

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

2411 West Bridge Street, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060
Tel. 507-451-7340 / Fax. 507-446-4242



Date: **June 14, 15, & 16, 2016**
To: **Attendees for the 2016 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 14, 15, & 16, 2016**. You will enjoy our EVERYTHING INCLUDED tour; we have chartered a Motor Coach Tour Bus through Northfield Lines and booked the Country Inn & Suites Motel in Bismarck, ND.

1. Highlights of the 2016 Coal Creek Tour:

- Coffee, juice and rolls to get the trip started the first morning **at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, Owatonna, Minnesota**
- Board the Motor Coach **at Steele-Waseca's office in Owatonna** (all transportation is in a Motor Coach Tour Bus)
- Two nights at the Country Inn & Suites with **Swimming Pool, Water Slide & Hot Tub**
- The Main Tours are 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
- Bingo and Energy Jeopardy with prizes on Tuesday and Wednesday Night
- Pop, water, snacks and FUN Activities on the motor coach
- "ALL" Meals Included.

2. The Adult Tour price for Cooperative Members and their guests (over 18) is \$305.00 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 (3)** students between the ages of 10- and-18 **AT NO CHARGE**. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Additional students (4th student or more) are \$150 per student. Note: if an adult Coop-Member brings a Non-Member adult as a guest, the guest may travel for the Member price of \$305.00 also.

3. For Non-Member-Adults who are not guests of a Cooperative member traveling on the Tour, the Tour price is \$605.00 per adult. For members who wish to travel a second time, the Tour price is \$605.00. However, if you bring a guest who is an Adult-Member of the Cooperative or a student(s) such as children or grandchildren who have not been on the Tour before, then the price will remain at \$305.00 per adult to encourage promotion of the tour.

4. To hold a seat on the motor coach, fill out the (1) **Registration Form**, (2) **Write a Check** for the correct amount. Return the Registration and Check 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 a total **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:

7:00 a.m. The three day tour starts at **Steele-Waseca** , 2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna, MN 55060, 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 trivia questions and answers about the information in each DVD throughout the trip for great prizes.

Around 9:35 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, coffee, rolls etc. if you want to. At 10:00 a.m. the bus will depart Clearwater and continue on toward North Dakota.

For LUNCH we will stop at the FOOD COURT in the West Acres Shopping Center in Fargo North Dakota (www.westacres.com/stores/). Everyone will receive "Money for Meals" for lunch, allowing each person to pick their favorite at the variety of restaurants in the Food Court 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. We will have beverages in coolers and snacks to choose from.

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 hosts at the hotel 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 that has 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(slow), Olive Garden(slow), Red Lobster, Taco Bell, Little Caesar's Pizza* and others. You will all use your "Money for Meals" 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!

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Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Prepare Yourself: Get ready because you're in for a busy day! Wear comfortable walking shoes (**NO SANDALS OR OPEN-TOE SHOES on this Tour Day**) 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 where we will take a restroom break, review safety rules, put on our hard hats and headsets (bad hair day) and be assigned into 4-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 drive by the HVDC (high voltage DC) Terminal. In the HVDC Terminal 22,000 Volts of alternating current from the generators is converted to 400,000 Volts DC (direct current). The last part of the Coal Creek segment is to drive by the Blue Flint Ethanol plant which produces 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 take place for the Lignite Coal and the HUGE drag-lines that uncover the coal. To tour the mine we will transfer into the Falkirk bus to go 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 sample pieces of coal to bring back with us (unless it rains)!

We will stop back at Coal Creek Station for Lunch planned by Great River Energy. (Or Lunch may be held at the Falkirk Mine Office)

Next we will drive to 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 lookout area.

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 use your "Lunch 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 (slow), Olive Garden(slow), Red Lobster, Taco Bell*, and others. You will all use your "Money for Meals" to buy dinner at your choice of restaurant.

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.

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. Our first rest stop will be about 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. at Exit #254 in Jamestown.

We will have a late lunch around 12:30 p.m. at McDonald's in Alexandria, MN, Exit 103. (Use the last of your "Money for Meals".)

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Doug Hughes

Doug Hughes, *CFII, MEII*
Marketing

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR:

- Transportation by Northfield Lines in one of their newest buses.
- Tour of the Coal Creek Station and surrounding area.
- Tour of the Falkirk Mine.
- Tour of the Garrison Dam
- Two nights at the Hotel with Water Park
- Hotel includes complete breakfast every morning
- Snacks and Refreshments on the bus.
- Tons of prizes
- Earn Doug Dollars
- Many Games, quizzes and competition for prizes during the bus ride.
- Each Person receives \$50.00 to purchase four separate meals.
- Tuesday Night Bingo
- Wednesday Night Jeopardy