

## **VERSDAHL SERVES 15 YEARS AS DIRECTOR**



Randy Versdahl of Red Lake Falls was recognized at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting for having served 15 years as board director. The 15-year spanned from March 2010 to March 2025. Versdahl represented District 6 of the cooperative's service territory, which includes the townships of Wylie, Browns Creek, River, Louisville, Red Lake Falls, Gervais, Emardville and Terrebonne. He was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his years of service by the cooperative.



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President ..... Peter Mosbeck  
Vice President ..... Bonnie Christians  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Colette Kujava  
Directors ..... Cecil Anderson, Mark Hanson,  
Jennifer Benier-Linder, Matt Derosier,  
Lars Dyrud, Krist Olson

Stephanie Johnson ..... General Manager  
Steve Conely ..... Manager of Electric  
System Operations  
Kelli Brateng ..... Manager of Member Services  
Christie Klipping .. Manager of Finance & Admin.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (218) 253-2168  
Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068  
Fax: (218) 253-2630

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS  
(218) 253-2200

Website: [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com)  
Email: [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto:info@redlakeelectric.com)

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG  
1-800-252-1166 or 811

MINNESOTA STATE  
ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:  
**Ronald Ditsch: (218) 779-6758**

Red Lake and Polk Counties:  
**Todd Knaack: (763) 516-0344**

Any time you or an electrician does wiring  
or other electrical work at your home or  
farm, Minnesota state law requires a state  
wiring inspector to conduct a proper  
inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection  
must be made before any wiring is covered.  
A final inspection is also required. Please  
visit [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov) for more information.  
The inspectors can be reached weekday  
mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative  
to enhance the quality of life for people of our  
service area by safely and consistently providing  
quality electric service and other valued services  
while holding our employees, our community  
and our environment in high regard.*



How Extreme Summer  
Temps Impact Reliability

by Stephanie Johnson

When outdoor temperatures  
soar, our electricity use  
increases. That’s because our  
air conditioners are running longer  
and more often to counteract swelter-  
ing outdoor temperatures. Factor in  
that we all tend to use electricity at the  
same times – in the morning and early  
evenings – and that equals a lot of  
strain on our electric grid.

At Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we  
work closely with Minnkota Power  
Cooperative, our local generation and  
transmission (G&T) cooperative, in  
resource and infrastructure planning  
to ensure you have the power you need  
whenever you flip a switch. However,  
the electric grid is much larger than  
your local cooperative and G&T.

In summer months, when even more  
electricity is being used simultaneously  
across the country, it is possible for  
electricity demand to exceed supply,  
especially if a prolonged heat wave  
occurs. If this happens, which is rare,  
the grid operator for our region of  
the country may call on consumers  
to actively reduce their energy use or  
initiate temporary controlled power  
outages to relieve pressure on the grid.  
Red Lake Electric will always keep you  
informed about situations like this.

We work proactively with our G&T  
to create a resilient portion of the  
grid and ensure electric reliability  
in extreme weather, including regular  
system maintenance, grid modern-  
ization efforts and disaster response  
planning; but it takes everyone to  
keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the air conditioner run-  
ning for you, your family and neigh-  
bors, here are a few things you can do  
to relieve pressure on the grid during  
times of extreme summer heat:

- Select the highest comfortable ther-  
mostat setting and turn it up several  
degrees (22519 Stan Olson) when-  
ever possible. Your cooling system  
must run longer to make up the  
difference between the thermostat  
temp and the outdoor temp.

- **Pro tip:** Seal air leaks around  
windows and exterior doors  
with caulk and weatherstrip-  
ping. Air leaks and drafts force  
your cooling system to work  
harder than necessary.
- Run major appliances such as dish-  
washers, ovens and dryers during  
off-peak hours when the demand  
for electricity is lower.
  - **Pro tip:** Start the dishwasher  
before you go to bed.
- Use ceiling fans to make yourself  
feel a few degrees cooler. Remem-  
ber, ceiling fans cool people (not  
rooms), so turn them off in unoc-  
cupied rooms.
  - **Pro tip:** During summer  
months, set ceiling fan blades to  
rotate counterclockwise, which  
pushes cool air down for a  
windchill effect.
- Close blinds, curtains and shades  
during the hottest part of the day  
to block unwanted heat gain from  
sunlight.
  - **Pro tip:** Consider blackout  
curtains with thermal backing  
or reflective lining to block heat  
and light.
- Use smaller appliances, such as  
slow cookers, air fryers and toaster  
ovens to cook meals.
  - **Pro tip:** Studies have shown  
that air fryers use about half  
the amount of electricity as a  
full-sized oven. Air fryers are  
smaller and use focused heat,  
which results in faster cooking  
times, less heat output and  
lower energy use.

As we face the challenges posed  
by soaring summer temperatures,  
understanding the impact on energy  
demand is crucial for maintaining a  
reliable power supply. By adopting  
energy conservation practices during  
periods of extreme heat, not only can  
you save money on your electric bills,  
but you can also contribute to the re-  
silience of the grid, keeping our local  
community cool and connected.



Electricity demand set  
to soar in U.S., abroad

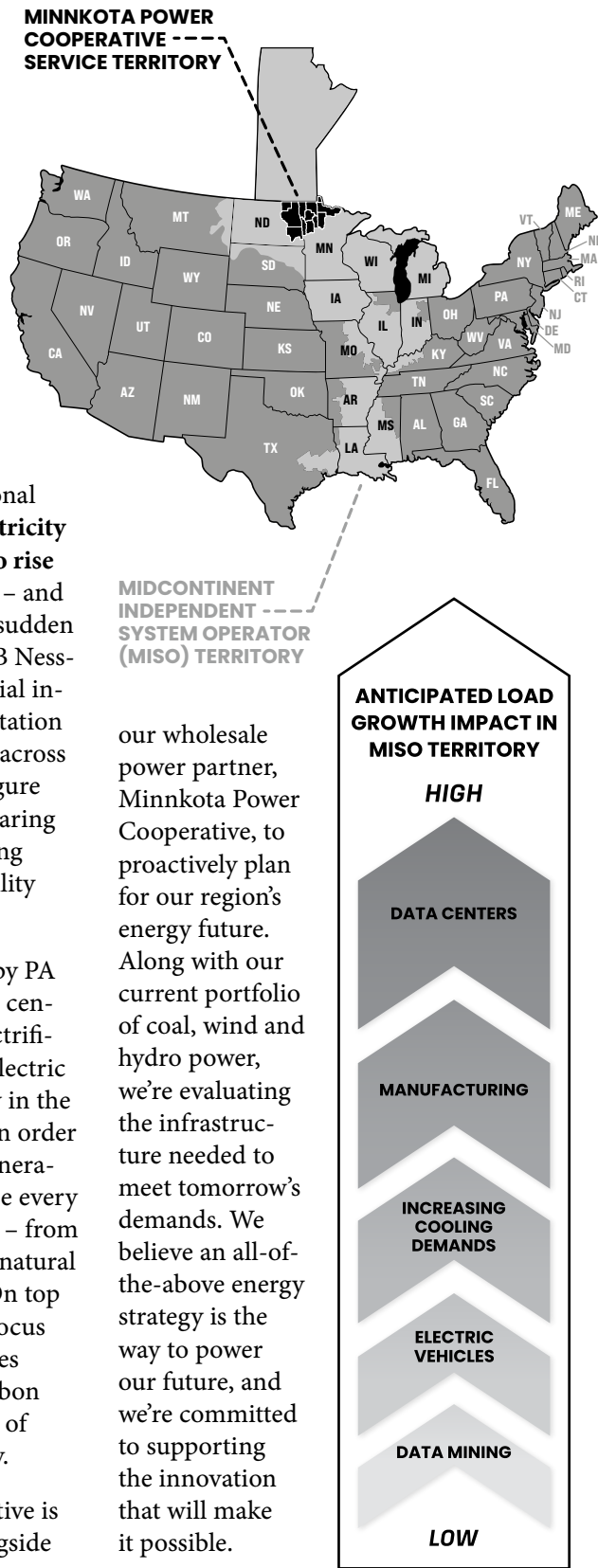
by Kelli Brateng

Electricity drives some  
of the most import-  
ant components  
of your life. Electricity  
keeps your perishable  
food safe to eat, lights up  
your home and office, and  
powers the internet that  
is woven through many of  
our daily tasks. As much  
as we rely on it now, sev-  
eral studies indicate we’re  
about to rely on it a whole  
lot more. And fast.

According to the International  
Energy Agency, **global electricity  
consumption is expected to rise  
4% annually through 2027** – and  
then keep rising. With the sudden  
demand (30648 Benjamin B Ness-  
eth) for data centers, artificial in-  
telligence, electric transportation  
and more, power suppliers across  
the world are hustling to figure  
out how to keep up with soaring  
load growth while preserving  
electric reliability, affordability  
and sustainability.

A new analysis completed by PA  
Consulting anticipates data cen-  
ters and transportation electrifi-  
cation alone will drive up electric  
demand about 2% annually in the  
U.S. for the next 25 years. In order  
to meet the need, power genera-  
tion utilities will need to use every  
technology that is available – from  
wind and solar to coal and natural  
gas to hydro and nuclear. On top  
of that, the industry must focus  
on refining new technologies  
like battery storage and carbon  
capture to ensure a balance of  
reliability and sustainability.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is  
pleased to be working alongside



our wholesale  
power partner,  
Minnkota Power  
Cooperative, to  
proactively plan  
for our region’s  
energy future.  
Along with our  
current portfolio  
of coal, wind and  
hydro power,  
we’re evaluating  
the infrastruc-  
ture needed to  
meet tomorrow’s  
demands. We  
believe an all-of-  
the-above energy  
strategy is the  
way to power  
our future, and  
we’re committed  
to supporting  
the innovation  
that will make  
it possible.



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts  
& Jolts*. Email to [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto:info@redlakeelectric.com)  
or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative,  
PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430.

Loaded Bacon Cheeseburger Pasta

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz pasta (elbow macaroni  
or your favorite shape)
- 1 lb ground beef
- 4 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup beef broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1 tbsp mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste
- *Optional toppings: diced  
tomatoes, pickles, lettuce,  
extra cheese*

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Cook the pasta:** Boil pasta  
in salted water according to  
package instructions. Drain  
and set aside.
2. **Cook the bacon:** In a large  
skillet, cook chopped bacon  
over medium heat until crispy.  
Remove and drain on paper  
towels. Leave bacon grease in  
the skillet.
3. **Brown the beef:** In the same  
skillet, add ground beef, diced  
onion and garlic. Cook until  
beef is browned and onion is  
translucent. Drain excess fat if  
needed.
4. **Add the sauce:** Stir in beef  
broth, heavy cream, ketchup  
and mustard. Mix well and let it  
simmer for 5 minutes.
5. **Add the pasta:** Toss in the  
cooked pasta and mix to coat.  
Remove from heat and stir in  
cheddar cheese until melted.
- 6. **Serve:** Top with crispy bacon  
and optional toppings like  
diced tomatoes, pickles or  
shredded lettuce.

# A SEVERE STORM IS BREWING — ARE YOU READY?

## BEFORE THE STORM

- ✓ **Unplug sensitive equipment** like computers and gaming stations. They could be damaged by surges from lightning or power restoration.
- ✓ **Have a power outage kit ready** to go with essentials like flashlights, battery packs for charging a smartphone, and water. Depending on storm damage, it could take a while (28639 LeAnn Ellefson) for your co-op to restore power.

## AFTER THE STORM

- ✓ **If your basement has flooded, do not step into it** if there is a possibility of submerged cords or outlets – the water could be energized. Also, don't touch any cords or appliances if you are standing in water.
- ✓ **If you are driving and come across a downed line, stay far away from it.** Power could still be flowing through it. Downed lines could also be hidden in tree debris. Call your electric co-op or 9-1-1 immediately if you see any line or pole damage.

## GET PUMPED - WITH THE TECH THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

Heat pumps have quickly become one of the fastest-selling home heating and cooling products on the market – and for good reason. Heat pump technology efficiently moves heat instead of generating heat, lowering your energy bill and reducing your dependence on volatile fuel prices.

But what kind of heat pump works best for your home, shop or cabin? We broke down the benefits of air-source heat pumps and mini-split heat pumps to help you decide!



AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP  
(ASHP)



MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP

### HOW IT WORKS

An ASHP doesn't burn fuel to make heat. It simply uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. Think of an ASHP as a heat transporter constantly moving warm air from one place to another, to where it's needed or not needed (depending on the season). A standard ASHP is a self-contained system that uses existing ductwork. The system is composed of an outdoor compressor unit and an indoor air handling unit.

Similar to an air-source heat pump, a mini-split heat pump is run by a compressor unit placed outside of your home. That unit is connected to an indoor unit by small cables and a refrigerant line. The indoor unit is typically mounted high on the wall of the room that is being heated/cooled.

### BENEFITS

#### VERSATILITY

A single system delivers heat in the winter and cools your home in the summer.

#### WHOLE-HOME EFFICIENCY

Because an ASHP moves heat instead of generating it, the system (31207 Michael Tate) delivers up to 3X more energy than the electricity it consumes.

#### COMFORT

Your air-source heat pump will deliver steady, automatic climate control to your home – even when switched to a backup fuel source.

#### SAVINGS

In addition to access to our low off-peak program rate, you can receive hundreds in co-op rebates.

#### VERSATILITY

A single system delivers heat in the winter and cools your home in the summer.

#### ZONE EFFICIENCY

The system only heats and cools the area that is necessary and transfers heat instead of generating it.

#### NO DUCTWORK

The system does not require ducts and can be installed easily in any room.

#### SAVINGS

In addition to the money saved in efficiency, the upfront cost may be covered in part by our rebate program.

### BEST USE

Whole-home heating/cooling

Spot heating/cooling in a home, or full heating in smaller shop or cabin

### CO-OP INCENTIVES

Rebate of up to \$600/ton installed  
Eligible for off-peak program rate  
(around HALF the standard rate)

Rebate of up to \$600/ton installed  
Eligible for off-peak program rate  
(around HALF the standard rate)



## BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR UTILITY SCAMMERS

With utility scams on the rise, Red Lake Electric wants to ensure its members are aware of how to spot these scammers and keep your information safe.

### IDENTIFICATION\*

Scammers may try and pose as Red Lake Electric. If you are unsure about the call, verify the information being provided matches your latest bill.

### TIME CONSTRAINTS\*

Scammer messages often require members to act fast. Your co-op will never text or call you to say services will be turned off if you don't pay your bill immediately.

### OVERPAYMENT SCAM\*

Members may receive messages about a previous overpaid bill, saying Red Lake Electric needs your bank account to issue a refund. Red Lake Electric will never ask its members for bank information over the phone or via text message.

If you think you are speaking to a scammer, hang up and call Red Lake Electric's office at (218) 253-2168 to verify.

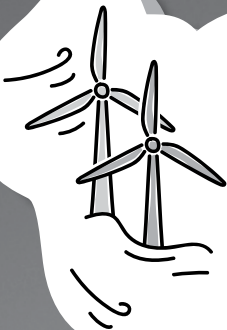
## VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

Learn more about  
Red Lake Electric's  
off-peak program  
and rebate eligibility  
at [redlakeelectric.com](http://redlakeelectric.com)!



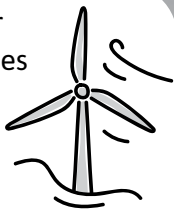
# Wind Knowledge Whirlwind

Our region is *KNOWN* for its powerful wind gusts. It's not just something we live with; we capture that power with the help of mighty wind turbines. This June 15, we're celebrating World Wind Day by sharing some ways we harness wind power throughout the region.



**Did You Know?** — Red Lake Electric's larger cooperative system is recognized as a regional leader in the wind energy sphere. Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale power provider) built the first two commercial-scale, utility-owned wind turbines in North Dakota in 2002 and received recognition from the U.S. Department of Energy.

**Did You Know?** — Wind makes up 33% of our system's generation capacity. Around 58% of our capacity comes from coal at the Milton R. Young Station near Center, North Dakota, and another 7% comes from hydropower at North Dakota's Garrison Dam. The final 2% comes from the power market (29926 Steven L Johnson) and other sources.



**Did You Know?** — Just this year, Minnkota and PRC Wind announced plans for the development of Flickertail Wind Farm near New Rockford, North Dakota. The new 370-megawatt (MW) wind project will be owned and operated by PRC Wind, while Minnkota will purchase all energy (26715 Constance Syverson) produced.



**Did You Know?** — Members who enroll in the Infinity Renewable Energy program can choose a designated percentage of electricity used that they would like to be derived from renewable resources – like wind. Renewable energy credits (RECs) are retired on the participants' behalf as record/proof of the purchase. Contact Red Lake Electric to see how you can get involved!



## Did you know?



\$ FOR A MONTH OF ELECTRICITY



\$ FOR A WIRELESS SPEAKER



\*comparison based on average household energy usage

## NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

## MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Protect yourself with these easy tips

You're likely not shocked that a few simple tips can help keep your home and family safe from electricity hazards. But since it's National Electrical Safety Month, it's a prime opportunity to review some of those tried-and-true tips for protecting what you value most.

### AVOID OVERLOADING ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

An easy way to keep your home safe is to avoid plugging too many things into an outlet. Use a surge protector to keep appliances safe and remember to unplug any appliances when not in use.



### KEEP ELECTRONICS AWAY FROM WATER



Electronics and water **DO NOT MIX!** Keep electronics like phones, hand-held devices and small appliances away from water sources in your home.

### GET RID OF BROKEN OR DAMAGED ELECTRONICS

Plugging in damaged or broken electronics can harm outlets and further damage the electrical work in your home. Discard all damaged electronics, frayed charging cords (21801 Richard L Kezar) and broken appliances **BEFORE** they spark or smoke.



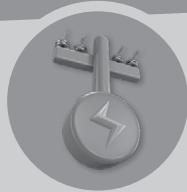
### CALL A PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICIAN



Many projects around your home are perfect for a DIYer. When it comes to electrical work, call a trusted electrician – **DO NOT** attempt it yourself. Incorrect electrical work can cause power surges, outlet damage and house fires.

### IF YOU COME IN CONTACT WITH A DOWNED POWER LINE...

1. Stay inside your vehicle.
2. Call 9-1-1 and report the downed line.
3. In case of an emergency (like a fire) in which you need to exit the vehicle, jump clear of the vehicle with your feet together and your arms crossed. Keeping your feet together, bunny-hop far away from the downed lines.



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR 2025

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers for electric vehicles. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

## ELECTRIC WATER HEATER REBATES

*Must be on off-peak*

100 gallon or greater

**\$500/unit**

56-99 gallon

**\$400/unit**

55 gallon or less

**\$150/unit**

New construction (50 gallon)

**FREE unit (primary residence only)**

### BONUS REBATES:

**Add \$250**  
if converting  
from natural  
gas or propane.

**Add \$100**  
for new building  
construction  
(shops, cabins, etc.).



## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER REBATES

240V LEVEL 2 CHARGER

*Must be on off-peak*

Electric vehicle or hybrid

**100% rebate**

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

**\$50 per kW (\$750 max)**



Residential  
Charger



Commercial  
Charger

All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.

EQUIPMENT MUST BE INSTALLED ON RLEC'S OFF-PEAK PROGRAM.

Contact Member Services at 218-253-2168 for more details!

## ELECTRIC HEATING REBATES

*Must be on off-peak*

### ELECTRIC PLENUM HEATERS

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

**Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)**

### ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE HEATERS

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

**Rebate of \$75 per kW**

### AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

**(INCLUDING MINI-SPLIT DUCTLESS OPTION)**

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

**Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton**  
**17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$600 per ton**



### GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMPS

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

**Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton**  
**Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton**



### ELECTRIC UNDERFLOOR BOILER

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers heat consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

**Rebate of \$75 per kW**

### OTHER ELECTRIC HEATING SYSTEMS

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

**Rebate of \$25 per kW**