

## Your Legislators

### Federal



*Congressman Collin Peterson*  
2211 Rayburn House Ofc  
Building  
Washington DC 20515  
Ph: 202-225-2165



*Senator Amy Klobuchar*  
302 Hart Senate Office  
Building  
Washington DC 20510  
Ph: 202-224-3244



*Senator Al Franken*  
309 Hart Senate Office  
Building  
Washington DC 20510  
Ph: 202-224-5641

### State



*Senator Rod Skoe*  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Blvd  
State Office Building Rm 107  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Ph: 651-296-4196



*Senator Kent Eken*  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Blvd  
Capitol, Room 303  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Ph: 651-296-3205



**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America

*America's electric cooperatives believe  
our nation can enact common-sense  
energy policies that are environ-  
mentally responsible while helping  
co-ops keep electricity affordable and  
reliable.*



*Rep. Debra Kiel*  
423 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Ph: 651-296-5091



*Rep. Steve Green*  
231 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Ph: 651-296-9918



*Rep. Paul Marquart*  
313 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Ph: 651-296-6829

## OUR MISSION

"To enhance the quality of life of the cooperative's members and customers by providing reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services.

Visit our website at: [wildriceelectric.com](http://wildriceelectric.com)

# "Why is my bill so high?"



502 N Main St  
PO Box 438  
Mahnomon, MN 56557  
Phone: 218-935-2517





*"As we look to the future there is no doubt that energy costs will increase from time to time. Minnkota, as well as most other generation and transmission utilities, is looking at the need to upgrade existing plants to meet new environmental standards, construct or contract for additional generation, and build or upgrade transmission lines."--Steve Haaven, CEO, Wild Rice Electric Co-op, April 2007.*

April 2007 marked the first of a consecutive run of annual electric rate increases continuing through to this current year of 2012 for Wild Rice Electric Co-op members.

Approximately 73% of Wild Rice Electric's total cost of doing business is the purchas-

# Legislation & EPA = Rate Increases

ing of wholesale power from our provider Minnkota Power Cooperative. Although the economy plays an important role in the overall cost of doing business, the main driving force in the rising costs of electricity in the recent years has been the extreme mandates brought forth by federal and state implemented policies.

## Legislation & EPA

### At the Federal level:

A 2006 Consent Decree (CD) among Minnkota/Square Butte Cooperative, the EPA, and the State of North Dakota (State) set out the requirements for the Young Station to limit NOx, SO2, and Particulate Matter pursuant to the Clean Air Act's Regional Haze program. Minnkota subsequently installed Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction technology and Over-Fired Air, along with SO2 scrubbers, at a cost of over \$425 million, which reduces NOx by 55 to 60 percent and reduces SO2 for Unit 1 by 95 percent and Unit 2 by 90 percent.

### At the Minnesota State level:

February 2007: The Next Generation Act of 2007 was passed into legislation. This legislation included the 25x'25 Renewable Electricity Standard. It is the nation's most aggressive renewable energy standard, requiring Minnesota's utilities to provide 25% of electrical generation from renewable sources by the year 2025.

January 2010: Minnesota's Conservation Improvement Program changed from a minimum spending limit to an energy savings requirement. 1.5% decrease in kWh sales compounding from one year to the next. In 2011 the cost to Wild Rice Electric was approximately \$250,000.

## Minnkota Power Co-op wholesale rate increases

March 2008: 3% Minnkota Power Cooperative's wholesale power rate increase to Wild Rice Electric Co-op.

January 2009: 13% Minnkota Power Cooperative's wholesale power rate increase to Wild Rice Electric Co-op.

October 2009: Minnkota implements a 5 mill (\$0.005) surcharge to recover a \$20 million shortfall largely stemming from the investment of wind energy.

March 2010: 5% Minnkota Power Cooperative's wholesale power rate increase to Wild Rice Electric Co-op.

August 2010: 5% Minnkota Power Cooperative's wholesale power rate increase to Wild Rice Electric Co-op

March 2011: 30% Minnkota Power Cooperative's wholesale power rate increase to Wild Rice Electric Co-op.

March 2012: Minnkota reduced the surcharge to 3 mills (\$0.003).

## Wild Rice Electric rate increases

March 2008: \$0.084 to \$0.087 per kWh for the first 500 kWhs and \$0.064 to \$0.067 per kWh for the balance. Off peak and aeration rates also increased. There was no increase to the base charge at this time.

January 2009: \$0.087 to \$0.091 per kWh for the first 500 kWhs and \$0.067 to \$0.071 per kWh for the balance. Off peak and aeration rates along with the base charge also increased.

March 2010: \$0.091 to \$0.094 per kWh for the first 500 kWhs and \$0.071 to \$0.074 per kWh for the balance. Off peak and aeration rates along with the base charge also increased.

August 2010: The first 500 kWhs rate stayed the same at \$0.094 per kWh. The balance rate increased from \$0.074 to \$0.079 per kWh. Off peak rates along with the base charge also increased.

March 2011: \$0.094 to \$0.105 per kWh for the first 500 kWhs and \$0.079 to \$0.095 per kWh for the balance. Off peak and aeration rates along with the base charge also increased.

March 2012: \$0.105 to \$0.109 per kWh for the first 500 kWhs and \$0.095 to \$0.104 per kWh for the balance. Off peak and aeration rates also increased.

Wild Rice Electric believes that our nation can enact common-sense energy policies that are environmentally responsible while helping co-ops keep electricity affordable and reliable. Your help as consumer-owners is invaluable. To become a part of Wild Rice Electric's Grassroots group please complete and return this clip-out portion. As part of the Grassroots group you will be kept up to date on the legislative issues affecting your electric cooperative. If you would like to become a member of either or both of the political action committees (PAC) that fight to protect the best interests of our member-owners at the federal (ACRE) and state (REPAC) level please indicate so by checking the appropriate box/boxes and include a check to that PAC.

Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed my \$25 membership contribution for ACRE

I have enclosed my \$25 membership contribution for Minnesota REPAC