

Application for Electric Co-op Shut-Off Protection

Read the notice of customer rights and possible assistance on the back of this notice BEFORE completing this form.

IF YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL AND NEED TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO SPREAD OUT YOUR PAYMENTS, call North Itasca Electric Cooperative BEFORE the due date.

IF YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL AND NEED COLD WEATHER PROTECTION FROM SHUT-OFF, fill out this form and return it to North Itasca Electric Cooperative IMMEDIATELY.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Law (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216B.097) provides that from October 15 through April 15 an electric cooperative cannot disconnect a residential customer for nonpayment if the disconnect would affect your primary heat source and you meet all of the following conditions:

1. You declare an inability to pay on this form.
2. Your total household, not individual, income is at or below 50% of the state median income level. **You must provide the necessary documentation to support this.**
3. You have entered into a payment schedule and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

If you do not meet the above conditions, then you do not qualify for winter shut-off protection. However, you still can continue to receive electric service if you call to make a mutually acceptable payment arrangement.

Income documentation must be included with this form!

Fill Out Completely (please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____

Work _____

E-mail address _____

Account Number (from your bill) _____

Total Amount Owing \$ _____

Total Annual Household Income \$ _____

Number of People in Home (include yourself) _____

Please check if any of the following exists in your home:

- Medical Emergency
- Disabled Person in Residence
- I have already been approved for fuel assistance or emergency assistance from a local energy assistance agency based on my income.

Payment arrangements:
Attach listing of specific dates and amounts.

Source of income (X appropriate boxes)

- Employment
- Disability / Social Security / Pension
- AFDC / GA / GA Medical Care
- SSI / Food Stamps / XSA / Children's Health Plan
- Medical Assistance
- I do not pay for any of my own medical expenses.
- Other

By signing this form, I hereby authorize any gas or electric utility, that serves me, to exchange billing information. I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the Notice of Residential Customer Rights and Possible Assistance. I attest that the above information is true and correct.

Signature _____

Date _____

Important Information and Application for Electric Co-op Shut-Off Protection



The Cold Weather Law does not protect against winter shut-offs in all situations. If you receive a disconnection notice this winter, you must act PROMPTLY.

NIECI North Itasca Electric Coop, Inc.
301 Main Ave S • PO Box 227
Bigfork, MN 56628-0227

Business Hours
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Notice of Residential Customer Rights and Possible Assistance

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of your rights and responsibilities under the Cold Weather Law. These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you meet winter utility bills. **You must act PROMPTLY.** If you choose not to assert your rights or choose not to enter into a mutually acceptable payment schedule, **your service may be disconnected.**

THE COLD WEATHER LAW AND OUR POLICY PROVIDE YOU WITH THESE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The RIGHT to declare your inability to pay your electric bill. If you do so and if your household income is at or below 50% of the state median income level, your service affecting your primary heat source cannot be disconnected for nonpayment of your bill, provided that you have entered into a payment schedule and are making reasonably timely payments to North Itasca Electric Cooperative.

The RESPONSIBILITY, if you choose to declare inability to pay, to complete the "Application For Electric Co-op Shut-Off Protection" form (on back), and return it to North Itasca Electric Cooperative.

The RESPONSIBILITY to provide documentation to North Itasca Electric Cooperative that your household income is at or below 50% of the state median income level.

The RIGHT to a mutually acceptable payment schedule with North Itasca Electric Cooperative. This payment schedule will cover your existing arrears plus the estimated usage during the payment schedule period. If you do not qualify for winter shut-off protection but still wish to enter into a payment schedule, contact North Itasca Electric Cooperative immediately to arrange a schedule.

The RIGHT not to be involuntarily disconnected on a Friday, on a weekend, holiday or on a day before a holiday.

The RIGHT not to be disconnected until at least 20 calendar days after the postmark date of the disconnect notice and information or until 15 calendar days after the disconnect notice and information has been personally delivered.

The RIGHT not to be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually

occupied when a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

The RIGHT, before you are involuntarily disconnected, to appeal your disconnect notice to North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Your service will not be disconnected until your appeal is resolved by North Itasca Electric Cooperative.

The RESPONSIBILITY, if you choose to appeal, to deliver or mail a personal letter of appeal stating your situation and issues in dispute. Your letter of appeal must be in our hands before the day of disconnection. The North Itasca Electric Cooperative appeal board will review your appeal within 30 days after it is received. You must call the co-op for the date and time of the appeal review if you wish to be present.

Under the Cold Weather Law, North Itasca Electric Cooperative must offer all customers the opportunity to request that a third party be notified if the service is subject to disconnection.

The individual or organization designated as the third party will have the right to declare your inability to pay the winter electric bills and the right to enter into a payment schedule for you. The designated third party will receive copies of all disconnection notices mailed to you but will not be held personally responsible for payment.

Military Service Personnel Assistance

Utility Payment Arrangements for Military Service Personnel

When a household member has been ordered into active duty, for deployment, or for a change of duty station, some customers may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota law protects these military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their utility bills in full.

How to Apply

Contact North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. to obtain an application and make a payment plan, which you must keep to qualify for protection.

Need Help Paying? North Itasca Electric Coop, Inc. 301 Main Ave S • PO Box 227



Bigfork, MN 56628

218-743-3131 or 800-762-4048

Kootasca Energy Assistance

800-422-0312

Bi-Cap Energy Assistance

800-332-7161

Leech Lake Energy Assistance

866-864-8668

Salvation Army/Heat Share

888-301-0643

LOW COST/NO COST ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

- Replace incandescent bulbs with CFL's.
- Caulk and weather strip cracks around doors and window frames. Block openings at bottom of doors to prevent drafts.
- Lower the setting on your thermostat at night and dress warmly.
- Lower the setting on your water heater to 120 degrees F (normal/medium).
- Run dishwasher only when it is full.
- Open shades during winter days to let the warm sunlight in and close the shades at night.
- Wash and rinse clothes with cold water.
- Leaking faucets should be repaired promptly, especially hot water.
- Turn off all unused lights and appliances.
- Close all windows tightly and use locks to prevent cold air leaking in. Cover all windows with plastic.
- Broken windows should be repaired immediately and close all storm windows.
- Window air conditioning units should be covered or removed during the heating season.
- Furnace filters should be kept clean.
- Furnaces should be checked for safe and efficient operation at least once a year.
- Vacuum refrigerator and freezer coils every six months to improve efficiency.
- Close off unused rooms.