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## Vote Yes on Lake Country Power Public Utilities Commission Ballot

Greetings Seasonal Property Owners,

This spring, a number of MSRPO members wrote in that Lake Country Power (LCP) had raised the monthly facilities charges. Again. And in this economy. With the help of a number of MSRPO members, we took a closer look at Lake Country Power and the rate system they use.

Based on that, MSRPO made the claim that LCP charges seasonal property owners more for power than they do other classes of owners, a claim that Lake Country Power denied. LCP claimed correctly that the rate they charged is the same for all users, and so denies that Seasonal Owners pay more.

But when the rates, fees and seasonal increases are all factored, a different story begins to emerge:

In 1999 Seasonal Property Owners accounted for 6 percent of LCP usage but provided 11 percent of the revenue.

In 2004, seasonal owners accounted for 7 percent of the usage but provided 11 percent of the revenue ...

In 2006, we accounted for 11.9 percent of the usage but provided 16.5 percent of the revenue.

**The cost per Kilowatt hour were:**

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2006</u>
Industrial Class	\$0.047	\$0.050	\$0.069*
Commercial	\$0.070	\$0.068	\$0.069*
Residential Class	\$0.079	\$0.077	\$0.088*
Seasonal	\$0.137	\$0.125	\$0.118

Once one includes such things as a monthly facilities charge and summer rate increases (Lake country Power just raised the Monthly Facilities Charge by 12.5 percent to \$22.50 plus tax), seasonal property owners do pay more per kilowatt hour than any other users.

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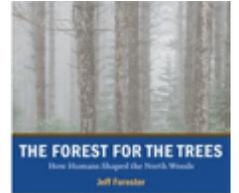
Also this summer, a group of Lake Country Power users were able to force a vote to include Lake Country Power under the authority of Minnesota's Public Utilities Commission. Every LCP member has received a ballot. Lake Country Power has spent considerable time and resources advising against putting the coop under the oversight of the Public Utilities Commission.

And while it is true that the PUC will not be a panacea for all ills, MSRPO believes that a YES VOTE on the ballot is in the best interests of seasonal property owners who use Lake Country Power.

1. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) currently provides oversight for Dakota Electric COOP and they have seen only 2 increases in rates during the past 16 years.
2. Over 500 members signed the petition to mandate a vote on PUC oversight of Lake Country Power.
3. The cost for PUC regulation as estimated by the State of Minnesota would be less than \$9.00 per year per member. The management of LCP had no problem raising the facilities charge by \$30.00 per year per member.
4. In the future, if the membership determines that PUC oversight is not a benefit, we can petition to terminate.
5. Recent rate increases, a lack of responsiveness by LCP management and lack of representation by non-resident seasonal owners on the LCP Board all suggest the Cabin owners should VOTE FOR PUC OVERSIGHT!

Ballots must be returned before August 16th, so make sure to get yours in the mail today.

We hope that you are all having a good summer "up north" and getting in some family time and making many happy memories together.



Keep in touch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Forester". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

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