

**MN Cold Weather Rule**  
**Inability to Pay Form (continued)**

**Check if the following exists in your home:**

- Medically Necessary Equipment (Complete the Life-Sustaining Medically Necessary Equipment Form. The form is available at [www.fmec.coop](http://www.fmec.coop) or by calling our office.)
- Disabled person in residence
- I have applied and been approved for energy assistance from a local energy assistance agency based on my total gross household income.

By signing this form, I hereby authorize any gas, electric utility or any energy assistance/human service agencies that serves us to exchange information. I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the Notice of Residential Rights/Responsibilities and Possible Assistance. I attest that the above information is true and correct.

Joint accounts must be signed by both members.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Detach and return completed form along with income documentation to our office.**

If you would like a copy of disconnect notices to be mailed to a third party, please contact our office for further information.

**Energy Assistance Providers**

**SEMCCAC**

(800) 944-3281 | [www.semccac.org](http://www.semccac.org)

**Freeborn County Human Services**

(507) 377-5400

**Mower County Human Services**

(507) 437-9701

**Minnesota Valley Action Council**

(507) 345-6822 | (800) 767-7139

**Minnesota Prairie County Alliance**

(888) 850-9419

**Faribault County Human Services**

(507) 526-3265

**Fillmore County Social Services**

(507) 765-2175

**North Iowa Community Action**

(641) 423-9028 | (800) 873-1899

**Home Energy Saving Tips**

Simple, inexpensive ways to lower your home energy costs include:

- Caulking, sealing, and weather stripping any areas where air can enter or exit the home.
- Turn off any unnecessary lighting.
- Set the thermostat at a lower temperature during the night and while nobody is home.

Visit [www.fmec.coop](http://www.fmec.coop) for more energy saving tips.

# Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

*The MN Cold Weather Rule Does Not  
Prevent Winter Disconnects*



PO Box 611 | 3366 Bridge Avenue  
Albert Lea MN 56007

[www.fmec.coop](http://www.fmec.coop) | [info@fmec.coop](mailto:info@fmec.coop)

(800) 734-6421 | (507) 373-6421

Monday – Friday

7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## Cold Weather Rule Guidelines

This notice informs you of your rights and responsibilities under the Cold Weather Rule.

The Cold Weather Rule provides that from October 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup> an electric cooperative cannot disconnect a residential consumer for nonpayment if the disconnection would affect the primary heat source, and all the following conditions are met:

- You declare the inability to pay by completing the Inability to Pay Form and include three months gross total household income.
- Your total gross household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income and/or you are a recipient of energy assistance for this heating season.
- You must have entered into a payment agreement and remain current under that agreement.

If you do not meet these guidelines, you do not qualify for winter shut-off protection.

**If you are unable to pay your bill by the due date, you must call us to arrange a payment agreement. Your service may be disconnected, even during the winter months, if you do not respond to the disconnect notice.**

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, your account must be current or have a mutually agreed upon payment agreement. Failure to comply could result in disconnection of service.

## Notice of Residential Rights and Responsibilities Under The Cold Weather Rule

- You have the **RIGHT** to declare your inability to pay your electric bill if disconnection would affect your primary heat source and you meet the cold weather guidelines.
- You have the **RESPONSIBILITY**, if you choose to declare inability to pay, to complete the Inability to Pay Form as well as provide proof of income and return to FMEC prior to the disconnect date.
- You have the **RESPONSIBILITY**, to provide documentation to FMEC that your total gross household income is less than 50% of the state median income.
- You have the **RIGHT** to a mutually acceptable payment agreement with us. The agreement will require a minimum monthly payment equal to 10% of your household's gross monthly income.
- You have the **RIGHT** not to be involuntarily disconnected on a Friday or on a day before a holiday.
- You have the **RIGHT**, not to be disconnected until at least 30 calendar days after the postmarked date of a disconnect notice or until 15 calendar days after a disconnect notice has been personally delivered.
- You have the **RIGHT**, before you are involuntarily disconnected, to appeal your notice of disconnection to FMEC. Your service will not be disconnected until your appeal is resolved.
- You have 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 proposed disconnection. The FMEC Board of Directors will review your appeal on the day of the next regularly scheduled board meeting. You must call the co-op for the date and time of the appeal review if you wish to be present.

## MN Cold Weather Rule Inability to Pay Form

*If you are unable to pay your bill in full and need cold weather shut-off protection, complete this form, and return to FMEC.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

FMEC Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of persons in household \_\_\_\_\_

Total gross annual household income  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Heat Source \_\_\_\_\_

**Source of Income** (Must provide proof of last three months of total gross household income.)

Check all that apply:

- Employment/Unemployment
- Disability/Social Security/Pension
- Child Support
- Medical Assistance/GA Medical Care/MN Care
- AFDC/ GA/MFIP
- Food Stamps/Children's Health Plan
- Energy Assistance
- Worker's Compensation
- Other

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