

# KILOWATT

## CHANGES COMING TO KPC'S POWER SUPPLY MIX

In early May, the announcement was made that Great River Energy (GRE) will close their 1,151 megawatt (MW) coal plant, Coal Creek, in the second half of 2022. Power from this plant will be replaced with wind purchases. In addition, GRE is also modifying their 99 MW Spiritwood Station. Spiritwood is currently fueled by coal and natural gas and will be modified to be fueled by natural gas only. These changes will increase GRE's energy portfolio to be more than 95 percent carbon-free, making these changes a positive advancement from an environmental perspective.



Sonja Bogart  
KPC'S CEO

I have received a few questions from KPC members regarding this announcement. I will try to answer the two most common questions here.

- **Will the switch from coal to wind increase electric rates?**

The driver of this decision for GRE has been economics. Even though improvements have been made to Coal Creek over the years to help it operate more efficiently and economically, wind has become very low-cost, to the point that wind energy is more competitively priced than power from the 1979-era Coal Creek. With the move

from coal to wind, power supply costs are expected to be reduced.

- **Has GRE considered batteries?**

Yes, as part of the May announcement, GRE also revealed plans for a pilot project involving grid-scale battery technology. Batteries offer an excellent alternative for power supply during the times when the wind is not blowing, but batteries are not yet the most economical solution even though advancements continue to be made. GRE plans to run a pilot that focuses on new battery technology. This will help GRE better understand the possibilities of this developing technology.

Our focus at KPC is to provide power that is reliable and affordable, while also being a good steward of the environment. With those goals in mind, we encourage GRE to do the same. The closing of Coal Creek and switching to wind purchases meets the criteria of reliability, affordability and good for the environment, making it a very positive move for the membership of KPC.

### Added Benefits of Air Source Heat Pumps

Perhaps you are considering replacing your air conditioners? If so, I felt it important to mention several benefits of air source heat pumps:

- **Multiple use** – not only will an air source heat pump cool your house in the summer, but it can also be used

for a portion of your heating needs in cooler months.

- **Special rates** – KPC offers a special low electric rate for air source heat pumps placed on load management.
- **Rebates** – rebates are available from KPC for air source heat pumps installed by certified contractors.
- **Financing** – KPC offers zero-interest five-year financing for equipment and installation of air source heat pumps

Call us at 800-551-4951 to learn more about all the benefits an air source heat pump offers.

### COVID-19 Guidelines

For the health and safety of our employees and members, KPC continues to take COVID-19 precautionary measures. Even though several employees are back to working from the office, the majority continue to work from home either part- or full-time. For those in the office, social distancing guidelines are used. Our front office remains closed at this time, but our representatives can be reached by phone at 800-551-4951 and on-line self-service options are available through our SmartHub web portal and app. We were disappointed to have to cancel the traditional Stingers member appreciation night but did so in the best interest of the health and safety of the membership.

## RETIREMENT

Congratulations on your retirement, Vicki!

After 39 years of dedicated service to

the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative community, Vicki Zimmer is retiring on August 7th. She is setting her sights on spending more time with her recently retired husband, Vern, and their family.



Vicki began her KPC career in 1976 in the Customer Service Department. Vicki has worked in nearly every department of the company, and even left for a short time when her kids were little, but she is probably best known for her Customer Service and taking the time to work with every member.

Vicki lives south of Willmar with her husband, Vern, and is looking forward to spending more time with her children and their spouses, Ryan and Tonya and Risa and Matt, and her three grandchildren, Leona, Deacon and Nora. "As a parent and grandparent, I want to be around for my children. I want to savor the sweet moments of life with my grandkids." Vicki and Vern are planning road trips and various camping journeys in the years ahead. They plan on enjoying all their well-deserved vacation time.

"I will truly miss all the employees that I have worked with and the many members that I have worked with through the years" Vicki said.

All of us here at KPC will miss Vicki and will never forget her many contributions to the cooperative. Please join us in wishing her all the best in retirement!

### Drive Thru Celebration

Please join us for a drive thru style retirement celebration honoring Vicki! Friday, August 7th, from 12:30-3pm in the parking lot on the west side of our headquarters building.

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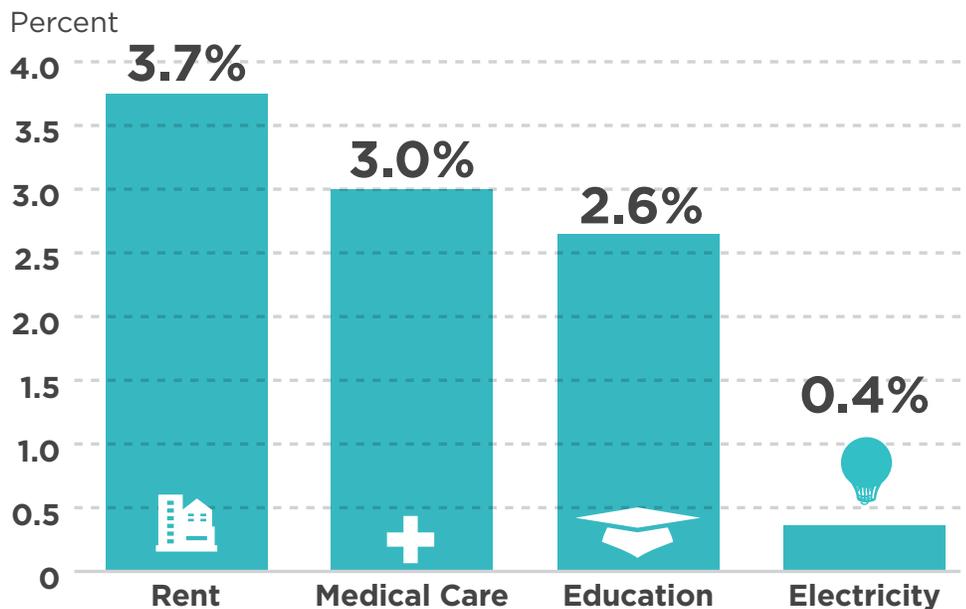
## NOTICE OF UPDATE TO TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE INTERCONNECTIONS

In compliance with Minnesota Statute 216B.1611, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is updating the technical requirements for distributed energy resource interconnections. The existing technical requirement document will be replaced with the Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) and Technical Specification Manual (TSM). These new documents can be found after June 1, 2020, at <https://www.kpcoop.com/distributed-generation>. These requirements become effective July 1, 2020 and all new DER systems and DER system additions applied for interconnection after July 1st will be required to meet these updated requirements.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

### Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Consumer Price Index

## KILOWATT CREDIT SCORECARD

Win a credit on your next bill.

Account numbers used are 9 digits, as appearing on your monthly bill. If you find your account number in this KILOWATT, please notify us by the 4th to claim your credit.

We will credit your bill. Do not deduct the amount from your bill; pay as usual.

Earl and Debbie Banks claimed their account number last month. Each account number is worth \$5.00.

## LARGE EQUIPMENT NEEDS LARGE CLEARANCES

The equipment used for construction, demolition and farming is often quite tall and can be a conductor of electricity if it gets too close to overhead power lines. As a result, the operators of these vehicles need to take precautions to stay safe from a potentially deadly on-the-job accident from electric shock.

KPC urges everyone to be aware of maintaining the appropriate safety clearance distance for large equipment. Being aware of and staying safely away from overhead power lines can help to save more lives.

KPC tries to maintain a clearance for large equipment, such as farm equipment, of 18 feet to allow them to travel under overhead power lines. A dedicated spotter is very helpful when working in close proximity to overhead lines to help the operator keep the required minimum clearance.

KPC urges large equipment operators to:

- Know the clearance rules for the equipment you are operating.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near overhead lines to ensure minimum clearance is maintained.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.

If your equipment has made contact with a power line, it is critical that you know what to do. If you don't know the proper procedures for getting out of the equipment, you could be injured or killed. It is almost always safest to stay on the equipment. Warn others to stay away and call 911 and the local electric utility immediately. The only reason to get off the equipment is if it is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and equipment at the same time. Then, while still keeping your feet together, "bunny hop" away.



### FACILITY ID NUMBER

KPCs equipment is easily identified by a Facility ID Number tag, as seen in this picture. If possible, please use this number when calling KPC to report equipment damage.



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### The Power to Protect So You Can Play.

Our 24/7 monitoring will give you peace of mind that your home is protected from burglary, fire, water damage, and more — so you can keep your head the game.

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# Kandiyohi Power Cooperative

8605 47th Street NE, Spicer, MN 56288  
www.kpcoop.com

**Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30am – 4pm**

**Phone: 1-800-551-4951**

**Fax: 320-796-0620**

**Tom McCormick**

**Electric Inspector: 320-221-2809**

Drop boxes available for your convenience at Cash Wise and headquarters building near flag pole.

### MANAGEMENT STAFF

Sonja Bogart, CEO  
Diane Maurice, Member Services  
Michele Scheffler, Communications/HR  
Ryan Nelson, Engineering  
Scott Luberts, Line Superintendent

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Rollo Campe- 320-894-1601	1
Larry Powers- 320-212-7960	1
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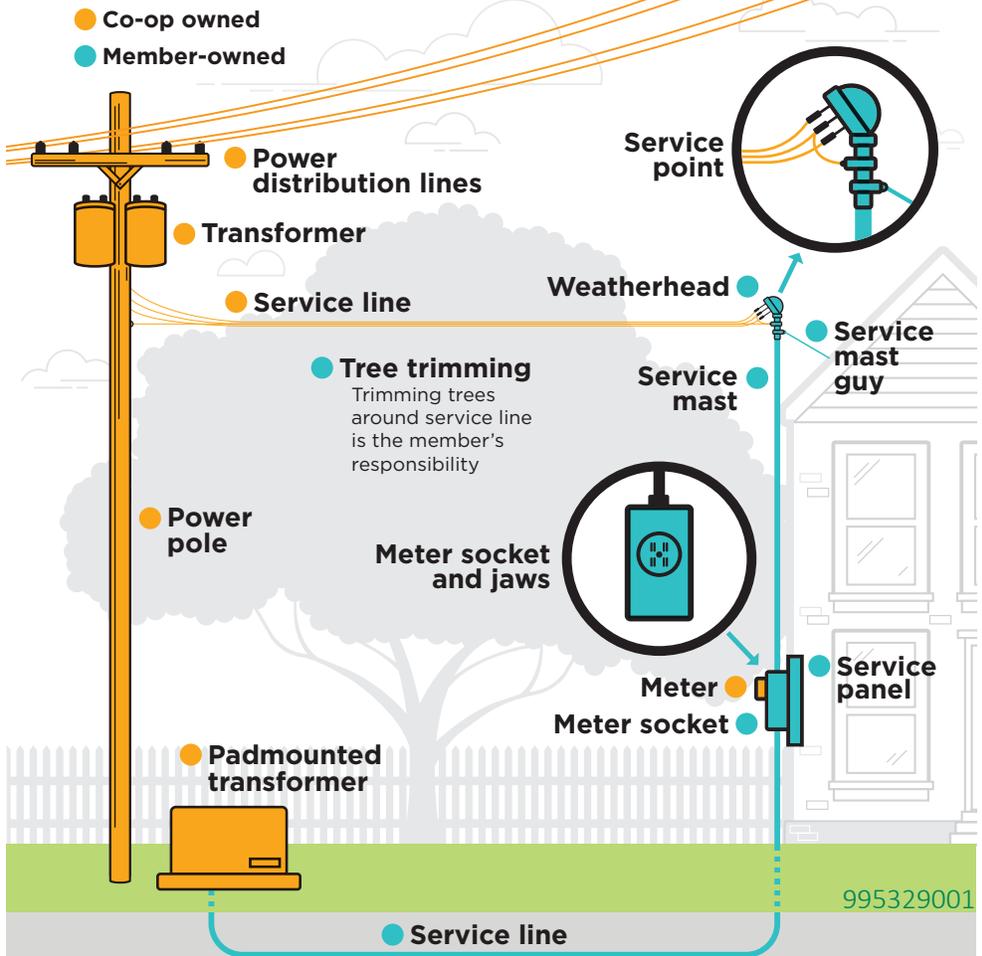
### KILOWATT STAFF:

Michele Scheffler, Editor

# Who Owns What?

## Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!**

www.gopherstateonecall.org

1-800-252-1166



## 24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

When your lights go out, so do we.

Call us if your power goes out even if you think your neighbors already did. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored and make sure you have an emergency kit ready.

**1-800-551-4951**

## Baked Chicken Breast

- 3 ounces sliced dried beef
- 3 large chicken breasts – deboned and skinned
- 6 slices bacon
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- ¾ cup sour cream
- 4 ounces of sliced mushrooms (optional)



### Directions

Rinse dried beef with cold water, drain and arrange in bottom of baking dish. Wrap chicken breasts with bacon and place on dried beef. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Remove drippings from pan, combine soup and sour cream and pour over chicken. Bake 30 minutes longer.