

June 2025

Circuits

For Dakota Electric members



**Thanks for
joining us at our
Annual Meeting!**

Details on the
meeting and election
results inside!

DAKOTA ELECTRIC'S CENTER PREVIEW

Ground Front View



Careers

BE A PART OF OUR ENERGY

www.dakotaelectric.com/careers
HResources@dakotaelectric.com
651-463-6301

Contact Us

Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409
Minnesota Relay Service 711
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

Lobby - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

24-Hour Outage & Emergency Service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

Underground Cable Locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or
651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

New & Existing Services

651-463-6247

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer.*

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota
Electric® are registered service marks of the
cooperative.*

*All programs and rebates are subject to
change without notice. Funds are limited and
available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

Board of Directors

DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe | *MREA Director*
David Jones | *Treasurer*
Gerald F. Pittman | *Vice Chair*

DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp | *GRE Director*
Clay Van De Bogart
Terry Donnelly | *Secretary*

DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner
Cyndee Fields
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*
Stacy Miller
Jenny Hoeft

Dakota Electric hosts 87th annual meeting

Dakota Electric held its 87th Annual Meeting on April 24 at its headquarters in Farmington. Members and guests gathered to hear updates from the cooperative's leadership and Board of Directors, focusing on five key areas: safety, rates, future facility needs, potential load growth, and power supply.

Board Chair Paul Bakken, Treasurer David Jones, and CEO Ryan Hentges provided insights into Dakota Electric's strategic priorities. Hentges addressed the cooperative's continued investment in system infrastructure, including new substations, expanded metering, and vegetation management efforts that have improved system reliability and reduced outage times.

As part of his remarks, Hentges discussed the findings of a recent facility planning study that identified the need for increased garage space, equipment storage, land, and office space. He emphasized the importance of proactive planning to accommodate rising energy demands, meet today's needs, and prepare for future opportunities.

Hentges also addressed the growing interest in large-scale data centers and Dakota Electric's responsibility, and statutory requirement, to serve any new electric load looking to be situated within its service area. While no agreements are finalized, Dakota Electric is actively planning to ensure it could serve this type of load without sacrificing the reliability of the electric grid. Hentges reaffirmed that the cooperative will require developers to cover all upgrades to the system through contractual arrangements and any future partnerships will be

evaluated carefully with a focus on reliability, infrastructure readiness, and member value.

To maintain service quality in the face of inflation and increased material costs, Hentges noted that Dakota Electric has filed a rate case with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission—its first since 2019. Despite these financial pressures, the cooperative continues to operate efficiently, with a clean audit and strong fiscal stewardship.

Members were also reminded of Dakota Electric's upcoming Member Appreciation Event at the Minnesota Zoo, which will take place on July 17 and is free for all members and their families. More information will be available in the July edition of Circuits, with registration opening July 1.

Additionally, members voted to approve amendments to the cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, with 85.8% voting in favor.

For those unable to attend, you can view the reports on our YouTube channel or visit www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election.

For the most up-to-date information on these topics and more, please visit our website at www.dakotaelectric.com.



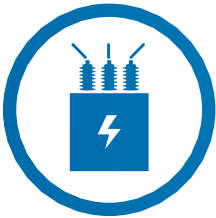
Steps to **restoring** power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible until everyone has power.



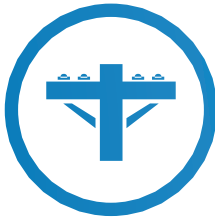
High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



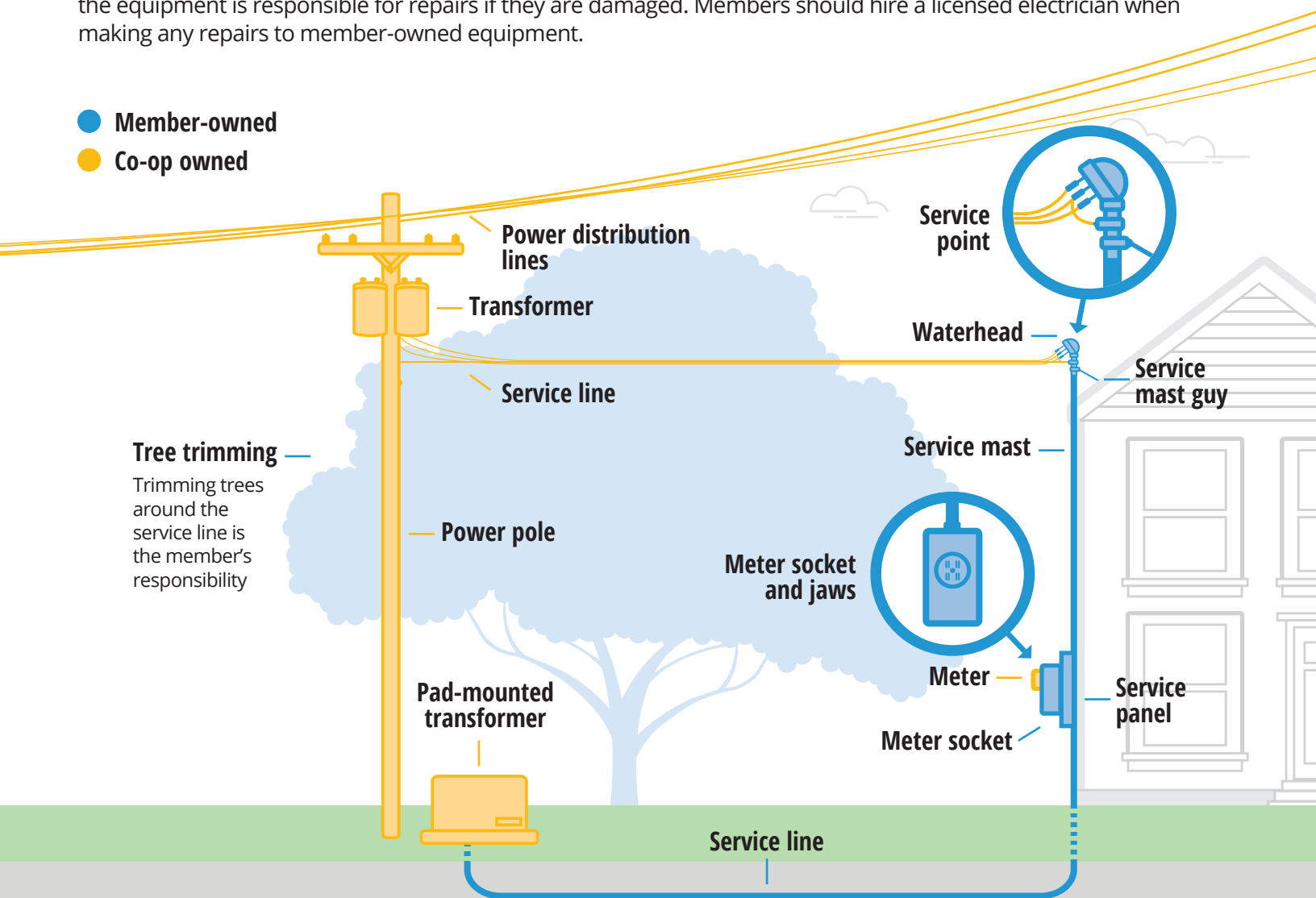
Individual Homes & Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

Who **owns** what?

Dakota Electric Owned Equipment vs. Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by Dakota Electric (in yellow) and the member (in blue). The owner of the equipment is responsible for repairs if they are damaged. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



YOU'VE GOT THE POWER

Small changes, powerful results.

Dakota Electric's summer rates better reflect the cost we pay for wholesale electricity when increased energy use drives up the demand and cost of electricity. Summer rates go into effect every June, July and August.

Take control of your energy use with Dakota Electric's smart, money-saving options. Sign up for our **free** Cycled Air Conditioning® program and receive a \$39 summer bill credit — all while helping reduce demand during peak times.

You can also receive a \$25 rebate for having your AC tuned up by a licensed contractor of your choice. Plus, if you've made the switch to battery-powered yard tools, we offer rebates on those too!

Call our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or visit www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates to learn more.

Get a \$39 summer bill credit with Cycled AC!

Sign up today!



Summer **energy-saving** tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep the heat out.



Replace disposable air filters once a month or follow manufacturer's guidelines to maximize efficiency.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room. Fans cool people, not rooms.



Install a programmable thermostat to easily adjust the temperature when you are sleeping or away from home.



Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment to maximize efficiency.



Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.



Use solar lights to brighten up your outdoor space.



On hot days, avoid using the oven. Cook on the stove, microwave or grill outside.

Board election **results**

Dakota Electric announced the 2025 Board of Directors election results at its April 24 annual meeting. One incumbent from each district was re-elected to a three-year term:

- **District 1:** David Jones (3,872 votes or 66.2% of the total vote)
- **District 2:** Terry Donnelly (3,080 votes or 52.6% of the total vote)
- **District 3:** Cyndee Fields (4,091 votes or 70.3% of the total vote)
- **District 4:** Stacy Miller (3,673 votes or 63% of the total vote)

Survey & Ballot Systems, an independent third party, managed and certified the election process to ensure accuracy and integrity.

Dakota Electric thanks all the candidates and members who participated in this year's election. For complete election details, visit www.dakotaelectric.com.



Members re-elected four incumbent directors this year. (L-R) Terry Donnelly, Cyndee Fields, Stacy Miller and David Jones.

Summer pole **inspections**

Utili-Tech, a pole inspection contractor hired by Dakota Electric, is conducting annual pole inspections in Inver Grove Heights from May through August. The inspector will attempt to contact each member before performing inspections and might need to walk through backyards and private properties. The use of an ATV may be required to access certain pole locations.

Please contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6265 if you have questions or concerns about pole inspections.

Rate case update

On Dec. 30, 2024, Dakota Electric filed a rate case with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), requesting an 11% request in base rates. Dakota Electric last requested a rate increase in 2019. In Feb. 2025, the Commission approved an interim rate increase of 9.5% starting on March 1. The interim rate increase will remain in place until the Commission reaches its decision in late 2025 or early 2026 and new rates start.

The rate case continues to move through the regulatory review process, with state agencies submitting written testimony; and public hearings were held on May 6 and 7 in Apple Valley and Rosemount. Dakota Electric is considering these recommendations, which may result in changes to the original request. All public comments must be eFiled or received by the Commission by 4:30 p.m. on July 1, 2025. You can submit comments to:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147
Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782
E-mail: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Website: www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp. Web address is case sensitive. Click on Search Documents, type 24-400 in the box labeled Docket #s, then click on the blue "Search" button to see the list of documents.

For detailed information on our request, please visit our website at www.dakotaelectric.com/rates.

Committed to the **environment**

Dakota Electric demonstrated its ongoing environmental commitment this spring by donating trees to seven member cities, with each city selecting and planting one of its choice. Additionally, 3,000 tree seedlings were distributed across the service territory as part of the cooperative's annual celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Since launching the program in 1997, Dakota Electric has contributed nearly 200 trees to local cities and over 180,000 seedlings to the community. These efforts support the cooperative's goal of promoting sustainability and building greener, more eco-friendly communities.



4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Music in the Park**
June 20, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Kelley Park, Apple Valley
- **Twins Baseball Clinic**
June 21, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Dodge Middle School Fields

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



SAVE THE DATE

DAKOTA ELECTRIC'S MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Thursday, July 17 | 4-8 p.m.
Minnesota Zoo

Registration opens July 1.
Watch for registration information in
the July edition of *Circuits*.
We hope to see you there!



MINNESOTA ZOO®