

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S

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### MN STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Find service territories for electrical inspectors here: <https://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction/>

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1-800-252-1166 or 811

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires a 48-hour notification so that buried telephone lines, TV cable, pipelines, and utility electric lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To provide excellent value to our members through the safe delivery of reliable electric service, excellent member service and innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices.*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*Connecting Communities.  
Powering Life.*

# ASK THE EXPERT!



## WHAT IS DEMAND AND HOW WILL IT AFFECT MY BILL?



**Bob Gregg**  
*Business Development Manager*

Starting this month, you'll see a new line on your bill labeled "demand." Right now, there's no charge, but this line is there to help you understand how much demand your home is creating. While our commercial members have been familiar with demand charges for years, it's important for residential members to understand demand and related costs due to changes in the electrical grid.

You might have heard me talk about the "demand response program" and the importance of off-peak load management. But what exactly is "demand" when it comes to electricity?

Simply put, demand is like a speedometer. Get in the driver's seat of your car for a moment. Energy (kWh) would be what is recorded on your car's odometer – a measurement of total miles. Demand (kW) is like your speedometer – measuring the speed at which the energy flows. The demand reading is like the highest recorded "miles-per-hour" speed for that month.



Think of the electrical grid like a freeway. It has to be built to accommodate the largest amount of traffic it could see at one time even if there is only a few cars using it most of the time. During "high-traffic" or high demand times, energy is more expensive. By spreading out your electricity use throughout the day and evenings, you can help the cooperative save on high-demand charges. That savings is passed onto members and ensures a more reliable and balanced grid for everyone.