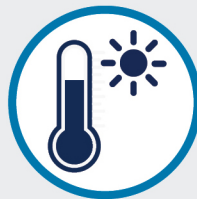
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LIFE SUPPORT / MEDICAL EQUIPMENT NOTIFICATION FORM

Electricity Can Be a Lifeline



SCAN ME



For family members or friends with a medical condition, electricity may be essential to operate life-support or other medical equipment.

South Central Electric Association wants to know if anyone at your location depends on electricity for medically necessary equipment, including:

- Oxygen concentrators
- Home dialysis equipment
- Respirators
- Other electrically powered, life-sustaining medical equipment



WHY WE NEED THIS INFORMATION

South Central Electric Association maintains a list of members who depend on electrically powered medical equipment for two important reasons:

PLANNED OUTAGES

When crews are scheduled to work on the electrical system, we make every effort to notify members who are dependent on medical equipment before the outage.

UNPLANNED OUTAGES

During an unexpected outage, this information helps us identify locations where electrically powered medical equipment is being used and may assist our crews in prioritizing restoration efforts.



Please note: Registration does not guarantee uninterrupted electric service or a specific restoration time. Members using life-support equipment should always have an emergency backup plan.



PLEASE NOTIFY US

If you or someone in your household depends on electrically powered medical equipment, please complete the form below and return it to us with your next bill payment. You may also contact our office by phone, email, fax, or mail.

If the person listed below moves, no longer requires life-support equipment, or has passed away, please notify us so we can keep our records current.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

- ☐ **YES** — Please add me/us to the Life Support / Medical Equipment List.
- ☐ Please remove _____
from the Life Support / Medical Equipment List.

Name: _____

Service Address: _____

City / State / ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

Location Number: _____

(Found on your electric bill)

Type of life-support equipment or medical condition:

Signature: _____

BACKUP POWER

Battery backup available?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, approximately how long will the batteries last?

_____ hours

Generator available on site?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

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.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. A lower temperature setting can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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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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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.