

BASIN TODAY

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

| WINTER 2022

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a black beanie, glasses, and a dark green winter jacket, is smiling and pushing a child on a sled. The child is wearing a white and black patterned beanie with a pom-pom, a dark jacket with a fur-lined hood, a dark scarf, and bright red mittens. The child is sitting on a blue and red sled and is also smiling. The background is a snowy field with bare trees in the distance.

WINTER RELIABILITY

SO YOU CAN USE YOUR ENERGY FOR FUN



As a cooperative, Basin Electric is owned by our members. Several meetings are held throughout the year to keep the lines of communication open between the cooperative and our membership. Pictured is the panel discussion "Better together: Basin Electric members on the value of cooperative" at the 2021 Annual Meeting. The panel was moderated by Chris Baumgartner (left), senior vice president of Member Services and Administration, and included Tom Boyko, CEO/general manager of Class A member East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, South Dakota; Doug Hardy, general manager of Class A member Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative in Great Falls, Montana; Lyle Korver, CEO of Class C member North West Rural Electric Cooperative in Orange City, Iowa; and Travis Kupper, CEO and co-manager of Innovative Energy Alliance, a management service cooperative owned by four distribution cooperatives in southwest and south central North Dakota: KEM Electric Cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Roughrider Electric Cooperative, and Slope Electric Cooperative.

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ON THE COVER

Janene Pudwill, Basin Electric multimedia specialist III and senior graphic designer, enjoys a sunny winter day of sledding with her daughter, Keeley. Janene, her husband, Buckley, and Keeley are members of Basin Electric Class C member Capital Electric Cooperative in Bismarck, North Dakota.

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Use your smartphone barcode scanner to view stories online.



TODD TELESZ

THE UNIQUE VALUE BASIN ELECTRIC'S MEMBERSHIP CREATES

This North Dakota winter has given me everything I was gleefully warned about when I told people I was taking a job in North Dakota: the snowfall we received in Bismarck in December was more than all of last winter, high temperatures some days have risen only to subzero, and wind chills have dropped to dangerous levels. Fortunately, some North Dakota natives have told me this is cold for them too.

We are approaching the one-year anniversary of Winter Storm Uri, that weather event in February 2021 that everyone in the energy industry will be studying, learning, and unfortunately in some cases, recovering from for years.

Cold temperatures extended well beyond the Upper Great Plains, through the Midwest, and into Texas, impacting load levels, generation, and fuel supply availability, and pushing hourly market prices in the Southwest Power Pool to more than \$4,100 per megawatt-hour. The highest hourly prices in 2021 leading up to the event were about \$59 per megawatt-hour.

As our members are well aware because they witnessed it locally, this event kicked off one of the largest controlled

load shed events in U.S. history. Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) transmission operators were forced to make very quick decisions about which loads to drop in order to maintain the integrity of the bulk power system.

I was working at CoBank during that time and had a front-row seat into how many generation and transmission cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, and natural gas utilities fared through that event. I watched as Basin Electric's financial strength and operational scale was supported by the natural hedge the cooperative has in Dakota Gas' synthetic natural gas supply to our natural gas generators and Basin Electric's electricity to power the Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

At Basin Electric, our diverse set of available generation made a difference too. We have more than 5,000 megawatts of steel-in-the-ground generation, in addition to the purchases we can make in the market. Our team, especially those working at plants and in the field during miserable weather conditions, worked hard to keep generation units up and running during the event, and members of the transmission system maintenance staff worked throughout the night at minus-30 degrees

Fahrenheit to ensure members could get the power they needed.

At our coal generation facilities, enough fuel is onsite to keep units running at full load for several weeks. While natural gas production and pipelines were freezing up in the southern United States, the Synfuels Plant continued producing synthetic natural gas from lignite coal and moving it to our natural gas generation facilities using the firm capacity we have on the Northern Border Pipeline. And at our power plants fueled by oil, employees worked with contractors to transport truckloads of fuel oil to the peaking plants as Spirit Mound Station ran at record levels.

Months later as we were preparing for our annual meeting in November, I listened to my colleagues talk about the work we do at Basin Electric to ensure the power we generate is reliable for our members. Significant thought and work goes into maintaining that high standard of reliability we know our members demand and expect.

It's important to note the regional transmission organizations we participate in are taking steps to prevent another February 2021 scenario. Southwest Power Pool conducted an in-depth study and created the Improved Resource Availability Task Force to address the issues leading up to last February's event. The task force is addressing the items first that were deemed to be the highest priority: fuel assurance and resource planning and availability. There are a couple items that have been addressed already: improved communication and a reduction in the amount of outages approved. Within Midcontinent ISO, the market is asking for weekly fuel availability on the units that are generating power in the market. That will give the market a better idea of which units they have available with fuel to operate.

We have voting representatives on 21 Southwest Power Pool committees, planning teams, task forces, working groups, and more. Additionally, we have regular coordination meetings with members that are transmission owners in Southwest Power Pool as well as with WAPA. And because Southwest Power Pool has

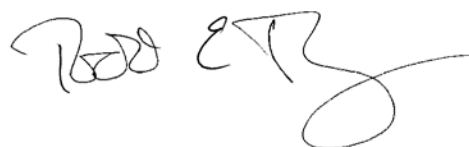
an open stakeholder process, all meeting attendees and voices are heard in representing their stakeholders.

That means Basin Electric's members' voices are heard and counted. We can provide a unique perspective because, operating in the northern section of the United States, we regularly deal with extreme weather conditions and encounter scenarios each winter that help inform how we prepare to generate and transmit power under the most adverse conditions.

Our seat on the Improved Resource Availability Task Force, and in others throughout Southwest Power Pool, is also able to relay the vast experience and perspectives from our membership. We hear from cooperative member managers through regular face-to-face meetings and phone calls, and every month we meet directly with our board members who share what is happening back home. Many Southwest Power Pool members are not cooperatives, and therefore their voting members in the task force likely won't have that "ear to the ground" depth and breadth of understanding that we bring from being a cooperative.

Basin Electric team members are able to represent not only the load we serve, but also the generation and transmission electrons and infrastructure we provide. We do more than buy and sell power; we operate and maintain the facilities that generate and send power across our service area and a large swath of rural America. We are a generation and transmission cooperative in every aspect.

Think about how unique and valuable our efforts are for the member-consumers that we serve at Basin Electric.



Todd Telesz, CEO and general manager



Basin Electric returns \$64.5 million to members in 2021

Basin Electric’s board of directors unanimously voted at its December meeting to approve a \$30 million bill credit for Basin Electric’s consumer-owners.

“Basin Electric’s structure and governance is based on the cooperative business model, which has proven itself time and again,” said Basin Electric CEO and General Manager Todd Telesz. “The cooperative remains in a solid financial condition and returning capital through various options to our consumer-owners aligns with our commitment to the membership. This action is a testament to Basin Electric’s commitment to the cooperative principles and governance at a local level.”

Directors voted to give back to the cooperative’s members due to consolidated financial results being better than projected for 2021.

This bill credit is in addition to the \$34.5 million patronage retirement that was approved by the Basin Electric board in November.

<https://bit.ly/BE2021BillCredit>



Employees participate in continent-wide security exercise

Basin Electric employees took part in GridEx VI, a continent-wide security exercise held in November.

Sponsored and administered by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the biennial exercise provided the electricity industry, government agencies, and other relevant organizations the opportunity to exercise incident response and recovery plans in response to simulated cyber and physical attacks affecting North America’s electricity system.

The goal of GridEx VI was to exercise the resilience of the North American electricity system in the face of a coordinated attack.

Representatives from Basin Electric’s membership and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were also present as part of the exercise.

<https://bit.ly/GridExVI>



Tweeten appointed to polytechnic business and leadership team

Troy Tweeten, Basin Electric senior vice president of Operations, has been appointed to Bismarck (North Dakota) State College’s (BSC) Polytechnic Business and Industry Leadership Team.

BSC will break ground on a new polytechnic education center on campus in 2022. The state-of-the-art facility will feature project-based learning and nontraditional, hands-on, collaborative working environments.

The leadership team is made up of executives from the energy, agriculture, cybersecurity, manufacturing, and health care sectors.

Seismic testing underway for carbon dioxide sequestration project

Seismic testing is underway at the site of the proposed carbon capture and storage project in development at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. The testing is part of the ongoing baseline monitoring operations for a project that will permanently store carbon dioxide from the plant underground.

During the testing of the area, 11 pounds of dynamite is placed in 120-foot-deep holes every 100 feet.

The data from the testing will give a baseline reading of the geology and formations of the area where carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the plant will be injected. Once the CO₂ is injected, upcoming seismic surveys will track its movement.

<https://bit.ly/TweetenPolyTeam>

Board approves 2022 load forecast

At its January meeting, Basin Electric’s board of directors approved the member load forecast for 2022-2050. The forecast shows growth at 1 to 1.5% annually across the membership, according to Jay Lundstrom, Basin Electric

lead load forecast analyst. Growth within Basin Electric's service area in the residential and commercial sectors is above the national average.

This year's forecast is more of a bandwidth, showing a conservative case and a case that takes into account new loads that are appearing quickly, such as crypto mining and economic development. The low case is similar to the loads Basin Electric's membership has seen before, and the high case adds those new loads that have more uncertainty in how much load and the timing of when the load will come online. "It's important to plan for the low end to ensure rate stability and for financial planning and the high end for power supply and transmission line planning, which ensures reliability," Lundstrom said.

 <https://bit.ly/2022LoadForecast>



Second CarbonSAFE test well near completion in Wyoming

At a media day event hosted by Basin Electric and the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, it was announced that a second test well is being drilled for the Wyoming CarbonSAFE (Carbon Storage Assurance Facility Enterprise) project, which is located near Dry Fork Station near Gillette, Wyoming.

"The goal of this well is to fill in research gaps, but it's also to optimize the pore space resources for carbon injection for the long-term," said Fred McLaughlin, interim director for the Center for Economic Geology Research at the School of Energy Resources, University of Wyoming.

Three zones have been identified in the subsurface that have the ability to take injected carbon. Seals that will help keep that carbon in place have also been identified.

"What we're trying to understand better is how much carbon dioxide we can inject underground safely and reliably. We're in the middle of that testing so it's a really exciting time," said Holly Krutka, executive director of the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources.

Jim Ford, operations manager of the Wyoming Integrated Test Center (ITC) through the Wyoming Energy Authority, explained that the ITC and CarbonSAFE project complement each other well.

"The operations at the ITC are all about carbon capture utilization and sequestration," Ford said. "That sequestration part of the puzzle is fulfilled by the CarbonSAFE project. Without the Department of Energy and University of Wyoming leading that project with Basin Electric, the CO₂ that we capture here through the plant operations has no place to go. So really the ITC and CarbonSAFE fit together hand in glove."

 <https://bit.ly/CarbonSAFEwell2>

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CRACKING THE CODE

CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECT WILL BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CO-OP

By Angela Magstadt

Environmental protection has always been a core value of Basin Electric. The cooperative advocated for responsible reclamation long before it was required by law, built and operates the largest wind project in the nation owned solely by a cooperative, and met 80% of its nearly 50% load growth with wind, natural gas, and market purchases.

In addition to these and many other environmental efforts, Basin Electric is embarking on an innovative project that will benefit the environment by sequestering and permanently storing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from its subsidiary Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant. The Great Plains CO₂ Sequestration Project is a step toward North Dakota's goal of being

carbon neutral by 2030. It would also provide a path to receive the Internal Revenue Service's 45Q tax credit for carbon sequestration projects.

The Synfuels Plant, located near Beulah, North Dakota, currently captures approximately 2 million metric tons of the plant's CO₂ emissions, which are piped to Saskatchewan for use in enhanced oil recovery. The proposed project would enable the facility to capture an additional 1.5 million metric tons of CO₂ per year and would serve as part of the largest coal-based carbon capture projects utilizing geologic storage, while also being the first project in the nation to use both enhanced oil recovery and geologic storage.

"Dakota Gasification Company was already an early leader in CCUS (carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration), and this proposed expansion is another milestone in our state's efforts to crack the code on this critical energy technology – the largest coal-based carbon capture project to use geologic storage," U.S. Sen. John Hoeven (R-North Dakota) said during a press conference announcing the Great Plains CO₂ Sequestration Project.

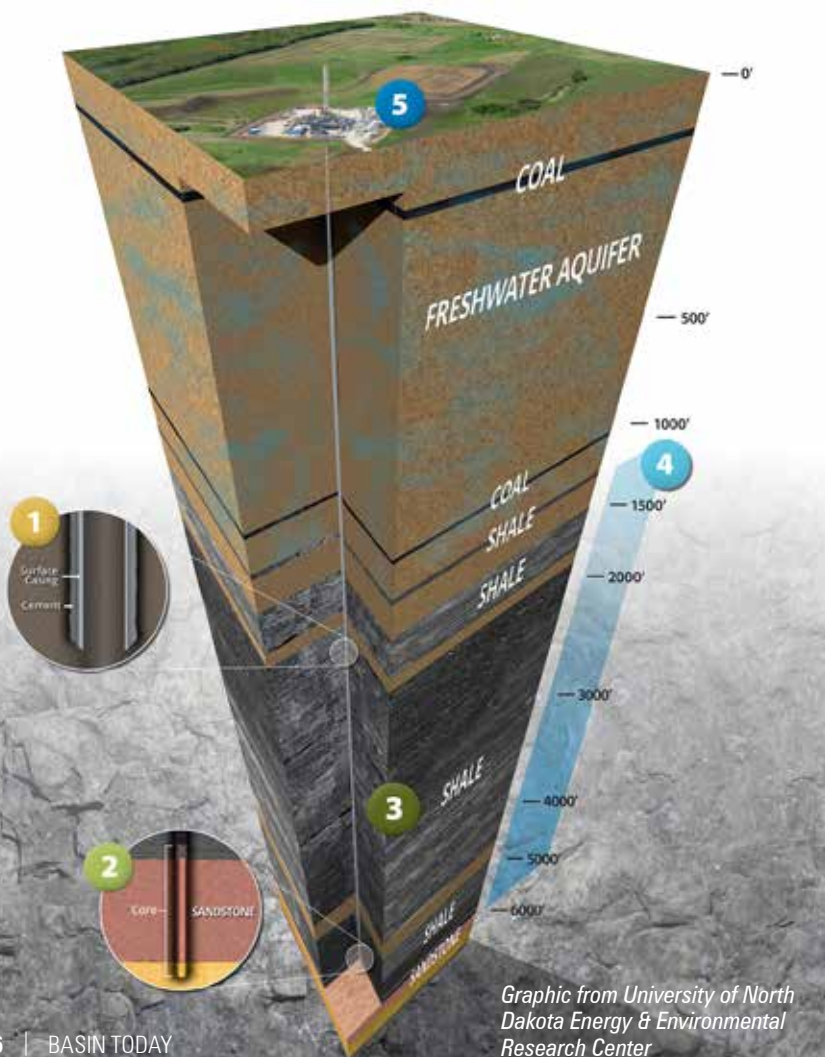
The Dakota Carbon Pipeline

In September, Dakota Gas directors authorized a project to build the Dakota Carbon Pipeline, a 6.8-mile pipeline that will carry captured CO₂ from the Great Plains Synfuels Plant to a permanent geologic storage reservoir near the plant.

The pipeline will cross reclaimed mine land and other utility development that is owned by Basin Electric and The Coteau Properties Company, which operates the Freedom Mine. Construction of the pipeline began in fall 2021 and is scheduled to be completed in summer 2022.

The injection well

The Dakota Carbon Pipeline will carry the captured CO₂ from the Synfuels Plant to injection wells located approximately three-and-a-half miles north of the plant. The injection wells will also be located on reclaimed land



Graphic from University of North Dakota Energy & Environmental Research Center

owned by The Coteau Properties Company, but will inject CO₂ more than a mile below the surface in the Broom Creek (sandstone) formation (see graphic on page 6).

A test well was drilled in June 2021. Information gleaned from the test well will be used in a CO₂ storage facility permit application to be sent to the North Dakota Industrial Commission, the agency that regulates the underground storage of CO₂ in the state.

Seismic testing is currently being conducted at the project site as part of the ongoing baseline monitoring operations. Seismic surveys are a tool geologists and geophysicists use to understand subsurface geology by looking at rock layers miles under the ground. The data from the testing will give a baseline reading of the geology and formations of the area where the CO₂ will be injected.

Is this safe?

One of the most commonly asked questions about carbon sequestration is whether it is safe to inject CO₂ underground.

The Industrial Commission's CO₂ storage facility permit application is hundreds of pages long and deals with all aspects of safety and environmental protection. A test well and seismic survey are just two of the tests required in the application, and no CO₂ can be injected until the Industrial Commission approves the application, which is expected to happen the second half of this year. If the Commission approves the application, upcoming seismic surveys will track the movement of the CO₂ after it is injected to ensure it stays within the Broom Creek Formation, which evidence shows it will.

"The geology in western North Dakota is really well suited for the underground storage of CO₂," says Kevin Solie, Basin Electric senior environmental compliance administrator. "Directly above and below the proposed injection site are nearly impervious 130-foot-thick rock formations that create tight seals that will keep the CO₂ in place. And above that is nearly a mile of rock between the injection zone and the nearest fresh water zone. So once the CO₂ is in the ground, everyone believes it's there to stay."

What is 45Q?

Section 45Q of the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008 was enacted to provide a tax credit for CO₂ capture and sequestration projects. In the 2008



U.S. Sen. John Hoeven (R-North Dakota) speaks during an event at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, alongside (left to right) Basin Electric CEO and General Manager Todd Telesz and Synfuels Plant Assistant Plant Manager and Process Operations Manager Trinity Turnbow.

version of the law, industrial facilities that captured a minimum of 500,000 metric tons of CO₂ during the taxable year could claim a credit of \$20 per metric ton for CO₂ captured and disposed of in secure geological storage, or \$10 per metric ton captured and used in a qualified enhanced oil recovery project. The program was capped and expired when 75 million metric tons of CO₂ was captured and tax credits were claimed.

Then, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 amended Section 45Q to increase the credit to \$50 per metric ton of CO₂ captured and disposed of in secure geological storage, and \$35 per metric ton for CO₂ captured and used for enhanced oil recovery. After nearly three years since enactment of the 2018 law, the Internal Revenue Service released final regulations in 2021 to implement the new Section 45Q program, allowing additional projects to move forward. Projects can claim the tax credit for up to 12 years from when CO₂ capture begins.

"We're able to make progress like this because we've been laying the groundwork for geologic storage of CO₂ in North Dakota since 2008," Hoeven says. "That means not only providing regulatory certainty, but also advancing key incentives at the federal level, including the 45Q tax credit and loan guarantees for project developers."

"With the 45Q tax credit, the Great Plains CO₂ Sequestration Project will definitely pay for itself," says Daniel Schaaf Gallagher, Basin Electric director of commodity sales and trading. "The rate of return is sufficient to recover all costs and provisions we will incur. The tax credit is a definite benefit to us. It will allow us to get the project up and running and start sequestering CO₂ at no net cost to us. And, it will have significant positive impacts to Basin Electric and Dakota Gas as well."

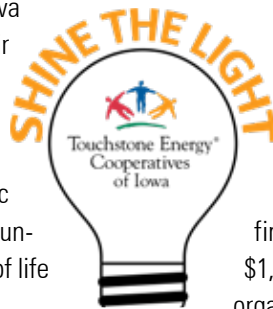
SHINING EXAMPLES OF COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

IOWA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES SHINE THE LIGHT ON EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS WITH INAUGURAL CONTEST

By Lindsey Chumley

Article resources contributed by Erin Campbell, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.


The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa sponsored a new contest to highlight their cooperative commitment to community. The Shine the Light contest launched in June 2021, and member-consumers and employees of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate volunteers who are working to improve quality of life in their communities.



and neighbors who are making a positive difference in their communities.”

Thirty-nine nominations were submitted from across the state, highlighting the work of many incredible Iowans. Three finalists were selected and awarded with a \$1,500 donation to their charity or community organization of choice.

“We were very pleased with the response we received this first year,” says Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. “This contest gave our co-op members a wonderful opportunity to show their appreciation for family, friends,

The Shine the Light contest will return this summer. The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa will again accept volunteer nominations during the month of June at  www.iowaShineTheLight.com.



SUZANNE ASKESEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Suzanne Askelsen of Cambridge was nominated by Carol Gilbert, wife of recently retired Basin Electric Director Charlie Gilbert. Askelsen is their daughter. “I nominated Suzanne for this contest as a thank you to the person she is and how she lives her life,” Carol says. “It’s been wonderful to watch her grow into the young woman she is today. By her shining example, Suzanne lives out her personal belief daily in ‘doing what you can, with all you have, wherever you are.’” The Gilberts are members of Midland Power Cooperative, a Basin Electric Class C member.

Askelsen was recognized for her work with the Ballard Education Foundation, an education foundation that partners with the Ballard Community School District, alumni, businesses, and individuals to identify and meet the needs of Ballard students and teachers. She was part of the new foundation’s steering committee and served as the first president for four years, identifying event sponsors and taking the lead on fundraising. A mother of six, she makes it a priority to serve in her community. “My parents taught me to always lend a helping hand,” Askelsen says. “To me, life is about making a better place for everyone around you.”

DR. GEORGE NORTH ESTABLISHES A RECREATIONAL DESTINATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

Dr. George North of Allison was nominated by Deb McWhirter, a member of Basin Electric Class C member Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, for his work with Wilder Park, one of Iowa's major outdoor classrooms. Driven by his ethos to serve others, North is a retired dentist with a long record of community involvement, including several years as a scout leader. He was instrumental in developing Wilder Park as it has grown to provide affordable outdoor recreational services in Butler County. The park features more than 100 different tree species and is home to an uncommon species arboretum.

North says it's all about giving back to the community, something he has lived by his entire life. "I think you're obligated to give back," he says. "Part of life's responsibility is to pay it forward, give back to your community, do what you can to facilitate the growth and ambiance. To me, that's just part of living."



Dr. George North relaxes on a bench in Wilder Park, the park in which he has been committed to helping grow and develop since the early 1990s. It all started with getting his Boy Scouts involved by planting 250-300 trees. "Rarely when you plant trees do you get to see the result of that activity," says North. "Trees don't grow that fast. Fortunately, I've lived long enough to see the fruition of the vision."

MARLENE WALTHART SHARES HER TIME AND LIFELONG LOVE OF ANIMALS

Marlene Walthart of Estherville was nominated by Dawn Eveleth, a member of Basin Electric Class C member Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, for her work with the Emmet County Animal Shelter. Motivated by their love for animals, Walthart and her husband, Larry, have volunteered at the animal shelter for years and continue to serve the facility in various ways. The Waltharts also set up a not-for-profit can redemption center next door to raise money for the shelter.

As for how the shelter will use its \$1,500 Shine the Light grant, Lisa Henning, founder of the shelter, says expansion is always needed to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome abandoned animals. "The need for puppy rescue is overwhelming right now," says Henning. "We're going to put an outside run on the intake kennel. If we can run two groups of puppies at the same time, we can rescue more."



Marlene Walthart plays with a litter of puppies at the Emmet County Animal Shelter. The shelter has grown from a predominately cat rescue to also include a dog section. The shelter plans to use the \$1,500 Shine the Light grant for an expansion to rescue more puppies.



STACKING UP RESOURCES TO SERVE MEMBERS

HOW BASIN ELECTRIC'S NEW PARTNERSHIP IN WISCONSIN BUILDS ON A LONG-TERM STRATEGY

By Tracie Bettenhausen

The system that generates and delivers electricity across the United States is complex. Many different utilities, marketers, developers, and regulators have their fingers in the system, each with the common purpose of sending electricity to end-use consumers.

You are likely familiar with the Western and Eastern Interconnection, the two major electrical grids in North America. While load and generation grew quickly on each coast of the United States, as grid development moved toward the middle of the country, the Western and the Eastern grids didn't work together quite right. As a way to describe that, some say one side said 'tick' and the other side said 'tock.'

Basin Electric has generation and transmission facilities on both sides of the grid, and also has access to the DC ties which permit electricity to flow from one side of the interconnection to the other. These facilities and their access give the cooperative an incredible advantage in providing reliable, affordable electricity to its members, which are located on both sides of the interconnection as well.

Not only is the grid split into the Western and Eastern Interconnections, some of the system is also divided into

regional transmission organizations (RTOs) like Southwest Power Pool (SPP) or the Midcontinent ISO (MISO). See the map on page 11. The cooperative's membership has load in both the SPP and MISO regions, and as a result Basin Electric has power supply obligations in both regions.

Basin Electric is a transmission-owning member of SPP, an RTO that stretches from the Canadian border down to Texas.

Additionally, Basin Electric has been involved with MISO since 2005. MISO was started in 2001 and covers parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa in Basin Electric's service area, as well as 11 other states and into Canada. MISO is divided into 10 local resource zones for compliance with resource adequacy, and Basin Electric's members are located in two of them: Zone 1 and Zone 3.

Becky Kern, Basin Electric vice president of Resource Planning and Rates, says the cooperative's strategy in MISO for the last couple years has been focused on market purchases. In fact, more than 75% of the energy Basin Electric serves to its members in MISO is through the market.

Kern says the long-term strategy, however, is to diversify with more dispatchable and renewable resources as a way to maintain reliable, affordable power for the membership. This strategy, to have about one-third of the cooperative's MISO needs in market purchases, one-third in dispatchable resources, and one-third in renewables, is not a hard and fast equation. According to Kern, it will take a number of years to implement but several steps have already been taken to achieve this goal.

Nemadji Trail Energy Center

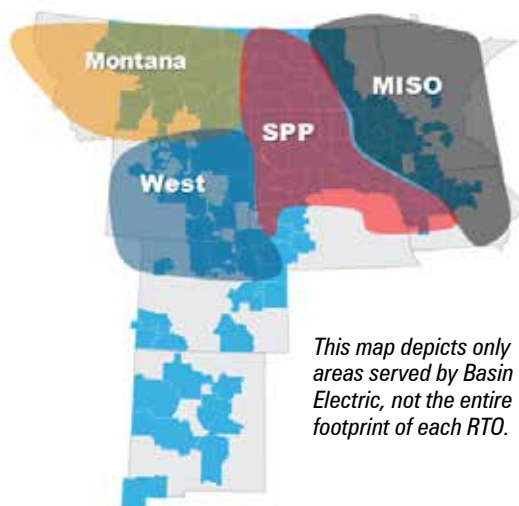
Basin Electric announced in September a partnership with Dairyland Power Cooperative of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and ALLETE, of Duluth, Minnesota, to develop new natural gas-based generation.

Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC), a proposed 600-megawatt combined cycle power plant, will be located in Superior, Wisconsin, and interconnect into MISO Zone 1. Basin Electric will own 30% of the project through its subsidiary Nemadji River Generation LLC. The subsidiary purchased an ownership stake from ALLETE.

Kern says this partnership gives Basin Electric 180 megawatts of economical, dispatchable generation. "Nemadji Trail will provide a hedge against the cost of serving our load in MISO and helps us diversify our energy and capacity in MISO," she says. "This generator is a cost-effective, timely option for serving our members with reliable electricity and will help in the transition of additional renewables into the grid."

Request for additional resources

In December 2021, Basin Electric issued a request for proposal for renewables, capacity, and energy in both SPP and MISO Zone 1 and Zone 3.



This map depicts only areas served by Basin Electric, not the entire footprint of each RTO.

"We've looked for renewables over the past couple of years in MISO through these requests, but haven't gone forward with the options we've received in MISO because they haven't been economical compared to other alternatives," Kern says. "We will be looking to see if there are renewables we can move forward with inside of the MISO region to meet some of our obligations."

Kern says renewables are valuable as a fuel displacer, with wind generating more power in winter and solar generating more in summer. Basin Electric has found some economical purchases within Southwest Power Pool over the past couple of years. "They're going to produce electricity unless there is congestion that curtails them, and that's why you have to have resources that can dispatch when the renewables aren't there. . . . You need to have some dispatchable resources that are capable of operating to the extent it's economical," Kern says. "You cannot go with 100% renewable portfolio to meet your members' needs."

Kern and her team will evaluate options received through the request for proposal based on pricing, location, and timing of when each option is available.

Membership agreements

In addition to these proactive strategies, Basin Electric's role with some members located in the MISO region is changing as well. Two members, Crow Wing Electric, a Class A member headquartered in Brainerd, Minnesota, and Federated Rural Electric Association, a Class C member through L&O Power Cooperative, a Class A member headquartered in Rock Rapids, Iowa, both currently receive wholesale power from Basin Electric and also Great River Energy, a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Great River Energy has received the regulatory approval needed to sell Coal Creek Station, a generation facility in Underwood, North Dakota, to Rainbow Energy and a subsidiary of theirs. The sale is anticipated to happen as early as May 2022. Coal Creek Station accounts for a substantial amount of the power supply these members receive from Great River Energy. After the sale, that portion will be supplied by Basin Electric. Over time, as Great River Energy retires its assets and agreements terminate, these members will eventually purchase more of their power supply from Basin Electric.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ...
**ROBERT
JAY**



Robert Frank

LOAD FORECAST ANALYSTS
**FRANK
AND
LUNDSTROM**

By Kalli Senske

The new year is an opportunity to look ahead, but for Basin Electric's long-term load forecast team, they take a much farther look.

Robert Frank, load forecast analyst, and Jay Lundstrom, lead load forecast analyst, are responsible for the load forecasting for Basin Electric's membership. The load forecast is the main tool used for power supply planning, financial forecasting, rate planning, and transmission planning. The forecasting is done on an annual basis but gives a long-term view of 30 years ahead so members know the anticipated energy needs and requirements for planning purposes.

"The advantage to looking further down the road is that you can make slight adjustments. You can't do that when you're staring at the side of the road. It's easier to steer the ship looking out that far," says Lundstrom.

What used to take four people two years to produce now takes Frank and Lundstrom eight to ten months, thanks to updated technology and developed efficiencies. Their approach has greatly increased accuracy, and working as a team ensures that each co-op is given the attention it deserves. The work is divided up evenly between Frank and Lundstrom, although just glancing, it may not appear that way.

"Robert does the forecast process for about 90% of the members, and I take care of the other 10%," says Lundstrom. "But 90% of my job is focused on taking care of that 10% of the co-ops."

"Things move a little faster in some co-ops than others because some are more impacted by certain industries. Jay works with members who need more of an industry look," says Frank. "The same amount of effort goes into each forecast, but some need more finesse."



Jay Lundstrom

A large portion of load forecasting involves data collection. Frank has a background in statistics and Lundstrom in mathematics, so both enjoy “detective work” and deciphering information.

“Statistics can be used incorrectly, and often times they are,” says Frank. “Sometimes the information we find is just a snapshot of the story, and we need way more context. So Jay and I pull back and look for more data points to determine how things actually might play out.”

The pair references historical data from the members dating back to 1971 and utilizes many different resources to gather the most recent and relevant data available.

“We are constantly reading about what’s coming down the pipe to see what could potentially impact the co-ops. We’re always trying to answer, ‘What will happen in 10 years?’” says Lundstrom. “We joke that we’re the ‘crystal ball’ experts. We’re always trying to predict what next thing is coming.”

The team monitors changes in a variety of industries, including agriculture, ethanol, oil and gas, coal, housing, and more.

“We have a broad knowledge in a lot of areas. It’s like a great lake that’s only eight feet deep. We have enough knowledge to make a quick assessment,” says Lundstrom.

This year’s forecast also takes into account new loads that are appearing quickly, such as crypto mining and economic development in western North Dakota, for example. An external forecaster was brought in to look at the load as it relates to the Bakken oil field and how the forecast for that field relates to others in the United States.

“We wanted to compare where we think the loads are going to what the industry thinks,” says Lundstrom.

“It turns out that for the most part we are fairly consistent with industry’s thoughts.”

Although Frank and Lundstrom do extensive research, they also rely on information from the member co-ops to have an accurate forecast.

“It’s not just us sitting in the office doing these models. We work closely with member managers to learn what they’re seeing in their areas, so they’re very much a part of the process. They see the day-to-day and add additional information we couldn’t obtain on our own which helps us forecast better, and then we provide a broader perspective. It’s the best of both worlds,” says Frank.

“Our members’ crystal balls are very clear for about two to three years. They know what’s coming in the near future, and beyond that, we let the models that are in place take over,” says Lundstrom.

When composing the load forecast, Frank and Lundstrom approach it with a realistic perspective.

“One member might tend to look at things optimistically and another more pessimistically. We aim to be somewhere in the middle,” says Frank. “It helps avoid any sudden turns and ensures all of our assessments are consistent and streamlined.”

Once they have compiled the load forecast, they share it with the Class C managers who provide input. The document is then revised and sent to the Class A managers, and after receiving everyone’s approval, it finally goes to Basin Electric’s board of directors for approval.

“Everything we do is in concert with the members. We work hand-in-hand with them to make sure we’re all in the same boat and moving in the same direction,” says Frank. “The job we do is for them, and without them, we don’t exist.”



EMBRACING CHANGE AND SERVING THE MEMBERSHIP

DAVE RAATZ RETIRES AFTER 41 YEARS

By Kalli Senske

It was 1977 and Dave Raatz was studying engineering at Bismarck (North Dakota) Junior College when he had the opportunity to become a student intern at Basin Electric in the planning and marketing division. It was the start of what would ultimately become a 41-year career, being offered a permanent job with the cooperative after graduating from North Dakota State University in Fargo in 1980 with a degree in electrical engineering.

Growing up in Bismarck, Raatz was aware of cooperatives but didn't know much about what they were before joining Basin Electric. But one thing that stands out in his mind from his childhood is the groundbreaking at Leland Olds Station (LOS) near Stanton, North Dakota.

"My dad was a civil engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation, and he took me to the LOS groundbreaking. I remember sitting on the grass watching and realizing that this was a really big deal," Raatz says.

Fast forward to 2021, Raatz, now senior vice president of Asset Management, Resource Planning, and Rates, has a lot to reflect on as he looks back at his time with Basin Electric. He is one of the few individuals who had the opportunity to work with every general manager at Basin Electric. He was also able to see and influence some major milestones in the cooperative's history, like diversifying revenue, backfilling with renewables, and joining Southwest Power Pool. But some of Raatz's

favorite work has had to do with negotiating power sale and purchase arrangements, resource planning, and member rate design.

Raatz says that out of everything he's had the opportunity to do, he's most proud of the relationships he's developed within the membership.

"Really, our work is about doing whatever we can for the membership and ultimately our member-owners in the nine-state region. I was able to do a lot to serve the membership, and that's what I enjoyed the most because I saw how important that was to the organization," he says.

One thing that has helped Raatz have a successful career is his ability to adapt and pivot.

"I've never been opposed to change or doing new things," he says. "Some people say, 'This is the way we've done it for the last five years,' and I like to ask, 'How should we do it for the next five years?' Change is constant, so you should never be afraid of change."

As confident as Raatz is today, he shared that making decisions with a big reach wasn't as easy early in his career.

"Over the years, there have been a lot of challenges. I can remember doing some analysis that had a significant impact on employees at the power plants. Early in my career, I had some anxiety over giving recommendations that would impact a lot of people. Over time, those decisions became easier to deal with because the guiding light has always been what is right for the membership," says Raatz.

As he grew in his career, Raatz says he was influenced by some of the senior managers he worked with when he was starting out.

"When I was younger and getting into my career, some of the initial senior management were mentors to me, like Howard Easton (manager of marketing and member services) and Rich Fockler (manager of operations and engineering). Their philosophy had a big impact on me."

He says that starting out, he didn't picture himself holding a senior vice president position.

"It's always been a goal to advance in my career but boy, I sure didn't think I'd be a senior vice president," he says. "I feel very thankful."

Raatz says leadership by example and an ability to work with people are two skills that have helped him find success.

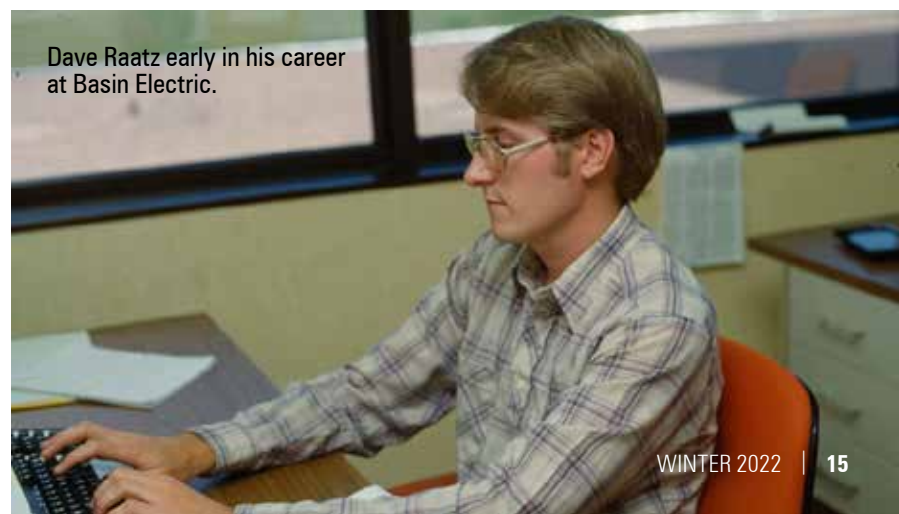
"From a manager's perspective, it's important to be able to help staff find a position that's beneficial for everyone. Every employee is different, so how do you find the right niche for the right person that fits their skillsets so they work together? That's the challenge," Raatz says. "And sometimes you see a strength in someone that they don't see in themselves."

When asked what advice he would give to people early in their careers, Raatz says, "For my kids, I tell them it's important to follow what they really like to do, and that they're not going to be successful in everything but should still try to do their best."

He adds, "It's not always about the salary – don't underestimate the value of benefits and the feeling that you are adding value through your work."

From a student intern to the head of a large department, Raatz has had a big influence on the cooperative. He says when he pictures Basin Electric in 10 years, he knows it will always provide a lot of value to the membership. And for him, it's bittersweet that he will no longer be involved.

"It was a hard decision to walk away from a job I really enjoy. I used to say I would retire at 55, and now nine years later I finally pulled the pin. I'm kind of sad but still excited. It will be a change, but like I said, I'm not opposed to change."



Dave Raatz early in his career at Basin Electric.



DRY FORK STATION UPGRADES AIR QUALITY CONTROLS, SAVES COOPERATIVE \$1 MILLION ANNUALLY

By Kalli Senske

When a project to modify the air quality control system at Dry Fork Station near Gillette, Wyoming, began, the project team had no idea it would end up saving the cooperative \$1 million annually.

“When I came to the co-op in 2010, Dry Fork (Station) was being built. Right out of commissioning, I got assigned to the lime system,” says Nolan Bray, plant engineer at Dry Fork Station.

But a scrubber, or equipment that removes sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from exhaust flue gases, that was initially installed at the plant never had its hydrators fully commissioned, so the team went to work to finish that important step. The hydrators are critical because they take the quick lime and hydrate it. During this process, they fracture the quick lime and increase the surface area. This is a dry hydration process so it doesn’t get the lime wet; it causes the quick lime to interact with water and produce hydrated lime.

Getting the hydrators 100% commissioned was a challenge because the people who designed the scrubber were not the same people who built it, and the hydrators at Dry Fork Station are rare.

“The only fluidized bed hydrators we know of are ours and some in Turkey,” says Bray. “We had a lot to learn and not a lot of people to lean on. Out of necessity, we started finishing the commissioning, and we made it through that and got the system working reliably.”

“Nolan did all of the research and testing and put all of the changes together, and I helped by making sure operations crews ran the hydrator the way Nolan wanted it to operate,” says Bob Donovan, Dry Fork Station operations superintendent. “This project would not be a success without the cooperation and dedication from all of the employees at Dry Fork. It was definitely a team effort to get this completed.”

Once Dry Fork Station completed that stage and the system was fully commissioned, the team noticed that a lot of lime was being expended. Hydrated lime (calcium hydroxide) is used to remove SO₂ from the flue gas. It causes the sulfur dioxide to react with the calcium hydroxide to form calcium sulfite which can then be captured in the bag house and removed from the flue gas.

“We measured our efficiency, and we were high. An ideal stoichiometric ratio is 1:1, between lime consumed versus SO₂ removed. In other words one pound of lime is required to remove one pound of sulfur. The scrubber at Dry Fork Station was designed to operate at a 1.42 ratio. In 2018, we measured a stoichiometric ratio of 2.04, so we had some work to do,” says Bray.

With this data in mind, the team focused on automating the lime flow into the scrubber and adjusting the scrubber based on the dew point of the flue gas. Dew point is the temperature at which water droplets begin to condense and form, and is important because if the temperature of the metal surfaces is lower than the sulfuric acid dew point, severe corrosion may occur.

“We’ve slowly been moving this route because you can’t make a change in operations overnight, and by 2019 we started seeing the benefit,” says Bray. “We reached payback in the first year, and the project paid for itself with the savings.”

“We set up the automatic lime feed to the scrubber to control SO₂ emissions, and that really helped lower our operation costs,” says Donovan.

Bray says that previously Dry Fork Station didn’t have the ability to control the scrubber outlet temperature so they never had a true dew point set point. A humidity probe was added to the flue gas that showed the relative humidity, thus allowing the dew point to be calculated.

The team continues adjusting the scrubber to operate closer to the dew point, however the scrubber can’t be run at true dew point because that would encourage corrosion.

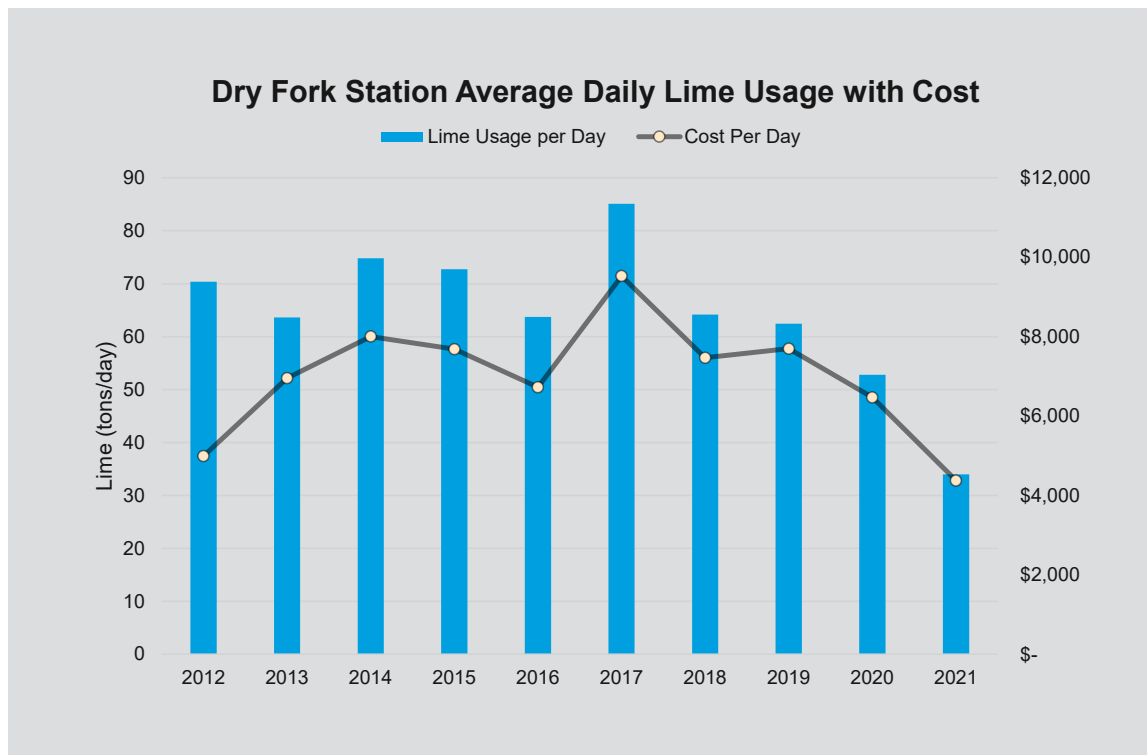
“When we switched to approach temperature where we can follow dew point, it allowed us to keep a consistent approach temperature,” says Bray. “We started at 55 degrees (Fahrenheit) approach above dew point, and now we’re at 46 degrees. A lot of utilities run at 35 degrees approach. We need more work to get down there.”

Donovan says dew point control and automation of lime flow are what brought a huge reduction in lime usage accounting for \$1 million in total savings each year.

“Lowering the approach temperature the system runs on, controlling the lime, and optimizing the hydrators all helped to increase efficiency, too,” says Donovan.

Going forward, the team plans to continue looking for ways to increase efficiencies to save even more money. But for now, they’re proud to have brought substantial savings to the cooperative.

“If you had told me that we would help save this company \$1 million at the beginning of the project, I’d have thought you didn’t know what you’re taking about,” says Bray. “I couldn’t foresee how effective this project would be.”



MEET NEW BASIN ELECTRIC

JERRY

DIRECTOR

BECK

By Angela Magstadt

Basin Electric's newest director, Jerry Beck, joined the Basin Electric board in December. Beck represents District 11 replacing retired director Charlie Gilbert. Each director is elected to a three-year term and represents one of 11 membership districts.

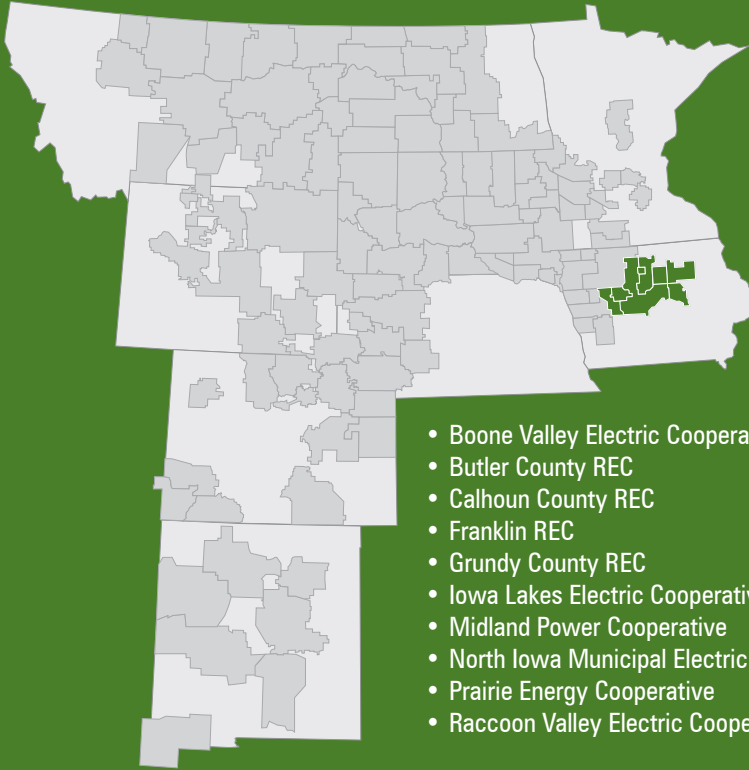
All directors must be end-use consumers, elected to their distribution cooperative board, and subsequently also elected to their Class A board. In this way, any director serving on Basin Electric's board must serve on both these boards before being eligible – a true line from wholesale generation and transmission to the member turning on the light switch.

Tell us a little about you.

I live in Spencer, Iowa, on the farm where I was born. I am a farmer by trade and spent my career raising corn and soybeans. I have one grown daughter, Elizabeth. I have also been fortunate to mentor a young man since he was a boy, and he is like a son to me. He has taken over the farm, but I still help out in the spring and fall, which I really enjoy.

What inspired you to want to serve rural electric cooperatives (REC)?

I have always liked the cooperative business model and felt serving rural electric cooperatives was a cause important enough to give up part of my life for. I was first elected to my local REC, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, in 2001. I earned my NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 2006 and my NRECA Cooperative Leadership Certificate in 2012. In 2014, I successfully ran for our G&T (generation and transmission cooperative), Corn Belt Power Cooperative. I am now the chairman of Iowa Lakes' board and secretary of Corn Belt Power's board. I sometimes feel like I eat, sleep, and breathe RECs. It takes up a lot of my time, but I really enjoy it.



- Boone Valley Electric Cooperative
- Butler County REC
- Calhoun County REC
- Franklin REC
- Grundy County REC
- Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Midland Power Cooperative
- North Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Assn.
- Prairie Energy Cooperative
- Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

When you're not wearing your REC hat, what are you doing?

I am a township trustee and a member of the local Lion's Club where I help as much as I can to raise money for community betterment projects. I love restoring antique tractors and going on organized tractor rides. They're souped up to go about 30 miles per hour, and we get up to 350 tractors together and drive everywhere from the Black Hills to Wisconsin. I also love anything to do with horses.

Coming on as a director at Basin Electric, what was the most surprising thing you learned?

How much there is to learn.

What role do you see Basin Electric playing in rural America in the next 20 years?

I see Basin Electric continuing to be the electric cooperative of choice. We are moving into an exciting and unknown future in the electric industry and I am confident that Basin Electric will continue to be a leader. We have very dedicated and knowledgeable personnel and

a board who will adapt to the changes and challenges we are facing and lead the cooperative successfully into the next 20 years and beyond.

What is your philosophy for serving on a co-op board?

I want to make sure we have enough generation to reliably and affordably provide power to our members. It's going to take a lot of electricity to power our lives in the future – especially with electric vehicles becoming more popular. Renewables definitely have their place but they can't replace the baseload generation our coal and natural gas facilities provide.

Anything else you'd like to share with the cooperative family?

Serving on electric co-op boards has given me a wider look at what goes on behind the scenes – what it takes to get electricity from our power plants to our light switches. I will do my best to improve the quality of life for our members at the end of our lines.



Arndt says her cats will run up to greet the cattle dogs and love to rub up on them.



There's no shortage of personality for these cats who call Arndt's barn home.

ALL ARE WELCOME

HOMELESS CATS FIND SANCTUARY ON EMPLOYEE'S RANCH

By Kalli Senske

Tami Lynn Arndt, administrative assistant at Laramie River Station, has always loved animals. She raised Tennessee walking horses for 30 years and also had dogs, cats, and mules. But it wasn't until a feral cat wandered into her barn 17 years ago that she took it to a whole new level.

"After I saw two eyeballs sticking out of the hay, I put out a live trap and caught Cassie. I named him that because it means speed in Swahili. I love naming the cats after their African ancestors," says Arndt.

Cassie was the first of many cats to call Arndt's barn home. In fact, at one point she had 21 cats living on her property 10 miles outside of Wheatland, Wyoming.

Sadly, Arndt's farm has become a drop-off site for unwanted cats. Lucky for the cats though, they've ended up with someone who is committed to taking care of them.

Arndt says as soon as there's a new cat around, she sets a live trap, usually by her bedroom window so she can hear it.

Some of the cats act feral while others show up already

spayed and neutered. For those who haven't been yet, Arndt takes the cats to get fixed and gets them up-to-date on vaccines.

"At one point I was actually using my Pursuing Excellence points (employee recognition program) to pay for spaying and neutering," says Arndt.

Next, all of the cats who are live trapped get to live in Arndt's house for a short period while she tries to "gentle them." For the ones who have a good disposition, she puts an ad in the paper to have them adopted for free. The others get to live out their days in her barn.

"If possible, I want them to go to an indoor home. One lady took three beautiful bangles. She's kept in touch and sent photos. It makes my heart so happy to see them all together and taken care of," she says.

She added that if someone takes a cat and ends up moving or it doesn't work out, they can always bring the cat back to her farm and she'll find them another home.

Even though Arndt is willing to take care of the cats who find their way to her, she says it isn't as romantic as it may seem.

"People leave cats here and think, 'Hopefully she'll find a loving home and be just fine.' That's not true. These cats are scared to death. They often put up with coyotes and owls and are fighting for their lives. They don't know what's happened. They've just been dumped somewhere and harassed by wildlife until they found my barn, if they're lucky," she says. "And even in a barn like mine, their lives are still often relatively short because there are a lot of animal threats around. I wish I could get people to understand that."



Arndt's cats come in all shapes and sizes, and she can tell you all about the personality of each one, like Shujia, Blue, and Butterball.

"Shujia means sporty in Swahili. His daddy, Ringtail, used to come into the barn all the time, and he left us with some beautiful kittens, including Shujia. If anyone came along and wanted him, I don't think I could let him go," she says.

"We call Blue 'the ghost cat' because he won't show himself to anyone except me. Blue probably needed a special home because he would never stop biting. But I got him fixed and he loves to be petted by me, so he's happy."

"I believe Butterball had been with a family before, but it took a few days for him to come around. Now when he comes out, he has the cutest little meow. He's one that's going to stay with me."

Arndt feeds the cats every morning before work at 4 a.m. She puts a headlight on and comes out with pans of food, including some tuna fish as a treat. "They're so spoiled," she says.

Today, Arndt has 11 cats that she says are there to stay.

"They're never going to leave me, they've been with me too long. They're home now," she says.

Service awards



Bill Baer
20 years
Network security analyst
Headquarters



Aric Bandle
20 years
Transmission agreements
administrator
Headquarters



Sherman Biffert
20 years
Maintenance field technician
Dakota Gasification Company



Jeff Graney
20 years
Superintendent of compliance,
safety, and industrial hygiene
Dakota Gasification Company



Tim Hyslop
20 years
Senior enterprise
system administrator
Headquarters



Tracy Johnson
20 years
Operations shift supervisor
Leland Olds Station



Donovan Rathjen
20 years
E&I maintenance
field technician
Dakota Gasification Company



Bob Roth
20 years
Maintenance planner/
scheduler
Laramie River Station

New employees



Jared Doherty, laborer, began work at Laramie River Station on Sept. 13. The Douglas, Wyoming, native previously worked as a manager at Legend Pressure Control.



Brian Neely began work as a laborer at Laramie River Station on Sept. 13. Previously, he was the owner and operator of Sharpshooter Consulting in his hometown of Wheatland, Wyoming. Prior to that, he worked for Assist Consulting out of Loveland, Colorado.



Alexia Reed began work on Sept. 13 as a service dispatcher at Headquarters. The Bismarck, North Dakota, native previously worked as a surgical assistant at Bismarck Lasik.



Shad Schwartz, operator technician, began work at Lonesome Creek Station on Sept. 13. He previously worked as a service tool supervisor for Grizzly Tools in his hometown of Williston, North Dakota.



Nick Gerding began work as a boiler attendant at Leland Olds Station on Sept. 20. He previously worked as a boiler house fireman at American Crystal Sugar in Drayton, North Dakota. The Mandan, North Dakota, native earned a process technology degree from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.



Corbin Hilfer began work as a coalman at Leland Olds Station on Sept. 22. A native of Mandan, North Dakota, he previously worked as a facility operator for Tinum.



Kyle Wolf began work as a laborer at Leland Olds Station on Sept. 27. Before joining the cooperative, he worked as an operator for Tinum. Wolf has a degree in auto collision and six years of experience as a master technician with John Deere. The Underwood, North Dakota, native also has more than 10 years of experience in volunteer fire and rescue service.



Zane Fees began work as an operator technician at Groton Generation Station on Oct. 4. He previously worked as an electrical instrumentation and control technician for Ormat in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Fees earned degrees in electrical construction and maintenance and in automation controls/SCADA from Mitchell (South Dakota) Technical Institute. He is originally from Philip, South Dakota.



Lucas Gannarelli began work as a settlements analyst at Headquarters on Oct. 11. He previously worked for Bank of North Dakota in Bismarck as a special assets collection officer. Gannarelli is from Rolla, North Dakota. He graduated from Bemidji (Minnesota) State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, with an emphasis in small business management and a minor in management information systems.



Jacob Paul, process operations field technician, began work at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Oct. 11. He previously did summer operations for Minnkota Power Cooperative in Center, North Dakota. The Bismarck, North Dakota, native graduated from Bismarck State College with an associate's degree in process plant technology.



Dylan Enget began work as a journeyman lineman at the Logan (North Dakota) transmission system maintenance outpost on Oct. 25. He previously worked as a journeyman lineman for Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative in Williston, North Dakota. Enget is from Surrey, North Dakota.



Blake Johnson, process operations field technician, began work at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Oct. 25. Before joining the cooperative, he worked in operations at Red Trail Energy in Richardton, North Dakota. The Bismarck, North Dakota, native earned an associate's degree in process plant technology from Bismarck State College.



Nathaniel Emmer began work as a laborer at Antelope Valley Station on Nov. 1. He is a native of Bristol, Illinois, and previously worked as an operator for ONEOK in Watford City, North Dakota.

RETIREEES



Darwin Reinhardt, shift supervisor at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Sept. 17 after nearly 44 years with the cooperative. Before that, he worked for the City of Beulah, North Dakota, (his hometown) as water department supervisor. Reinhardt earned an associate's degree from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.

"Darwin was very dependable and dedicated his career to working shift work for Basin Electric. He was knowledgeable of the plant and always willing to help out when needed. I am very thankful for his dedication to Basin Electric and wish him all the best in retirement," says Duane Poitra, operations superintendent.

"I was thankful for the opportunity to work at both LOS (Leland Olds Station) and AVS (Antelope Valley Station) with such great people," says Reinhardt. "It was always a pleasure to accomplish our goals and share a laugh as well. I will truly miss it all!"



Troy Bauer, field maintenance technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, retired on Oct. 8 after 38 years with the cooperative.

"Troy was a great asset to have on the crew. He was always willing to do work, help others, and pitch in where he could. Troy did great work and was very easy to communicate with," says Quinn Messer, field maintenance supervisor. "When Troy retired, he took a huge amount of experience and knowledge with him. His attention to detail and pride in his work showed. We will all miss that because he was a guy you could count on or go to for answers when issues and questions came up."

In retirement, the Beulah, North Dakota, native hopes to spend time hunting, fishing, and with family.



Bud Bussard, back shift maintenance supervisor at Laramie River Station, retired on Oct. 8. The Wheatland, Wyoming, native worked for the cooperative for 40 years.

"Buddy was a very knowledgeable employee having worked in both the operations and maintenance departments throughout his career at Laramie River Station. His technical expertise on electrical systems throughout the plant was unmatched. We will miss having him as that resource," says Jerrod Isaak, maintenance supervisor. "Buddy enjoyed traveling, especially on cruise ships, so will also miss stories of his travels. He was dependable and a pleasure to work with."

In his retirement, Bussard plans to spend time with family, travel to the New England states, and enjoy new cruise destinations.



Terry Faller, senior enterprise storage administrator, retired from Headquarters on Oct. 12. The Bismarck, North Dakota, native worked for the cooperative for nearly 34 years.



Rodger Vigil, machinist, retired from Laramie River Station on Oct. 15. The Wheatland, Wyoming, native joined the cooperative in 1999. Before that, he was a machinist at Foreman's Quality Machine and Repair in Casper, Wyoming.

"Rodger was very good at his job and was always willing to take on many different challenges when it came to machining. He was a leader in the shop as he was the senior machinist and would make sure others were performing correctly," says Thomas Haeffelin, mechanical maintenance supervisor. "Rodger was a very reliable employee and never missed any work. He was always

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS



listening to great music while he worked, which I enjoyed as well. Rodger will be missed.”

In retirement, Vigil plans to do home renovations, build and repair guitars, build cigar box guitars, play music, and attend live music events.



Matt Stafford, lead communications technician at the Wheatland transmission system maintenance outpost, retired on Nov. 5 after more than 17 years with the cooperative. He earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering technology and a State of Wyoming Journeyman Electrician License.

“Matt was safety conscious and was not one to jump into performing a task without thinking it through. He planned ahead and had the materials and tools needed to complete upcoming tasks,” says Darren Huber, telecommunications supervisor. “Matt was and is well liked by his fellow employees. It was common to hear him sharing events that happened over the weekend: family, outdoors, or a new restaurant he had recently visited. I wish him a long, healthy retirement.”

In retirement, the Scottsville, Kentucky, native plans to work on a long list of hobbies and interests.



Kurt Albers, warehouse field technician, retired from the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Nov. 5. He worked for the cooperative for more than 20 years. Before that, the Hazen, North Dakota, native worked for Hazen Motor Company as a mechanic. In retirement, Albers plans on staying warm in the winter.



Michael Goddard, coal and yard supervisor at Laramie River Station, retired on Dec. 3 after 36 years with the cooperative. He is originally from Wheatland, Wyoming.

“Mike spent a long 36-year career here at LRS and worked in most areas of the plant. He was the type of employee that liked and was able to accomplish tasks without needing a lot of direction. There weren’t any challenges too big or any tasks that he was afraid to take on. He was never afraid to voice his opinion or say how he felt no matter if he were talking to the CEO or one of his employees,” said Gary Lockman, operations superintendent. “He was always smiling and willing to help – I will miss that about him.”



Darvin Schlender, process operations field technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, retired on Dec. 7 after 20 years with the cooperative. He was also a farmer and rancher.

“I enjoyed the many people that I have been able to work with and the opportunities that were afforded my family and me over the years,” says Schlender.

“Darvin is very knowledgeable and was an excellent troubleshooter in the ammonium sulfate recovery unit (5800 area). He was always trying to get the area to operate as good as possible,” says Tim McEvers, utilities shift supervisor. “Darvin loves to hunt elk and mule deer, and now he will be able to put his back door in Montana.”

In retirement, the Beulah, North Dakota, native looks forward to spending time with family and enjoying the outdoors.



Craig Mattheis, pipeline field technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, retired on Dec. 17. The Hazen, North Dakota, native worked for the cooperative since 1984.

“I have worked at Dakota Gas for 37 years, and have seen many things changed to ensure its future. Thirty-one of



my years here were spent working in the plant in the gas processing areas of Rectisol and methanation. My last six years at DGC, I worked on the SNG (synthetic natural gas) and CO₂ (carbon dioxide) pipelines,” says Mattheis.

“Craig was a very dedicated and devoted employee to Dakota Gas. He is very dependable and a wealth of knowledge. He will be greatly missed by all of his coworkers – he was definitely the “go-to” guy,” says Kurt Dutchuk, pipeline supervisor. “There is a long list of things about Craig that will be missed – he was always the early bird to the office and took care of a lot of things before the work day would ever even begin. I will miss Craig’s coffee and the morning chats the most.”



Marci Schorsch, accounting administrator at Headquarters, retired on Dec. 20. She was with the cooperative for 36 years. She held other roles throughout her career, including working as an employee of the Great Plains Gasification Associates in the treasury-benefits department. She then transferred to the tax division, and in 2003 took a position in the financial reporting section of the accounting department as an accounting analyst. In 2013, she took a role in human resources as a benefits analyst, and transferred to financial planning and forecasting three years later. In 2018, she rejoined the financial reporting division of the accounting department.

“I am so grateful for this wide range of opportunity that was offered and the associated knowledge gleaned from these experiences,” says Schorsch. “I did my best to serve where I was planted and to go beyond expectations whenever I could to make things better for the next in line.”

“Marci is outgoing and friendly and always has a smile on her face. It was before I worked at Basin when I first became a CPA and would go to CPA functions that I first

encountered Marci. She was quick to welcome you to the group and is such an advocate for the profession – everyone knew Marci and associated her with Basin. Now working with Marci she is just as friendly and welcoming, and she is the same outside of work as she is at work. I will miss her sense of humor and having a way to always make us laugh,” says Melinda Weninger, Basin Electric senior accounting analyst.

“Marci is spirited, caring, and joyful,” says Darla Jensen, Basin Electric manager of financial reporting and planning. “I will miss her joy and enthusiasm for life.”

In retirement, Schorsch says, “This will be a time of personal growth as I expand my faith by spending time in the Bible and devoting myself to the causes that align with spiritual truths. I will be able to spend more time with my adult Down syndrome daughter where we can adopt better eating and exercise programs for our health.”

She also plans to get a lot done around the house including home improvement projects.



Mike Jones, fine grind plant supervisor at Montana Limestone Company, retired on Dec. 30. The Laurel, Montana, native worked for the cooperative for 33 years. Before that, Jones was a ranch hand for Wyoming Feeders.

“Mike was a hardworking throwback of old. He came to work every day ready to give his all. He was very dependable – always there, and always willing to help,” says Randy Banning, manager of Dakota Coal Company and Montana Limestone Company. “Mike worked over 30 years at the fine grind plant, and you can’t visit about that plant without thinking of Mike Jones. He was a fixture there, but also built a great foundation for anyone following in his footsteps. He will be sorely missed.”



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