

NorVal News

June 2023

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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NORVAL ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING

NORVAL ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING WILL
BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023 AT THE
OPHEIM HIGH SCHOOL

REGISTRATION 4:30PM

DINNER 5:30PM

BUSINESS MEETING 6:30PM

\$30 BILL CREDIT GIVEN UPON REGISTRATION!

Preparing to Serve You Better

Providing reliable power to you is and will always be top priority for NorVal Electric. These days, power reliability seems to be making news now more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's electric grid.

With summer storm season upon us, here are a few measures NorVal is taking to ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

Trees add charm to our communities, and while trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

That's why we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables NorVal Electric to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

Modernizing Vegetation Management

Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to improve power reliability. However, traditional vegetation management is costly and time consuming. It entails on-the-ground, labor-intensive efforts involving dozens of workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. Although this approach has worked for decades, advances and improvements in technology have allowed us to reduce our costs and improve efficiency.

Planned Outages Improve Reliability

Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, NorVal crews can perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service. Planned outages can also be used to balance energy demand, but only in rare circumstances. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of a planned outage, so make sure we have your correct contact information on file to receive the latest information.

Vegetation management is an essential tool in ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

Lastly, you are encouraged to follow NorVal Electric on Facebook so you can learn about the latest co-op updates.

Scan the QR
Code below for
the link to our
Facebook page.



2023 NorVal Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to all 2023 graduates!



Mason Donaldson
Glasgow High School



Trevor Dulaney
Glasgow High School



Ben Dykema
Glasgow High School



Michael Hoyer
Glasgow High School



Cienna Strommen
Hinsdale High School



Mason Swenson
Glasgow High School



Carrie Taylor
Opheim High School

Not Pictured:

Tia Dees
Nashua High School

Mattea McColly
Hinsdale High School



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.



Source: Dept. of Energy

Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney,
Line Superintendent

A long winter plus a fast melt equals flooding. With the flooding came outages spanning from Glasgow, to Nashua and up toward Scobey. We lost two substations while the water was high, but that didn't stop us from restoring power to the members affected.

During the outage on our Cotton sub, we were unable to get to the structures by land. We had a plan in place with the city and Valley County Search and Rescue should these situations arise. Luckily, the City of Glasgow had a boat ready for us to use! Jace and Jayson were tasked with crossing the river to patrol line, ensuring that everyone was back on and taking tools to another lineman to help close in the line to restore power to the last of the members.

The crew and the operations team are eager to start all of the jobs we have been planning for in the last six months. We have quite a few new services going in this summer, and as of right now, our plans are to start trenching for our underground projects by mid June.

