

NEWSLINE

84th Annual Meeting

Recap: Celebrating Community,
Reflecting on Success and Looking
Toward the Future.

The 84th Annual Membership Meeting is officially in the books. On June 12, Itasca-Mantrap hosted more than 300 members and friends for lunch and the meeting.

The business meeting featured an invocation from Pastor Jeff Lange of Faithbridge Church, followed by a guest address from Jon Brekke, Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer at Great River Energy. Members also heard reports from Itasca-Mantrap President and CEO Steve Johnson and Board Chair Brian Behrens. In addition, Sean Ward, our 2024 Youth Tour Delegate, gave a presentation, and Grace Officer, the 2025 Youth Tour Delegate, was introduced.

A director election was held for a three-year term in District 4. Incumbent Al Czeczok ran against Dale Johnson. With 635 votes cast, Czeczok was declared the winner with 438 votes to Johnson's 191 votes. In District 5, Incumbent Nancy Utke was uncontested in her bid for re-election and was elected by acclamation.

The members in attendance were treated to a lunch catered by Main Street Meats as well as cookies from Hugos! Attendees enjoyed friendly conversation and a warm, welcoming atmosphere—hallmarks of the Itasca-Mantrap Annual Meeting.

To end the meeting, prizes were given away, with four members taking home hanging baskets courtesy of Hafner's Greenhouse and five members receiving Energy Credit Certificates worth \$200 each!





CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

Reflecting on Our 84th Annual Meeting First and foremost, thank you to all the members and guests who joined us for our 84th Annual Meeting! It was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces and to share in the fellowship that makes our cooperative truly special. We hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did.

I'd also like to extend a personal invitation to our inaugural "Coffee With Your Co-op" on August 12th in Emmaville, starting at 8:30 a.m. It's a great opportunity to connect in a more casual setting, and I hope to see many of you there!

As I reflect on this year's Annual Meeting, I want to take a moment to expand on two important topics that were discussed, both of which are critical to our cooperative's future.

1. Power Generation in Northern Minnesota

Our guest speaker, Jon Brekke from GRE, touched on the limited generation resources in our region. This is an issue we're actively working to address. Plans are underway to develop new power generation resources right here in Northern Minnesota, with the goal of strengthening our long-term energy supply.

As our cooperative continues to grow, so does the demand for reliable electricity—and it's reassuring to know that we're taking steps today to ensure we're ready for tomorrow.

2. Transmission Infrastructure

Alongside new generation development, we're also focused on the need for additional transmission lines across the region. Quite simply, we need the infrastructure to move

power from where it's generated to where it's needed. Generation and transmission must grow together, and we are working closely with GRE to make sure these efforts are aligned, so we can continue to deliver the reliability you've come to expect.

Of course, with any major capital investment—whether in generation or transmission—comes the reality of increased costs. While we anticipate some upward pressure on rates in the coming years, we remain committed to doing everything we can to keep your power reliable and affordable.

We'll continue these conversations at upcoming cooperative events—and again, I hope to see you soon, especially at "Coffee With Your Co-op" in August!

Warm regards,

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- March financials, subject to audit
- Purchase of Property for a new substation
- Appointment of Operation Round Up Director
- Certification of Director Candidates for the 2025 Election
- Certificate of Appointment of Director Utke as delegate for Great River Energy's (GRE) Annual Meeting with Director Behrens as alternate.
- Certificate of Nomination of Director Utke to serve as director to the GRE Board.

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- Quarterly reports
- Summaries of director meetings attended

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for March 2025
- 2025 Operational Plan
- Annual Meeting preparations
- GRE's offer to extend the Transmission Service Contract

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

REMINDER FOR 2025 RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL AND LARGE POWER ACCOUNTS

As your electric cooperative, we want to remind members that a rate adjustment for small commercial, large commercial and large power accounts will take effect July 1, 2025 and reflected on your July 2025 bill, sent at the beginning of August.

This adjustment marks the first rate increase since 2018. Over the past several years, we've successfully managed rising costs without passing those increases on to our members. We navigated the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with supply chain disruptions and inflationary pressures. However, the continued increase in operating expenses—especially in wholesale power—has made a rate adjustment necessary.

Wholesale power accounts for 69% of our total operating costs, and our supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), has announced an 8.5% increase. This reflects the need for critical investments in the electric grid to improve reliability, expand capacity and support Minnesota's state-mandated transition to renewable energy.

These investments are essential. They will help strengthen our infrastructure, reduce the risk of outages, and better position our system to meet future demand—while also supporting environmental goals. As always, our priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to all members.

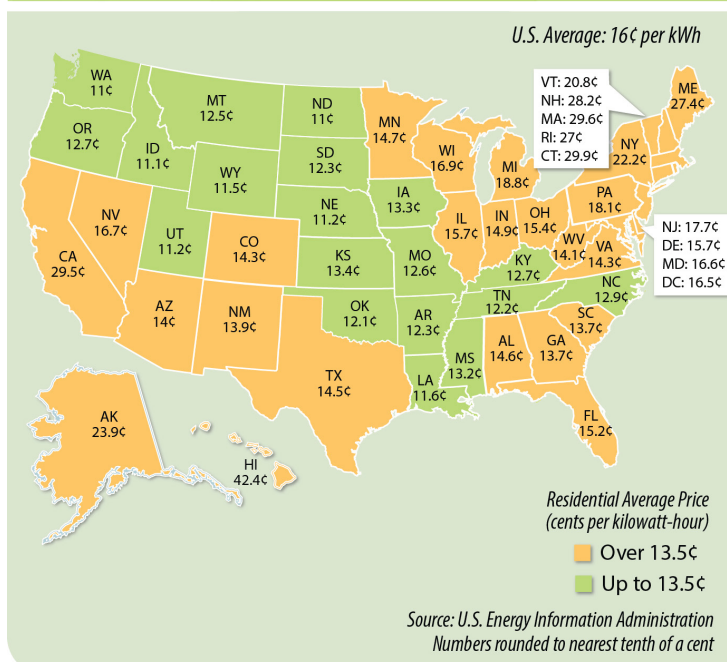
While this rate adjustment applies to commercial and large power accounts in 2025, we want to make our residential members aware that a residential rate increase is planned for 2026. We will provide more details on this topic in future editions of NewsLine and other member communications.

We understand that any rate increase can be challenging. Please know that we remain committed to keeping costs as low as possible while making the necessary investments to serve you today and in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2023 figures, in cents per kWh



Coffee With Your Co-op

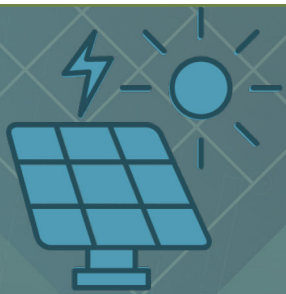
Join us for a town hall-style chat with President & CEO Steve Johnson.

Date and time: Tuesday, August 12 starting at 8:30 a.m.

Location: Emmaville Inn & Cafe

Hear updates on rate adjustments and your energy bill—plus ask questions and share feedback.

Info to RSVP coming soon on Facebook and email!



POWERED UP ENERGY FORUM SOLAR SOLUTIONS

Hosted by Itasca-Mantrap

Friday, August 8 | 1–4 p.m.

The Event Room – 1104 Park Ave S, Suite 2, Park Rapids

Curious about solar energy?

Join us for expert insights, real-world solutions, and answers to your solar questions. Learn how solar can work for your home, business, or community.

Featuring presentations from:

Star Energy Services & Wolf Track Energy



Cogenerators and Small Power Producers



Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative will interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility. Itasca-Mantrap will provide information to all interested Members, upon request, regarding rates and interconnection requirements.

An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the Cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Cooperative. Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative Board.

Interested Members should contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or by visiting our website at www.itsca-mantrap.com



Warm summer weather often brings strong storms capable of causing power outages. An outage can range from a brief blink to a significant disruption, depending on its timing and duration. Before reporting an outage to Itasca-Mantrap, follow these steps to ensure the issue isn't on your side of the meter:

1. Wait a Few Minutes – Sometimes, power restores on its own after a brief interruption. Give it a moment to see if it comes back.
2. Check Your Meter Display – Ensure your electric meter display is not blank. If it is, it may indicate an issue.
3. Look Around Your Neighborhood – If your power is still out, see if your neighbors are also experiencing an outage. This helps determine if it's a isolated issue.
4. Inspect Your Breaker or Fuse Box – If your neighbors have power, check for a tripped breaker or blown fuse.

If you're still without power after verifying these steps, it's time to report the outage.

How to Report an Outage

You have several convenient options to report a power outage:

Phone: Call Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 888-713-3377. The system will update you if an outage has already been reported in

your area, if a crew is dispatched, or if work is in progress.

SmartHub App: Open the app, click Report an Issue, select Power Outage, and confirm your location.

Text Messaging: If you're signed up for our text messaging service, simply text OUT to 888-713-3377. If not, text Itasca or OUT to the same number to opt in. Ensure your cell phone number is linked to your service location.

Stay Informed During an Outage

Outage Map: Visit our website to view real-time updates on the outage map, which shows the location of outages, crew assignments, and the number of members affected.

Facebook Updates: Follow Itasca-Mantrap on Facebook for updates during larger outages.

Text Updates: Text STATUS to 888-713-3377 to receive updates specific to your home.

Restoration Efforts

Itasca-Mantrap crews work diligently to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Your cooperation and patience during these times are appreciated. Staying informed and reporting issues promptly helps us serve you better.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further assistance!



ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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16930 County 6, PO Box 192
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

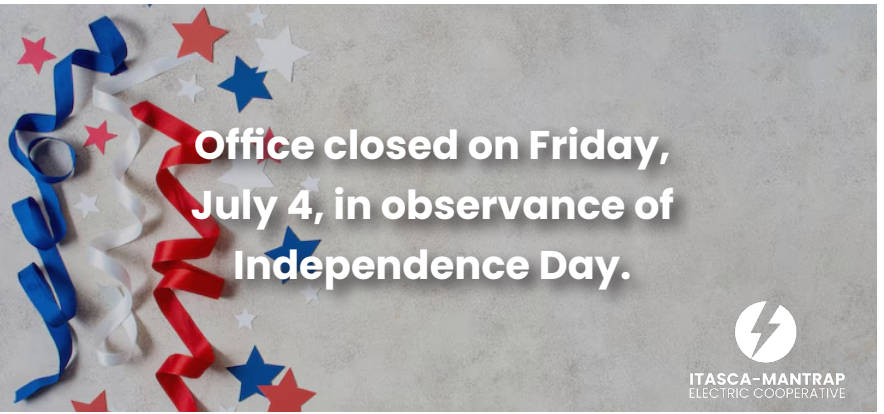
PRESIDENT & CEO

Steve Johnson

*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

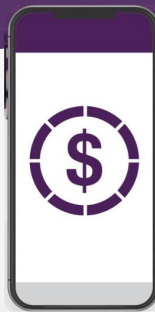
*Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.*



Office closed on Friday,
July 4, in observance of
Independence Day.



5 Reasons Why YOU Should Sign Up for SmartHub!



1. Make payments with SmartHub.
2. Track your electricity usage daily!
3. Sign up for auto pay.
4. Eliminate late fees.
5. Go paperless!

The End of Summer Social!

@ Itasca-Mantrap

16930 County 6, Park Rapids, MN

Thursday, August 21, 2025

2-4 p.m.



Face painting Sweet treats and more!