

Cold weather rule can keep the heat on

The Cold Weather Rule regulates the conditions under which gas and electric utilities may disconnect residential service in the winter—between Oct. 15 and April 15.

The rule requires that customers who have difficulty paying utility bills contact their utility to work out a mutually acceptable payment plan to keep their heat on.

Should you receive a disconnection notice from Minnesota Power, you must contact us to set up a payment plan to avoid disconnection. Call 1-800-228-4966.

You also might want to contact the state's Energy Assistance Hotline at 1-800-657-3710 to find out if you qualify for additional help in paying your electric bill.



2017 scholarship applications now open

Minnesota Power has given over \$2 million in scholarships since 1997 to more than 800 outstanding college and high school students through two scholarship programs: the New Generation Scholarship and the Community Involvement Scholarship. Learn more and apply at positivelypowerful.org/scholarships.

Some customers eligible for CARE

Minnesota Power continues to accept applications for its CARE program which offers income-qualified households a discount on monthly electric bills. The program goes into effect Oct. 1 each year and ends Sept. 30 the following year. Customers can apply anytime throughout the year. The program also helps households establish a budget payment plan.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission oversees CARE, which

is administered by the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) on behalf of Minnesota Power.

Where to complete the application forms

- Online at mnpower.com/CARE
- Over the phone by calling AEOA at 218-749-2912, ext. 277, or 800-662-5711.
- In person at the AEOA office at 702 Third Ave. S., Virginia, Minn., or at your local energy assistance office.



Energizer News

FALL 2016

Simple, smart ways to save energy and money

Looking for some ways to trim your energy bill? Minnesota Power offers an array of tools and rebates that can help you save energy and money and make your home more comfortable now and in years to come. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Schedule a home energy analysis

A free Home Energy Analysis (HEA) can help you determine how you use energy and what you can do to get the most for your energy dollar. Our friendly and professional auditors will help you identify ways to save energy in your home and you'll receive energy-saving devices (at no charge). Request an HEA at mnpower.com/Hea.

Take advantage of other energy-saving tools

In addition to the Home Energy Analysis, we offer other tools to help you better understand your energy usage. You can calculate what it

continued on Page 3

Photo of Nine Mile Lake on the Sawbill Trail north of Tofte, Minn., by Dennis O'Hara

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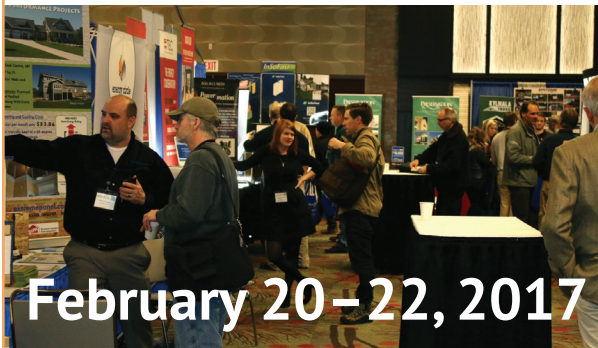


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Tips for weathering a winter power outage

- **Cold weather** is especially hard on infants, children and the elderly. Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, covering the head, feet and hands.
- **Stay away** from low or downed wires as injury or death could occur.
- **Keep a flashlight** with fresh batteries in a location where you can easily find it in the dark.
- **Close doors**, windows and curtains to keep the heat in. Use your fireplace safely.
- **Use hot water sparingly.** Most water heaters are insulated and will keep water hot for up to three days, depending on how much you use.
- **In most cases**, food should be safe if refrigerators and freezers remain closed while the power is out. When in doubt, throw it out.
- **Remember to reset** electric clocks and other electric timing devices.
- **Stock up** on canned and dried foods for a quick and easy meal. Keep a manual can opener on hand.
- **Know how to use** the manual override of your electric garage door (usually pull down on a handled rope hanging down from opener track).
- **Download our online outage app** at mnpower.com for updates on power restoration times in your neighborhood.

Saving energy at home has never been easier

continued from Page 1

costs to run your television and other appliances or compare your home's energy use to similar homes. Find the tools and calculators at mnpower.com/calculators.

Give your furnace a tune-up

Clean and service fossil-fuel heating systems annually to ensure they run efficiently and safely. Regular maintenance can reduce heating and cooling

costs by 5 to 10 percent as well as extend the life of the equipment.

Change your furnace filter

A dirty filter slows air flow and wastes energy by making the system work harder to keep you warm or cool. Monthly filter replacements can save 5 percent on household bills. A clean air filter also prevents dust and dirt buildup that can lead to expensive maintenance or early system failure.

Turn down the thermostat

For each one degree reduction in temperature in the winter you can save 2 percent or more on your heating bill. Consider installing a programmable thermostat.

Rebates

Ready to purchase a new refrigerator or change your home's light bulbs to LEDs? See mnpower.com for details about the rebates we offer.

Changes at Boswell, Taconite Harbor part of EnergyForward strategy

Minnesota Power is making changes at Boswell Energy Center in Cohasset and Taconite Harbor Energy Center in Schroeder as part of its EnergyForward plan to meet customer electric-service needs in a balanced, reliable and cost-effective way. The changes are consistent with MP's planned evolution away from small coal facilities as it adds renewables and natural gas.

The two smaller of Boswell's four generating units, Boswell 1 and 2, will be retired in 2018. Boswell 3 and 4, together capable of generating nearly 1,000 megawatts, will continue to provide the reliable 24/7 power that customers need. Multimillion-dollar investments in emissions reductions at Boswell 3 and 4 have made them among the cleanest coal-fired electric generators in the nation.



Taconite Harbor Energy Center.

At Taconite Harbor, one 75-megawatt unit was retired in 2015 and the remaining two 75-megawatt units were economically idled in September. They'll remain offline but available to be called back into service if needed to maintain power grid reliability until coal operations cease there in 2020.

Minnesota Power is working with its employees and the communities through these transitions.