



LREC crews replacing a transformer at Ten Mile Lake substation.

Hybrid Energy Project Update

During our 2017 annual meeting, we introduced the concept of a solar and wind hybrid electric generating facility to Lake Region's members. However, the project site that we pursued last year in the Pelican Lake area has been canceled due to a variety of reasons.



This doesn't mean that we have given up on the concept. We continue to look forward and feel strongly that a hybrid solar and wind project should still become a key element of our rate stabilization plan. We are also seeking to protect the environment. Such a project would utilize local, renewable energy sources of which the output is carbon free.

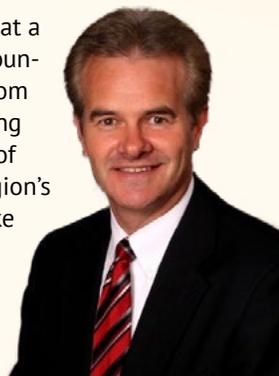
Following the cancellation of the first proposed site, a Lake Region member stepped forward to offer an alternative location. This new site is very promising, especially since it is in a rural location away from lakes in Trondhjem Township, about three miles west of the Erhard substation. The close proximity to the substation is an added benefit of this new site. A wetland variance has already been approved by Otter Tail County for a single wind turbine and a 500 KW solar array. The size of the substation limits the project to only one wind turbine. Additionally, the energy output will flow directly into our cooperative's distribution system, assuring that the locally-produced energy will also be consumed locally.

It is important to note that Lake Region Electric Cooperative will only be purchasing the electric output of the project, so there is very little risk for the cooperative—financial or otherwise. The cooperative will not be taking on any debt in this project. Juhl Energy will construct, operate, and maintain the facilities.

While there are still some hurdles to clear with permitting and engineering, ideally this project will come together around November 1st, 2018. Lake Region is in the process of talking to property owners in the area to address any concerns.

Because the solar/wind production will be at a lower KW cost, the project will provide a counterbalance to purchased electricity costs from our other wholesale energy source. Including more locally produced, renewable sources of energy to meet the local needs of Lake Region's consumer-members makes good sense. Lake Region works hard to hold down all costs, and, in turn, hold the line on the kWh rates you pay.

Tim Thompson

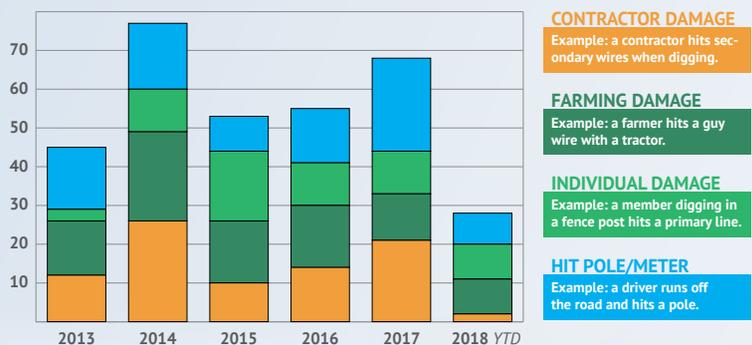


Make Safety Around Power Lines a Priority

We work hard to keep our electrical power system operational and safe. Yet, when it is damaged, hazardous conditions can result. For example, when a driver hits a pole, the energized line could land on the vehicle or end up on the ground where someone might come into contact with it. The power to neighboring homes is disrupted and has to be restored. Our crews must replace the pole and get the line back up, often in nasty weather or at night. Unfortunately, this hypothetical story is too often actually true. In fact, over the last two years, the number of public incident damages has increased, and this year's trend so far doesn't look promising.

We don't want anyone to get hurt, be it our employees or you. We encourage our employees to look around for hazards, survey their surroundings, not to rush, and to always put safety first. We need you, the public, to do the same. Be aware of power lines, whether on the ground or on a pole. Always treat lines as energized until our crews have arrived. Help us reverse the trend, keep your power on, and make safety a top priority.

Number of Public Incidents



safety first 



You must notify Gopher State One Call before you dig. Call **811** or **(800) 252-1166** to avoid costly damages!



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Knowing Your Primary Phone Number Helps Us Keep You Updated

As more and more people decide to drop their landlines and opt for only cell phones, it is important to contact Lake Region Electric Cooperative and provide us with your new primary phone numbers.

“Having incorrect phone number data causes problems with our automated planned outage notification calls,” explains Cheryl Kvidt, Customer Service Team Lead at LREC. “Correct phone number information also is identified by our outage program, so it speeds up the outage reporting process.”

When calling to report an outage, if the number you use is in LREC’s system, the outage management system is able to automatically recognize who is calling. This leads to quicker deployment of line crews, faster repair time, and shorter outage duration. It is also important to keep the cooperative up-to-date with your current email address.

To update your primary phone number or email address, please call the office, email LREC, or fill out your updated information on the back of your bill stub. You can also update your information online at: www.lrec.coop/update

You can receive outage notifications directly to your cell phone via text messages! Learn more at www.lrec.coop/outages



Farm Equipment and Power Lines Don't Mix — Look Up for Safety

Augers, boom sprayers, and other pieces of farm equipment are just the right height, size, and material to become dangerous when they come in contact with overhead power lines. As we head toward harvest season, remember to look up and be aware of overhead power lines.

We, at Lake Region Electric Cooperative, want you to remain safe. To avoid a potentially costly and fatal situation, **look up**.

“Everyone’s already busy this time of year,” said LREC CEO Tim Thompson. “Be aware of your surroundings and remember to look up. Those power lines are energized and bringing electricity to your farm and your neighbor’s farm. If you do come into contact with a power line, call 911 right away.”

Farm Safety Around Power Lines

- 1 Physical contact can cause lethal shock. 
- 2 Do not lift, elevate, build or pass under power lines. 
- 3 Stay at least 15 feet away. 
- 4 Use care with equipment that can be extended. 

Below are tips for operating farm equipment around power lines:

- Physical contact with a power line is extremely hazardous and may cause a lethal shock. Equipment should not be operated under a power line in a manner that would cause contact or near-contact with the wires.
- Do not lift, elevate, build, or pass under a power line any object, tool, or vehicle that may make contact or near-contact with the wires.
- To help prevent arc flashing, it is recommended that equipment, antennas, and people stay at least 15 feet away from any energized power line wire.
- Equipment that can be extended, such as a stack mower or grain elevator, requires the utmost care when in the vicinity of a power line.

If you do come in contact with a power line, take the following steps:

- Call 911 as soon as possible and keep the area clear until help arrives.
- If you can do so without risking your machinery or damaging utility infrastructure, drive at least 40 feet away.
- If the vehicle is on fire or you must exit for other safety reasons, jump clear so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time, and land with feet together. Hop to safety in small steps to avoid electric shock by breaking the current’s path.

safety first 

GRE Sets 50% Renewable Energy Goal for 2030



Great River Energy, LREC’s wholesale power supplier, recently announced a goal to

supply its member-owner cooperatives with energy that is 50 percent from renewable resources by 2030. The announcement was made at the company’s annual meeting.

“Great River Energy has already met Minnesota’s 25 percent renewable energy standard eight years ahead of requirements. We continue to evolve our power supply portfolio, delivering even more renewable energy to our member-owner cooperatives to help them remain competitive in a changing market,” said Great River Energy President and CEO David Saggau. “We look forward to meeting this goal for the benefit of our members while maintaining strong system reliability.”

The announcement of the 50 percent renewable goal comes at a time when home and business owners are increasingly interested in having more renewables in their energy supplies. Increasing renewables can present advantages to cooperatives for attracting and retaining business, as well as meeting the expectations of members who value renewable energy.

Great River Energy has spent more than a decade positioning its portfolio, lowering costs and reducing dependence on coal as a fuel source, while improving the overall flexibility of its generation portfolio. These measures have resulted in a 35 percent reduction in Great River Energy’s carbon dioxide emissions since 2005.

Great River Energy’s renewable portfolio currently includes 468 megawatts (MW) of wind energy, 200 MW of hydropower, 4 MW of solar, and 30 MW of biomass. Great River Energy has announced plans for an additional 300 MW of favorably priced wind energy by 2020.