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Form 990  Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)	OMB No 1545-0047
	2012 Open to Public Inspection	

A For the 2012 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2012 , 2012, and ending 12-31-2012

B Check if applicable ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending	C Name of organization Dakota Electric Association		D Employer identification number 41-0212180	
	Doing Business As			
	Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) 4300 220th Street W	Room/suite	E Telephone number (651) 463-7134	
	City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 Farmington, MN 550249583			
	F Name and address of principal officer Lou Ann Weflen 4300 220th Street W Farmington, MN 550249583		H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? ☐ Yes ☒ No H(b) Are all affiliates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No," attach a list (see instructions) H(c) Group exemption number ▶	
I Tax-exempt status ☐ 501(c)(3) ☒ 501(c) (12) ◀ (insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527				
J Website: ▶ www.dakotaelectric.com				
K Form of organization ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶			L Year of formation 1939	
			M State of legal domicile MN	

Part I	Summary
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Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities Electric Distribution Coop		
	2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets		
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	11
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	9
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2012 (Part V, line 2a)	5	225
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	0
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	171,502
	7b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	-4,568
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	Current Year
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0	0
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	193,007,653	201,661,079
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	142,234	146,195
	12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	17,801	6,095
		193,167,688	201,813,369
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	95,478	90,792
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	3,633,578	2,283,232
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	20,904,178	21,048,876
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ⁰		
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	161,893,115	169,321,611
	18 Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	186,526,349	192,744,511
	19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	6,641,339	9,068,858
Net Assets or Fund Balances		Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	266,492,434	277,903,292
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	147,437,253	150,138,923
	22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	119,055,181	127,764,369

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	***** Signature of officer				2013-06-26 Date		
	LOU ANN WEFLEN VP-Finance/CFO Type or print name and title						
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name LISA CHAFFEE CPA		Preparer's signature		Date 2013-06-26	Check ☐ if self-employed	PTIN P00193453
	Firm's name ▶ EIDE BAILLY LLP					Firm's EIN ▶ 45-0250958	
	Firm's address ▶ 4310 17TH AVE S PO BOX 2545 FARGO, ND 581082545					Phone no (701) 239-8500	

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Part III

Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part III

1

Briefly describe the organization’s mission

We are a member-owned, member-focused electric distribution cooperative, striving to exceed our members' energy expectations in a changing world

2

Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If “Yes,” describe these new services on Schedule O

3

Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If “Yes,” describe these changes on Schedule O

4

Describe the organization’s program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

4a

(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

Provide electric and related services and products for approximately 102,000 members/customers

4b

(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4c

(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4d

Other program services (Describe in Schedule O)

(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e

Total program service expenses

Part IV

Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	1	No
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)?	2	No
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>	3	No
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>	4	
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>	5	No
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i> 	6	No
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i> 	7	No
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i> 	8	No
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i> 	9	Yes
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i> 	10	No
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i> 	11a	Yes
b Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i> 	11b	No
c Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i> 	11c	Yes
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i> 	11d	No
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> 	11e	Yes
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> 	11f	Yes
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i> 	12a	No
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i> 	12b	Yes
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>	13	No
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	14a	No
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>	14b	No
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>	15	No
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>	16	No
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)</i>	17	No
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>	18	No
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>	19	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>	20a	No
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b	

Part IV

Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to any government or organization in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>	21	Yes	
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>	22		No
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	23	Yes	
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25</i>	24a		No
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d		
25a	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25a		
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25b		
26	Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highest compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>	26		No
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>	27		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28a		No
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28b		No
c	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28c	Yes	
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	29		No
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	30		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>	31		No
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>	32		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>	33		No
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i>	34	Yes	
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a	Yes	
b	If 'Yes' to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	35b	Yes	
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	36		
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>	37		No
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	38	Yes	

Part V

Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part V

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable.	100	
1b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable.	0	
1c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	Yes	
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return.	225	
2b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions).	Yes	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	Yes	
3b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.	Yes	
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?		No
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: _____ See instructions for filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?		No
5b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?		No
5c	If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?		
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?		No
6b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?		
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
7a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?		
7b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?		
7c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8822?		
7d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8822 filed during the year.		
7e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?		
7f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?		
7g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?		
7h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?		
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?		
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
9a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?		
9b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?		
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter		
10a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.		
10b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities.		
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter		
11a	Gross income from members or shareholders.	190,427,115	
11b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them).	408,989	
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?		
12b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.		
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.		
13a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.		
13b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans.		
13c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand.		
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?		No
14b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.		

Part VI

Governance, Management, and Disclosure

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VI

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year		
1a	11		
If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O			
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent		
1b	9		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2	Yes
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3	No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4	No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5	No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6	Yes
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a	Yes
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b	Yes
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following		
a	The governing body?	8a	Yes
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	No
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	9	No

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	No
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b	
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	Yes
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a	Yes
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	No
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	12c	No
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	Yes
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	No
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a	Yes
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b	No
If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)			
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	No
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b	

Section C. Disclosure

17	List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed
18	Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply. ☒ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request ☐ Other (explain in Schedule O)
19	Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year
20	State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization Carla Henke 4300 220th St W Farmington, MN (651) 463-7134

Part VII

Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

- 1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year
- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid

List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any See instructions for definition of "key employee "

List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations

List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List persons in the following order individual trustees or directors, institutional trustees, officers, key employees, highest compensated employees, and former such persons

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) James Sheldon Chair	12 80 50	X		X				27,820	0	0
(2) William Holton Vice Chair	13 50	X		X				21,400	0	0
(3) Paul Trapp Secretary	6 90	X		X				21,400	0	0
(4) Kenneth Danner Treasurer	11 50 60	X		X				21,400	0	0
(5) Clay Van De Bogart Director	4 30	X						21,400	0	0
(6) Janet Lekson Director	15 90 50	X						21,400	0	0
(7) Judy Kimmes Director	25 70 40	X						21,400	0	0
(8) Margaret Schreiner Director	18 10	X						21,400	0	0
(9) Gerald Pittman Jr Director	5 90	X						21,220	0	0
(10) Ronald Swagger Jan-May Director	11 70	X						8,800	0	0
(11) Paul Bakken Director	9 80	X						21,400	0	0
(12) David Jones Apr-Dec Director	17 50	X						16,150	0	0
(13) Greg Miller President/CEO	40 00			X				300,735	0	138,570
(14) Lou Ann Weflen VP - Finance/CFO	40 00			X				204,668	0	91,288
(15) Dirk Rotty VP - Utility Services	40 00				X			174,150	0	65,334
(16) Douglas Larson VP - Regulatory Services	40 00				X			172,982	0	67,046
(17) Michael Fosse VP - Marketing and Sales	40 00				X			169,975	0	83,583

Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(18) Randall Poulson VP - Engineering Services	40 00				X			171,496	0	95,025
(19) Craig Turner Engineering Services Manag	40 00					X		113,027	0	58,261
(20) Malinda Mehrhoff Human Resources Manager	40 00					X		107,979	0	58,245
(21) Michael Briggs Director of Information Se	40 00					X		122,218	0	55,547
(22) Kevin Fowler Safety Services Manager	40 00					X		114,779	0	57,516
(23) Carla Henke Corporate Controller	40 00					X		117,701	0	24,107
1b Sub-Total										
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A										
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								2,014,900	0	794,522

2

Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization▶24

		Yes	No
3	Did the organization list any former officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		No
4	For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	Yes	
5	Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1	Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year		
(A) Name and business address		(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
NPL Construction Co 2355 W Utopia Rd Phoenix AZ 850274167		Underground Construction	2,554,036
Wright Tree Service Inc 2943 Paysphere Circle Chicago IL 606742943		Tree Trimming	425,847
Carr's Tree Service Inc 307 Minnesota 78 Ottertail MN 56571		Tree Trimming	283,347
CAP Agency 712 Canterbury Rd S Shakopee MN 553791840		Low Income Energy Efficiency Programs	247,805
Kubra Data Transfer LTD 39577 Treasury Center Chicago IL 606949500		Customer Billing	233,622
2	Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization ▶9		

Part VIII

Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VIII

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns . . .	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b				
	c	Fundraising events	1c				
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f				
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$					
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f					
Program Service Revenue			Business Code				
	2a	Electric	221000	201,489,577	201,489,577		
	b	Vehicle Repair Services	811000	62,897		62,897	
	c	Technician Electrician for CEG	238210	49,153		49,153	
	d	Dispatching Services	561439	33,569		33,569	
	e	CEG Accounting Support	541200	9,331		9,331	
	f	All other program service revenue		16,552		16,552	
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f		201,661,079			
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		162,181		162,181	
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5	Royalties					
	6a	Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal			
	b	Less rental expenses					
	c	Rental income or (loss)					
	d	Net rental income or (loss)					
	7a	Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other			
	b	Less cost or other basis and sales expenses		15,986			
	c	Gain or (loss)		-15,986			
	d	Net gain or (loss)		-15,986		-15,986	
	8a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18	a				
	b	Less direct expenses	b				
	c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events					
9a	Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19	a					
b	Less direct expenses	b					
c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities						
10a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a					
			96,468				
b	Less cost of goods sold	b					
			90,373				
c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory		6,095	6,095			
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11a							
b							
c							
d	All other revenue						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d						
12	Total revenue. See Instructions		201,813,369	201,495,672	171,502	146,195	

Part IX

Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns All other organizations must complete column (A)

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part IX

☐

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1	Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States See Part IV, line 21	90,792			
2	Grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States See Part IV, line 22				
3	Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the United States See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4	Benefits paid to or for members	2,283,232			
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	1,878,100			
6	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7	Other salaries and wages	12,777,218			
8	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	2,969,909			
9	Other employee benefits	2,346,327			
10	Payroll taxes	1,077,322			
11	Fees for services (non-employees)				
a	Management				
b	Legal	50,892			
c	Accounting	51,750			
d	Lobbying				
e	Professional fundraising services See Part IV, line 17				
f	Investment management fees				
g	Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	2,207,314			
12	Advertising and promotion	2,056,231			
13	Office expenses	1,842,510			
14	Information technology				
15	Royalties				
16	Occupancy	170,727			
17	Travel	167,892			
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20	Interest	5,351,112			
21	Payments to affiliates				
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	8,215,959			
23	Insurance	638,519			
24	Other expenses Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O)				
a	Cost of Purchased Power	141,151,267			
b	Property & Other Taxes	3,808,960			
c	Contract & Billable Exp	1,491,300			
d	Distribution Plant Main	1,066,779			
e	All other expenses	1,050,399			
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	192,744,511			
26	Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X

Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part X

				(A)		(B)
				Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing		1,064,388	1	1,159,418
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments			2	
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net			3	
	4	Accounts receivable, net		18,535,209	4	20,832,079
	5	Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L			5	
	6	Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L			6	
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net			7	
	8	Inventories for sale or use		4,372,993	8	4,159,614
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		536,537	9	1,358,165
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a259,487,050			
	b	Less accumulated depreciation	10b101,233,323	157,431,838	10c	158,253,727
	11	Investments—publicly traded securities			11	
	12	Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11		11,229,649	12	10,318,441
	13	Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11		67,666,283	13	76,509,319
	14	Intangible assets			14	
	15	Other assets See Part IV, line 11		5,655,537	15	5,312,529
	16	Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)		266,492,434	16	277,903,292
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses		32,797,379	17	34,535,548
	18	Grants payable			18	
	19	Deferred revenue		1,467,925	19	1,190,674
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities			20	
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D		116,100	21	117,539
	22	Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L			22	
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		97,876,486	23	94,229,025
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		7,903,368	24	15,039,363
	25	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D		7,275,995	25	5,026,774
	26	Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25		147,437,253	26	150,138,923
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☐ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.					
	27	Unrestricted net assets			27	
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets			28	
	29	Permanently restricted net assets			29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☒ and complete lines 30 through 34.					
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		0	30	0
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund		0	31	0
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		119,055,181	32	127,764,369
	33	Total net assets or fund balances		119,055,181	33	127,764,369
	34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances		266,492,434	34	277,903,292

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	201,813,369
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	192,744,511
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	9,068,858
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	119,055,181
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	-359,670
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	127,764,369

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XII

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual ☐ Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis		No
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☒ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis	Yes	
2c	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O	Yes	
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
3b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization Dakota Electric Association	Employer identification number 41-0212180
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Part I

Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1	Total number at end of year	
2	Aggregate contributions to (during year)	
3	Aggregate grants from (during year)	
4	Aggregate value at end of year	
5	Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? ☐ Yes☐ No	
6	Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? ☐ Yes☐ No	

Part II

Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1

Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)

☐ Preservation of land for public use (e g , recreation or education)☐ Preservation of an historically important land area☐ Protection of natural habitat☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure☐ Preservation of open space

2

Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

	Held at the End of the Year
a	Total number of conservation easements
b	Total acreage restricted by conservation easements
c	Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)
d	Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register

3

Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶_____

4

Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶_____

5

Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?

☐ Yes☐ No

6

Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶_____

7

Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶\$ _____

8

Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?

☐ Yes☐ No

9

In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

Part III

Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a

If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

b

If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

▶\$ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X

▶\$ _____

2

If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items

a

Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

▶\$ _____

b

Assets included in Form 990, Part X

▶\$ _____

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Cat No 52283D

Schedule D (Form 990) 2012

Part III

Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3

Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)

a

☐ Public exhibition

b

☐ Scholarly research

c

☐ Preservation for future generations

d

☐ Loan or exchange programs

e

☐ Other

4

Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII

5

During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Part IV

Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a

Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?

☐ Yes

☒ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table

c

Beginning balance

d

Additions during the year

e

Distributions during the year

f

Ending balance

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

2a

Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21?

☒ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

☒

Part V

Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a)Current year	(b)Prior year	b (c)Two years back	(d)Three years back	(e)Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2

Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as

a

Board designated or quasi-endowment

b

Permanent endowment

c

Temporarily restricted endowment

The percentages in lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%

3a

Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

(i) unrelated organizations

(ii) related organizations

	Yes	No
3a(i)		
3a(ii)		
3b		

b

If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

4

Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI

Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b)Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land		3,635,100		3,635,100
b Buildings		7,316,802	2,953,097	4,363,705
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment		245,425,817	98,280,226	147,145,591
e Other		3,109,331		3,109,331
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)				158,253,727

Part XI

Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12			
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a		
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	
5	Total revenue Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)		5	

Part XII

Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)		5	

Part XIII

Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
	Part IV, Line 2b	The members of the Cooperative can elect to pay an additional set amount on their electric bill each month as a contribution to the Helping Neighbors Trust. The funds collected from the membership are held in a Cooperative account and are paid to the Trust quarterly. The Trust uses the funds for charitable purposes. Funds that exist at the end of the year are a result of a timing difference from when the funds are collected from the Cooperative members, to when they are distributed to the Helping Neighbors Trust. At December 31, 2012, the Cooperative held \$2,288. The Cooperative also collects franchise fees from its members and distributes these fees directly to the City of Apple Valley. The amount of \$115,251 that exists at December 31, 2012 is a result of a timing difference between when the funds are collected and when they are distributed to the City of Apple Valley.
Description of Uncertain Tax Positions Under FIN 48	Part X, Line 2	Dakota Electric is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code and the State of Minnesota. MES provides for deferred taxes on temporary differences arising from assets and liabilities whose basis is different for financial reporting and income tax purposes. Dakota Electric adopted the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification Topic ASC 740-10 (previously Financial Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes), on January 1, 2009. The implementation of this standard had no impact on the financial statements. The unrecognized tax benefit accrual was zero as of December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. Dakota Electric will recognize future accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense if such penalties and interest are incurred. Under normal circumstances, Dakota Electric, MES and its subsidiaries are no longer subject to federal or state tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2009. Dakota Electric and subsidiaries undergo an annual analysis of various tax positions, assessing the likelihood of those positions being upheld upon examination with relevant tax authorities, as defined by ASC 740-10.

Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments and Individuals in the United States

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
Dakota Electric Association

41-0212180

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? ☒ Yes ☐ No

2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States

Part II **Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

[illegible]

2	Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table	<u>2</u>
3	Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table	0

Part III

Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals in the United States. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 22.
Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a)Type of grant or assistance	(b)Number of recipients	(c)Amount of cash grant	(d)Amount of non-cash assistance	(e)Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f)Description of non-cash assistance

Part IV Supplemental Information.		
Complete this part to provide the information required in Part I, line 2, Part III, column (b), and any other additional information		
Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
Procedure for Monitoring Grants in the U S	Part I, Line 2	Schedule I, Part I, Line 2 The Cooperative receives verification from the donees of their tax-exempt status

Schedule J
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Compensation Information

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, question 23.

▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
Dakota Electric Association

Employer identification number
41-0212180

Part I	Questions Regarding Compensation		Yes	No
1a	Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items. ☐ First-class or charter travel ☐ Travel for companions ☐ Tax idemnification and gross-up payments ☐ Discretionary spending account ☐ Housing allowance or residence for personal use ☐ Payments for business use of personal residence ☒ Health or social club dues or initiation fees ☐ Personal services (e g , maid, chauffeur, chef)			
b	If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain	1b	Yes	
2	Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all officers, directors, trustees, and the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?	2	Yes	
3	Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III. ☐ Compensation committee ☐ Independent compensation consultant ☒ Form 990 of other organizations ☒ Written employment contract ☒ Compensation survey or study ☒ Approval by the board or compensation committee			
4	During the year, did any person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization: a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment? b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan? c Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement? If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.	4a		No
		4b		No
		4c		No
5	Only 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations only must complete lines 5-9. For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of: a The organization? b Any related organization? If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.	5a		
		5b		
6	For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of: a The organization? b Any related organization? If "Yes," to line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.	6a		
		6b		
7	For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.	7		
8	Were any amounts reported in Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III.	8		
9	If "Yes" to line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?	9		

Part II **Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees.** Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported in Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII.

Note. The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation reported as deferred in prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
See Additional Data Table								

Part III Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
	Part I, Line 1a	Health club dues are available to all employees of DEA and are included in the W-2s of the employees. These dues are limited to \$240 per year and employees must attend 12 times per month.
Supplemental Information	Part III	Schedule J, Part II, Column C, Deferred Compensation. The estimated current year increase in the actuarial value of the defined benefit plan is included in other compensation for employees listed in Part II of Schedule J. These amounts do not represent any current year contributions to the plan. They are estimates of the increase in the actuarial value of the plans received from the NRECA. The current year expense and the increase in actuarial value for each employee are reflected in the Schedule O statement referencing Form 990, Part VII, Column f.

Schedule L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Transactions with Interested Persons
▶ Complete if the organization answered
"Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, lines 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c,
or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

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2012
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Name of the organization Dakota Electric Association	Employer identification number 41-0212180
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Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3) and section 501(c)(4) organizations only).

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
				Yes	No

2 Enter the amount of tax incurred by organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 ▶ \$

3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization ▶ \$

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a, or Form 990, Part IV, line 26, or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?		(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?	(i) Written agreement?	
			To	From			Yes	No		Yes	No
Total ▶ \$											

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefitting Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of assistance	(d) Type of assistance	(e) Purpose of assistance

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of transaction	(d) Description of transaction	(e) Sharing of organization's revenues?	
				Yes	No
(1) Great River Energy	BOD Overlap	141,151,267	Board Directors Margaret Schreiner and Clay Van De Bogart serve on both Boards of Directors Dakota Electric Association purchases its wholesale power from Great River Energy		No

Part V Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule L (see instructions)

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
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SCHEDULE O

(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or to provide any additional information.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
Dakota Electric Association

Employer identification number
41-0212180

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
	Form 990, Part VI, Section A, line 2	Some of the board members of the Organization also serve as board members for the subsidiaries of the Organization and thus have a business relationship Janet Lekson and James Sheldon have a business relationship as they both serve on the Midwest Energy Services board Judy Kimmes and Kenneth Danner have a business relationship, as they both serve on the Energy Alternatives, Inc board
	Form 990, Part VI, Section A, line 6	The Organization has members, all of which are in the same class with the same voting rights
	Form 990, Part VI, Section A, line 7a	There are four districts and each district has 3 board members - all members vote on all four districts
	Form 990, Part VI, Section A, line 7b	Members have the power to remove any director or officer if their actions cause substantial harm to the interests of the Organization Members also have the right to alter, amend or repeal the bylaws if approved by majority of votes cast
	Form 990, Part VI, Section A, line 8b	The Cooperative does not have an Executive Committee with the authority to act on behalf of the full Board of Directors
	Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 11	The Board of Directors was provided a copy of the Form 990 for their review at the May 30, 2013 board meeting
	Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 15a	The Board of Directors serves as the Compensation Committee The Board often uses a consultant or a salary survey or comparison of wages from other comparably sized electric cooperatives The wages data may come from 990s of cooperatives of similar size or from the NRECA compensation survey Following year end, the Board of Directors deliberates as to whether or not safety, distribution, reliability and other factors were met If these factors were met the Board will award all or a portion of the "market pay" that had been withheld The compensation approval process of the President/CEO last took place in March 2012 The compensation of the Vice President of Finance is determined by the CEO through a performance evaluation, as well as periodic area market salary comparisons This process last took place in June 2012 The HR Department uses comparison wage data from surveys for all positions to determine appropriate market compensation, but the Board does not vote on the compensation of other positions
	Form 990, Part VI, Section C, line 19	The financial statements are available to the public on the website or upon request
Other Compensation	Form 990, Part VII, Column F, Other Compensation	Included in other compensation is the estimated current year increase in the actuarial value of the defined benefit plan for the following employees Greg Miller \$103,069, Lou Ann Weflen \$59,225, Dirk Rotty \$47,381, Mike Fosse \$51,426, Randall Poulson \$72,099, Craig Turner \$28,140, Doug Larson \$34,561, Kevin Fowler \$37,391, Malinda Mehrhoff \$30,037, Michael Briggs \$39,479, and Carla Henke \$18,622 These amounts do not represent any current year contributions to the plan They are estimates of the increase in the actuarial value of the plans received from the NRECA The current year expense for this defined benefit plan for the following employees were Greg Miller \$66,958, Lou Ann Weflen \$43,889, Dirk Rotty \$38,093, Mike Fosse \$39,394, Randall Poulson \$38,093, Douglas Larson \$39,394, Kevin Fowler \$26,097, Malinda Mehrhoff \$25,979, Michael Briggs \$28,794, Craig Turner \$28,723, and Carla Henke \$25,600
Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances	Form 990, Part XI, line 9	Members Offline Capital Credit Retirement -587,675 Estate & Senior Capital Credit Retirement -370,334 Gain on Capital Credit Retirement 294,412 Equity in Earnings of Subsidiary -521,609 General Capital Credit Retirement -1,457,696 Patronage Capital Allocated 2,283,232

SCHEDULE R
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35, 36, or 37.
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
Dakota Electric Association

Employer identification number
41-0212180

Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 33.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity

Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
(1) Helping Neighbors Trust 4300 220th Street West Farmington, MN 55024 41-1837793	Charity - Energy Assistance	MN	501(c)(3)	9	Dakota Electric Association	Yes	

Part III

Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income(related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512- 514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V—UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	

Part IV

Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of- year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512 (b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No
(1) Midwest Energy Services Inc 4300 220th Street West Farmington, MN 550249583 41-1757574	Parent Company of Energy Alternatives	MN	Dakota Electric Association	C	132	5,412,900	100 000 %	Yes	
(2) Energy Alternatives Parent Inc 4300 220th Street West Farmington, MN 550249583 41-1938868	Backup Electric Generation	MN	Midwest Energy Services Inc	C	11,507,711	8,552,553	100 000 %	Yes	

Part V

Transactions With Related Organizations (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.)

Note. Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule

1 During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?

a Receipt of (i) interest (ii) annuities (iii) royalties or (iv) rent from a controlled entity

b Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s)

c Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s)

d Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s)

e Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s)

f Dividends from related organization(s)

g Sale of assets to related organization(s)

h Purchase of assets from related organization(s)

i Exchange of assets with related organization(s)

j Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s)

k Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s)

l Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s)

m Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s)

n Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s)

o Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s)

p Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses

q Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses

r Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s)

s Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s)

Yes

No

1a

1b

1c

1d

1e

1f

1g

1h

1i

1j

1k

1l

1m

1n

1o

1p

1q

1r

1s

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

No

2 If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds

(a) Name of other organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1) Midwest Energy Services	O	0	End of Year Actual Balance
(2) Midwest Energy Services	Q	0	End of Year Actual Balance
(3) Energy Alternatives Inc	Q	151,759	End of Year Actual Balance

Schedule R (Form 990) 2012

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization. See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships.

[illegible]

Part VII **Supplemental Information**

Complete this part to provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R (see instructions)

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
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Software ID:
Software Version:
EIN: 41-0212180
Name: Dakota Electric Association

Software ID:
Software Version:
EIN: 41-0212180
Name: Dakota Electric Association

Form 990, Schedule J, Part II - Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

(A) Name		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation reported in prior Form 990 or Form 990-EZ
		(i) Base Compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other compensation				
Greg Miller	(i) (ii)	239,509 0	35,981 0	25,245 0	115,210 0	23,360 0	439,305 0	0 0
Lou Ann Weflen	(i) (ii)	171,110 0	19,000 0	14,558 0	68,529 0	22,759 0	295,956 0	0 0
Dirk Rotty	(i) (ii)	155,638 0	4,000 0	14,512 0	55,466 0	9,868 0	239,484 0	0 0
Douglas Larson	(i) (ii)	156,420 0	4,000 0	12,562 0	43,096 0	23,950 0	240,028 0	0 0
Michael Fosse	(i) (ii)	151,760 0	4,000 0	14,215 0	59,723 0	23,860 0	253,558 0	0 0
Randall Poulson	(i) (ii)	152,801 0	4,000 0	14,695 0	80,184 0	14,841 0	266,521 0	0 0
Craig Turner	(i) (ii)	111,111 0	0 0	1,916 0	34,252 0	24,009 0	171,288 0	0 0
Malinda Mehrhoff	(i) (ii)	100,164 0	1,500 0	6,315 0	35,339 0	22,906 0	166,224 0	0 0
Michael Briggs	(i) (ii)	119,194 0	0 0	3,024 0	45,586 0	9,961 0	177,765 0	0 0
Kevin Fowler	(i) (ii)	106,862 0	1,000 0	6,917 0	42,901 0	14,615 0	172,295 0	0 0