

# PowerLines

*Your Trusted Energy News Source*



October 2020 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)

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## CLP Drive-In Annual Meeting

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Thank you to everyone that came out for our first-ever drive-in annual meeting. With over one hundred fifty members registered, it truly shows how amazing and dedicated our members are! Thank you for putting your trust in us as we worked to make the meeting as safe as possible for our employees, our board, and our members.

The meeting was a little unusual, but our members took it in stride and made the best of the situation. I even think everyone had a little bit of fun honking their horns to make a motion! As we were registering members, it was fun to see how everyone made the best of the situation. Many members even brought dinner with them to enjoy in their cars while they listened to the meeting. Member account number seven hundred thirty five thousand four hundred ninety nine.

We were blown away with the number of members that brought their registration postcards with them. We understand that this was a new process, but we were thrilled with over



Retiring Director, Peggy Kuettel



Elected Director, Pat Schmieder

ninety percent of members registering with their postcards! Scanning the barcodes on the postcards not only allowed our employees to register members for the meeting from a safe distance, but it also sped up the registration process and allowed us to get fast and accurate counts on the members we had registered. The barcode scan is a process we plan on continuing for all future meetings.

During the meeting, CEO Hal Halpern presented a plaque to District #1 Director, Peggy Kuettel, commemorating her thirty-three years of dedicated service to CLP. Pat Schmieder was elected as the new District #1 Director. CEO Hal Halpern addressed the membership discussing the financials of the cooperative as well as future plans of CLP. Final ballots were collected at the meeting for the by-law language changes. After all votes were counted, the wording change was passed with a final count of 441 yes, and 20 no.

Again, thank you to all of our members for making the best of the situation. We appreciate your support and understanding. If we could please ask one more favor, complete and return the survey on page 6 to help us plan future meetings. Thank you!



## UnPlug, RELAX and Take a Break from Your Devices

Hal Halpern, CLP Chief Executive Officer/GM

I was having dinner at my brother's house, and he, his wife, and their three teenage kids

were all in a trance-like state checking social media on their devices in-between bites of dinner. It was obvious they were all stressing out about work, school, or whatever it was they were viewing at the time. So, I made the mistake of saying, 'why don't you give your phones a break and unplug so you can relax and enjoy the real world around you instead of the virtual one.' After looking at me as if I were a Neanderthal, the 12-year-old said, 'you mean no phone like being punished?' Oh, how far we've come since my teen days.

I am not the first, and I certainly won't be the last to say this, but it is becoming more difficult to escape the pull of technology these days. As a society, we are becoming more dependent on our devices for nearly everything we do. This is especially true during this pandemic as we rely more than ever before on technology to bridge the gap lost by self-imposed quarantine and social distancing.

In fact, device dependence has become so severe, even leaders in the device-dependent technology industry have started taking measures to wean themselves from their devices. This weaning process is so prevalent it is

considered a condition where one must perform a 'digital detox.' In my world, it's called just shut off your devices. Like all desirable parts of life, finding the right balance is the key to happiness.

Have you ever looked at your watch and then forget what time it was - or read a line of a book - or an email or a working document - and a minute later, you can't remember it? Well, device dependence could be to blame. Your brain is like a muscle; after it is used, it needs time to recover. Without that time, it may not be able to "soak-up" and process the information it is receiving. Many of us go from one task to another, only taking a break to respond to a text, check Facebook, or send a Tweet. But research has shown that using the time in between tasks to rest your brain can increase your cognitive abilities.

Device dependence isn't only detrimental to our cognitive development; it can also strain our relationships.

Here are a few tips you and your family can use to keep device dependence at bay:

- The next time you finish a task, instead of getting online or checking your phone, take a walk in a quiet place, or simply sit back and let your mind wander (some call this daydreaming, and it is actually a great way to rest your brain throughout the day).

- Set up gadget-free zones throughout your home. It goes without saying that the dinner table should be one but try creating a gadget-free zone in the bedroom or living room as well.

- Many of us use our devices to listen to music, read books, or even take notes during meetings. Try turning your device on airplane mode when using it for those purposes. If you need Wi-Fi or a mobile connection to perform these tasks, disable all of your push notifications so that they don't distract you from the task at hand.

- You might be thinking there is no way you will be able to coax your kids to put down their devices. Since they grew up with these devices, they believe it's part and parcel of their DNA and can't function without them. If your kids are young enough, try this solution: start a contest in your family to see who can go the longest without checking their phone or playing a video game. Make the prize a fun treat, special event, or benefit to incentivize them to win!

- When you are spending time with friends and family, shut off or put your device in another room, so you are not tempted to check it if there is a lull in the conversation. How many times have you talked to someone in person, they get a phone prompt and say 'hang on, I have to get this.' Although everyone accepts that behavior, it's actually very rude.

*Continued on page 5*

### Call Before You Dig

**800.252.1166**

**it's the law!**

Call 800.252.1166 to locate underground wires.

You must call at least 48-hours in advance before any excavations (this notice does not include weekends, holidays or emergencies).

CLP will only locate the underground wires that are owned by CLP, we do not locate or take responsibility for locating wires beyond the meter location.



### PowerLines

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**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF**

Cooperative Light & Power

Association of Lake County

1554 Highway 2 • P. O. Box 69

Two Harbors, MN 55616

[www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)

CLP Office: 218-834-2226 or 800-580-5881

Power Outage (24/7): 800-927-5550

Winter Business Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Important Contacts

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Gregory Lien, President, District 3  
218-595-6187

Robert Nikolai, Vice President, District 5  
218-353-7332

Alis Stevens, Secretary, District 4  
218-226-8744

Scott Veitenheimer, Treasurer, District 2  
218-340-8968

Pat Schmieder, Director, District 1  
218-834-2247

# Minnesota Cold Weather Rule 216B.097

Spring Detlefsen, Office Manager

The Cold Weather Rule states that an electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential member during the period between October 15 and April 15, if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- A member enters into and makes timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- The household income of the member is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. The utility may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A member is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the member receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

## Emergency Assistance Providers

AEOA: 800.662.5711 or in Duluth at 218.624.7625

Lake County: 218.834.8400

Salvation Army, Duluth: 218.722.7934

St. Louis County Social Services: 218.726.2000

Lake County Social Services: 218.834.8400

## Residential Rights and Responsibilities

The Cold Weather Rule provides you with these rights and responsibilities:

[The Right](#) to declare your inability to pay your utility bill.

[The Responsibility](#), if you choose to declare inability to pay, to complete the Inability to Pay application and return it to CLP within (ten) 10 days.

[The Right](#) to a mutually acceptable payment agreement with CLP. This payment agreement will cover your existing arrears plus estimated usage during the payment agreement period.

[The Responsibility](#) to provide documentation to CLP, or your local energy assistance provider, that your household income is less than 50 percent of the state median income.

[The Right](#) to appeal a notice of involuntary disconnection of service. If a member chooses to appeal, the member must send CLP written notice of the basis of the appeal and the issue(s) in dispute. The written notice must be delivered to CLP prior to the date of disconnection. The member will be notified when the appeal is reviewed. No disconnection of service will take place during the appeal process.

## Minnesota State Statute

216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE; COOPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL UTILITY

Subdivision 1. Application; notice to residential customer. (a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a

residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

(2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

(3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subd. 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

(1) a notice of proposed disconnection;

(2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;

(3) a list of local energy assistance providers;

(4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and

(5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subd. 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary. (a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

(1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;

(2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;

(3) when utility offices are closed; or

(4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

*Continued on page 4*



## Do I Need UPS?

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

Working with electronic devices every day, whether at work or home, has made me very aware of how dependent we have become on them. And most of the time, they are expensive to replace. That's why I am a firm believer in devices that protect your investment. Hence the Uninterruptable Power Supply, or UPS.

Not to be confused with the package delivery service, a UPS is simply a battery with built-in electronic controls. Plugging it into the outlet keeps the battery charged and provides power to your electronics. Suppose the power goes out, the battery kicks in and keeps clean, consistent power to your electronics. Since the battery conditions the power, if you have low voltage, it adds, if you have high voltage, it lowers. If you have no power, it runs until the battery depletes. In short, your computers, wi-fi routers, pumps, or TVs will be protected, and you can have extra time to properly shut down your computer, possibly preventing service calls from a computer technician. Member account number six hundred eleven thousand five hundred seventy two.

Many UPS units are rated using a volt-amps (VA) and watts, which is a power limit and a rough estimate of how long the battery will last with no power. For most small home electronics, I would recommend around 600-750 VA, which will power a computer for about 20 minutes. They usually

run about \$70-\$100. One thing to note on most UPS units, there are two strips of outlets. One side has the battery backup protection. The other side has no battery backup, just surge protection. For example, this is so you could have your computer plugged into the battery backup side, and the monitor or printer plugged into the surge only protection. That will give the UPS longer run time while still protecting your equipment. I have had a UPS unit internal battery (which is replaceable) have a lifespan as long as five years!

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## Minnesota Cold Weather Rule 216B.097 (continued)

*Continued from page 3*

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subd. 4. Application to service limiters. For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

## Right-of-Way Tree & Brush Maintenance

Larry Sandretsky, Operations Manager

Our contracted right-of-way clearing crew, Central Applicators, Inc., will be performing foliar applications along the right-of-way in the following townships: Duluth, Alden, Ault, Fairbanks, Bassett, and Pequaywan.

Central Applicators, Inc. licensed applicators will be applying biodegradable Environmental Protection Agency approved herbicides along CLP's utility easement only where there are unwanted trees and brush. Member account number seven hundred twenty thousand eighty seven.

The service is essential for maintaining a safe and unobstructed utility right-of-way. This is part of CLP's ongoing integrated vegetation management program for delivering safe and reliable electrical service. Most importantly, this will provide unobstructed direct access for CLP linemen to restore your power safely and timely, in the event you experience a power outage.

CLP is taking steps to reduce spraying and cut our spraying by five percent this year. If you have any concerns or prefer to opt-out of the upcoming applications, please call the CLP office at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881. Line Clearing Policy II-13 is available on our website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com).

# Winter 2020/2021 Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heating Control Schedule

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

Starting October 1st of this fall, the ETS schedule for water heating and space heating (Off Peak customers) began. These loads are now shedding load (turning off) at 6:00 AM thru 10:00 PM From October 1st thru April 30th, 2021. These loads will be turned on again and allowed to heat at 10:00 PM thru 6:00 AM. This is a change in times from the past heating seasons. ETS used to be turned on at 11:00 PM and allowed to heat until 7:00 AM. You will still get your 8 hours to charge your storage heat systems; the charge times were just moved ahead an hour in the evening to help our power supplier (Great River Energy) with a small morning peak. The goal is to help keep Great River Energy's prices down, and this savings helps keep

CLP's costs down. These times may vary a few minutes with each customer due to staggering that is programmed to help avoid a big load all coming on at one time that would create a peak load on our side.

Off-Peak hot water heating will continue to be uncontrolled on weekends and holidays unless there happens to be billing peak risk on these days, then this system may be controlled.

Dual Fuel and Freedom Heat customers, these systems will have 2 test sheds. One is scheduled for October 29th, and the second one is scheduled for October 31st. These test load sheds will be from 6:00 PM thru 9:00 PM (unless these dates happen to land on a potential load

peak day). If this happens, the hours of control will change, which you can see on our website (clpower.com). There may be other unscheduled controls this month, depending on possible peak days.

These test sheds are run for your benefit so you can make sure your back up heat system turns on when your electric heat system is shut off. Make sure your heating systems are working correctly before winter hits. Member account number six hundred fifty two thousand four hundred forty four.

The total estimated winter control for Freedom heat (no longer available for new loads) is 20-days and up to 80 hours, daily control is limited to 4 hours.

The total estimated winter control for Dual Fuel is 20-days and 108 hours. The daily control is limited to 12 hours and an annual total of up to 400 hours.

If you have any questions or problems, don't hesitate to call so we can help get your heating systems working properly before we really need them. CLP's office # 218 834 2226 ask for Ken Jones.

## UnPlug, RELAX and Take a Break from Your Devices (continued)

*Continued from page 2*

Unless someone is calling you for the launch codes to save the planet, my guess is it can wait.

- On family vacations, make it a rule that devices can only be used to check-in with those who need to know how things are going. Stare up at the stars, not at your screens.

We all need time to unplug and give our brains a break. By unplugging, you may even save on your electric bill. And don't worry; Facebook, Twitter, Tik-Tok, and the rest will still be there when you return.

Rain or shine,  
day or night,  
we're here for you.

**October is National  
Co-op Month.**

**#PowerOn**

### French Bread Spread

*From the Kitchen of: Carey Hogenson*

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 bunch of green onions     | 1/2 cup mayo             |
| 2 cloves of garlic (minced) | salt and pepper to taste |
| 1 bunch of parsley          | 1 loaf french bread      |
| 1 cup parmesan cheese       |                          |

Finely chop green onions with two inches of green tops. Chop parsley and mince the garlic. Mix the onions, garlic, parsley, parmesan cheese, mayo, salt, and pepper together until it is a good spreading consistency. Set aside. Cut the french bread in half lengthwise and place it on a baking sheet. Lightly toast the bread in the oven. Remove the bread from the oven and spread the mixed ingredients evenly over the bread. Broil until the top is brown. Slice and serve.

**Submit your favorite recipe! If your recipe is printed in an issue of "Powerlines" you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill.**

## 2020 Annual Meeting Survey

Please help us plan for future meetings by completing this survey and returning it to the CLP office.



Did you attend the 2020 CLP Annual Meeting? YES NO

**YES, I attended the 2020 CLP Annual Meeting..**

I found the topics discussed interesting to me. TRUE FALSE  
 The day of the meeting was convenient for me? TRUE FALSE  
 The time of the meeting was convenient for me? TRUE FALSE  
 Location of the meeting was convenient for me? TRUE FALSE  
 I have attended past annual meetings. TRUE FALSE  
 What topics would you like to see covered at future Annual Meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments you would like to share? \_\_\_\_\_

**NO, I did not attend the CLP Annual Meeting...**

The day of the meeting was inconvenient for me? TRUE FALSE  
 The time of the meeting was inconvenient for me? TRUE FALSE  
 Location of the meeting was inconvenient for me? TRUE FALSE  
 Covid-19 was the reason I did not attend. TRUE FALSE  
 I plan on attending a future annual meeting. TRUE FALSE  
 I have attended past annual meetings. TRUE FALSE  
 What topics would you like to see covered at future Annual Meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments you would like to share? \_\_\_\_\_



## Year-to-date Financials

<u>JULY</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 5,675,960	\$ 7,771,712	\$ 7,678,399
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 3,254,582	\$ 4,524,707	\$ 4,271,635
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 2,017,190	\$ 2,863,573	\$ 3,037,577
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 5,271,772	\$ 7,388,280	\$ 7,309,212
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 404,182	\$ 383,432	\$ 369,187
Interest Income	\$ 39,674	\$ 109,666	\$ 104,287
Other Margins	\$ 216,695	\$ (89,906)	\$ (91,777)
Capital Credits	\$ 173,634	\$ 16,053	\$ 15,430
Total Margins	\$ 834,185	\$ 419,245	\$ 397,127
kWh Purchased	54,907,072	64,774,234	60,600,276
kWh Sold	51,047,288	61,491,544	58,244,828
Line Loss	N/A	5.07%	3.80%
Members Billed	5,894	6,203	6,271
Average kWh Used, Residential	984	1,152	1,000
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 111.89	\$ 145.10	\$ 141.61
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1137	\$ 0.1260	\$ 0.1299
Interest Expense	\$ 278,376	\$ 285,983	\$ 261,874

## Dates to Know...

- Oct 5:** CLP winter hours begin 7:30- 4:00 Mon-Fri  
**Oct 15:** CLP Board Meeting  
**Oct 26:** CLP bills due

*NOTE: CLP dates subject to change*

To view a complete version of the latest CLP Board Meeting Minutes please go to:

<http://clpower.com/board-meeting-minutes>

*Cooperative Light & Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

### TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call CLP at 834.2226 or 800.580.5881 during business hours or 800.927.5550 after hours.

**BEFORE** calling, please check your breakers. If an outage is found to be on your side of the meter, you will be billed for a service call.

### SPOT YOUR NUMBER:

A \$20 electric credit is awarded each month to our faithful readers. Four account numbers are spelled out in each newsletter. If you find yours, notify CLP by the 25th of that month and your account will be credited.

Credits claimed for August:  
 Peter Hendrickson, William & Sandra Levin. Credits not claimed:  
 Mark Boggie, and Jim McLean

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

August Donations: \$1,574.10  
 Year-to-date Donations: \$11,445.01  
 Thank you to all the participants! If you have questions about Operation Round Up, or would like to apply for a grant from the Fund, please contact CLP at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881, or visit our website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com).