

APPLICATION FOR DISCONNECTION PROTECTION

Inability to Pay Declaration Form

If you are unable to pay your bills in full and need Cold Weather Protection from utility disconnection, complete this form and return it to Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc. immediately.

Name _____

Account Number _____ Total Amount Owed: \$ _____

Service Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Total annual (yearly) household income \$ _____

Total number of persons in household _____

Source(s) of income (check all that apply):

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

Check if one or both conditions exist in your home:

Medical Emergency Disabled person in residence

By signing this form I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the Notice of Residential Customer's Rights and Responsibilities. I declare that the above information is true and correct. I give my permission to any energy provider or public assistance agency that serves me to exchange income and billing information with other energy providers and my utility for the purpose of program qualification.

*If you are the 'Third Party' for the member whose service is affected by this notice and are submitting this for him/her, sign here:

Signature _____

Phone _____ / _____ / _____ Date

Date _____

Customer Signature _____

THIRD PARTY NOTIFICATION FORM

*You may want to alert a third party (friend, relative, community agency) if a disconnection notice has been issued to you. The third party will not be responsible to pay your bill, but will have the right to contact the Cooperative and provide information or work out a payment arrangement. To designate a third party to be notified of the potential disconnection, complete this form and return it to the Cooperative office.

Member Name _____

Account Number _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Third Party Name _____

Third Party Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Third Party Home Phone _____

Third Party Work Phone _____

Third Party Signature _____ Date _____

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc. has my permission to provide information to and accept information from the third party named above.

Member Signature _____ Date _____

This request will not be accepted without the third party's signature. The member making the request understands that the cooperative assumes no liability for failure of third party to act upon notification.

Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

- Notice of Rights & Responsibilities
- Financial Assistance Resources
- Application for Disconnection Protection
- Third Party Notification Form

Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Litchfield, MN 55355
320-693-3231
www.meeker.coop

IMPORTANT

Please Read Carefully

Notice of Residential Customer Rights and Possible Assistance

The Cold Weather Rule, Section 216B.097 of the Public Utilities Act, provides that from October 15 through April 15, a cooperative cannot disconnect a residential cooperative customer for nonpayment if the disconnection would affect your primary heat source and all of the following conditions are met:

1. You declare an inability to pay, and
2. Your total household income is at or below 50% of State Median household income, and
3. You have entered into a payment agreement and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of your rights and responsibilities under the Cold Weather Rule.

These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you meet winter utility bills.

Military Service Personnel Assistance

Special consideration may be given when a household member has been deployed into military duty. If this is the case, contact Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc. at 320-693-3231 or 800-232-6257 to obtain an application and make a payment plan, which you must keep to qualify for protection.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you as needed to pay 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 plan, your electric service may be disconnected.

Your rights and responsibilities are:

- ◆ The right to declare an inability to pay your electric bill.
- ◆ The responsibility if you choose inability to pay, to complete fully the "Inability to Pay Declaration form" herein and return it to Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc. within seven (7) days.
- ◆ The right to a mutually acceptable payment schedule with Meeker Cooperative. This payment schedule will cover your existing arrears plus the estimated usage during the payment schedule period.
- ◆ The right before you are disconnected, to appeal your disconnect notice.
- ◆ The responsibility if you choose to appeal, to deliver or mail a letter of appeal to Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc. before the disconnect date stated on your bill. The appeal board will review your appeal within 10 days after it is received.
- ◆ The right not to be disconnected until at least 20 calendar days after the postmark date of this notice and information or until 15 calendar days after this notice and information has been personally delivered.
- ◆ The right not to be involuntarily disconnected on a Friday, weekend or on a day before a holiday.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

If you need help paying your electric utility bills, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualifications and application information, contact your county social service or community action agency listed here. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

All areas

Lutheran Social Service Southwest Office
320-235-5459

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker County Areas

United Community Action Partnership Toll-Free 800-992-1710

Kandiyohi

320-235-0850 or 800-992-1710

McLeod

320-587-5244 or 800-829-2132

Meeker

320-693-7911 or 800-770-4081

Renville County Area

Renville County Family Services
320-523-5522 or 800-363-2533

Stearns County Area

Stearns Tri-Community Action Programs
320-251-1612 or 888-765-5597

Wright County Area

Wright County Community Action
320-963-6500

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Follow these tips to reduce energy use and save money on your energy bills

- Caulk & weather strip cracks around doors/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° Fahrenheit (normal/medium).
- Run dishwasher only when it is full.
- Open shades during winter days to let the sunlight in and close the shades at night.
- Limit the use of portable heaters.
- Wash clothes with warm water and rinse them in 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 all storm windows should be closed.
- Window A/C 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.

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