



Go Paperless and you could win a 50" Vizio Smart TV!

Details Below

NEWSLINE

November 2023

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Sign Up for Paperless Billing for a Chance to Win a 50" Vizio Smart TV!

Sign up for paperless billing through your SmartHub online account by January 31, 2024, for a chance to win one of three 50" Vizio smart TVs. (Just in time for the big game!) Your membership will be automatically entered if you've already signed up for paperless billing. This paperless billing promotion runs until January 31, 2024, and winners will be notified on February 1, 2024.

What is paperless billing?

When you opt into paperless billing, you will receive your bill electronically to your email rather than a paper bill in the mail.

Scan Me!



Scan the QR code or visit runestoneelectric.com for contest details, and to log into your SmartHub account today!

How to Go Paperless

Do you have a SmartHub online account?

Yes \longleftrightarrow No

Follow the instructions to the right to sign up for an online account.

How will you be accessing your SmartHub account?

Mobile App \longleftrightarrow Desktop Computer, SmartHub App on a Tablet, or an Internet Browser

Sign In

Sign In

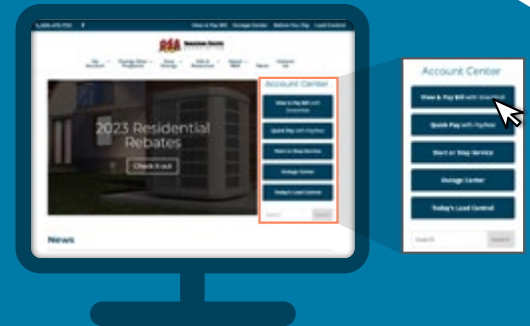
Go to the "more" tab and press "settings"

Go to "Settings" and click "Paperless Billing"

Click "paperless billing" and use the slider to sign up for paperless

Click the slider to the on position to sign up for paperless billing

3 Easy Steps to Sign up for SmartHub



Step 1:

Go to runestoneelectric.com and click on the "View & Pay Bill with SmartHub" under Account Center



Step 2:

On the SmartHub login page, you will click on "Register Now" that's located right next to "Don't Have an account?".



Step 3:

Fill in the required information and click continue.

HELPFUL HINT!

You will need your account number and an email address to create an account

If you need help, we're happy to assist!
Contact us: 800-473-1121 or 320-762-1121



Al Haman
CEO

A Note from your CEO

Public input gathered at open houses for transmission projects

Recently several utilities, including Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier, filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

for a certificate of need for the Big Stone South-Alexandria-Big Oaks project. This project is divided into two segments.

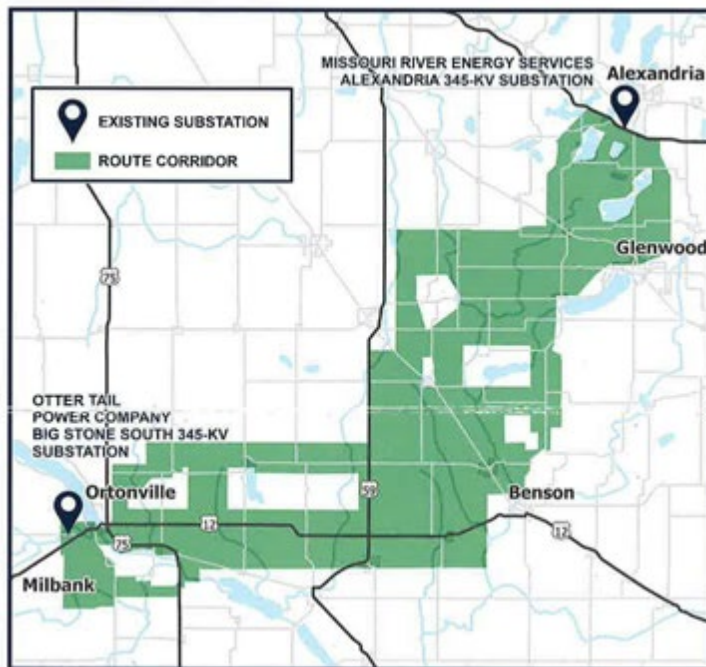
Great River Energy is one of the owners of the eastern segment, which will utilize existing structures along I-94 between Alexandria and Becker. More than 95% of the eastern segment of the proposed project will not require changes to the existing transmission line route, which began operation in 2015 as part of CapX2020. At that time, the PUC and the CapX2020 companies agreed there would likely be a need for new transmission in the future. As a result, the Fargo-St. Cloud and St. Cloud – Monticello projects were constructed as ‘double-circuit capable,’ enabling the companies to meet future energy needs.

The filing also included a route permit application for a western segment from Big Stone, SD to Alexandria. Please see the map to the right.

Subject to regulatory approvals, construction on the eastern segment is expected to begin in late 2024 and be complete by the end of 2025. The western segment is expected to be in service by 2030.

Watch for additional open houses once the route from Big Stone to Alexandria is developed.

Although REA is not directly involved with either of these projects, you, our members, will benefit from improved electric reliability, increased resiliency to extreme weather events, reduced transmission congestion, and increased access to energy resources in the region.



The Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line Project corridor is marked in green on the map above and subject to change.



October open houses in Milbank, Benson, Glenwood, Alexandria and Ortonville provided an opportunity to learn more about the Big Stone South to Alexandria project and to provide public input. Pictured above is the Alexandria open house at Broadway Ballroom on October 23.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - September 2023

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for August 2023. Energy sales were ahead of budget for the month and are close to budget for the year.
- » As part of the CEO Report, Mr. Haman reported a 9% across-the-board reduction in Minnesota Rural Electric Trust workers' compensation rates, and a review of the equity management presentation at the August 2023 board meeting. The consensus of the Board was the consistency in which the cooperative's equity ratios have been managed is appropriate and directed Management to continue with this approach.
- » Approved the Nextera Energy Resources – Amended Terms for Dodge County Wind Energy Purchase Resolution per Great River Energy's request.
- » Director Hjelle has been selected for the 2023 Cooperative Network Cooperative Builder Award. President Anderson will represent REA at the Cooperative Network Annual Meeting on November 14 in Rochester, Minnesota.
- » **The regular November Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**



Correcting Neutral-To-Earth Voltage Conditions

As a member of Runestone Electric Association, you should feel free to call us anytime with concerns related to your electric service. One area that can be a concern, particularly for livestock farms, is stray voltage.

Electrical supply systems delivering power to farms, homes and businesses are grounded to the earth to make them as safe as possible and to ensure their reliability. Proper grounding of these electric systems is not only essential, but a requirement of the codes that govern both home and utility practices. Because electric current is designed to be carried by the grounded conductors (neutral conductors), these wires will have a small voltage associated with them. Objects that are bonded to the neutral conductors will therefore have a voltage on them.

A consequence of the electrical system in the United States is "Stray Voltage". Stray voltage is often defined as a small voltage (less than 10 volts) that exists on grounded objects that are within close proximity to livestock. If an animal touches a grounded object, such as a metal drinking cup, while standing on an ungrounded floor or on soil a current can flow through the animal's body. If the voltage level is high enough, the resulting current may be sensed by the cow. Stray voltage can become a cow's behavioral issue with the livestock operator. Hesitation to drink from a waterer, or enter a parlor can be a behavioral symptom of stray voltage.

Although stray voltage is present on all distribution systems, humans usually do not notice it. However, livestock - especially dairy cows - are particularly sensitive. The goal is to keep the voltage level low enough that it will not cause a problem on the farm. Stray voltage can also result from deteriorating and improper wiring, faulty equipment, or improper grounding. Because of high electric use, high humidity, silage acids, and manure, a dairy farm is not the ideal environment for electrical wiring.

REA offers stray voltage investigations at no charge.

The Minnesota Stray Voltage Guide outlines the steps farmers, electricians, utilities and their advisors can take to discover and resolve stray voltage concerns on livestock farms. When farmers and utility companies work together, stray voltage concerns are more likely to be satisfactorily resolved. To download the Guide, visit www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com



Cooperatives Support Local Business!

If you attended the REA Annual Meeting in April and received a gift certificate, please remember to redeem your certificate at one of the participating REA businesses listed below **before 12/31/23**.

Redeemable only at Participating REA Member Businesses:

2100 Chophouse at Arrowwood Resort
320-762-1124

22 Northmen Brewing
320-846-5443

Beau Coffee Company
320-239-2078

Blairview Saddle Shop
320-762-5664

Brother's Market: Carlos
320-852-7331

Brother's Market: Miltona
218-943-3333

Burr Vineyards
651-726-4397

Carlos Creek Winery
320-846-5443

Chet's Lakeside Inn
218-943-2471

Country Blossom Farm
320-334-1620

Diamond Waves & Wags Car Wash
320-759-8040

Doraisamy Farm
320-524-2513

Erickson's Petting Zoo
320-762-0184

Jim & Judy's 1 Stop
320-852-7604

Kadejan Market
320-460-8710

Lake Miltona Golf Club
320-852-7078

Lake Reno Bar & Grill
320-283-5030

L'Etoile du Nord Vineyard
320-298-4686

Long Lake Lodge
320-524-2755

Rolling Forks Vineyards
320-634-7655

Selective TV
320-763-5924

Stivland Gardens
320-283-5227

Stoke Wood-Fired Pizza
320-846-5443

Tipsinah Mounds Golf Course
218-685-4271

let it GLOW

REA'S CHRISTMAS LIGHT CONTEST

Let's light up the countryside! REA is hosting a Christmas light contest to recognize the members that put hard work into their light displays AND let our communities know where to look for these spectacular lights. Check out the details below.

Categories and Prizes:

- Best Large Display (\$100 REA bill credit)
- Best Small Display (\$100 REA bill credit)
- Most Creative Display (\$100 REA bill credit)

Registration:

Online registration form at www.runestoneelectric.com or call REA at 800-473-1722. Submit a photo with an address so that the public will know where to go to check out the holiday displays.

Details:

- Display must be served by Runestone Electric Association (REA)
- Deadline for contest entry is 12/10/23
- Map of participating displays will be available at www.runestoneelectric.com after 12/10/23
- Judging of the lighting displays will take place between 12/15 - 12/17.
- Winners will be notified on 12/21/23.

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24/7: 800-473-1722

Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon- Fri.

Board of Directors

- District 1: Gary (Andy) Anderson, President
- District 2: Barbara Johnson, Director
- District 3: Audrey Hjelle, Director
- District 4: Dave Staples, Secretary
- District 5: Mike Loken, Vice President
- District 6: Joel Seela, Director
- District 7: Matthew Mattson, Treasurer

Editorial Staff

- Al Haman, CEO
- Sue Lundeen, Editor
- Ally Koudela, Communications Specialist

In Case of a Power Outage

- » Please call 800-473-1722 for 24-hour service. Please report any tree branches in lines, twisted wires, broken poles and if your neighbors are also out of power.
- » Be sure to have a corded phone or a charged cell phone in the house, because cordless phones won't work when the power is out.
- » Program the number above into your cell phone for easy access.
- » Never assume we know you are without power. Always call to report an outage.

REA will use reasonable diligence to furnish adequate and dependable electric service, but it cannot and does not guaranty continuous and uninterrupted service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

LOOK UP & LIVE



Before you climb that ladder to string outdoor lights, check for overhead power lines nearby. Make sure tree limbs are not growing among power lines, since they can also become energized. Remember to keep at least 10 feet away from overhead lines at all times.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!