Taylor Report

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TAYLOR ELECTRIC Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

MARCH 2022

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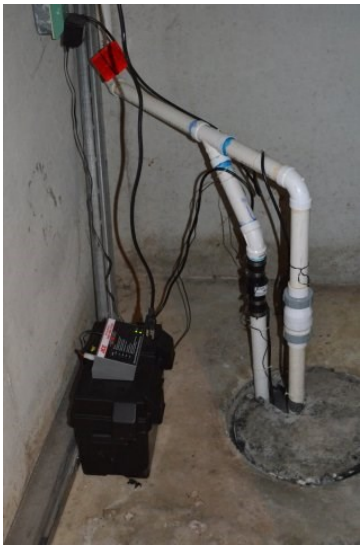
Check your Sump Pump as Spring Nears

Living in a rural community, Taylor Electric members have probably experienced firsthand, or know someone who has dealt with, a mess when a sump pump fails.



Like electricity, it is easy not to think about a sump pump until it doesn't work. Before the snow melts, take a few minutes to test and inspect your sump pump to make sure it's ready for spring.

Sump pumps are self-activating electrical pumps that protect homes from water intrusion. They are usually installed below basement or crawlspace floors in a sump pit to remove rising groundwater and surface runoff before it has a chance to get into the home. Pedestal pumps which sit above the water line and are not designed to get wet, submersible pumps that sit at the bottom of a sump pit and are designed to be underwater.

The National Association of Certified Home Inspectors offers these tips to keep in mind when installing a sump pump:

- Make sure a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet is used to plug the sump pump into. If one is not available, contact a licensed electrician to install one.
- Be sure the installation includes a check valve. This should be installed in order to prevent water from re-entering the sump pit when the device shuts off.
- Install an alarm. If your sump pump burns out, loses power, gets clogged, or fails for some other reason, an alarm will alert you that there is a buildup of water in the pit.
- Consider a backup option. In the event your main pump fails, a backup pump can take over and keep pumping water until problems with the main pump are rectified. One of the most common backup solutions uses a second electrical pump that is powered by a battery. It is important to check the battery once or twice a year to make sure it's in good shape.

  —Be sure the battery is rated to accommodate the pump and is fully charged

  —Check the voltage of the battery with a voltmeter

  —Turn the sump pump off and pour water into the sump. The battery should kick in once the water reaches a certain level. If not, a new battery may be needed

- Make sure the pit is large enough for the proper operation of the pump and float. Most sump pits should be no smaller than 24 inches deep and 18 inches wide.
- Don't forget to put a cover on your sump pit. This keeps water from evaporating into the home and can keep objects falling into the hole. It also keeps small children and pets from doing the same.
- When it comes to a sump pump you already have installed in your home, make sure to check it regularly to ensure that it is in proper working condition. To do this, remove the cover and slowly pour water into the sump tank. Watch for the "float" to rise and trigger the pump. Once the pump is engaged, the water level will quickly lower and the float will shut off the pump. If you find that you have to do any maintenance on the pump, make sure you unplug it prior to doing any work.

Unfortunately, sometimes pumps quit working, and you get water in your basement. Be sure to have Taylor Electric shut the power off before venturing into the basement to make sure no one gets injured or killed from electric shock. Never allow children or pets near the flooded basement, and remember that the flooded area will be slippery, even after the water recedes.

Resources: Safeelectricity.org
Sump Pump Tips | NDSU Agriculture and Extension
Sump Pump Questions | NDSU Agriculture and Extension
Simple tips to maintain your sump pump | The Hanover Insurance

Board Report – January 2022

- Approved December disbursements totaling $491,170. 10 new member applications, and December 2021 construction in the amount of $61,309.
- Reviewed financial results for the year end 2021, with $468,841 Operating Margins and $799,007 Total Margins.
- There were 27 outages in December, with average YTD outage time per meter of 2.6156 hours. The storms in December amounted to over twice the amount of outage time as the previous 11 months, .
- Five applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of $7032 to be paid out at the net present value of $4168.
- 23 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the January 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is $12,020.
- The board reviewed policies on employee leave, travel, and bylaw adjustments.
- Discussion on upcoming lobby days and other future meetings, the 2022 annual meeting and nominating committee,
- Zenner updated the board on DPC activities including the nuclear waste storage lawsuit, plant outages, and the Cardinal-Hickory Creek power line.

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR TAYLOR ELECTRIC'S BOARD?

Attention interested candidates: The time to notify the nominating committee of your interest is here. Part of the preparation process for the annual meeting is the call for candidates for the board seats up for election. There are two seats that will be up for election this year, one that is currently held by JoAnn Smith who is completing her final term and will be ineligible to run again. The other seat is held by Lisa Kohn, who is eligible to run again. There are some qualifications to run, but the main one is that you must be receiving power from Taylor Electric at your primary residence. After all, one of the drivers of an electric cooperative is local control, being owned (and governed) by members receiving service from the cooperative.

To get a place on the ballot, contact one of the following nominating committee members: Russ Bedroske-715-654-5531, Rod Adams-715-678-2397, or Jack Johnson-715-785-7777. You may also contact Kenny at the office, 715-678-2411, for a candidate interest form that will be forwarded to the committee. The filing deadline for candidates is close of business on March 23rd.

Should you miss that deadline and still have interest in running for the board, there is also a petition process where you collect 25 signatures from TEC members. The deadline for that is April 29TH.

Scholarships Available

Taylor Electric Cooperative is awarding six $500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Funding for the scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits. Students living in households that receive their electric service from Taylor Electric and who will be graduating from high school in 2022 are eligible.

Final selection for the scholarship recipients will be made by the board of directors, with the cooperation of those schools involved. If you are interested, please contact the office for an application or download from www.taylorelectric.org. Applications are due by April 4th.

NOTE: The funds for these scholarships are derived from unclaimed capital credit refunds. Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that unclaimed refunds may be used for educational and charitable purposes. Otherwise, they become unclaimed property and must be paid to the State of Wisconsin as such.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don't forget we spring ahead on Sunday, March 13th. Be sure to change your clocks and if you have a time-of-day meter to reset your timers.