

NEWSLINE

Thank A Lineworker on April 13: Power You Can Count On

April 13 is Lineworker Appreciation Day, and Itasca-Mantrap is proud to join electric cooperatives across the country in recognizing the dedicated men and women who keep the lights on for our members.

Lineworkers are the backbone of our electric system. They work in all kinds of weather and challenging conditions to keep power reliable for our communities. From restoring service after a storm, to maintaining critical infrastructure year-round, their commitment never wavers.



These highly skilled professionals live out a true spirit of service. They answer the call at all hours, whether it is a holiday, a weekend or the middle of the night. When severe weather hits, they are among the first to respond, putting in long hours to restore power safely and efficiently.

At Itasca-Mantrap, our lineworkers maintain more than 2,000 miles of power lines across our service area. Their dedication keeps homes warm, businesses running and communities connected.

We invite you to help us celebrate them. On April 13, take a moment to thank a lineworker and share your appreciation on Facebook by tagging Itasca-Mantrap and using #ThankALineworker. We may feature your post as part of our celebration.





CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

Why We Are Talking About Demand-Based Rates

Over the past several months, you may have noticed us talking more about how electric rates are designed, not just the price per kilowatt-hour (kWh). That conversation is intentional, and I want to continue it with you directly discussing the components of how power is generated and sold.

Today, most residential and small commercial members are billed using a two-part rate: a system access (or basic) charge and an energy charge based on the number of kWh used. This structure has served our Cooperative well for a long time but does not align with the way electricity is produced, delivered, and ultimately billed by our power provider. This billing construct by our wholesale power provider is changing, and our rate structure needs to evolve with it.

This article is the first in a series meant to explain why we are investigating a multi-part rate structure that includes a demand charge along with our traditional rate components, what this means to all of our members, and how we will approach any future changes thoughtfully and transparently.

How Electric Costs Are Really Incurred

While energy use (measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh) is the most visible part of an electric bill, it represents only part of what it costs to provide electricity to your home or business.

A significant portion of our costs comes from making sure electricity is available to you at any moment—especially during times when many members are using power at the same time. This readiness is driven by a peak demand, which is the highest amount of electricity used over a short period, typically a one-hour window.

Our power supplier, Great River Energy, bills our cooperative based largely on these peak demand periods—not just on the total amount of energy or kWh used over the month. In simple terms, the size

and cost of the electric system we must build and maintain are determined by how high these demand peaks are, not just by how many kWh's we consume each month.

Under the traditional two-part rate structure, many of these demand-related costs are blended into and recovered through kWh charges, even though they are not caused by energy usage alone. This creates a mismatch between how our cooperative is billed by our power supplier and how members are billed for electricity consumption.

What Comes Next

In this newsletter and in the coming months, we will share additional articles that continue to explain:

- What “demand” means in plain language – we have an article in this newsletter that outlines this component to start this education process.
- How demand differs from energy use
- Examples of how usage patterns affect demand
- How members can manage or reduce demand if demand-based rates and programs are implemented

Our commitment is to be transparent, proactive, and member-focused as we evaluate the best path forward. You will start seeing a demand component noted on your monthly bills, but no costs will be associated with it at this time. It is intended to serve as an educational component to help you understand and relate what we are talking about to your own usage patterns.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this important topic. As always, we welcome questions and conversations as we work together to ensure safe, reliable and affordable power into the future.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- December financials, subject to audit
- Retirement of Capital Credits
- Deferred Revenue Plan
- Revolving Loan Fund Application

Reports heard:

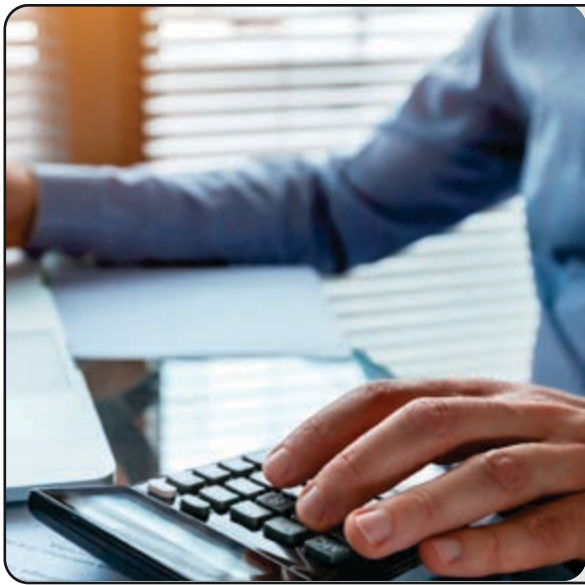
- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- Heartland Lakes Substation & Tap Line – GRE
- Summaries of meetings attended

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Board Expenses to Budget YTD
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for December 2025
- Federated Member Equity Account Statement
- MREA Resolutions and Board Director Candidates
- Distributed Energy Resource Facilities
- Operational Plan Update

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.



Heads Up: Rate Adjustment Coming April 1, 2026

Just a friendly reminder: your electric rates are changing on April 1. Here's the quick scoop:

- Wholesale power costs are up – Fuel and market shifts affect what we pay.
- Keeping the lights on for you while building for tomorrow – Poles, wires, transformers, staff, and system upgrades all work together to keep your power safe, reliable, and ready for the future.
- Fair rates for all – Adjustments make sure everyone pays their share, and margins go back to members as capital credits.

Your May bill will reflect the adjustment.

Questions? Visit our webpage at www.itasca-mantrap.com/2026-general-rate-increase or give us a call today.

Plugged In to What Matters: New survey approach focuses on meaningful member input



Itasca-Mantrap is committed to listening to the members we serve and using that feedback to make informed decisions. To support that effort, the cooperative will conduct a Member Satisfaction Survey in early April to better understand what's working well and where we can improve.

The survey will be sent to members with an active email on file and will focus on your experiences with our programs, services and overall member service. The feedback we receive will help guide planning, improve processes and ensure we're focusing on what matters most to our membership.

In addition to this survey, Itasca-Mantrap will gather feedback throughout the year via key touchpoints. This may include follow-up

surveys after member interactions, post-event surveys and targeted surveys related to specific programs or services. Collecting feedback in different ways allows us to see the full picture and respond thoughtfully. Survey responses are confidential. Individual responses will not be identified or shared outside of Itasca-Mantrap. Results are reviewed in summary form unless a member requests follow-up. Honest feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

There are no right or wrong answers. Every response provides insight that helps strengthen the cooperative and the service we provide.

You are encouraged to participate and share your perspective. Your feedback plays an important role in shaping the future of our cooperative, and we appreciate you taking the time to respond.

Understanding Demand: It's Like Rush Hour for Electricity



When it comes to your electric bill, it is not just about how much energy you use. It is also about when you use it.

Think of electricity like traffic on a highway. Most of the day, cars move smoothly. But during rush hour, when everyone is on the road at once, congestion builds. The power grid works the same way. When homes and businesses use electricity at the same time, peak demand on the system quickly rises.

That surge is called electric demand and is measured in kilowatts (kW). Kilowatts reflect the amount of electricity being used at a single point in time. You will notice a new line on your electric bill that shows your highest kW demand. This is not an additional charge. It is simply information that helps you see your demand peak for the month.

High-demand periods typically happen in the early morning and early evening. People are cooking, adjusting thermostats, running appliances and charging devices all at once.

The good news is that small changes can make a real difference. Adjust your thermostat a few degrees during peak hours. Run laundry and dishwashers later in the evening. Charge electric vehicles overnight instead of right when you get home.



8:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Friday
218-732-3377 Toll Free: 1-888-713-3377
www.itasca-mantrap.com

Important Messages

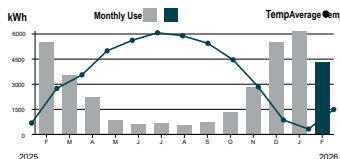
Total Due
\$306.00
Due Date:
03/20/2026

Member Name JOHN MEMBER
Account # 1234567
Billing Date: 02/24/2026
Previous Balance \$205.00
Payment Received -\$205.00
Balance Forward \$0.00
Current Charges \$306.00
Amount Due 03/20/2026 \$306.00

Demand kW

Service Address: 12345 COUNTY 1 Description: HOME

| Meter No. | Rate Class | Meter Reading Dates | Days | Readings | Meter Multiplier | kWh Used | kW Used | Bill Type | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------------|------------|----------|------------------|----------|---------|-----------|--------|---------|
| | | From | To | Previous | Present | | | | | |
| 12345SD | R101 | 01/28/2026 | 02/23/2026 | 26 | 11055 | 11573 | 1.0 | 518 | 7.619 | Regular |
| 12346SD | R106 | 01/28/2026 | 02/23/2026 | 26 | 3710 | 3803 | 1.0 | 93 | 3.007 | Regular |
| 12347SD | R103 | 01/28/2026 | 02/23/2026 | 26 | 53534 | 57240 | 1.0 | 3,706 | 41.363 | Regular |



| Current Service Detail | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Basic Charge R101 | | \$38.00 |
| Basic Charge R103 | | \$3.00 |
| Basic Charge R106 | | \$3.00 |
| kWh Charges R101 | 518 kWh @ 0.1000 | \$51.80 |
| kWh Charges R103 | 3,706 kWh @ 0.0530 | \$196.42 |
| kWh Charges R106 | 93 kWh @ 0.0680 | \$6.32 |
| Minnesota Sales Tax | | \$6.17 |
| County Tax | | \$0.45 |
| Operation Round-Up | | \$0.84 |
| Total Current Charges for this Location | | \$306.00 |

Example of demand kW on bill

When members spread out their energy use, it eases pressure on the grid and helps control costs for everyone. Managing demand is not about using less electricity. It is about using it strategically.

Apps & Amps

Date: Thursday, Apr. 9

Location: Jack Pines Resort

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

53014 MN-34, Osage, MN 56570

Space is limited to 50 members. RSVP by Tuesday, April 7 if you plan to attend.

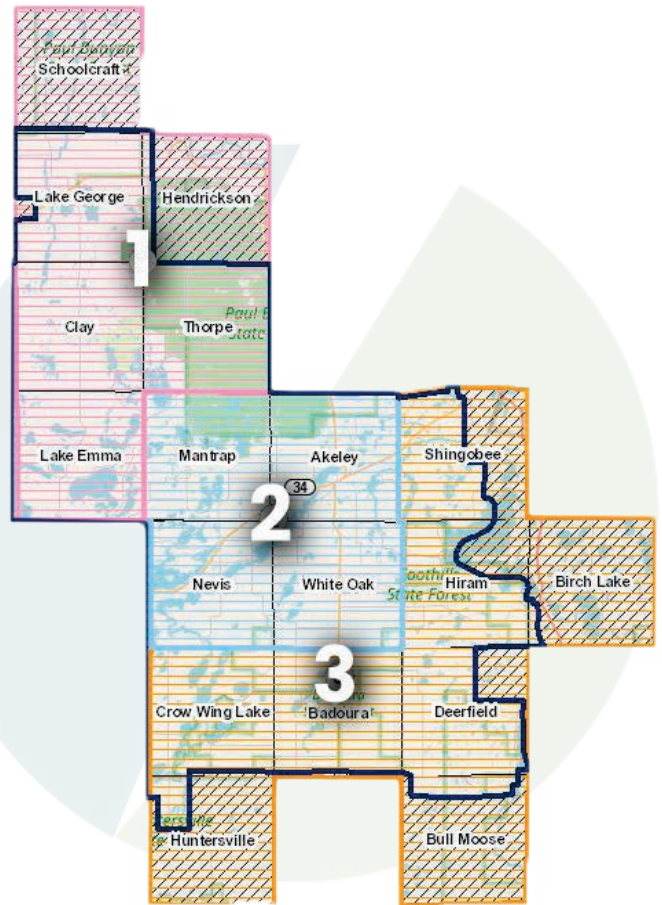
Last Call For Director Candidates!

This is the last call for candidates for the Director elections of Districts 1, 2, and 3. Director elections will be held during the annual meeting on June 11.

Board directors serve three-year terms, representing all co-op members, and must meet eligibility requirements outlined in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. This is an opportunity to help shape the future of your cooperative and make a meaningful impact in the community.

Interested? Contact Itasca-Mantrap for a director candidate packet. Completed petitions and forms must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 13.

For more information, contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377. More details about serving on the Itasca-Mantrap Board, including director qualifications can be found at www.itasca-mantrap.com/board-directors.



DISTRICT 1 – includes Schoolcraft, Lake George, Hendrickson, Clay, Thorpe, and Lake Emma townships.

DISTRICT 2 – includes Mantrap, Akeley, Nevis, and White Oak townships.

DISTRICT 3 – includes Shingobee, Hiram, Birch Lake, Crow Wing Lake, Badoura, Deerfield, Huntersville and Bull Moose townships.

The Timeline

APRIL
13

Petitions Due

MAY & JUNE
2026

Announcement
of Candidates

MAY
2026

Annual Meeting Booklet
Distributed/Election Voting
Begins

JUNE
11

Annual Meeting Elections held
(In-person voting)





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.*

GreenTouch

Volunteers needed for spring clean up



Spring is on the way, and so is GreenTouch. If winter has you counting down the days, this is your chance to get outside and make a difference.

Join us Saturday, May 2 at 9:00 a.m. at Itasca State Park to help get the park ready for visitor season. Free lunch will be served around noon, and 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.



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