

# NEWSLINE

## Thank A Lineworker on April 14: Powering Our Lives Every Day

On April 14, Itasca-Mantrap, along with electric cooperatives nationwide, will honor the dedicated men and women who work tirelessly to keep the lights on.

Lineworkers are the backbone of our electric system, braving all kinds of weather and challenging conditions to ensure reliable power for our communities. Whether restoring power after a storm or maintaining essential infrastructure, their commitment never wavers.

These skilled professionals embody a spirit of service, answering the call whenever duty calls—whether it's a holiday, a weekend, or the middle of the night. When Mother Nature strikes, they are the first to respond, working long hours to restore power safely and efficiently.

At Itasca-Mantrap, we are proud to recognize the lineworkers who maintain more than 2,000 miles of power lines in our service area. Their hard work and dedication keep our communities powered and connected.

Join us in celebrating their hard work and accomplishments! On April 14, take a moment to thank a lineworker and show your appreciation on Facebook by tagging Itasca-Mantrap and using #ThankALineworker. We may even share your posts as part of our celebration!





## CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

This past month, I had the opportunity to spend several days with two of our directors, engaging in discussions on key legislative issues with our state lawmakers. While Itasca-Mantrap has always been actively involved in political matters, certain legislative issues have a greater impact on our cooperative at different times. This year, there are three legislative issues we are focusing on, and I would like to take a moment to explain why they are critical to our cooperative and our cooperative members.

### Net Metering: Local Impacts of Oversized Systems

Under current net metering laws, we are witnessing a growing trend of residential net-metered systems being sized to the state's maximum limit of 39.9 kW per installation. This enables participants to produce and sell more electricity to the cooperative than they consume. By law, we are required to purchase this excess energy from our member at our average retail rates. Essentially, this means we are paying a premium for electricity that we could purchase for much less from our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy. Electric cooperatives, including ours, have long advocated for a size-to-load provision. This would allow members to offset their own energy use, as originally intended by the net metering laws, while safeguarding the membership who may not wish to or cannot afford to install their own generation systems. [We fully support the reform of the net metering statute.](#)

### Nuclear Energy

Itasca-Mantrap is part of a coalition through Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), working to lift the nuclear moratorium which bans the ability for us to even discuss the benefits of new reactors in Minnesota. Fun fact: Minnesota is the only state in the nation which outright bans new reactor investigation or construction. Due to this fact, there has been a bill introduced within the House, HF 9 proposing to lift/abolish the state's nuclear moratorium.

The House Energy Committee has heard this bill already and it is being reviewed throughout the legislative bodies. This bill also includes provisions for carbon capture and large hydroelectricity to count toward the state's goal of achieving 100% carbon-free energy by 2040.

In the Senate, the Energy Committee is reviewing two additional bills: SF 350, which proposes to lift the nuclear moratorium, and SF 468, which specifically addresses small modular reactors under 300 megawatts. This is going to be a heavy lift to get this moratorium repealed, but it is a fight worth fighting – we are asking for our state to look at the possibility of utilizing nuclear to meet growing demand and nothing more at this point. [Itasca-Mantrap supports the removal of Minnesota's nuclear moratorium.](#)

### Property Tax Exemption

The property tax exemption legislation, SF 132 has been carried over from previous sessions. Historically, the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) has excluded cooperative-owned rural meters and streetlights from rural electrification property taxes. We are not completely immune from paying taxes on this infrastructure as we are required to pay a per-member tax annually based upon our total membership. This legislation would preserve that exemption.

The Senate Taxes Committee has heard this proposed legislation, with the Minnesota DOR providing testimony in favor of the bill. A companion bill will be introduced in the House, and the governor has included this policy in his proposed tax bill. [We strongly support this legislation.](#)

We welcome your advocacy on these legislative issues. Contact your representative to voice your support for our rural cooperative.

Itasca-Mantrap's mission remains steadfast: to "Serve Our Members" with excellent service.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda
- December financials, subject to audit
- Capital Credit Retirement
- Increase threshold for capital credit disbursement check
- Deferred Revenue Plan
- Recognition of outstanding Power Cost Adjustment credit
- Work Order Certificates
- Changes to the Minnesota Rural Electric Association bylaws

### Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- Quarterly reports
- Distributed Energy Resource Facilities
- North American Electric Reliability Corporation's report for Minnesota's electric grid.
- Summaries of meetings attended

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for December 2024
- Strategic Priorities
- Updates to the Itasca-Mantrap Rate Book

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.





## ADAPTING TO ENERGY DEMAND: WHAT LOAD CONTROL CHANGES MEAN FOR YOU

At Itasca-Mantrap, we are committed to helping you manage energy costs while ensuring a reliable power supply for all members.

Through our load management programs, in partnership with our power supplier Great River Energy (GRE), we can keep wholesale power costs lower—directly benefiting those who participate in the program with reduced rates. Whether you're enrolled in an electric thermal storage (ETS) system, a dual fuel program, or water heating control, your participation plays a vital role in keeping energy affordable for our entire cooperative community.

### What to Expect for Load Management

As energy demand has risen over the years, GRE anticipates an increase in load control events. This means there may be longer or more frequent periods where controlled systems—such as water heaters and dual fuel heating—are temporarily switched to backup sources. These measures are necessary to maximize cost savings and ensure grid stability.

We encourage members to ensure your backup system is properly sized to prepare for potential extended control periods. This could include consecutive days of water heater control or dual fuel control events lasting up to 12 hours, possibly split

between morning and evening hours. Below is a summarized explanation of load management programs we offer:

**Dual Fuel:** Up to 12 hours per day, up to 400 hours per heating season.

**Interruptible (Peak Shave) Water Heating:** Up to 8 hours per day, no maximum.

**ASHP or Cycled A/C (closed program):** Up to 6 hours per day, 200 hours per cooling season.

### We Appreciate Your Support

We understand that increased load control can be an adjustment, and we sincerely thank you for your participation. Your commitment to the load management programs helps keep costs down for everyone at Itasca-Mantrap. If you are part of a load management program, you continue to benefit from lower rates, exclusively for members in these programs all while contributing to the long-term affordability of our cooperative's energy supply.

Together, we can make the most of our load management programs and continue to provide reliable, affordable energy to our members. Thank you for being a valued part of Itasca-Mantrap's energy-saving efforts!

# Director Candidate Deadline Approaching!

Time is running out! Itasca-Mantrap is seeking candidates from Districts 4 and 5 for our Board of Directors. Director elections are held in conjunction with the Itasca-Mantrap annual meeting on June 12.

**With less than two weeks left, contact Itasca-Mantrap today for a director candidate packet. Completed petitions and forms must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 14.**

Candidates must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent all co-op Members.

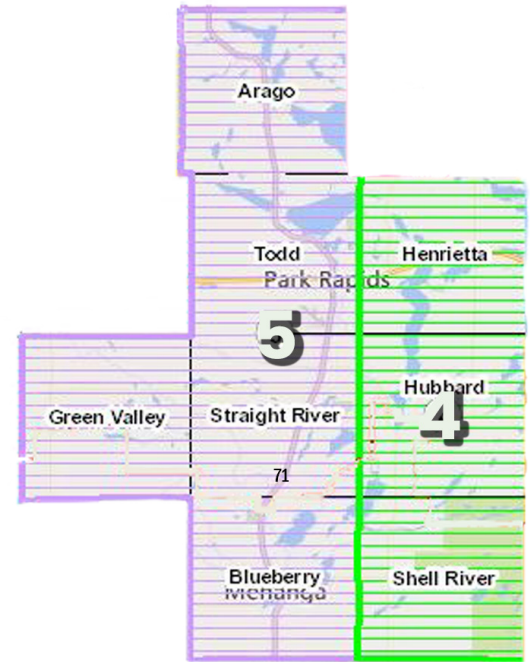
Wondering what's involved in being a director?

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Establish relationships between the board, the membership and the President-CEO.
- Report to the membership.
- Maintain legal entity and practices.
- Review and update bylaws and policies, as needed.
- Attend meetings and conferences.
- and more!

Interested? Contact Itasca-Mantrap for a director candidate packet at 218-732-3377.

More details about serving on the Itasca-Mantrap Board, including director qualifications can be found at [itasca-mantrap.com/board-directors](http://itasca-mantrap.com/board-directors).



**DISTRICT 4** – includes Henrietta, Hubbard and Shell River in Hubbard County.

**DISTRICT 5** – includes Arago, Blueberry, Green Valley, Straight River and Todd townships in Hubbard County

## Apps & Amps

Date: Thursday, April 17

Location: The Outpost

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

23115 Old Bridge Rd, Menahga, MN 56464

Space is limited to 50 members. RSVP by Friday, April 11 if you plan to attend.



## GreenTouch

*Volunteers needed for spring clean up*



## GreenTouch™

*By Minnesota Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives*

Spring is so close we can feel it!

We are looking for volunteers to help ready Itasca State Park for visitor season!

We will meet at the park Saturday, May 3 at 9:00 a.m. and serve a free lunch around noon. No park pass is required that day.

Volunteers are needed for pruning, transplanting trees and shrubs, installing tree cages, high pruning, removing bud caps, raking and various other projects.

Volunteers can RSVP by calling Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 1-888-713-3377.

## Call 811 before you dig

*Practice precaution to protect you and your community*



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



We understand the weather has been very generous this year and with that follows spring cleaning and other projects around your home.

If you are planning to dig anywhere, please call 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) to request the location of buried utility lines. It is a free service designed to keep you and your community safe.

April is National Safe Digging Month. Dig safe and dig smart!



**TIP OF THE MONTH:  
ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY**

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle.

Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying, make sure to clean your lint filter to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time!

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)





## ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Park Rapids, MN 56470

(218) 732-3377 | (888) 713-3377  
itasca@itasca-mantrap.com  
www.itasca-mantrap.com



#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

#### GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

(800) 252-1166  
www.gopherstateonecall.org

#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

##### DISTRICT 1

Brian Behrens, Chair

##### DISTRICT 2

Patricia Roehl, Treasurer

##### DISTRICT 3

Terrence Cook, Vice Chair

##### DISTRICT 4

Al Czczok, Assistant Secretary-  
Treasurer

##### DISTRICT 5

Nancy M. Utke, Director\*

##### DISTRICT 6

Tim Kivi, Secretary

##### DISTRICT 7

Dan Breitbach, Director

#### PRESIDENT & CEO

Steve Johnson

\*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is an  
equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Support Local Business!

As your local electric cooperative, we want to connect you to all the great local businesses who participate in our Co-op Connections program!

Visit [Itasca-Mantrap.com/co-op-connections-savings](http://Itasca-Mantrap.com/co-op-connections-savings) to see a complete list of businesses so you can shop and save today!

## LOCAL BUSINESS BIG SAVINGS

AVAILABLE IN THE PALM OF YOUR HANDS



Scan here to check  
out local participating  
businesses!



Or go to our website  
under the “community”  
tab and click  
“Co-op Connections”

## Join us on April 8 @ 10 a.m.

### **Week of the Young Child Adventures Around the Town-2025**



The Week of the Young Child provides an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to sponsor activities for children age five and under and their families. We are a proud participant and will host our planned activities on Tuesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. (weather-permitting) with April 10 as our back-up date.

We invite you to join us at Itasca-Mantrap to see live demonstrations with our digger truck and bucket truck as well as pole climbing!

See you there!