

Connections



For the member-owners of Federated Rural Electric

Volume 24, Issue 12

CTV Board of Directors approve \$450,000 upgrade to 24 transmitters at three towers

| Godahl Tower Transmitter #: UHF channels | Frost Tower Transmitter #: UHF channels | Jackson Tower Transmitter #: UHF channels |
|---|--|--|
| 14: 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6 | 14: 5.1, 5.5, 5.7 | 17: 5.1, 5.5, 5.7 |
| 16: 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.9 | 16: 2.1, 2.4, 2.5 | 19: 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8 |
| 23: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 | 19: 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.9 | 22: 2.1, 2.4, 2.5 |
| 26: 2.1, 2.4, 2.5 | 23: 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, 23.4 | 28: 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, 23.4 |
| 29: 2.2, 2.3, 2.6 | 29: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 | 29: 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6 |
| 30: 5.1, 5.5, 5.7 | 31: 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8 | 31: 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.9 |
| 32: 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8 | 34: 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6 | 34: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 |
| | 35: 4.1, 4.1, 17.1, 18.1 | 35: 4.1, 4.2, 17.1, 18.1 |
| | | 30: 41's |

24 transmitters at the Godahl, Jackson and Frost UHF TV tower sites will be upgraded the first quarter of 2021. CTV is owned by the four rural electric cooperatives: Brown County REA, BENCO Electric, Federated Rural Electric and South Central Electric.

“Many of our existing transmitters were installed in 2009 under the ATSC 1.0 standard,” stated Scott Reimer, Federated’s general manager. “They were first generation technology and the manufacturer no longer exists; we can no longer order parts for those transmitters. The new transmitters will have the ability to operate on either ATSC 1.0 and ATSC 3.0 standards. ATSC 3.0 future operation will be a more robust signal with higher resolution and better sound.

The USA-manufactured transmitters were ordered in September and are expected to arrive the first quarter of 2021. If all goes well, the whole conversion at the three sites can be completed

within a few weeks of delivery. New transmitters will be installed mainly on Minneapolis-rebroadcasted channels. See the listing above for which channels will be upgraded at each tower with new transmitters.

Watch channel 16.1 for updates on when each tower’s conversion will occur or follow your co-op’s Facebook page too. Different channels will be off during the day as each transmitter is replaced.

Two other benefits exist to these new transmitters; these use up to 45 percent less energy, as they are more efficient. Plus, each transmitter features adaptive real-time correction of TV signal output. “This upgrade will mitigate mechanical issues,” Reimer added. “However, UHF TV signals will still be subject to the atmospheric conditions that cause signals to disappear during high humidity and summer mornings/evenings. As great as this

technology is, we still cannot control the atmospheric conditions.”

CTV reminds viewers if you watch CTV with a UHF antenna, become a paying subscriber of CTV for \$8 a month. This helps CTV with technology improvements like this and to pay the bills. CTV will add the \$8 charge to monthly electric co-op members’ bills or send out annual bills (12 months x \$8 = \$96) or seasonal bills 6 months for cabins (6 x \$8 = \$48). Call or e-mail your local electric cooperative to become a paying subscriber.

Add the \$8 CTV charge to my electric account: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cut out and return with your electric bill.

At A Glance



Lobby closed due to rising Covid-19 numbers

Due to increasing counts in both of our counties, Federated has closed down its lobby effective November 30. Members are encouraged to use mail, our phone app, website or drop box to make payments. Otherwise, call the office for customer assistance. Thanks for understanding and patience during this pandemic.



Santa saves energy in 7 ways

The holiday season is finally upon us. Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

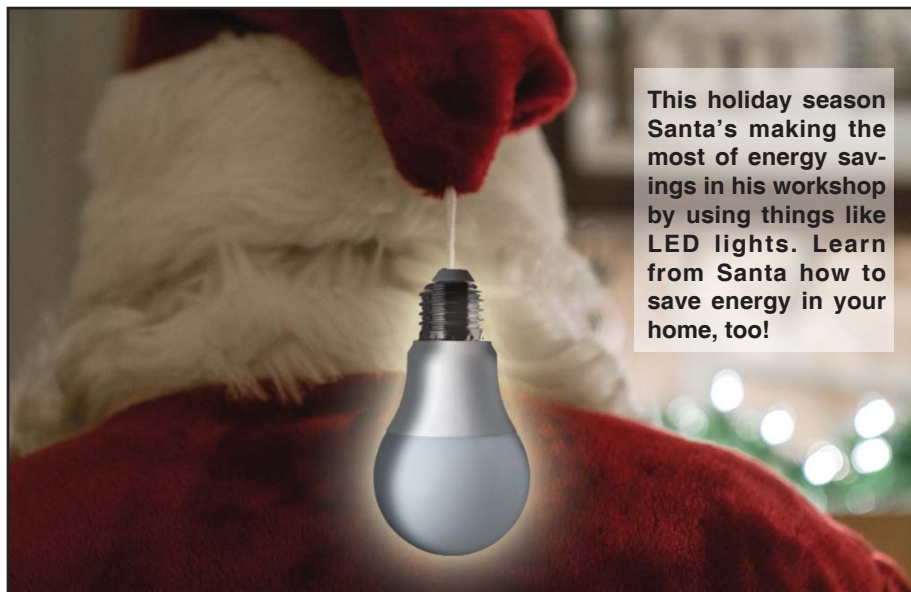
It's no secret that Santa is known for running an energy-efficient workshop — how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.

Here are seven ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

1. Santa uses LED lights all over the North Pole. By using LED holiday light strands he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home. In addition, Santa puts his holiday lights on automatic timers to prevent lights from staying on overnight and during the day. Finally, Santa also uses LED lights in his workshop. LED bulbs now come in big enough and bright enough sizes to light even the elves' workshop or the reindeer barn!

2. Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the Energy Star® rating. According to Energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used Energy Star-rated battery chargers, two billion kilowatt-hours of electricity could be saved — that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons! Energy Star doesn't only make energy-efficient tools. The Energy Star rating can also be found on appliances, TVs and more!

3. Santa saves energy by using



This holiday season Santa's making the most of energy savings in his workshop by using things like LED lights. Learn from Santa how to save energy in your home, too!

power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.


4. Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings. Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

5. The North Pole is cold and requires an efficient heating system. Santa uses a ground-source heat pump, which draws heat from the earth, which maintains its temperature year-round, and transfers it to the workshop. Santa even got a rebate from his electric co-op on the ground-source heat pump! The co-op also offers rebates

on air source heat pumps and ductless heat pumps.

6. Santa maintains the temperature of his workshop with a smart thermostat. The advantage of a smart thermostat is its ability to learn a household's patterns and adjust heating and cooling according to when a home is occupied or is about to be occupied. This reduces the use of heating and cooling systems when nobody is home for significant periods of time.

7. Santa is also part of his electric co-op's load management program; the co-op sells and controls Santa's water heater during peak periods to help keep the co-op's rates stable. Call your co-op for more details on the water heater price.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these seven tips you'll be well on your way to savings and Santa's "nice" list! 

Maintain independence with Heartland Security's Belle

Medical alert pendants continue to improve to help senior citizens maintain their independence and engage in active lifestyles. What a great holiday gift that would be!

Heartland Security, a subsidiary of your electric co-op, now offers a new medical alert pendant called Belle.

Belle is a small, easy to use mobile medical alert pendant that works with the 4G Verizon cellular network across the country (although some limitations may exist based on the signal in some areas). Belle enables users to easily get help at home or away from home with the press of a button.

Features include:

- A powerful speaker makes it easy to hear the specialist that answers your call for help.
- Battery-status button can be pressed to see if battery is okay or low.




The Belle medical alert pendant is lightweight and easy to use. It can help senior citizens stay active, knowing that help is a simple push of a button away.

- The call button is simple to operate. It is one button that can be pressed to speak with a specialist and get help. It is that easy! The button also has a circular light around it that lets you know when a call is in progress or when the pendant needs recharging.

- A powerful microphone allows you to speak clearly with a specialist so they can send emergency help or contact a loved one to assist you.

- Belle lasts up to 30 days/charge. It comes with a charging cradle and is fully charged in two to three hours.

- Belle is lightweight and easy to wear or carry with the included lanyard and belt clip. It includes WiFi location technologies and is water-resistant.

The Belle lease costs \$45 to install and monthly monitoring costs \$49.95. Call Heartland Security at 888-264-6380 or visit www.heartlandss.com. 

Safety

The 12 ways to stay safe this Christmas season

Make sure your holidays don't go from merry to scary with these 12 holiday safety tips.

- Keep decorations at least three feet away from heat sources, especially those with an open flame. Blow out your candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.

- The best decorations are safe decorations. When you are decorating, do not run cords under rugs or furniture, out of windows or across walkways and sidewalks.

- If you have a natural Christmas tree, water it to keep it fresh and safe. Real trees can dry up and turn into kindling in no time at all. Get rid of the tree after Christmas. Dried out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage.

- Always turn off your decorations when you leave your home and when you're sleeping. Most fires happen while people are asleep.



If you use a real Christmas tree, keep it watered to prevent it from drying out and becoming a fire hazard, especially if it is decorated with lights.

- If you're using extension cords or adapters to add extra "outlets," consider having an electrician add more outlets to your home.

- Only use electronics in dry areas. As tempting as it is, do not decorate your aquarium with icicle lights.

- Remember that phones and tablets should stay on your nightstand. We all love falling asleep to the muffled crooning of Bing Crosby, but


overheated electronics under pillows and blankets are dangerous.

- Need a perfect gift idea? How about a smoke alarm? Every home needs a smoke alarm in each bedroom and on every level, including the basement. Test regularly to make sure they're working.

- If you use a space heater, switch it off before leaving the room. It only takes seconds for a fire to start if a space heater tips over or comes in contact with something combustible.

- Inspect decorations and discard any that are damaged or worn out.

- Keep batteries out of reach from kids or pets that might try to swallow them, which can be deadly.

- Upgrade to arc-fault circuit interrupter breakers or outlets. It is estimated that half of the electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by AFCIs. 

— Information courtesy of esfi.org

Federated Focus

Covid-19 cancels Youth Tour; scholarship offered instead

This year Federated will not sponsor a teen on the Washington, D.C. trip, due to Covid-19. Instead, Federated will offer a third \$1,000 scholarship. Students should apply for the Basin Scholarship. Instead of offering the typical two \$1,000 scholarships, this year three will be offered. Fill out one application and have three chances to win! See the Basin scholarship story on Page 5 for eligibility and the deadline.

Capital credits for co-op's former Alliant members

One of Federated's wholesale power suppliers (Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative) retired capital credits. Federated members, who were former Alliant members, will receive about \$114,000 in capital credits from 2015 to 2017 patronage.

Current members will receive it as a credit on the December electric bill. Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) consists of the 12 electric cooperatives who purchased the Alliant Energy's Minnesota customers back in 2015.

Cooperatives reinvest our "profits" back into the co-op. Plus, we allocate the value of those profits (based on electricity purchased during the year) to a capital credits account maintained for each member. This summer's bylaw amendment allowed retiring of these wholesale capital credits now, instead of when Federated retires its credits for those years.

If you move off Federated's lines, please keep us updated on your mailing address for future capital credits payments. E-mail ziemer@federatedrea.coop or call 507-849-7847. 

Rate update: Demand rates change January 1, 2021, yet will still be among the lowest in the state & nation for co-ops

The new year brings rate changes to Federated's demand and Interruptible rates. Federated is consolidating its 22 rates into six rates: Residential, General Service, Small Power, Large Power, Interruptible and Municipal Wholesale.

Federated presently has its legacy rates, which last changed in 2012, plus a separate former Alliant rate book from its 2015 acquisition and last changed in 2018. Last month the residential rate changes were outlined. This month the demand rate changes are explained. Letters will be mailed to the demand accounts with this information in December. The rates change January 1, 2021 so the first bill will be received the first week of February.


Demand is the highest 15-minute interval of kilowatts (kW). The more electrical equipment you have running at once, the higher your demand will be. Federated reads meters the last day of the month and then the demand is reset to track for the next month. The co-op builds its infrastructure to serve you during these peak times to accommodate your highest usage and collecting demand helps pay for the monthly peaks.

"Federated's Board of Directors approved the rate changes in August after reviewing the Cost-of-Service Study," explained Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "The Cost-of-Service Study indicates what the costs are for each rate class for energy, service charge and also for demand for larger member accounts. The study shows us what the rates would be for each rate class so each one pays its fair share and is not subsidized by other rate classes. Overall, the average rate increase is 3 percent, but it varies by each rate class and member, depending on their electricity use."

Refer to the chart below that outlines the service charge, energy and demand charge for each rate. A member's peak demand in (kilowatts) kW should closely align to your transformer size, which was previously used to determine your rate class. Federated evaluated peak demands on all accounts for the past 12 months to make sure each member is in the correct rate class.


| Rate class | Maximum demand | Service charge | Energy charge | Demand charge for each kW |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | per month | per kilowatt-hour | Maximum 15-minute monthly demand |
| General Service | 41 kW to 200 kW | \$45 | \$0.0836 | \$3.00 |
| Small Power | 201 kW to 500 kW | \$65 | \$0.0810 | \$6.00 |
| Large Power | 501 kW and up | \$75 | \$0.0800 | \$7.00 |
| Interruptible | Standby genset | \$100 | \$0.0650 | \$5.00 |

"Since rate classes were consolidated, members may be in a different rate class," Reimer added. "Rest assured, we reviewed the accounts that were in a borderline area between categories to make sure they were moved to the appropriate rate class. Plus, some residential farms were reclassified to general service as the account is multi-phase or three-phase power."

"According to our lender's Cooperative Finance Corporations ratios, Federated's small power rate in 2019 was among the lowest in Minnesota and near the bottom 15 percent nationally," Reimer stated. "Even after the rate increase, our position remains in this lowest tier for co-ops state and nationally." 

Members help 26 organizations with \$27,090 in Operation Round Up checks

| Organization | Amount | Purpose |
|---|-----------------|---|
| MCW Indoor Pool, Sherburn | \$140 | Buy Aqua Steps for water aerobics program |
| Caregiver Response Efforts & Service Team (CREST), Fairmont | \$200 | Toward Covid-19 supplies: masks, sanitizer, wipes, etc. |
| JCC High School Science Department | \$230 | Buy writing tablet/pens to write for distance-learning calculations |
| Family Services Network, Jackson | \$250 | Buy waterproof winter gloves/mittens for area children in need |
| HLO Ag Education Program, Okabena | \$346 | Equipment to construct fishing poles for natural resources class |
| Des Moines Valley Health & Human Svcs., Jackson Indoor Pool | \$500 | Lumber to build plots for community accessible garden |
| HLO Elementary Library | \$512 | Replace pool water noodles, basketball rim, fins & kick boards |
| Friends of Jackson County Trails | \$561 | Buy 31 non-fiction books on dinosaurs, bears, wild cats, etc. |
| JCC Lakefield Elementary & Middle Schools | \$590 | 80 bike helmets to ensure children/users wear helmets |
| JCC Ag Department, Jackson | \$648 | Materials for mindfulness/coping/suicide prevention kits |
| MCW Preschool/Kindergarten | \$658 | Buy six Air Fryers to teach students new ways of cooking |
| Sherburn Fire Department | \$850 | Two i-Pads to teach students during group activities |
| Okabena Community Club & the City | \$900 | Grain bin rescue auger, which will be shared with other depts. |
| JCC High School | \$905 | Toward main street planters to beautify downtown |
| Jackson Food Shelf | \$1,000 | Dave Ramsey's "Foundations in Personal Finance" curriculum |
| Lutheran Social Services, Fairmont | \$1,000 | Buy turkey or ham for the Christmas boxes |
| Lutheran Social Services, Lakefield | \$1,000 | Toward a dish sanitizer to safely provide meals for seniors |
| Round Lake Parks Committee & City | \$1,000 | Emergency meals for elderly during bad weather/pandemic |
| HLO Industrial Arts Program, Okabena | \$1,000 | To replace 50-year-old merry-go-round upgrading city park |
| S. Central Volunteer Dive Team, Trimont | \$1,000 | Buy four welding masks for students |
| Ceylon Emergency Medical Svcs. | \$1,000 | Toward emergency vehicle's lights & siren |
| Martin County West Trimont Elementary | \$1,000 | Toward purchase of an extractor/washing machine/dryer |
| Des Moines Valley Health & Human Svcs | \$1,000 | Buy four bikes for the physical education program |
| Salvation Army's Heatshare program | \$1,500 | Help Federated members w/emergency-energy assistance |
| City of Sherburn & MCW Schools | \$1,500 | Help Federated members w/emergency-energy assistance |
| 9 \$700 high school scholarships | \$6,300 | Toward flashing traffic lights by high school & elementary |
| Total | \$27,090 | For Federated members' high school senior graduates |

The Trust Board received 33 applications totaling \$61,086 in this 52nd round of funding. The deadline for submitting the spring applications is February 12, 2021. Find the Round Up application at www.federatedrea.coop. 

Three \$1,000 scholarships available to Federated students

Federated parents: give your high school senior or college student a homework assignment over holiday break. Have your student apply for the three Basin \$1,000 scholarships.

"This scholarship comes from Basin Electric Power Cooperative based in Bismarck, North Dakota, which became a wholesale power supplier for Federated in 2008, and L&O Power Cooperative in Rock Rapids, Iowa," stated Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "Basin awards 137 of these scholarships to local electric co-ops with two going to Federated students. Plus, this year Federated




offers a third one replacing the Youth Tour D.C. trip."

The scholarships are available to high school seniors and college students who will be enrolled fulltime in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school, working on an undergraduate or master's degree. Previous Federated Basin scholarship winners are not

eligible to apply again. Applicants must be 25 or under, and be U.S. citizens. The scholarship must be used for college during Fall 2021.

Applicants must complete a two-page application, including a grades' transcript, ACT/SAT scores, write an essay and have an outside appraisal (reference checklist). Write a one-page essay on: *Describe how a cooperative can be economic engines for their local communities.*

The deadline is January 29, 2021. Applications are available from www.federatedrea.coop or from local high school counselors. 

The co-op energy doctor is in... diagnosing high energy bills

If you don't feel well, you might go to the doctor to find out the problem. One of the first things a doctor will use to make a diagnosis is a stethoscope and a thermometer. These two tools can tell them a lot of things. The next thing the doctor will do is ask questions. Hopefully, this process leads to a cure.

Your electric co-op's energy expert works in a similar fashion when people call about unexpectedly high energy bills. The first thing an energy expert does is reach for their version of a stethoscope and thermometer — your electric meter.

Today's electric meters do more than measure how much energy a person uses. It measures your home's pulse rate, as in how much power does it use on a given day. They measure your home's temperature, as in how high is its energy demand...and more!

One of the first things your electric co-op's energy expert does when they get a high bill call is pull up the member's billing data. They then get the member's meter ID and look it up in the automatic metering system. The data enables a diagnosis of the possible problem.

Your co-op's energy expert then looks for any out-of-the-ordinary readings. For example, one high day, a consistently weekly spike or unusually high energy demand at a given time. Usage that increases by 50 percent or more on a daily basis is a good place to start.

Next, your co-op's energy expert considers the weather. Was it an especially cold or hot month? Sometimes what seems like a high bill is actually normal for the weather conditions. Your co-op's energy expert can look back at other months or even years on your account to get an idea if the energy usage is abnormal or not. Looking at the month's heating and cooling degree days indicates if the month's temperatures were higher or lower or near normal.

Once the basics are covered, your electric co-op's energy expert starts asking questions to hopefully find a cure for the high bill if it is not due to normal usage.

Questions include:

- Have you done anything different this month?
- How many people live in the house?
- Is any type of electric space heating, engine block heating, garage heating or in-floor heating being used?
- Do appliances with compressors, like freezers, fridges, central air or heat pumps, always seem to be running?
- Do you have a well or sump pump? Has there been excessive rain/water lately to makes those pumps run more than usual?
- What types of usage do the farm's out-buildings typically see during that time of year?



Your electric meter works like a doctor's stethoscope, as it helps your electric co-op's energy expert diagnose high bill calls. Your energy expert can use the meter data to help pinpoint possible causes.

- What is the thermostat setting in house?
- Is the house drafty? Is it well insulated?
- How large is the home?
- If no one lives in the house, is there a well pump, dehumidifier or low-level heat source still running?
- Has any contractor done any work there recently?

These questions enable your energy doctor to make a diagnosis. The following are some examples of high bill causes that have been discovered by following this process of using the member's electric meter and asking questions.

Example 1: no one was living in the house, but it had a damp basement and two dehumidifiers were running on a constant basis.

Example 2: a new homeowner discovered that the previous owner had in-floor heat in an outside slab of concrete, which had been left on and ran continuously.

Example 3: one member verified they had changed nothing, but they mentioned they had livestock and it was always damp near the outdoor water hydrant. It turned out there was a water line leak. The well pump had to run continuously to accommodate the water excess.

Example 4: a member purchased two new electric space heaters and was running them all day long.

Thanks to modern electric meters, your electric co-op's energy expert is able to diagnose many high bill calls and provide a cure for the stress they may create. If you notice your electric bill is excessively high, give your electric co-op a call today. ☎

Share your rice recipes, as it's thrice as nice this time of year

It would be nice of you to share your rice recipes, whether for fried rice, Spanish, pudding, hot dish, side dishes or even in meatballs. Send your rice recipes to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by December 23. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! 🗣️

IT'S COLD OUTSIDE.

Our smart home security systems protect your home and loved ones from intruders, carbon monoxide, fire and other threats.

888.264.6380 | heartlandss.com



Heartland Security is a subsidiary of your electric co-op; ask about the member discount

Peanut Clusters

by Janice Moeller, Granada

2 jars (16 oz.) dry roasted peanuts
4 oz. bar German chocolate (premium baking chocolate), chopped into pieces for faster melting

12 oz. milk chocolate chips
24 oz. white almond bark, chopped into pieces for faster melting

Layer in the crock pot. Put on low for two hours. Do not lift the cover. Stir after two hours.

Put into little baking cups. This recipe makes 100.

Refrigerate to solidify. 🗣️

***Pick up the phone
before the shovel;
call before digging!***

1-800-252-1166



Call Gopher State One Call before doing any digging more than 12" deep — 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register at www.gopherstate-onecall.org or call 811. Call a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. 🗣️

***Your electric co-op is
closed for the holidays:
December 24, 25
& January 1***

Crews will be on call for any outages



Scott Reimer

Manager's Message

Contractors finish line rebuilds from 2019

As the year rolls on, so does the progress at Federated. One of the bigger things on our plate is the restoration and rebuilding from the 2019 ice storm. This went extremely well; we are literally constructing the last mile of overhead line and our contractors will be off site by the end of November. We received a couple reimbursements totaling around \$1.7 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We will finalize the accounting for the 2020 rebuilds and submit that soon. We think that will come in around \$2.1 million.

One more project will occur in 2021, which is called a mitigation project. We have selected sections of overhead line proven to be more susceptible to weather-related events and will bury underground cable eliminating this risk. The engineer's estimate the cost at \$1.1 million and that nears approval by FEMA. All in all, this has been a good process, but it takes attention to detail. Kudos go to our accounting and operations staff for this.

Rate increase communications continues in December

The rate implementation planning and communications has been ongoing for several months now and is nearing completion. The rate classes were established. Rate letters or a bill insert will occur for each rate class this month. If you would like to see a past *Connections* edition, they are all on our website. Clearly, the biggest challenge has been the transition to the demand classification. The reason this is done is to capture revenue from high demand users, as it occurs. We incur these expenses from our wholesale power suppliers and that can range anywhere from a low of \$6 to a high of \$18. The highest demand costs typically occur during the months of June, July and August so we want to mitigate those if possible. The highest demand charge that we will implement is \$7 per kilowatt (kW). For members on a demand rate the options include energy efficiency, load management or staggering of equipment startups. We will be monitoring member loads to make sure they are in the correct rate class. Typically, you see a lower kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge in place with a demand rate. This is the case with our new rates. We have taken a few calls; we have select, dedicated staff standing by that are most able to answer your questions so please call us with any questions.

Office ground source heat pump upgraded after 20 years

After more than 20 years of good use, our ground source heating/cooling system equipment failed; due to its age and lack of parts, it was beyond repair. Our contractor, Country Wide Plumbing and Heating finished up with the install just in time for the colder weather. It's been working great! The efficiency of this new equipment inside will be even better. We will monitor usage over the winter, as well as throughout the summer. Thanks go to Justin and his crew, along with our Master Electrician Dave Berlin for the installation.



Rural Electric

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The Board of Directors generally meets the last business day of the month at 8 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

2021 legislative issues on the horizon...

Many of you have been monitoring the political and legislative landscape. We are all hopeful that we can return to some normalcy. Through it all, Federated, along with our state and national associations, have maintained communications with our elected officials both in Minnesota and those in Washington, D.C. We became experts at Zoom, MS Teams, Webex, Skype and other forms of communication replacing the face-to-face meeting, which seem so long ago.

We are paying attention to issues that will become a grassroots focus once the sessions begin. To name a few at the state level are: deployment of high-speed broadband to rural members; Energy Conservation and Optimization Act; and permitting requirements for load management receivers. At the federal level our focus issues include: beneficial electrification, cybersecurity, distributed energy resources, environmental issues, financial and tax policy; power supply and wholesale markets; reliability and security; safety; telecommunications and broadband, plus transmission and generation. All of these topics are ongoing and affect every electric cooperative to some extent and thus you, our members.

I would like to wish all of you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. 🇺🇸