

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Mitchell Tech Expansion

**Co-ops Support
New Training Lab**

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Weather Warnings

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*Photo submitted by
Mitchell Technical College*

The Impact of Energy & Demand on Grid Reliability



Chris Larson,
General Manager

Do you know the difference between energy and demand — and why it should matter to you? Understanding the difference between the two — and how to manage them within your household, business or farm operation — can significantly impact how much of a burden you place on the power grid.

Kilowatt-hours (kWh) measure the total amount of power consumption by your household, business or farm operation over a period of time. This is also referred to as energy. Meanwhile, a kilowatt (kW) is a measurement of electrical power that describes how much energy is required at a single moment in time. This reflects the demand your household, business or farm operation places on the power grid.

FINDING WAYS TO REDUCE DEMAND AND BOOST GRID RELIABILITY

Why does managing demand (kW) levels matter? Simply put, reducing your own energy demand helps secure greater reliability across your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative's footprint by placing less of a burden on the power grid.

HERE ARE THREE SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN LOWER KW TOTALS AND HELP POWER RELIABILITY — BOTH FOR YOUR INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD AND THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

1. Stagger power use in your household or business

If you're running multiple appliances and devices simultaneously, the demand you place on local power supply will surge. Consider staggering the use of your dishwasher, washing machine and dryer. Or perhaps you can power up your devices overnight so that you're not charging them while brewing coffee, frying a couple of eggs and watching the morning show on TV.

2. Maximize your own energy efficiency

There are many ways to shore up efficiency in your home or business. Replacing older appliances with new, more energy-efficient models will help manage your overall electricity consumption totals (kWh) and lower your demand (kW). Other simple measures such as adjusting your thermostat during winter and summer months and addressing poor insulation can also lower the strain you place on the power grid.

3. Run certain appliances during off-peak hours

Because we live in a world where work and home schedules tend to look fairly similar, most power cooperative customers overlap usage at certain times of the day. That means there is increased demand for electricity, which can translate to greater kW levels during a billing period. Small changes to your routine can lighten your load on the local power supply and

keep demand down. If you work from home, for example, consider running your washing machine mid-morning rather than in the evening when many of your neighbors are using more electricity.

STABILIZING RATES WITH A FIXED CHARGE

In today's energy market, the need for collecting more in a monthly fixed charge has become increasingly important to stabilize rates. Historically, utility companies relied heavily on revenue from kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales to cover their operational costs and investments in infrastructure. However, with the growing adoption of energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources, the overall consumption of electricity has decreased. This reduction in KWH sales means that utilities are collecting less revenue from variable charges, which can lead to financial instability and the inability to maintain and upgrade the grid effectively.

A fixed charge helps ensure a stable and predictable revenue stream for utilities, which is crucial for maintaining the reliability and resilience of the power grid. By collecting more in a monthly fixed charge, utilities can cover their fixed costs, such as maintenance and infrastructure investments, regardless of fluctuations in electricity consumption. This approach provides financial stability and reduces the need to push for a demand rate, which can be more complex and less predictable for both utilities and consumers.

Additionally, a higher fixed charge can help mitigate the impact of reduced kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales due to the growing adoption of energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources. This ensures that utilities have the necessary funds to maintain and upgrade the grid, even as overall electricity consumption decreases. By stabilizing revenue through a fixed charge, utilities can focus on promoting energy conservation and managing demand more effectively, without the immediate pressure to implement demand rates.

A higher fixed charge helps balance the monthly bills that members pay, ensuring they don't experience significant spikes in their payments. This approach provides a more predictable and stable billing structure, which can be particularly beneficial during periods of fluctuating electricity consumption. By stabilizing the revenue stream through a fixed charge, utilities can maintain consistent rates and avoid sudden increases that might otherwise occur due to variations in kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales.

Thank you again, for allowing us to provide your electric service needs.

Chris Larson
General Manager

clarson@clayunionelectric.coop

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

CLAY-UNION ELECTRIC SPARKS

(USPS 116-800)

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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Clay-Union
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Clay-Union Electric Member/Community Appreciation Day Friday, August 8th • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Clay County Fair Grounds



• Safety Demos

Hours: 10-11a.m., Noon-1p.m. 2-3p.m.

• Dunk a lineman

Hours: Noon-4 p.m.

• Bucket Rides

Hours: 11a.m.-Noon, 1-2 p.m., 3-4 p.m.

• Register for door prizes

• Pick up your voucher*

for the concession stand

(vouchers only available at our booth, voucher good for Friday or Saturday)

*(*One voucher per person, all proceeds go to the Clay Co. Fair)*



Proud sponsor of the Clay County Fair
and the 4-H groups

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	May 2025	Year To Date
Number of consumers BILLED	3,931	3,921
Electric & Other Revenue	\$611,011	\$4,053,598
Cost of Service	\$712,443	\$4,384,062
Operating Margins	\$(101,432)	\$(330,464)
Other Margins	\$58,589	\$63,152
Net Margins	\$(42,843)	\$(267,312)
KWH Purchased	4,620,704	37,411,816
Cost of Power	\$418,248	\$2,062,213
KWH Sales	4,287,772	35,853,590
Average kWhs used (residential)	907	1,367
Average Amount of Bill (residential)	\$142	\$181

Staying Alert With Kids in Hot Cars

Source: National Safety Council

Since 1998, more than 1,010 children have died from vehicular heatstroke, an average of 37 per year. Parents and caregivers can act immediately to end these preventable deaths.

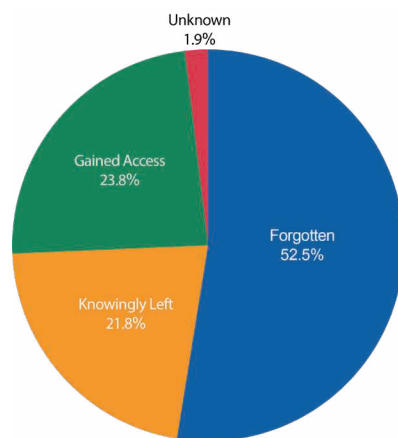
How Does It Happen?

Even on mild or cloudy days, temperatures inside vehicles can reach life-threatening levels. Leaving windows slightly open doesn't help. Children should never be left unattended or be able to get inside a vehicle. Three primary circumstances resulting in deaths of children in hot cars are:

- A caregiver forgets a child in a vehicle - 53%
- A child gains access to a vehicle - 24%
- Someone knowingly leaves a child in a vehicle - 22%

NSC advises parents and caregivers to stick to a routine and avoid distractions to reduce the risk of forgetting a child. Place a purse, briefcase or even a left shoe in the back seat to force you to take one last look before walking away. Keep car doors locked so children cannot gain access and teach them that cars are not play areas.

There is no safe amount of time to leave a child in a vehicle, even if you are just running a quick errand.



nsc
National Safety Council

Child Passenger Safety
Child Passenger Safety Council
VEHICULAR HEATSTROKE PREVENTION



"Never fly a kite by a power line!"

Kasen Tikka, Age 9

Kasen warns readers about the dangers of flying a kite near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Kasen! Kasen's parents are Corey and Marcel Tikka from Lake Norden, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Delicious DESSERTS

STRAWBERRY ANGEL FOOD DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 angel food cake
(baked and cut in pieces)
3.9 oz vanilla pudding
1 3/4 cups milk
3 cups sliced strawberries
1/4 cup sugar
8 oz. Cool Whip, thawed

Method

Put the angel food cake in a 9"x13" pan. In a separate bowl, combine vanilla pudding and milk; whisk together until thick; set aside. In another bowl, combine sliced strawberries and sugar; pour over the cake. Spread pudding over strawberries. Top with 8 oz. Cool Whip. Add more strawberries on top. Chill 1 hour before serving.

Gladys Bauer
Cam Wal Electric

MONSTER COOKIE BARS

Ingredients:

1 stick butter
1 1/2 cups peanut butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
3 eggs
2 tsps. baking soda
4 1/2 cups oatmeal
12 oz. chocolate chips
12 oz. plain M&Ms

Method

Mix butter, peanut butter, sugar, brown sugar, vanilla and eggs. Add dry ingredients and mix in chocolate chips and M&Ms. Bake at 350°F for 15 minutes (no longer) in a large jelly roll pan. They may not look done but they are. Enjoy!

Rhonda Tuscherer
FEM Electric

BLUEBERRY TORTE

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tbsp. sugar
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
8 oz. Cool Whip (reserve part for topping)
1qt. blueberries (fresh or frozen)
1 cup water
1 cup sugar
3 tbsps. cornstarch

Method

Cut butter into flour and sugar. Press into a 9"x13" pan and bake at 350°F for 20 minutes. Chill. Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread over crust. Simmer one cup blueberries and 2/3 cup water for five minutes. Blend sugar and cornstarch; add 1/3 cup water and mix until smooth. Combine with cooked berries and boil until thick and transparent. Cool and add remaining berries. Chill thoroughly and spoon over cream cheese mixture. Chill several hours or overnight. Top with Cool Whip.

Janet Lefers
Douglas Electric

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Cool Savings: Refrigerator and Freezer Efficiency Tips



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Q: What are some ways I can improve the efficiency of my refrigerator and freezer?

A: When exploring ways to be more efficient with refrigerators and freezers, we often find ourselves stuck between convenience and conserving energy. While you can upgrade to newer equipment, care and equipment habits can be just as important to saving energy.

Here is some guidance on equipment energy use, including tips to keep your current equipment running efficiently and ways to limit overuse of refrigeration in our homes.

The U.S. Department of Energy helps us understand what to look for in our existing equipment and new appliances. In general, the larger the refrigerator, the more energy it uses. The most efficient models are typically 16 to 20 cubic feet. Models with the freezer on top tend to use less energy than bottom freezers or side-by-side units. A refrigerator 15 years or older uses about 35% more energy than an Energy Star-certified model.

Let's explore some tips to keep your refrigerator running efficiently.

Keep it organized. One of the biggest issues with refrigerator energy use is opening the door or keeping it open. An organized fridge makes food items easier to find, minimizing open-door time and keeping cold air inside. Place items in the same spots so they are easier and faster to find. I tell my kids to take a quick look inside at the options and close the door while they are deciding what to eat.

Keep it clean. Regularly cleaning the gasket – the flexible strip around the perimeter of the fridge door – ensures a tight seal between the door and the unit to keep cold air inside. If the gasket is not sealing tightly, it should be replaced. Removing and cleaning the vent at the bottom of the unit can help airflow. For the coils at the back, use an extended cleaning brush instead of moving the fridge and risking injury.

Also, keep food safety in mind. The Department of Energy recommends setting your refrigerator

temperature between 35 and 38 degrees and freezer at 0 degrees.

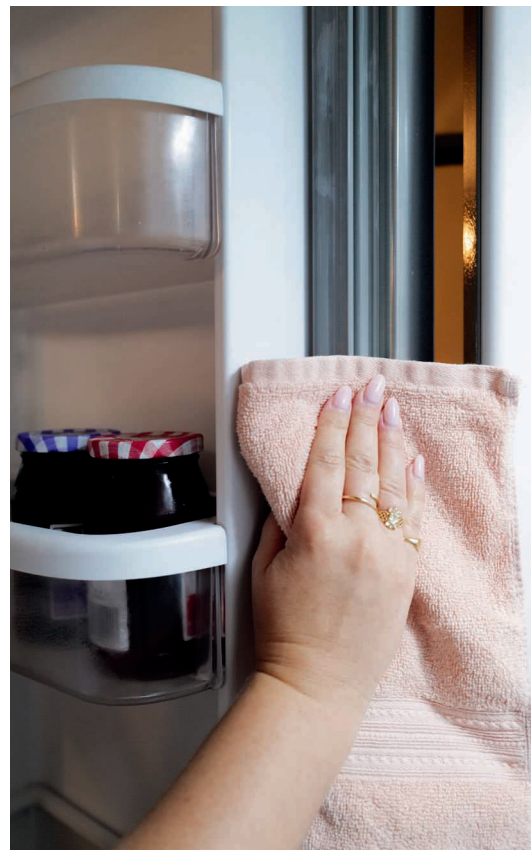
If you have a second refrigerator or freezer, here are some things to consider that can help you save energy.

Do you need it plugged in year-round? Perhaps you can keep it empty and unplugged for part of the year. Maybe you only really need it during the holiday season. Unplugging it for the months you aren't using it will save energy, and you'll still have it as a backup when you need it.

If you are a hunter or buy meat in bulk, set a goal to empty out your freezer before you restock. This allows you to avoid food waste and unplug the extra appliance when it is not needed.

If possible, consider the location. Keeping the second fridge or freezer in a cool basement versus a hot garage requires less energy.

Instilling simple cleaning and food storage habits are easy ways to be more efficient with your in-home refrigeration.





August 7-9, 2025

Brought to you by:



Thursday, August 7

- 10:30 am 4-H Companion Animal Show
- 12 pm 4-H Poultry Show
- 12-10 pm Inflatables
- 1-3 pm Tahiti Joe Performs
- 1-3 pm 4-H Ambassador Petting Zoo
- 1-7 pm Honey Bee Demonstration
- 1-8 pm Vendor Booths Open
- 3-11 pm Beer Garden Tent
- 4:30 pm Local Fare at the Fair
hosted by Farmers Market
- 5 pm Free Community BBQ
- 5 pm 4-H Swine Show
- 5-7 pm Fire Department Demonstration
- 5-8 pm Craft Beer Sampling with
Ben's Brewing & XIX Brewing
- 5-9 pm Jetley Park Performs
- 7 pm Bulls on the Bluff presented by
Raise 'em Rank

Bull Riding
Adult \$20
Youth \$15



For a complete schedule and more information about events, please visit

www.claycountyfair.net



Friday, August 8

- 8:30 am 4-H Sheep & Goat Show
- 10-5 pm Ag Day
- 10-5 pm **Clay-Union Electric Member & Community Appreciation Day**
- 11-1 pm Elaine Peacock Band Performs
- 12-10 pm Inflatables
- 1-7 pm Honey Bee Demonstration
- 1-8 pm Vendor Booths Open
- 2 pm 4-H Rabbit Show
- 3 pm Animal Costume Contest
- 3-12 am Beer Garden Tent
- 4:30 pm Barnyard Olympics
- 5 pm Ice Cream Social
- 5-8 pm Craft Beer Sampling with
Ben's Brewing & XIX Brewing
- 6 pm Great Plains Tractor Pull
- 8-12 am Free Street Dance featuring
Kenny K and the Dead Cowboys

Tractor Pull
Admission
Adult \$15
Youth \$10

Saturday, August 9

- 9 am 4-H Beef Show
- 10 am Cornhole Tournament
- 10 am Kids Pedal Pull
- 10-6 am Vendor Booths Open
- 10-10 pm Inflatables
- 11-12 pm Open Class Pie Entry
- 11-3 pm Car, Truck & Tractor Show
- 12 pm 4-H Round Robin Contest
- 12-7 pm Beer Garden Tent
- 1:30 pm 4-H Buddy Show
- 3 pm 4-H Fashion Revue
- 3-4 pm Salsa Competition
- 4 pm Pie Auction
- 4 pm Chasing the 4 of Clubs Finale
- 5 pm Arena Gates Open
- 7 pm Demolition Derby

Derby
Admission
Adult \$15
Youth \$10



FUNDING FUTURES

Rural Electric Cooperatives Support New Training Facility

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Mitchell Technical College is well known among the region's rural electric cooperatives for its industry-leading lineworker training programs.

Now, that program is about to get even better, as MTC begins construction on a new, state-of-the-art underground cable equipment training facility.

The Power Line Underground Lab will allow students to learn how to trench, bore, and connect cables in an environment away from other labs and courses.

Additionally, being indoors and having a dirt floor, instructors have the added benefit of being able to plan courses without worry regarding outside weather and frozen ground during winter.

"The new facility allows us to be able to use our underground curriculum and teach it all throughout the school year, instead of just the beginning and the end when the ground is thawed out," MTC's president, Theresa Kriese said about the space.

"They get more equipment time because we're not trying to

A render showing Mitchell Technical College's new Power Line Underground Lab. MTC says students will practice underground utility work in this new facility, away from other courses' labs to reduce crowding. Submitted Photo



Construction of MTC's Power Line Underground Lab began this spring. MTC expects students beginning in the fall semester of 2026. Submitted Photo

share a lab where we're also planting poles."

Kriese hopes spreading out the curriculum over the semester will allow MTC's instructors to dive deeper into certain course topics with their students, making them overall better candidates for employment when they enter the workforce.

"We're seeing the energy industry making another transformation where underground is really gaining a larger presence than it had in the past", Kriese added, noting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's push to replace downed overhead lines with resilient underground cables after storms.

"We're finding that if we can have our students trained in both (overhead and underground), it opens some opportunities for them, because they may not be able to climb that pole their entire life," she continued. "It gives some flexibility to the employer, because I can hire somebody that can climb but they can also do that underground connection. So wherever I need them, I can have them work in my employment area."

Central Electric Cooperative General Manager Ken Schlimgen agrees, adding that with more and more electric co-ops working to replace their aging overhead infrastructure with underground line, MTC's new underground focus will help alleviate future workforce challenges.

"When we support Mitchell Tech programs, it's an investment into our most important asset: our workforce," Schlimgen said. "Workforce challenges will continue for decades, and having a competent, qualified team of lineworkers to serve our members and keep the lights on is vital to our success."

Central Electric is just one electric co-op providing financial support for the expansion.

At the time of writing, more than 20 electric co-ops in South Dakota have pledged over \$460,000 to MTC in support of the facility.

"Power line personnel are the backbone of our cooperative family, keeping the lights on for our members and being leaders in our communities," said Steve Barnett, general manager for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association.

"Mitchell Technical College is a workforce pipeline for this profession and is vital to cooperatives across our region."

Kriesie said staff and student excitement is growing ahead of the facility's expected 2026 completion and expressed appreciation to electric

co-ops for their support.

"Mitchell Tech is making a statement and a commitment to the energy industry that we are your partner in developing and training employees for you," Kriesie said.

"Without the partnership of the electric cooperatives, we really

wouldn't be able to make this expansion."

The project is slated to celebrate its grand opening in the Fall of 2026, when students and Mitchell Tech faculty will begin using the facility to train tomorrow's electric cooperative workforce.



MTC's current plan for the Power Line Underground Lab shows a 34,000 square foot facility, made up of a 23,500 square foot underground lab, a 7,755 square foot vehicle and equipment storage area and a 1,000 square foot classroom.

Submitted Photo



Theresa Kriesie
President
MTC



Steve Barnett
General Manager
SDREA



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager
Central Electric

A Glimpse Through Our Eyes



On June 23, 2025, high winds swept through the area bringing tree branches down in more than one location of our service territory. The photo above was captured by Alan Gauer, Operations Manager, during a call at 11:45 p.m.

The branches were weighing down the lines near a mobile home in Yankton. Assisting in the process of removing the limbs were linemen Jake Husby and Clayton Sorensen, restoring power to approximately eighty-seven members within 1.5 hours.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: energy.gov





Elizabeth Wright, Burbank, and an Elk Point High School Senior, was honored to attend on behalf of Clay-Union Electric

Thirty-six teens representing 22 South Dakota electric cooperatives traveled to the Washington, D.C., area June 15–21 for the 2025 South Dakota Youth Tour.

The program traces its roots to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson, who urged electric cooperatives to send young people to the nation's capital so they “can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.” Since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963, more than 1,300 students have represented the Rushmore State on this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

The 2025 group visited many historic and impactful sites in Washington, D.C., including Ford's Theater—the site of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination

in 1865. Their visit, which took place on Juneteenth, added a layer of reflection on the nation's path toward emancipation and equality. The group continued to explore themes of patriotism and national history throughout the week, viewing the Star-Spangled Banner at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing where a significant amount of the nation's money is printed.

Students also met with South Dakota's congressional leaders, including U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, and had the chance to connect with Youth Tour

participants from 44 other states. Together, they toured many of the nation's most treasured landmarks, including the U.S. Supreme Court, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, and more.

At the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, students concluded their trip with NRECA-led events, where they heard an inspiring message about perseverance and leadership from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men's wheelchair basketball.

“The Youth Tour was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Abby VanderLinden with Lake Region. “There are so many opportunities you get to partake in that you can't experience on a regular family trip. My favorite part was the Holocaust Museum and being able to talk to two ladies that survived. It was the most eye-opening museum and it changed my perspective on life.”



WEATHER WARNINGS

Storm clouds gather near Nunda, S.D.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

Getting Ready for Severe Summer Storms

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Midwest summers have a certain notoriety for their extreme summer weather events.

South Dakota is no exception. Between May 2015 and June 2025, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported more than 200 tornadic events in South Dakota.

The Recipe for Severe Weather

According to Peter Rogers, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) Office in Sioux Falls, there are four foundational components for the specific type of thunderstorms that produce tornadoes called supercells.

The first component is moisture – it's needed to form clouds. The second component, lift, refers to an upward motion of the air. In places without mountains like eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, that occurs when a cold or warm front moves into the area and the laws of physics force warm air upward.

The third component, instability, is the

difference between the two air masses.

"If you have pockets of air that are hotter than the air around them, they'll continue to rise," Rogers explained. "And the instability is the extent to how far those parcels will rise."

The final component, wind shear, is how the wind speed and direction changes with altitude.

"Here, at the surface, we're normally only concerned about what the wind speed is doing at the surface," Rogers explained.

"But as meteorologists, we want to know what's happening at 5, 10, 15 ... feet and so on. The more changes you have with wind speed and direction ... with height increases your chances of going from just your garden-variety thunderstorm to a severe thunderstorm that's more capable of producing strong winds and tornadoes."

Over the last 10 years, South Dakota has seen tornadoes mostly ranking EF-0, EF-1 and EF-2 on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

The scale, named for its developer, meteorologist Ted Fujita, ranks tornadoes on a scale from 0 to 5 based on recorded wind speed and the damage observed that can be attributed to the tornado, with an

EF-5 being the most severe.

An EF-0 tornado will leave behind damage indicators showing wind speeds between 65 and 85 mph, while an EF-1 tornado will show damage indicating wind speeds between 86 and 110 mph, an EF-2 111-135 mph, an EF-3 136-165 mph, an EF-4 166-200 mph and an EF-5 being anything over 200 mph.

But weak and strong tornadoes alike can be deadly without proper action.

Working at the National Weather Service, it's part of Roger's job to get severe weather alerts out to the public.

Weather radios are particularly helpful in severe weather scenarios, he explained, because you can set them to alert you any time the NWS sends out an alert for your area.

"Severe weather is not just an afternoon or evening phenomenon," Rogers said.

"We often have some pretty big events in the middle of the night, so you want to have something that's going to wake you up in the middle of the night so you can get to shelter."

NOAA Weather
Radios can tune
to your local
forecast 24
hours per day.



As any Midwest resident knows, there's far more summertime severe weather than just tornadoes.

Derechoes, which decimated much of eastern South Dakota and Western Minnesota in 2022, produces a wall of strong, fast gusts of wind that can be just as dangerous as a tornado.

According to the NWS, for a storm to be classified as a derecho, it must extend 250 miles with gusts of at least 58 mph and produce several gusts of at least 75 mph.

In western South Dakota, the Black Hills help create the optimal conditions needed for severe hail.

"What you need is a really strong thunderstorm that has a really strong updraft," explained Kelly Serr, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service Office in Aberdeen.

"When that updraft is really strong, it reaches the very coldest levels of the atmosphere where tiny droplets of rain start to freeze."

The stronger the draft, the longer the frozen rain drop will remain in the atmosphere. And the longer it's stuck in the updraft, the more water it collects, growing in size until finally the hail stone is too heavy to be suspended by the updraft anymore, and it plummets to the ground.

In western and central South Dakota, that process is exacerbated by the Black Hills, which help force the air up even higher and create fast-developing thunderstorms.

During severe weather events like thunderstorms, tornadoes and hail, the NWS encourages those in the pathway of the storm to seek shelter in a basement or a room without windows away from outside walls, as hail and other debris can shatter windows.

"Something we always tell people is to pay attention to the forecast," Serr said. "Know before you go: 'Are we expecting severe storms?' And then have a safety plan in place for wherever you are."

Looking Back at Summer Storms

Delmont Tornado – May 5, 2015

At about 10:45 a.m. on Mother's Day, an EF-2 tornado struck Delmont. The tornado's path began in Charles Mix County, making its way north into Douglas County where it reached Delmont and damaged numerous homes, including Delmont's famous Onion House, and destroyed the Zion Lutheran Church and fire station. The NWS reported a peak wind speed of 130 mph, with the tornado covering 17.3 miles and reaching a width of 400 yards.

Derechos – May 12, July 5, 2022

In the afternoon, a wall of straight line wind known as a derecho moved northeastward through eastern S.D. and Western M.N., with wind speeds reaching over 100 mph. The storm brought with it numerous tornadoes, including an EF-2 tornado with wind speeds up to 120 mph in Castlewood. According to the NWS, the derecho was the "most extreme example on record in terms of the measured significant wind gusts." The National Centers for Environmental Information categorized the storm a billion-dollar disaster event. Less than two months after the May event, a derecho moving southeastward produced wind gusts reaching 99 mph in Howard and 96 mph in Huron. In Sioux Falls, the sky turned green – a rare phenomenon caused by refraction, or the bending of light when passing through and being warped by the water and ice contained within the storm system.

Black Hills Hail – June, 2, 2019

In the morning, a supercell thunderstorm moved through Rapid City, Hermosa and Fairburn, producing golf ball-sized hail that damaged vehicles, homes and crops.

Tripp Tornado – May 8, 1965

The strongest tornado ever recorded in S.D. was in Tripp County. The storm produced snow over the Black Hills, with Lead reporting 36 inches of snow. The Tornado touched down east of Wewela, with a maximum observed width of 1,760 yards, and moved northwest 30 miles. The tornado was classified an F-5.

Source: Event Summaries, Weather.gov

Pierre Hail – July 18, 2023

An afternoon warm front heading east across central S.D. developed into a supercell. Around 6:20 p.m. in Pierre, there were reports of softball-sized and larger hail, with one setting a Hughes County record at 5 inches in diameter.

Dupree Tornado – June 16, 2010

In the afternoon and evening hours, a thunderstorm over Dupree produced damaging winds, torrential rainfall and flooding, and at least 16 tornadoes, with multiple tornadoes being simultaneous. The storm damaged roofs, mobile homes and grain bins. The damage observed indicated an EF-2 tornado.

Vivian Hail – July 23, 2010

A S.D. and U.S. hailstone record was set in Vivian after an evening thunderstorm formed a supercell moving southeastward. The NWS reported numerous hailstones exceeding 6 inch diameters as well as a record-setting 8 inch diameter, 18.625 circumference and 1 pound, 15 ounce hailstone. NWS estimates the hail stone fell at about 100 mph.

Sioux Falls Tornado – Sept. 11, 2019

In the late evening hours of Sept. 10 into the early morning hours of Sept. 11, severe thunderstorms moved across southeast S.D. into M.N. and I.A., bringing 80 to 100 mph straight line winds and three brief EF-2 tornadoes in Sioux Falls. The Avera Health Complex, several commercial spaces, and a neighborhood were damaged.

Jerauld Tornadoes – June 18, 2014

In the evening, a thunderstorm over Jerauld County produced an EF-4 tornado that traveled over 11 miles from Lane to Alpena. The tornado measured 880 yards at its widest. The same storm produced several more tornadoes, including an EF-2 that ravaged Wessington Springs.

Bowdle Tornado – May 22, 2010

A supercell in north central S.D. produced multiple tornadoes, including an EF-4 and golf ball-sized hail near Bowdle. NWS reported nearly 100 downed utility poles.

Clay-Union Electric Corporation Board Meeting Summary

MAY 23, 2025 • VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

The board meeting was called to order on May 23, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. by board President Tom Larsen. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Clay-Union Electric Headquarters.

In attendance were Tom Larsen, Chris Kinney, and Mike Slattery. Sara Schulte was absent and the board seat for District #5 is vacant. Attending staff members included Chris Larson, Beth Bottolfson, Alan Gauer, and Jackie Williams.

Agenda (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Appoint Signatory – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to appoint Chris Kinney to sign the April Minutes and/or Policies as presented in the absence of Secretary, Sara Schulte.

Visitors to Be Heard – None

Approval of Minutes from the April Board Meeting (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the April board minutes held on 4/25/25.

Approval of Minutes from the April Executive Session (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the April executive session minutes held on 4/25/25.

Check List & Electronic Funds Transfer – The board reviewed the EFT/ACH payments, and the monthly check list as presented.

New Members and Refunds (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the new members, refunds and credit deposits as presented.

Early Retirement of Capital Credits (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Early Retirement of Capital Credits as presented.

Contracts – None

Policy Review –

- Policy No. 202 – After reviewing the changes to Policy 202 – Authorized Check Signatures, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the policy as presented.
- Policy No. 303 – After reviewing the changes to Policy 303 – New Line and Service Extensions, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the policy as presented with the added language as discussed.
- Policy No. 312 – Idle Services, after reviewing, the policy was tabled until the next board meeting.

Work Order and Special Equipment Summary – None

REED Loan – A motion was made, seconded, and carried, to approve forwarding a loan application to the full REED Board.

Management Reports:

A. Manager's Report – Manager Larson provided reports on the monthly activities:

June Board Meeting – The date of June 24, 2025, was set as the next regular board meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m.

East River REED/MAC – The REED Board met on April 24th for the monthly meeting. The MAC met immediately after the REED meeting.

New Building – Manager Larson reviewed with the Board various warranties and other happenings that are being dealt with Puetz and other contractors.

SD Line Patrol – Virtual meetings have started in planning the SD Line Patrol poker run scheduled for September 2025. B-Y, Union and Clay-Union will host the event.

Distributed Generation – Manager Larson gave an update on current applications and the process for getting the NOVA portal up and running.

Crew Foreman – The Crew Foreman position has been offered to Quinn Springer, and he has accepted. He began his duties on May 16th.

Electrician Foreman – Joey Nickles started on April 14th. We have him working with Josh to get familiar with our business.

Joint Services Discussion – A meeting was held by the Union and Clay-Union Boards on May 19th @ 8:30 am to discuss possible cost savings efficiencies.

NRECA Director (Action) – A motion was made, seconded, and approved to nominate Tom Larsen as the delegate to vote for the NRECA Director election to be held in June at the SDREA Board Meeting.

Southeastern Annual Meeting – A motion was made, seconded, and accepted to authorize attendance on June 5th at the Freeman High School.

NRECA Legislative Conference – Manager Larson attended the NRECA Legislative Conference from April 27th to April 30th. The South Dakota group met with all three legislators while in Washington, DC.

CFC Election – After discussion, a consensus was reached to have Manager Larson cast a vote in support of the proposed CFC By-Law amendment.

CFC Integrity Fund – Manager Larson reviewed a letter from CFC on the existing balance in the Integrity Fund and that no additional contributions would be asked for in 2025.

East River Resolutions Committee (Action) – A motion was made, seconded, and approved to nominate Mike Slattery to serve on the East River 2025 Resolutions Committee.

B. Administrative Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- April Billing Activity
 - April 2025 Financials
 - IXP Software Upgrades
 - NRECA Benefits Course
 - 2024 Clay-Union Electric Margins to Allocate
 - East River Retirement of 2004 & Partial 2005 Capital Credits
- All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.*

C. Operations Report – Operations Manager Gauer reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Monthly department work summary
- New Service
- Retired Service
- April Outage Report
- Service Upgrades

• Wiring

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Financial Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Balance Sheet
- Interest Income
- kWh Sales Report
- Large Power
- Line Loss
- Operating Statement
- Power Bill
- Summary of Purchased Power

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Legal Report – None

Strategic Planning – None

Safety Meeting Minutes – The April and May Safety Meeting Minutes was posted to the website for the board to review and was discussed during the meeting.

Cyber Security – The April Cyber Security report from East River IT was posted to the website for the board to review and was discussed during the meeting.

Video and/or Meeting Reports –

- East River Report
- East River Financials
- Basin Reports

Calendar – The board reviewed the June 2025 calendar.

Executive Session – The board went into Executive Session at 1:20 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. There was no action taken.

Director Position Opening – Tara Olson declined the Board of Directors Position for District #5.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Thomas Larsen, President

Sara Schulte, Secretary

Outage Reports

Date	Time	Township	Members	Cause
6/2	5:45 p.m.	Multiple Twns.	717	Storm
6/2	5:45 p.m.	Emmet	1	Storm
6/2	5:45 p.m.	Vermillion	1	Storm
6/5	11:30 a.m.	Prairie/Garfield	408	Contractor
6/10	5:00 p.m.	Vermillion	71	Contractor
6/11	12:30 p.m.	Emmet	1	Equip. Failure
6/13	2:00 a.m.	Star	2	Equip. Failure
6/13	12:30 p.m.	Norway	25	Contractor Hit Pole
6/17	4:00 p.m.	Fairview/Prairie	90	Contractor
6/18	9:30 a.m.	Fairview	63	UG Fault
6/23	8:55 p.m.	Meckling	4	Tree
6/23	11:45 p.m.	Mission Hill	87	Tree

Office Hours and Due Dates

Our office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please remember your **PAYMENT DUE DATE is the 20th of EACH MONTH**. Your payment must ARRIVE in our office on the 20th to avoid any penalties. Please allow mailing time as we go by the received date, **NOT the postmark**. If the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, payment is due the following business day. If payment is still not received by the first of the following month, a \$30 collection fee will be applied and a disconnect notice will be mailed. If disconnection for nonpayment occurs, all past and current energy charges, a reconnect fee and sufficient credit deposit will be required before the meter can be reinstalled.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, WE ALSO ACCEPT THESE PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Online Billing:

www.clayunionelectric.coop
Set up your user profile to manage your account, pay your bill and receive billing notification emails.



Bank Draft: Have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the due date.

Recurring Credit/Debit Card: Have your payment automatically deducted from your card on the due date.

By Phone: Call in your credit/debit card payment.

In Office: We accept cash, check, money order or credit/debit card.

By Mail: Send check or money order with your payment slip.

Drop Box: Located on the right side of our main entrance at 31321 SD Hwy 19.

There are no additional fees to use any of the above payment methods.

Collection Fee \$30

Trip Charge-Reconnect Fee

During Business Hours..... \$75

Dishonored Payment \$40

Delinquent Accounts (gross rate)

10 percent on the first \$200 plus 2 percent on the balance.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

UNTIL AUG. 10
Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show
Painting, photography, beadwork, quillwork
Red Cloud Indian School
100 Mission Dr.
Pine Ridge, SD 57770
(605) 867-8257

JULY 26
South Dakota Chislic Festival
10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Freeman, SD
www.sdchislicfestival.com

JULY 26
Richmond Lake Association's Annual Pontoon Poker Run
Aberdeen, SD
605-225-0609

JULY 26
Fort Sisseton Lantern Tour
11907 434th Ave.
Lake City, SD
605-225-0609

JULY 31
SPURS Grand Classic Horse Show
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center
1006 130th St.
Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1099

AUG. 1-2
Armour Prairie Festival
Armour, SD

AUG. 1-3
Fort Sisseton Escape Room
11907 434th Ave.
Lake City, SD
605-225-0609

AUG. 1-10
85th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Sturgis, SD

AUG. 7-10
Clay Cty Fair
Vermillion, SD

AUG. 8
Clay-Union Electric Community Appreciation Day
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Clay Cty Fairgrounds
Vermillion, SD

AUG. 9
Day of Honor
End of WWII 80th Anniversary
10 a.m.
Battleship South Dakota Memorial
12th Street & Kiwanis Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 9
Day Cty Demolition Derby
Day Cty Fairgrounds
6:30 p.m.
Webster, SD
605-680-2763

AUG. 14-17
Watertown Senior Games
Watertown, SD
605-949-0028

AUG. 16
Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race
Big Hills Trails
bhsuper6.com

AUG. 16
Extreme Bull Riding Tour
7:30 a.m.
Yankton, SD
605-760-2153

AUG. 21-24
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 23
McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Challenge Rodeo
4 p.m. Gates Open, 6 p.m. Rodeo
Sioux Falls, SD

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.