

# Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

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Date:

June 19, 20, & 21, 2012

To: Attendees for the **2012** Coal Creek Tour

From: Doug Hughes, Marketing  
Tel. Direct-1-507-446-4213 or 1-800-526-3514 or e-mail mktg@swce.coop

Thank you for inquiring about the Coal Creek Tour, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday June 19, 20, & 21, 2012. You will enjoy our EVERYTHING INCLUDED tour; we have chartered the Northfield Bus Lines and booked the Country Inn & Suites Motel in Bismarck, ND.

1. *Highlights of the 2012 Coal Creek Tour:*

- ☛ Coffee, juice and rolls to get the trip started the first morning *at Steele-Waseca Electric Co-op*
- ☛ Board the Motor Coach at Steele-Waseca's office in Owatonna (all transportation in a Motor Coach Bus)
- ☛ Two nights at the Bismarck Country Inn & Suites with swimming pool/water slide
- ☛ Main tours of the *Coal Creek Station* and the *Falkirk Mine*
- ☛ Side tours of the Blue Flint Ethanol Plant, the High Voltage DC converter station, and the Missouri River Garrison Dam
- ☛ Activities with prizes on Tuesday and Wednesday Night
- ☛ Pop, water, snacks and FUN on the motor coach

2. The Adult Tour price for Cooperative Members and their guests is \$219.00 per adult. One of the Cooperative's goals is to educate our young members about our industry. This is a great opportunity for parents or grandparents to bring up to *three* students between the ages of 10 and 18 by June of 2012 at *NO* charge. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Additional students are \$99 per student. Note: if an adult Member brings a Non-Member adult as a guest, the guest may travel for the Member price of \$219.00 also.

3. For Non-Member-Adults who are not guests of a Cooperative member traveling on the Tour, the Tour price is \$419.00 per adult. For members who wish to travel a second time, the Tour price is \$319.00 unless you bring a guest who is a Member (adult or student) of the Cooperative who has not been on the Tour before then the price will remain at \$219.00 per adult to encourage promotion of the tour.

4. To hold a seat on the motor coach fill out the (1) *Registration Form*, (2) *Member Profile Form*, and (3) *Write a Check* for the correct amount. Return all three immediately to our office. **We hold the checks until we depart for the tour in June.** This allows the Coop to easily return the check in case someone must cancel due to schedule changes. Please make check payable to *Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric*.

5. We only have *48* seats available. This is a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE reservation.

Get your reservation in early and get ready for three days of **Fun & Energy!**  
Check out the following Agenda Description:

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

*7:00 a.m.* The three day tour begins *at Steele-Waseca* with coffee, juice and rolls. We board the motor coach at Steele-Waseca *in Owatonna* and depart for Bismarck at *7:30 a.m.* To make your ride comfortable bring pillows, blankets, etc. on the motor coach. You can park your vehicle at Steele-Waseca while we are on the tour.

After each stop during the day we will play short, educational DVDs on the bus about what we will see over the next three days. We will have fun with questions and answers about the information in each DVD throughout the trip for great prizes.

Around *9:30 a.m.* we will stop at the Clearwater Truck Stop for our first rest stop. Here you can use the restroom, stretch out, and buy snacks if you want to. At *10:00 a.m.* the bus will depart Clearwater and continue on toward North Dakota.

On the second leg of our journey we will stop for LUNCH in the FOOD COURT at the West Acres Shopping Center in Fargo North Dakota ([www.westacres.com/stores/](http://www.westacres.com/stores/)). Everyone will receive money for lunch at the Food Court. There are a variety of restaurants to choose from. You are free to shop until it is time to get on the bus again and head to Bismarck. We will be at the mall for *1 1/2* hours.

After about an hour and a half we will be nearing Jamestown, North Dakota. Here we will stop at a rest area for another short break. You will have time to use the restroom and stretch out before the final leg of the day's trip.

On the last leg of our travel for the day, our motor coach will arrive at the Country Inn & Suites in Bismarck at about *5:15 p.m.* Our host, Debby Bolte, will have hors d'oeuvres ("snacks"☺) for us. After we get to our rooms in the motel, unpack our bags and get settled in, you will have the following options until *9:00 p.m.*: You can snack on hors d'oeuvres, go swimming in the pool with a GREAT water slide, or walk to a shopping area or a restaurant nearby. After a long ride on the bus not all of us are ready for evening dinner at the same time. To accommodate everyone for the evening dinner you can go for dinner anytime between *6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.* at your choice of the many nearby restaurants such as: *Applebee's, Space Aliens, Golden Corral, Ruby Tuesday's, Wendy's, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Taco Bell, Little Caesar's Pizza* and others. You will all receive money to buy dinner at your choice of restaurant.

\*REMEMBER to be back at the **Harvest Room** by *9:00 p.m.* for fun group activities!

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Get ready because you're in for a busy day! Wear comfortable walking shoes (~~NO SANDALS OR OPEN TOE SHOES~~) and comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty (be prepared for all types of weather; rain, wind, hot or cold - an umbrella would be handy). The day begins with breakfast in the Harvest Room. Breakfast includes: make-your-own waffles, many selections of hot and cold cereals, a variety of juices, assorted donuts and muffins, yogurt, fresh fruit, bagels and English muffins, regular and decaf coffee, tea, milk, hot chocolate and cappuccino in the breakfast room. You can have breakfast anytime between 6:00 a.m. and 7:25 a.m. ~~BE ON THE BUS AT 7:30 a.m.~~ At 7:30 a.m. ~~Sharp~~ we will depart from the Country Inn & Suites for the Coal Creek Station, Falkirk Mine, and the Garrison Dam.

To start off the day we will travel to the Coal Creek Station we will take a restroom break, review safety rules, put on our hard hats and headsets and be assigned into tour groups for an interesting tour (*Note: for safety reasons, any children under 10 will be entertained while others are on the Power Plant tour which lasts about an hour*). After the tour we will have refreshments. From the Coal Creek Station we will go to the HVDC (high voltage DC) Terminal. Here you will see real equipment where 22,000 Volts of alternating current from the generators is converted to 400,000 Volts of direct current. The last part of the Coal Creek segment is a visit to the Blue Flint Ethanol plant which generates 50 million gallons of ethanol per year by using excess steam from the Coal Creek Power Plant.

Next we will tour the Falkirk Mine where we will see the mining process for the Lignite Coal take place and the HUGE drag-lines that uncover the coal. To tour the mine we will board the Falkirk bus and head out to the coal field. Here we will see the coal being removed from the ground using the drag-line and shovels. We will even be able to get off the bus to pick up our very own pieces of coal to bring back with us (unless it rains)!

Next we will see the Garrison Dam where electricity is generated with water. While we are on the way (a 25 mile trip) we will watch a video about the history of the Garrison Dam. We will tour the Garrison Dam power house and make a short 20 minute stop to sight see at the Dam lookout area.

Along the way we will have Lunch planned by Great River Energy.

From the Garrison Dam we will travel back to the Country Inn & Suites between around 5:00 p.m.

Once we arrive back at the Country Inn & Suites you have free time to take a nap, go swimming or use the hot tub, go to dinner, or relax in your room until 8:00 p.m.

Each of you will receive money to buy dinner at your choice of the many restaurants located near the hotel. Among the several restaurants to choose from are: *Applebee's, Space Aliens, Golden Corral, Ruby Tuesday's, Wendy's, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Taco Bell,* and others. At 8:00 p.m. please come back to the Harvest Room for our planned evening activities of Energy Jeopardy to win great prizes and an **Ice Cream Social!**

*Remember breakfast will be in the Harvest Room on*

*Thursday morning from 6:00 a.m. to 7:25 a.m.*

*Thursday, June 21, 2012*

*The Last Day*

From 6:00 a.m. to 7:25 a.m. we will have breakfast for the last time in the Harvest Room. Please remember to be on the bus **NO LATER** than 7:30 a.m. We will check you out of the Motel.

*At 7:30 a.m. Sharp we will depart the Country Inn & Suites hotel for Owatonna.* We will take rest stop #254 in Jamestown (it will be about an hour or so before we reach the Jamestown rest stop).

We will have a late lunch around 12:30 p.m. at McDonald's in Alexandria, MN, Exit 103.

We will make a rest stop at a Rest Stop along the way for a quick break and to use the restroom.

We will arrive in Owatonna between 5:00-6:00p.m., depending on traffic.

We hope that you will join us on the 2012 Coal Creek Tour for an educational AND fun trip!

Sincerely,

***Doug Hughes***  
Doug Hughes, *CFII, MEII*  
Marketing