


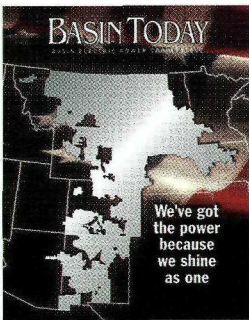
ANNUAL MEETING ISSUE 2001

# BASIN TODAY

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE



**We've got  
the power  
because  
we shine  
as one**



*The theme for Basin Electric's annual membership meeting Nov. 8-9 is "We've got the power because we shine as one."*



*The people of Basin Electric stand united and support our nation as we all deal with the tragedies of September 11.*

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**BASIN TODAY** is published eight times a year for member cooperatives, Basin Electric employees and retirees, their families and others.

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Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative headquartered in Bismarck, ND. We operate electricity-generating plants for 122 member systems in nine states, serving more than 1.7 million people. Basin Electric also has subsidiaries that provide Internet service and produce natural gas, chemicals, fertilizers, and lime.

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**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner   
*Equal Employment Opportunity Employer M/F/H/V*

# Basin Electric Power Cooperative

## Annual membership meeting agenda

Nov. 8–9, 2001 – Radisson Inn – Bismarck, ND

Theme: We've got the Power

### Wednesday, Nov. 7

- 1 p.m. Basin Electric's Resolutions Committee meeting – Governors Room
- 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Annual meeting social – Courtyard

- 3:45 p.m. Member caucuses (District 5, 7 & 9)
- 6 p.m. Social hour – Courtyard
- 7 p.m. Annual meeting banquet – Dakota Ballroom
- Master of Ceremonies: Audry Ricketts, executive vice president & general manager, South Dakota Rural Electric Association
- Address: *Comedy with a Byte!* Greg Schwem

### Thursday, Nov. 8

- 6:30 a.m. Annual meeting registration begins – Dakota Ballroom
- 7:00 a.m. Annual Meeting Tours – buses depart Dakota Ballroom (west door)
- Antelope Valley Station & Coteau's Freedom Coal Mine tour
  - Great Plains Synfuels Plant & Coteau's Freedom Coal Mine tour
- 7 a.m.-10 a.m. Coffee and rolls with Basin Electric's board of directors – Courtyard
- 8 a.m. Display booths open – Courtyard
- 8 a.m. Basin Electric's Resolutions Committee meeting – Governors Room

#### Pre-conference workshops – Lamborn Room

- 8 a.m. *Touchstone Energy® building value is local*
- 9 a.m. *Strategic planning – the next generation*
- 10 a.m. *The future of telecommunication networks*
- 11:30 a.m. Ladies luncheon – Heart & Sheyenne Rooms
- 1 p.m. Annual meeting convenes – Dakota Ballroom
- Welcome – Wayne Child, president of Basin Electric
- Declaration of quorum
  - Notice of annual meeting
- 1:15 p.m. Welcome to North Dakota – Gov. John Hoeven
- 1:45 p.m. We've got the Power – Ron Harper, CEO & general manager
- 2:15 p.m. Coffee break
- 2:30 p.m. Industry overview – Donald L. Howell – partner, Vinson Elkins
- 3:30 p.m. Resolutions Committee report

### Friday, Nov. 9

- 7 a.m. Continental breakfast – Courtyard
- 8 a.m. Annual meeting reconvenes – Dakota Ballroom
- Opening remarks – Ray Kruckenberg – vice president, Basin Electric
- 8:10 a.m. Status of national energy policy – Sen. Byron Dorgan
- 9:00 a.m. President's report – Wayne Child
- 9:15 a.m. Treasurer's/financial report – J. William Keller – Basin Electric treasurer
- Clifton "Buzz" Hudgins – senior vice president & chief financial officer
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee break
- 9:50 a.m. Basin Electric's operations reports
- Generation Update – Wayne Backman – senior vice president, Generation
  - Power plant report – Vern Laning – vice president, plant operations
  - Transmission Update – Ted Humann – senior vice president, Transmission
- Questions & answers
- 11 a.m. Dakota Gasification Company report – Al Lukes, senior vice president & COO
- 11:15 a.m. New business
- Action on resolutions
  - Caucus reports
- 11:45 a.m. Meeting adjournment

*Our vision:*

*We will provide*

*best-in-class,*

*cost effective*

*wholesale energy*

*along with*

*products and*

*services that*

*support and*

*unite rural*

*America.*

President and general manager's report  
**“We've got the  
Power”**

**W**ith the wild ride energy prices have taken in 2001, we can all be proud that the Basin Electric member-system consumers didn't ride along because **“We've got the Power.”**

We've got the Power because:

- we've worked collectively to build our own power supply facilities,
- we take great care in operating and maintaining our facilities to keep them available,
- we're connecting our technology networks to share information to operate more effectively, and
- we've built up our financial strength to meet the challenges ahead.

But not only do we have the power, we have it at a fair and reasonable price. Basin Electric is forecasted to be able to maintain an average rate to Class A members, net of delivery point discounts, of 31 mills/kilowatt-hour (kWh) for 2002. While our Class A rates are the same for 2001 and 2002, the Class A rate for 2001 is estimated to be 26 mills/kWh because of rebates we will mention later. In addition, if

you consider the margin allocation, the average net cost of wholesale power from Basin Electric in 2001 is estimated to be about 21 mills/kWh.

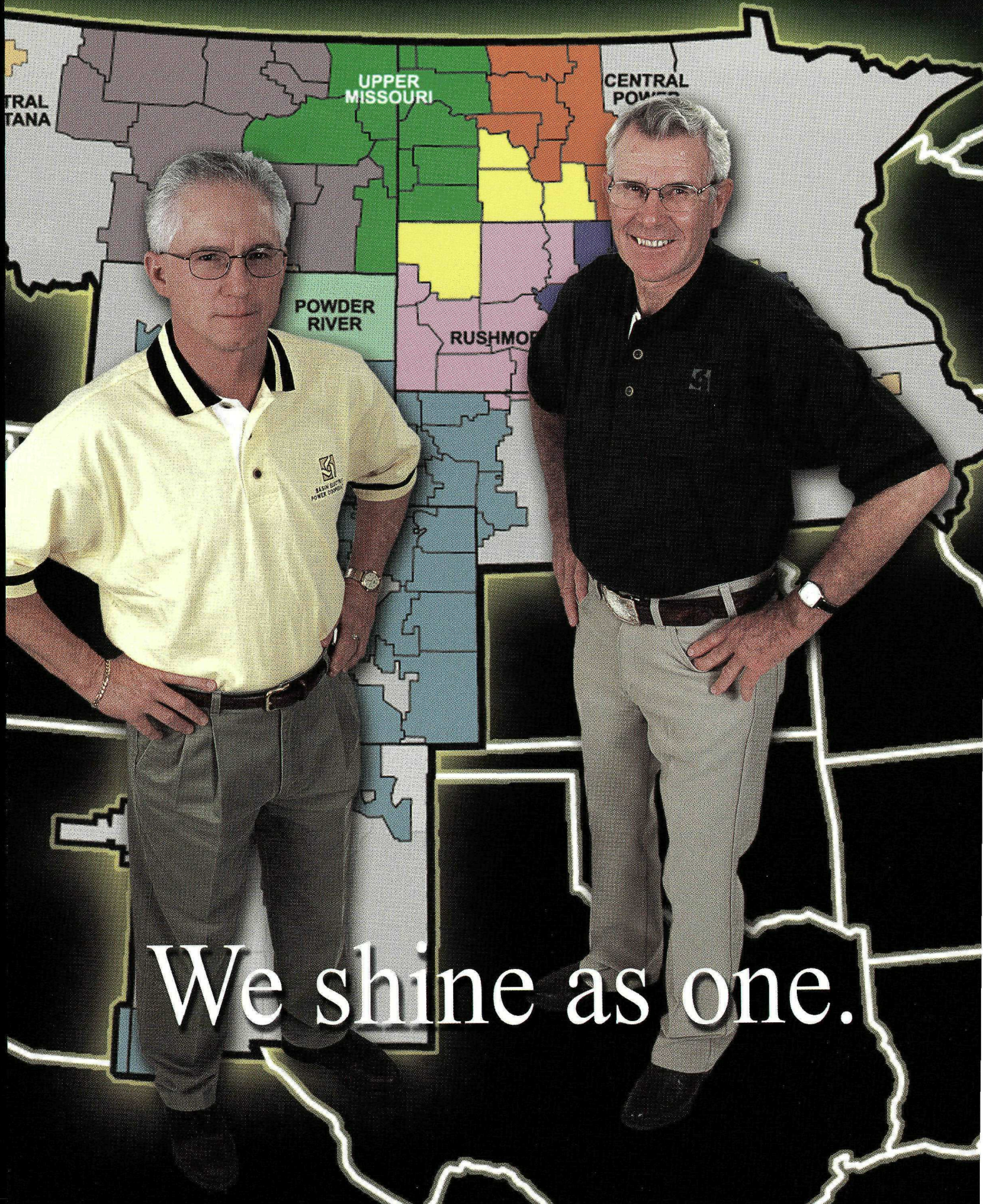
While consumers at the end of the line didn't experience the wild roller coaster ride – at least not with their electricity prices – the board of directors and management took a spin watching from afar.

### **Operations, the electricity market and sales**

A number of factors raised electricity prices across the country to unheard of levels from June 2000 until mid-June 2001. Those factors included a dysfunctional electricity market in California, a drought, extremely hot weather, a failure to build any power facilities in the West, increasing demand for

*continued*

**Ron Harper, Basin Electric CEO and general manager, and Wayne Child, Basin Electric president.**



We shine as one.

power driven by technology and high natural gas prices. Those high electricity price levels diminished when natural gas prices fell back to historic levels, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) put price caps in place June 19. However, that strong early market should still produce a healthy margin for Basin Electric in 2001, barring any major facility failure late in the year.

Based on year-end margin projections, the board of directors expects to take the following actions to make wise use of increased surplus sales revenue and get revenue not required at Basin Electric back to you:

- Return to the members a total of \$50 million in the form of rebates applied to this year's business.
- Allocate a projected before tax margin of \$39.1 million as patronage capital.
- Defer current year excess revenue, along with revenue deferrals from previous years, for use in 2002 through 2008.

A special membership meeting on June 28 approved an amendment to the Cooperative's bylaws to increase the deferral cap to \$200 million and to extend the maximum time for returning revenue to the membership to 10 years.

### **National energy policy**

President Bush delivered his national energy policy in May to help guide this country toward greater energy independence. This

was shortly after natural gas prices peaked at more than \$13/dekatherm. Nine months later the price of natural gas dropped to less than \$2/dekatherm. The same fluctuations occurred with gasoline and diesel fuel to a lesser extent.

The U.S. economy cannot survive fluctuations like these because industries cannot plan for investments or expansions. For this reason, Basin Electric supports a balanced energy plan and a national electricity transmission grid. Our membership service area includes a majority of the accessible coal reserves in this country plus the wind potential to supplement coal-based generation in an environmentally sound way. We support the region's governors and congressional leaders in trying to develop these valuable resources. However, they cannot be developed without a national transmission infrastructure. Without this transmission infrastructure, we cannot maintain a stable energy market.

We urge you to keep informed and active on energy and other legislation as it moves through Congress. Considering the recent tragic attack on our country, legislation and regulation that could greatly affect us may either get stalled or be put on a fast track depending on its perceived relationship to national security.

### **Power supply planning**

Despite an economic downturn in the nation, further fueled by the tragedies of Sept. 11, we believe the demand for electricity will steadily grow. The tragedies further renewed a national resolve for greater energy independence, which encourages coal, gas and oil development in service territories of our member systems. Much of our future power supply planning continues to be directed at serving electricity growth related to energy development.

### **West-side developments**

We'll soon be installing 45 megawatts (MW) of combustion turbines to provide the most immediate service to coal bed methane (CBM) development in Power River Energy Corporation's (PRECorp) service territory. Our projections are that there may be more than 300 MW of CBM load that PRECorp will eventually need to serve. However, we are constantly monitoring CBM activity considering the wild swings in gas prices. We are also forging ahead with a 200-MW east-west system intertie at Rapid City, SD, and 23 miles of related 230-kilovolt transmission that will also serve as a bridge for that growing load by bringing electricity from Antelope Valley Station across the national electric system separation. All of these projects will serve as a bridge until new resources are developed that can supply our west-side territory.

In addition, both Central Montana Generation and Transmission (G&T) and Tri-State G&T members have expressed an interest in working with and/or purchasing additional electricity from Basin Electric. Central Montana's power supply contract with another supplier will be ending, and Tri-State needs to meet massive front-range growth in Colorado and surging mineral development in Wyoming. Basin Electric is dedicated to working with members for the best possible outcome for everyone. We are looking at all options such as purchasing additional capacity, partnering in a project or building a project alone.

### **East-side developments**

While we haven't had the same wild energy frenzy in the East, there are a lot of interesting developments and issues we closely watch that could affect power resource planning. Environmental challenges are at the forefront. The most prominent at this time is the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) challenge to North Dakota's State Implementation Plan of the Clean Air Act. The EPA has indicated to the state that they think the maximum allowable sulfur dioxide emissions have been exceeded. If that is true, the operations and life of older emissions sources like Leland Olds Station (LOS) would be impacted, which in turn, could step up new resource planning on the east side.

We completed a contract with Corn Belt Power Cooperative in October for a 40-MW ownership share of the 80-MW gas turbine Corn Belt is putting in near Spencer, IA. This resource will provide some risk management for the temporary loss of one of Basin Electric's large coal-based power plants. It will also enhance the value of our base-load generation and locate generation closer to growing loads.

We also expect to dedicate the PraireWinds project in November. The project consists of two, 1.3 MW wind turbines that Basin Electric and East River Electric G&T are jointly developing. Basin Electric has made this renewable energy project available to all member systems. Electric co-op consumers can sign-up for this renewable energy in 100-kWh blocks through their local co-op. Co-op consumers have already committed to purchase the capacity of more than one of the turbines.

### **We have financial power**

We're able to make these plans for member growth and follow through because we are maintaining our financial strength. Over several years, Basin Electric has built up its financial standing that will enable the Cooperative to finance its capital requirements at reasonable costs.

**continued**

## *We've got the power because:*

- *we've worked collectively to build our own power supply facilities,*
- *we take great care in operating and maintaining our facilities to keep them available,*
- *we're connecting our technology networks to share information to operate more effectively, and*
- *we've built up our financial strength to meet the challenges ahead.*

## **We've got power because we have a clear vision**

Through strategic planning we created a new, more concise vision statement – **We will provide best-in-class, cost effective wholesale energy along with products and services that support and unite rural America.** We have developed guiding principles that will serve as a litmus test in defining our initiatives.

Basin Electric's strategies will:

- support Basin's vision,
- be related to Basin's core business,
- define revenue potential,
- demonstrate return on investment and/or provide strategic benefit for Basin and its members,
- manage risk,
- leverage Basin's core competencies and capabilities,
- reflect detailed analysis,
- clearly outline an action plan, and
- be fully communicated to all constituents.

The people doing the work at Basin Electric have been extremely supportive and patient during this planning process. While the board and management have been setting priorities and planning new construction, they've kept the plants operating and balanced increased workload. We have been hiring some new employees to meet the increased workload and

because big blocks of our current workforce are nearing retirement.

## **Dakota Gasification Company**

Dakota Gasification Company (DGC) did sell natural gas and ammonia during the first half of the year at high prices. However, lower prices during the second half of the year and low plant availability during the summer could cause DGC to be near break even for the year. These wide commodity price swings will continue to create challenges for DGC.


The Great Plains Synfuels Plant continues to be a technical success, and plant personnel worked very hard to improve plant reliability. The plant is on its way to meeting its environmental goals, and the carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pipeline project has been a technological success and will significantly contribute to DGC's financial future. DGC continues to explore expansion of its CO<sub>2</sub> sales that will enhance the financial standing of the company.

## **We've got the Power because we shine as one**

We've been able to achieve all of this because past management teams and the elected directors of the Cooperative led with a vision to meet member needs. While some suggest democracy may not be the most efficient way to conduct business, it enables the Cooperative program to work. Members cooperate for the benefit of all to move forward together.

We've accomplished goals that none of us could alone. As the song of our Touchstone Energy® commercials say, "We shine as one." We truly do shine more brightly when we work together.

  
Wayne Child

  
Ron Harper



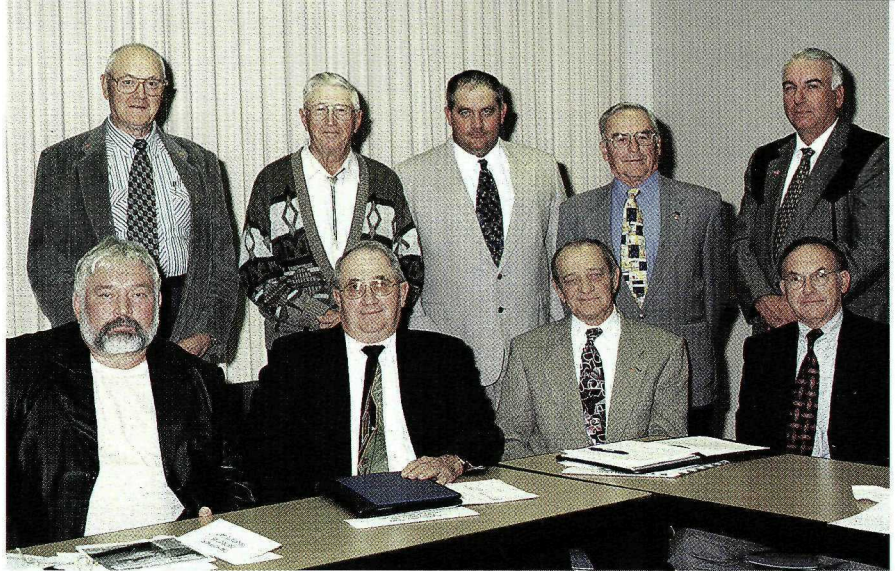
Discussions surround environment and industry restructuring ...

# Resolutions Committee meets

By Mary Mattern

Next door to the Basin Electric board in October was a quiet group of representatives from each of Basin Electric's 10 districts. As members of the Resolutions Committee, their task of scrutinizing the Cooperative's entire book of resolutions may not be considered riveting, but it is with their serious, steadfast work that a "game plan" for Basin Electric's board of directors is scratched out.

The 2001 Basin Electric Resolutions Committee met at the Cooperative's Headquarters Oct. 10-11 to review existing resolutions and propose changes for membership review during the Basin Electric Annual Meeting on Nov. 7-9 in Bismarck. The resolutions, which outline the Cooperative's stance on a variety of issues ranging from private property rights to the Clean Air Act, serve as guidelines for Basin Electric's board throughout the year.



The 2001 Resolutions Committee: *Back row from left:* Rex Witte, Rushmore Electric Power Co-op, Rapid City, SD; Fred Weiler, Central Montana Electric Power Co-op, Billings, MT; John Long, District 9 - Grand Electric Co-op, Bison, SD; Robert Ching (representing Clayton Halverson), East River Power Co-op, Madison, SD; and Kermit Pearson, Basin Electric director representative. *Front row from left:* Tim Hoffner, Tri-State G&T Association, Denver, CO; Earl Pelton, Upper Missouri G&T Electric Co-op, Sidney, MT; Hermann Lentz, Central Power Electric Co-op, Minot, ND; and Chairman Alan Lucken, Northwest Iowa Power Co-op, LeMars, IA. *Not pictured:* John Buell, Powder River Energy Corporation, Sundance, WY; and Roger Knoblock, L&O Power Co-op, Rock Rapids, IA.

Alan Lucken of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), LeMars, IA, was reelected chairman.

Several Basin Electric managers presented updates on various issues, including the environmental challenges facing the Cooperative. The Committee called for the development of a comprehensive draft resolution stating Basin Electric's position on many environment-related issues, including the multi-pollutant legislation currently under consideration in Congress.

The Committee also discussed the potential impact of proposed legislation on electric utility restructuring in the U.S. House of

Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Wally Goulet, Basin Electric vice president of government relations, explained how the legislation, along with regulatory proposals by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), could negatively affect cooperatives. Committee members requested a draft resolution encompassing the Cooperative's position on a national energy policy.

The Committee will meet prior to the annual meeting on Nov. 7 at 1 p.m. following a joint luncheon with Basin Electric's board of directors at the Radisson Inn to review these draft resolutions along with any new proposed resolutions.

Loading up on efficiency and value ...

# Generating partnerships – Basin Electric launches load management program

By Mary Mattern

Basin Electric's board of directors approved a load management program for the Cooperative at its June meeting. Although it's not a centralized system, the key to the program's success involves Basin Electric's cooperation with its members' existing load management systems. The result is a cooperative-wide program that can be beneficial to the bottom line of Basin Electric and to individual member cooperatives.

## Why was a load management program needed?

With member systems' loads growing and generation becoming more valuable, Basin Electric realized that coordinating the load management activities of the members could provide benefits. With about 10 Class A cooperatives serving more than 120 distribution

cooperatives across nine states, obviously one system's peak doesn't occur at the same time as another's. In addition, Basin Electric's system-wide peak occurs at a different time based on the combination of the members' peaks.

Several Class A members have individual load management systems. When a particular cooperative is peaking, it may institute load control measures. Included in Basin Electric's billing system are demand charges, which are based on each member's highest 30-minute supplemental demand purchase occurring each month. By practicing load management, the Class A cooperative can minimize monthly demand peaks. However, this practice doesn't necessarily minimize Basin Electric's demand peak, because the Cooperative's peak may be occurring at a



Ron Rebenitsch, manager, member marketing

different time during the month. Member load control during Basin Electric's peak would help minimize Basin Electric's system peak, which would provide benefits to the entire membership.

"Coordinating available load control across the membership would manage our resources more efficiently and either defer the need for new resources or would increase sales during periods when we are marketing surplus," says Ron Rebenitsch, Basin Electric manager of member marketing.

## Building a load management program

Rebenitsch said the first step in establishing a load management program involved procuring real-time load data for the Basin Electric system. Real-time loads had to be estimated during critical or peak periods, so in 1999 Basin Electric started working on a Data Acquisition System.

Bonnie Leingang, member load data administrator, along with Mark Kinzler, manager of network services and telecommunications, and Dave Roberts, senior business applications developer, have been working on the Data Acquisition System for the last two years.

"The system delivers available Class A load data to Basin Electric. Mark set up the telecommunications links while Bonnie developed the catalog and report structure to receive and compile that data into real-time reports using Cognos-Impromptu, which is Basin Electric's data management software,"

Rebenitsch says. Since existing member load management system data was used, capital investment in the data acquisition project was minimal.

The next step was to design a load management program that not only benefits the entire Basin Electric system, but individual participating member cooperatives as well.

"Basin Electric is proposing three components for its load management program. Each concept can be implemented

individually or integrated with others," he says. "The concepts are intended to provide system benefits, yet be flexible enough to meet the individual needs of each member." Rebenitsch says the intent of these concepts is to assist members to enhance or further expand load management benefits, expand opportunities for members and consumers to participate in load management, and to extract value from the volatile and high-priced market.

"Many of these ideas came from Dave Raatz, (manager of marketing and power supply planning) who has spent years matching wholesale power sales with available resources. Dave should get most of the credit for this program," Rebenitsch says.

## Basin Electric's load management concepts:

### Coordinated load management

According to Rebenitsch, voluntary coordination of individual members' load management systems offers a viable substitute for a centralized load management system.

"Through cooperation in the operation of these individual systems, Basin Electric and its members may be able to extract most of the value offered by centralized load management without instituting one," Rebenitsch

says. Coordinated load management includes three options:

### Demand holidays

Basin Electric will identify time periods when member load control is unnecessary to the system. On an ongoing real-time basis, time periods would be identified during which Basin Electric will not assess demand charges. During those periods, the member will have no incentive to control and may turn off or reduce load control. To determine the demand charge, Basin Electric would use the monthly demand peak occurring outside the demand holiday. Demand holidays offer the opportunity for increased member sales without a higher demand charge.

### Coordinated system peaking control

When the system is peaking, there may be situations where not all members are peaking with fully implemented load control. The non-peaking members may have substantial load control available. "During these times, Basin Electric would request the voluntary implementation of any members' 'available, but not currently in service' load control to minimize Basin Electric's system peak," Rebenitsch says. By requesting the non-peaking members to implement more load control in a coordinated manner, the system peak can be lowered.

### Market opportunities

During periods of high-market prices when the system is not peaking, the implementation of load

continued

control or distributed generation would free up power supply to be sold to the market at high prices. These sales would contribute to the margin. However, because participating members would experience an economic impact by implementing load control, Basin Electric will work with those members to compensate them for that impact.

### **Distributed generation**

A survey conducted last fall revealed that at least 75 megawatts of consumer-owned generation exist in Basin Electric's Class A

members' service territories. Although much of this generation is too small or already incorporated in members' load management systems, there may be opportunities to benefit both the consumers and the system by using some of this generation as a power supply resource. Possibilities include:

### **Backup/Standby**

The member cooperative would provide fee-based onsite backup/standby generation to consumers requiring high availability. Basin Electric would own the generator,

and use it as a resource. The consumer and Basin Electric (through the local cooperative) would share the cost of the generator. "Under this plan, both parties benefit – the consumer obtains backup or standby at a reduced cost and Basin Electric develops additional resources," Rebenitsch says.

A prototype project is taking place this fall at Basin Electric's Headquarters. Under an agreement with Capital Electric, a backup/standby generator was installed at Basin Electric's



Two cranes move Basin Electric's new standby generator to a concrete pad adjacent to Headquarters. The 1500-kilowatt diesel-powered Caterpillar generator was installed Oct. 21. Leland Olds Station Unit 3, a mobile generator, powered Headquarters two weekends before and during installation. Capital Electric and Basin Electric crews were on hand to replace the majority of Capital Electric's power cabling surrounding Headquarters. A Capital Electric transformer, originally located near Headquarters' cooling tower, was moved near the receiving area to facilitate the installation .

Headquarters. The generator will not only offer emergency backup power in the event of a power outage, but it will also be available to run during peak periods or when market prices are strong. "Basin Electric can start the generator at those times to carry the Headquarters load, allowing the freed-up capacity to be sold to the market," Rebenitsch says.

#### **Power purchases from consumers**

In cases where the consumer already has a backup generator, Basin Electric could purchase generation capacity that would then be integrated into the Basin Electric resource mix and market accordingly.

#### **Small remote distributed generation**

For systems with consumers in remote areas with aged, underused or damaged distribution systems, distributed generation should offer a viable alternative. Basin Electric will work with the Class A cooperative to address how to best use these small generators to meet the needs of the distribution co-op.

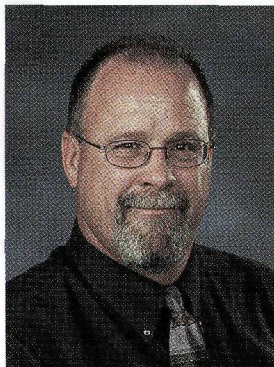
#### **Load shedding**

Under this concept, consumers would voluntarily "shed" load during periods of high market prices, freeing up that load to be sold to the market. Consumers would have the choice of either being reimbursed at an agreed fixed payment or sharing resulting margins from the sale of the capacity.

## **Looking ahead**

For now, the Basin Electric board of directors will handle the Cooperative's load management plan on a case-by-case basis. The board must approve load management agreements between Basin Electric and its members.

Randy Bush, distributed resource coordinator, recently joined Rebenitsch's staff and will take the lead on the Cooperative's load management plan.



**Randy Bush, distributed resource coordinator**

"Randy will be the contact person on this project. He moved over from our budgeting department, so he had a broad background, and will take this project where it needs to go," Rebenitsch says.

Rebenitsch already knows of some improvements that need to be made. Although the implementation of the Data Acquisition System has helped supply real-time data to the Cooperative, the system still has flaws. "The data still doesn't provide complete coverage of Basin Electric's loads," he says.

"Because of this, mathematical and statistical algorithms based on historical data must be used to estimate the total load for each member. In addition, interruptions in the data from the members is a concern."

But Rebenitsch doesn't think this will always be the case. "In a few years, I expect to see our contracted generators on a computer screen, and be able to turn off one generator with a click of the mouse, and shift load to another generator with another click. We're not there yet, but we will be."

Imperfections aside, Rebenitsch sees this project as a win-win situation for everyone involved. "This project should help strengthen the relationship between our members and their consumers – Basin will remain invisible to the consumers. By working together, we all can benefit," he says. "Members and the consumers can get value out their resources, and Basin can operate more efficiently. This is especially important at a time when we're looking to new resources. We need make sure that we take advantage of the resources that are available to us already, and that we don't overlook opportunities for distributed resources, which may be more economical. We need to look at and exploit all options."

Lineworkers hold the power... literally

# Basin Electric hosts live-line training

By Erin Laverdure

Live-line training for Basin Electric's transmission system maintenance (TSM) crews this year was more than working with live, high-voltage electrical wires. It was about synergy: the idea that when two or more elements are combined, the total element is greater than the sum of the individual elements. It was about learning from others, sharing ideas and taking away more than you brought.

Basin Electric TSM hosted 48 lineworkers from electric utilities from across the nation and beyond. Rich Olson, Basin Electric transmission line superintendent, helped organize the training course. "This is the first year we've had other companies participate with us. In past years we would bring in our own people from Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota and hold a refresher course," he said. "This year we had people from Imple Technologies, Hydro One in Canada and the Tennessee Valley Authority. They were experienced in some of the new procedures we wanted to learn."

Other utilities participating included Great River Energy, Elk River, MN; Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, ND; and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Westminster, CO. The training took place Sept. 11-14 at transmission line locations near Basin Electric's North Dakota power plants.



TSM employees change out an insulator on the Antelope Valley Station/Broadland 500-kilovolt (kV) line using the barehand and hotstick methods. The line is energized to 345-kV.

Part of this learning process is sharing ideas. "We like to find the best idea, the easiest idea, the safest idea," Olson said. "One person might come up with one idea, and it might not sound like much, but it might be the beginning, something to build on."

## Holding the power

Basin Electric also brought in other experts, including instructor Jim Hubin from TECT Inc., Clark, MO, to help train the linemen in live-line handling procedures. These procedures are vital because working with energized, high-voltage power lines is a fact of life for today's lineworkers. "Safety is utmost. The line is energized. Right now it's getting harder and harder to take a line out of service to work on it because of the cost of energy," said Terry Kringstad, Basin Electric assistant transmission line superintendent. "Right now everything we do is not. We do a bare-hand method where we actually go on the line and handle the wire. We wear special suits when we do this bare-hand method. It actually energizes your body to whatever the voltage is."

TECT Inc. is a training and consulting firm that specializes in live-line maintenance. Hubin brought nearly 25 years of international and domestic consulting and training experience to the table. He reviewed with the lineworkers procedures for routine line maintenance tasks, such as changing insulators and changing poles under energized conditions.



Leon Conitz (right) plays the part of an injured lineworker as Perry Kress prepares to lower him to safety during a pole rescue exercise. Conitz and Kress are journeyman lineworkers with Basin Electric TSM.

Though he was the instructor, Hubin said the training course was an opportunity for him to learn as well. "You always learn. If you get too old to learn, you're too old to be doing this. We plagiarize each other's ideas," he said. "That's the whole idea of training. I still learn things from these guys (the lineworkers in attendance). They show me some things that I can use, and I try to show them things that they haven't done."

## Passing it on

Olson was pleased with how the training session went. "It's been a really good school. Everyone I've talked to thinks it's gone really well, and I think it has, too," he said. "The guys from the different utilities sit around and talk about things out here on the job or after the job. They're discussing new

and different ways to do things or sharing ideas. Later on they'll share these things with their crews. I think it's just great to have a group of guys like this."

Though he believes everything went smoothly, Olson said they will be seeking feedback from the linemen who participated in the training. "I think everybody is pretty happy with what we've done so far," he said. "We're sending out surveys to give everybody a chance to tell us exactly what they thought of it."

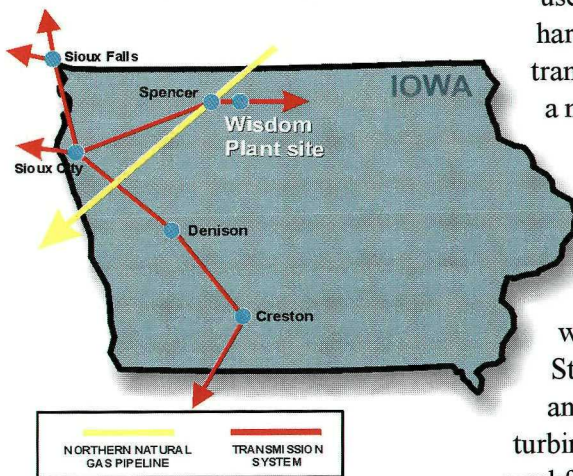
Though no plans have been made involving live-line training next year, Olson said they are exploring their options, including possibly holding the training every other year or inviting other utilities to host it.

# Basin Electric, Corn Belt to build new generation

By Daryl Hill

**B**asin Electric Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Humboldt, IA, have signed an ownership and operating agreement for a jointly owned 80-megawatt (MW) natural gas/oil-fired combustion turbine. The turbine is scheduled to be built at Corn Belt's Wisdom Station site, an existing coal-based power plant near Spencer, IA.

## COMBUSTION TURBINE SITE



The map shows the new combustion turbine location on the Wisdom Plant site and its proximity to Spencer, IA, a natural gas pipeline and the electric transmission system.

Tom Christensen, Basin Electric's power supply development coordinator, said even though discussions and planning for this project has been under way for almost two years, the agreement signing represents a formal start.

The two cooperatives will share equally in developing the turbine. Each will have a joint, undivided ownership of 40 MW and provide half of the estimated \$40 million total project cost. The combustion turbine will be operated during times of peak demand for electricity.

Locating the combustion turbine near the Wisdom Station allows existing infrastructure to be used such as rail facilities, hard-surfaced road, transmission system access and a natural gas pipeline with sufficient capacity and pressure to adequately supply the combustion turbine. According to the agreement, the existing workforce at the Wisdom Station will handle operation and maintenance of the turbine, so no additional workforce will be required. Because of the close proximity between the new combustion turbine unit and the existing steam turbine unit, the future possibility of operating the two as a combined-cycle facility exists.

Due to the turbine's strategic location, it also provides risk mitigation for Basin Electric. "Owning a capacity share of this

gas turbine is an integral part of our overall future risk management solution. It gives us the ability to provide back-up power to our members in the event one of our base-load generating units cannot operate, as well as providing an alternate source of power in case of transmission limitations on the increasingly stressed system. It also gives us the ability to sell electricity during attractive market conditions," Christensen said.

Volatility in the electricity market has shown that peaking units like the combustion turbine being built by Corn Belt and Basin Electric play an important role in a utility's generation mix. "There's a potential of huge negative monetary consequences of having a unit or units off-line when prices are extremely high. Combustion turbines remain a long-term viable tool to mitigate these risks," Christensen said.

Christensen said the combustion turbine and generator will be ordered late this year. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2003. Start-up and testing will be under way in the spring of 2004. Commercial operation is scheduled for June 2004, just in time to cover summer peak capacity needs. Before construction begins, however, environmental permits must be obtained.

Corn Belt Power Cooperative is a Class D member of Basin Electric. It is a generation and transmission cooperative that provides electricity to 11 rural electric cooperatives and one municipal electric cooperative.



# THE BRIEFS

## Weber receives Community Service Award



In recognition for his outstanding community involvement, the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives

(NDAREC) has awarded Dick Weber with the Community Service Award. Weber accepted the award at NDAREC's Annual Meeting banquet on Oct. 4 in Bismarck. Weber retired as Basin Electric's vice president of Administrative Services on July 6, 2001, after more than 25 years of service.

This award category aligns perfectly with one of the core values we embrace with Touchstone Energy® – "commitment to community," said Dennis Hill, executive vice president and general manager of NDAREC.

In leading up to announcing Weber as the recipient, Hill called Weber an absolute pacesetter when it comes to voluntary service to help non-profit and charitable organizations – at the community, state and national levels."

Weber has served cooperatives, non-profit and charitable organizations at all levels for nearly 30 years. He has affiliations or has served in leadership positions on boards or committees of 27 organizations. In recognition of his service to these organizations, Weber has received 37 awards.

He is currently a member of the MedCenter One Health Systems Inc. Board of Trustees in Bismarck, a member of the Habitat for Humanity board of directors, and a board member of the Mental Health Association of North Dakota.

On accepting the award Weber said that throughout his career at Basin Electric he's been asked, "Would you represent us at this?" Representing the Cooperative became a full-time avocation."

Weber said volunteer service is a basic principle of the rural electric program. "The REC (Rural Electric Cooperative) program has helped me fulfill a lifetime dream to help people," he said. "Because of all of you in this room, who do exactly what I do (volunteer service), it inspires what I do."

Weber says that as he sits alongside representatives of investor-owned utilities on hospital boards and such, he never wastes an opportunity to explain

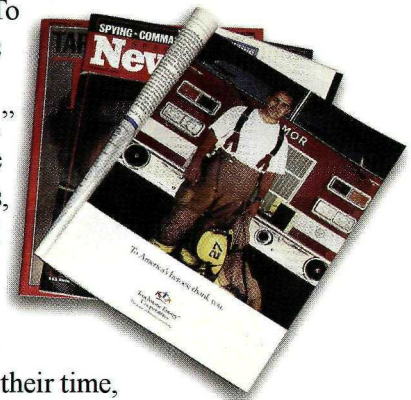
cooperatives. When asked, for example, how to price a hospital bed, he'll explain how a cooperative would do it. "I always rush to answer first."

Weber thanked the Basin Electric board of directors and Ron Harper, Basin Electric CEO and general manager, for nominating him for the honor. "It's a complete surprise and I'm very proud to receive this award."

As a parting shot, Weber said, "Don't ever stop. Always tell them you're with a REC."

## Touchstone Energy® honors America's heroes

Touchstone Energy® is saying "Thank you" to America's heroes in a new, nationally-run advertisement. The ad, which features a firefighter and the caption, "To America's heroes: thank you," honors the firefighters, police and rescue workers who have sacrificed their time, energy and even their lives to rescue and recover the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.



continued

The full-page, full-color ad ran on the back cover of the Oct. 1 issue of *Time*, page 19 in the Oct. 8 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, and the back cover of the Oct. 8 issue of *Newsweek*. The ad also appears on the back cover of this issue of *Basin Today*.

## Member demand sales reach all-time high

Dave Raatz, Basin Electric's marketing and power supply planning manager, said the Cooperative's demand sales to members on Aug. 8 reached 1,380 megawatts (MW). Early indications were that a peak had been set Aug. 4, but hot, humid weather conditions Aug. 7 surpassed that demand. This is 109 MW or 8.6 percent greater than the previous all-time high demand sales level of 1,271 MW that occurred in August 2000. Basin Electric's highest winter peak demand sales level to members is 1,250 MW, which occurred in December of 2000.

"As one might expect, hot weather throughout the region was a major factor in setting these peak sales amounts," he said. "Our generating facilities were able to meet the demand required because of good operations and maintenance."

## South Dakota interim subcommittee studies energy

A group of South Dakota legislators spent a day on a fact-finding tour learning about the business of electricity. Ed

Anderson, legislative representative for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre, explained that the eight-member group was an interim legislative committee completing a study on wind power generation issues.

"We felt there was a need for a basic explanation and understanding of how the whole electrical system (production, transmission and distribution) works," Anderson said. "This type of information is extremely critical to the success of any wind power facility and where it fits in the whole mix."

The day's activities included tours of Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Station and The Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine, both near Beulah, ND. One aspect of the tour was a two-hour discussion about wind energy, a discussion that dovetailed nicely with Basin Electric's involvement in two wind turbines near Chamberlain, SD.

Ron Rebenitsch, Basin Electric's manager of member marketing, talked about the Chamberlain project, its economics and development. He said wind generators require back-up support. "Electricity is an instant use product – the instant it's manufactured, it's consumed."

Generating plants operate 24 hours per day, seven days a week, and coal-based plants operate on that basis. On average, Basin Electric's coal-based generating plants are available more than 90 percent of the time. But when it comes to

electricity generated by wind turbine, the availability ratings drop to an average of 25-to-37 percent availability, Rebenitsch said. That's why wind plants must have a back-up source of generation.

With newer technology, tax credits and economies of scale that come from large turbines and wind farms, the cost of wind-generated electricity is coming down.

Rebenitsch said the cost of firm wholesale electricity generated by new conventional sources is generally expected to be between three and four cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), while the cost of wind-generated electricity before tax credits is between 4.5 and 6.5 cents per kWh. A tax credit of 1.7 cents per kWh can then be subtracted from that cost. "It has been reported that a giant wind farm in Washington State expects costs as low as 2.5 cents per kWh after tax credits," he said.

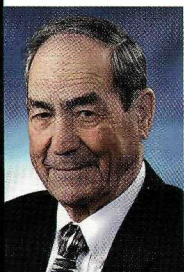
However, Rebenitsch emphasized that, when comparing costs, non-firm wind generated electricity is not the same as firm power generated on demand by conventional sources. The main "hurdles" for wind, according to Rebenitsch, are economics and transmission. And while costs are slowly coming down, transmission access is proving to be a major challenge.

Mike Risan, Basin Electric's manager of transmission services, pointed out that loads or generation added at one point to the transmission grid may negatively affect the system at another point

There are rules and regulations that must be followed to protect the reliability of the transmission grid, he explained, no matter what type of generation source is added, including wind.

Future wind development depends entirely on access to the transmission grid, and Risan said that creates a whole new set of challenges. Since there are constraints on the existing transmission system, more transmission lines must be constructed as more generating sources are added. "Also because the transmission constraints are regional in nature, regional pricing structures will be required," he said.

## Basin director Bob Wenande retires



Even though the air was thick with cowboy humor and some friendly fun poking – there was a 10-gallon hat full of respect

for Bob Wenande Sept. 12 at his retirement party in Bismarck.

A rancher from Oshoto, WY, Wenande was the first director for District 10 (Powder River Energy Corporation's or PRECorp's service area) on Basin Electric's board. District 10 was created in 1996.

Despite the jokes and stories about Wenande, a common theme about his personality and work ethic was also evident. Ron Harper, Basin

Electric's general manager and CEO, and former manager of PRECorp, called Wenande a gentle man among gentlemen.

In a tribute to Wenande's character, Wayne Child, Basin Electric's president, said he didn't have any brothers when he was growing up, but "if I had the ability to pick a brother, I'd pick you, Bob."

Fellow Basin Electric director, Roy Ireland from Rushmore Electric in South Dakota, said "Bob has a way to make people laugh ... we're going to miss that at our meetings."

Don Applegate, Northwest Iowa Power Co-op's director, said he never knew a real cowboy until he met Wenande. "He wasn't afraid to offer advice ... I'll miss him."

Some old cowboy philosophy written on a plaque presented to Wenande by Harper best described his wit and integrity: "He has the ability to tell someone to go to hell, and have them look forward to the trip."

Wenande retired from the PRECorp board in September. Wenande served as a PRECorp director for 22 years. He has also served as director on numerous other boards, including Cooperative ConNEXTions, Dakota Coal Company and the Wyoming Rural Electric Association.

He and his wife, Bonnie, have been married for 50 years. They have three children and six grandchildren.

## Ritthaler seated on Basin Electric and subsidiary boards



Reuben Ritthaler of Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp), Sundance, WY, was seated as a representative of

District 10 on Basin Electric's board of directors during the October meeting. He replaces Bob Wenande, who retired. Ritthaler was also seated as a director on the Dakota Coal Company, Basin Cooperative Services and Basin Telecommunications Inc. boards.

Ritthaler is a rancher from Upton, WY. He serves as a director on PRECorp's board. He has been a member of the Weston County Fire Department since 1983 and has served on Union State Bank's board of directors for eight years. Ritthaler attended the University of Wyoming, Laramie, in the field of agricultural economics and graduated from the university's Leadership in Excellence for Agricultural Development program. He and wife Shelly have a daughter, MinDec.

## Projects completed at Wyoming Lime Producers

Work has been completed on the on-spec lime recovery and fugitive dust project at the Wyoming Lime Producers processing plant near Frannie, WY. Construction of a

continued

new railroad spur serving the plant is also complete.

Work on the on-spec lime recovery and fugitive dust project began mid-July. "The on-spec recovery project allows us to save on-spec lime during times of maintenance at the plant where previously we did not have the equipment to do that," said Randy Banning, plant manager.

Dean Bray, senior engineer with Dakota Coal Company, explained that after the limestone is calcined, or burned, into lime in the kiln, the lime moves to the crushing, screening and storage area of the plant. "When maintenance needs to be performed on this area, this lime, or on-spec lime, must be hauled to the landfill," Bray said. "The kiln cannot be shut down, so more on-spec lime is wasted until the maintenance is complete. This recovery system allows the operators to save the on-spec lime in a silo until the maintenance is complete."

Bray said the new system takes the on-spec lime to a different silo in the event of a breakdown. The lime is then reclaimed into the system when the problem is fixed.

Banning said the project also helps control fugitive dust on the plant site. "This will also double as a system to store our daily waste material," Banning said. "It should make that portion of the plant significantly cleaner."

Bray said a loader will still pick up waste material around the yard, but

now it will be stored in the silo until trucks haul it away to a landfill.

Banning said 1,650 feet of track was added to the plant's 550 feet of railroad siding. Before construction, 12 rail cars could be kept on the track. The new siding should hold 25 to 30 cars.

Wyoming Lime Producers is a division of Dakota Coal Company, a subsidiary of Basin Electric. The plant produces 450 tons of lime daily. Lime produced at the plant is used in coal-based power plant scrubbers to remove sulfur dioxide emissions, and in other industrial applications.

## **Fall outage begins at Leland Olds Station**

LOS Unit 1 was shut down Sept. 21 for a scheduled six-week maintenance outage. Plant Manager Curt Melland said they have several large projects on tap, all designed to keep the unit running reliably for the next three years until the next scheduled major maintenance outage.

Melland said the boiler will receive a three-stage cleaning, which includes blasting, high-pressure washing and grit blasting, to prepare the boiler tubes for welding and repair. In addition to the routine welding and tube replacement, they are going to replace and redesign a section of boiler tubing known as "the birdcage." "This area always collects a lot of ash and requires a

lot of soot blowing to keep clean," Melland explained. "This causes tube erosion and has created a tube leak problem for us." Forty-two soot blowers will also be replaced to build a more reliable soot-blowing system. The turbine will also be overhauled. "We are overhauling the high pressure and intermediate pressure sections of the turbine," Melland said. "It has been six years since maintenance was last done in these areas. When we are done, these sections will be almost as good as new."

Sound like a lot of work? Wait, there's more. "We are adding an electrical bus that will remove some of the 4,160-volt load from Unit 1 and put it on the Unit 2 system," Melland said. "The Unit 4,160-volt system was overloaded, and there was a little capacity left in the Unit 2 system. This change will make the Unit 1 system operation more reliable."

Melland said they are also using the outage as an opportunity to complete a major portion of the redesigned coal handling system. The Unit 1 conveyor will be extended under the coal pile so coal can be fed from the Unit 2 side of the coal pile to Unit 1. "We will also be making major revisions to the Unit 1 downspout so we have a larger surge bin for just-in-time feeding and blending of coal to Unit 1 and Unit 2," he said.

# Groundbreaking gets PrairieWinds under way



by Daryl Hill

**M**ore than 75 people attended groundbreaking ceremonies Sept. 7 for a \$2.9-billion wind generation project located near Chamberlain, SD.

The PrairieWinds project consists of two, 1.3-megawatt capacity generators. It's the first commercial wind generator in the state. The project is jointly developed by Basin Electric and East River Electric Power Cooperative, Madison, SD. Electricity generated by PrairieWinds will be fed into the overall power supply system operated by Basin Electric and East River.

At a luncheon ceremony in Chamberlain, Ron Harper, Basin Electric's CEO and general manager, said Basin Electric has been a leader in the energy industry for 40 years. "We're

**Tossing the first shovel of dirt at the groundbreaking were left to right: Boyd King, Ron Harper, Jeff Nelson, Chamberlain Mayor Doug Nelson, Maynard Jensen, Genevieve Matson (landowner), Brule County Commission President Mike Hanzlik, South Dakota State Sen. Jim Hutmacher, Brad Carson, Loren Noess, and Dina Brandt.**

excited to be the first in South Dakota to add wind generation to our family of power plants," he said. "This is a day to celebrate. It marks a new era in the history of South Dakota and Basin Electric. I'm proud that we are part of this impressive project. I think all rural electric consumers in the region should also be proud."

Jeff Nelson, manager of East River, said the PrairieWinds project is the result of a great partnership with Basin Electric. Projects like this would not succeed without the efforts and support of the local community and the city, he said.

Harper and Nelson were two of seven speakers including Doug Nelson, mayor of Chamberlain; Brad Carson, president of the Lake Francis Case Development Corp.; Mike Hanzlik, president of the Brule County Commissioners; and District 25 Sen. Jim Hutmacher. Emcee for the ceremony was Loren Noess, manager of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell, SD.

Dina Brandt, director of economic development for the Lake Francis Case Development Corp., coordinated the ceremony.

Boyd King, known locally as Mr. Wind, and a huge supporter of the project said, "Cooperatives in this part of the country and South Dakota are vested in their communities, and they're always looking forward."

During the past two years, Jeff Nelson said electric cooperative consumers have signed-up to purchase "blocks" of electricity from PrairieWinds, that now equal more than the capacity of one turbine. The cost of each 100 kilowatt-hour block is \$3.

"Although consumers cannot be sure that the electrons flowing to homes and businesses was generated by wind power, they can be assured that their commitment is helping to support the generation of renewable energy using wind as a resource," Harper explained.

Construction began immediately following groundbreaking ceremonies. Dedication was scheduled for Nov. 3.

# EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

## Basin Electric to form retiree association

Basin Electric's human resources division is working to form an association for Basin Electric retirees. Mike LaLonde, training coordinator, says the association will be off the ground by Jan. 1, 2002. He informally met with local retirees to get ideas about what the retirees expect from the association and how they would like to see it operate. Retirees wishing to share their comments about the association with LaLonde should contact him at (701) 223-0441 ext. 5490, or email him at [mlalonde@bepc.com](mailto:mlalonde@bepc.com). Watch *Basin Today* for further information.

## Touchstone Energy® takes first place in American Heart Walk

The Touchstone Energy® team walkers took first place in the corporate category of the annual American Heart Walk held Sept. 23 in Bismarck. More than 200 Touchstone walkers raised a total of \$12,000 – the highest single total ever raised by a corporate team. All team members received a "Touchstone Energy®" T-shirt and a \$10 pledge from Basin Electric.

The Touchstone Energy® team included 84 walkers from Basin



Electric and Dakota Gasification Company; they raised \$5,267. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, Flasher, ND, had 15 walkers who raised \$1,632; North Dakota Statewide had 7 walkers; they raised \$190; and National Information Systems Cooperative (NISC) had more than 70 walkers. They raised about \$4,000.

More than 500 participants from the community walked five miles through scenic woods in south Bismarck. Last year the Basin/DGC team raised \$4,721.

The Basin/DGC totals included funds raised from pledges, red paper heart sales, yogurt sales,

**The Touchstone Energy team took first place in the corporate category of the American Heart Walk raising \$12,000.**

Jeans Day contributions, and a Touchstone Energy® pledge of \$500. Honorable mention goes to the following individuals and teams: Mark Thurn sold the most paper hearts (\$110); Julie Slag raised the most money per individual (\$234) followed by Grace Baker, Gene Giesen, Jeannie Koffler, Linda Thomas, Sue Athey, Ann Schreiber, Mark Thurn, Mary Jo Sinner, and Jim McMillan. Linda Thomas's team (44 walkers) won first place in the team category by raising \$1,518 for the event.

## Synfuels team in county-wide emergency drill

Dakota Gasification Company's Protection Services Emergency Response Team at the Synfuels Plant, Beulah, ND, joined nine other local response teams in a county-wide emergency mock drill. The drill scenario was a train/car wreck southeast of Zap, ND, with injured people, diesel fuel leaking from a ruptured locomotive fuel tank, and a tank car carrying anhydrous ammonia was venting toxins. The train crew needed medical attention.

Mock emergency drills are required by the Right to Know Act of 1986, SARA Title III. According to Scheurer, "Once a year we are required to stage a drill. The Federal Government mandates the act and also requires the county emergency coordinators to meet on a regular basis throughout the year."

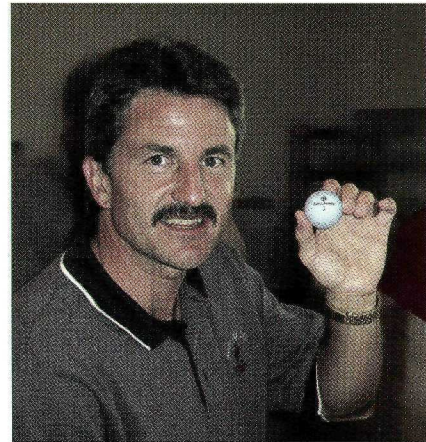
Duane Scheurer, protection services superintendent, and protection services field technicians Warren Herman, Terry Myers, Kurt Dutchuk, and Jim Privratsky, were responsible for exploratory or preliminary survey, inspection, or examination of the situation. Scheurer said their team's responsibility was to take care of the leaking anhydrous car. "After returning to the command center with a sketch of the scene, the group was sent back in to take care of the leaking car."

Participants met after the drill at the Beulah Fire Department for the evaluations of the full-scale mock disaster. Scheurer had a few concerns about the drill. "The time allowed for the drill was too short. We weren't allowed time to properly dress in the right suits and decontaminate after the drill was over." There was good that came from the drill, though, according to Scheurer. "Our guys did an excellent job as did the fire and rescue teams, ambulance service and medical response team." Communication could be improved among all responders. Scheurer says the drill was a good exercise and will be used to improve all participants' skills. "If there ever is a need to respond to a real emergency situation, we want to do so quickly and effectively."

## Employees reach out to East Coast neighbors

Basin Electric employees reached out to help their East Coast neighbors after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. Employees donated \$1,879 to the American Red Cross through Basin Electric's Dollars for Jeans program on Sept. 14. The American Red Cross will direct the money to the on-going recovery efforts. CEO and General Manager Ron Harper and the Basin Employee Association board thanks every employee for their contributions.

## Stafford's hole-in-one highlights annual fall golf scramble



Mitch Stafford displays the ball he sunk with one stroke on the 15th hole at Prairie West Golf Course in Mandan, ND.

The Basin Electric and DGC Headquarters, transmission system maintenance and retiree Golf Scramble was held on Sept. 21, 2001 at the Prairie West Golf Course, Mandan, ND. Mitch Stafford made a hole-in-one, which helped propel his team including Dwight Barth, Mike Davis and Rich Iliff to first place. Stafford made the hole-in-one on the 15<sup>th</sup> hole, a 160-yard par 3, using a seven iron. Other results follow.

### Longest Putts

Hole 2 – Arlen Fetch

Hole 13 – Kim Wetzel

### Closest to pin

Hole 7 – Denise Iliff

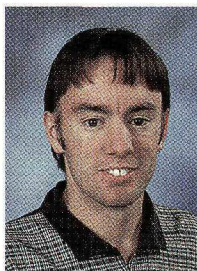
Hole 15 – Mitch Stafford (hole in one)

### Closest to pin Second shot

Hole 8 – Mitch Stafford

Hole 18 – Rich Iliff

## New Employees



**Dana Jensen** was hired on Sept. 4 as an electrical engineer I at Headquarters (HDQ). He previously worked for Black & Veatch as an electrical engineer II in Overland Park, KS. Originally from Hazen, ND, Jensen enjoys golfing, water skiing and spending time with his family. He and wife Wendy have one child: Alyssa, 9 months.

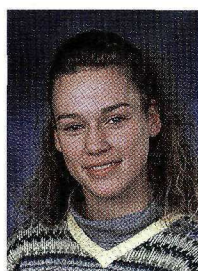


**John Myers** was hired as the national account sales manager of ammonium sulfate at Dakota Gasification Company's Denver office Sept. 17. Originally from Webster City, IA, John was previously employed with Oil Dri Corp. of America in Englewood, CO. He and his wife Candy have two sons, Eric and Jarrod. John enjoys fishing, hunting and hiking.



**Josette Severson** was hired as a records coordinator at HDQ on Sept. 4. A native of Mandan, ND, Severson previously worked as a virtual assistant for M.A. Tingen

Consulting in New Jersey. She also worked eight years as a project coordinator for American Express, and in accounts receivable for Kemps Dairy Inc. Severson lived in Phoenix, AZ, before moving to Minneapolis, where she lived for 12 years before moving back to North Dakota in October 2000. She and husband Robert have one child, Sterling, 5. "Of all our travels, North Dakota is the best place to live!" she says.



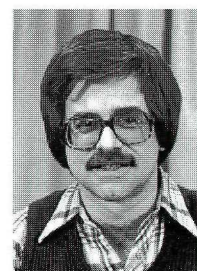
Linton, ND, native **Tammy Roehrich** was hired full-time as a helpdesk coordinator/computer operator I at HDQ on Sept. 12. She had previously interned at Basin Electric at the help desk. She holds an associate's degree in computer information systems from Bismarck (ND) State College. Her husband's name is Jason.



**Rebecca George** was hired as a contract administrator at HDQ Procurement on Sept. 24. She previously worked as an operations manager for American Express Financial Advisors Inc., Bismarck. George also worked as a legal assistant for Montana-Dakota

Utilities Resource Group Inc., and a lease and contract administrator for Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company, Bismarck. She has a bachelor's degree in justice from the University of Wyoming, Laramie, and enjoys reading, spectator sports, biking and traveling. She and husband Randy have two children: Sean, 9, and Kalyn, 7.

## We will remember



Basin Electric retiree, **Richard L. "Dick" Seabury**, died on Sept. 21 in Powell, WY. Seabury was a multimedia designer at Headquarters from 1979 to 1995. He loved professional and personal challenges and his interests were diverse and eclectic. They included careers as a registered engineering technician, a commercial pilot, a graphic artist, a musician, a photographer, writer, and a visual communications producer.

Seabury was born on April 11, 1942, in Rugby, ND. His parents, Albert and Lenora Seabury, moved to Bismarck in 1945. While in high school, Seabury worked at Northern Improvement Construction. He later attended Bismarck Junior College and worked for 15 years at the North Dakota Department of



Transportation. In 1979 he was named DOT Employee of the Year.

Basin Electric's Information Services Department hired Seabury as a multimedia specialist I in December 1980. At the time of his retirement in 1995, Seabury was a senior producer in the Communications and Government Relations Department.

Floyd Robb, manager of Communications and Marketing Support, says Seabury was an extremely talented, creative person. "Dick was the lead producer for all of the Cooperative's multi-image productions. I know he was very proud of the 18-projector slide show that is still running in the Synfuels Plant theater. He won several national awards for his photography and multi-image production. Dick had a unique ability to convey thoughts and feelings through the wonderful images he created. He was dedicated to his craft. His legacy of creative work is a tribute to his talents," Robb said.

Seabury married Florence Angeline "Angie" Fried in 1970. They were married for 31 years, enjoying travel, archery, motorcycling, hiking and bicycling. After retirement, they moved to Billings to be near her family. Seabury's parents preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Angie; and a son, Scott, River Falls, WI. Funeral services were held in Billings, MT, and at the United Church of Christ, Bismarck. Burial was at the Driscoll (ND) Cemetery.



**Edwin Wingenbach** died in his home in Beulah, ND, at the age of 73. He was a security guard at Antelope Valley Station (AVS) near Beulah from 1978 until his retirement in 1986.

Wingenbach was born April 24, 1928, at Raleigh, ND, the son of Dennis and Gratiana Wingenbach. He served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in the Pacific Ocean from 1945 until his honorable discharge in 1949. He married Cordella Gustin Oct. 5, 1949, in Flasher, ND. They farmed in Flasher until 1955, when the family moved to Mandan, ND.

Wingenbach served on the Mandan Police Department for more than five years. He then served as Morton County (ND) sheriff from 1963 until 1975. In 1975, he went to work at Minnkota Power Cooperative's Milton R. Young Station near Center, ND, as a security guard. He and his family moved to Beulah in 1978 where he worked as security guard at AVS until his retirement in 1986.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Knights of Columbus, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose, and the North Dakota Peace Officers Association. He enjoyed hunting,

fishing, camping, horseshoes, playing cards, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife Cordella, one son, six daughters, 15 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters. Services were held Sept. 28, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Beulah. Burial was at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Mandan.

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## Newborns

Tryston was born to Robyn (DGC) and Scott Miller on Aug. 7. He joins Samantha, 4.

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## Safety Awards

### *Laramie River Station*

20 years - Arnold Minear, Joel Dingman, John Troutd, Judy Whelchel, Kent Dannels, Martin McGuire, Randall Hite, Richard Anderson, Rodney Seymour, Tommy Pindell, Walter Meyer

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## Promotions

### *Antelope Valley Station*

#### **Coalman**

James Vind

### *Dakota Gasification Company*

#### **Field technician II**

Bruce Sloan

Jaye Sailer

Joe Jochim

#### **Field technician III**

Cody Fredericks

Gerard Kaylor  
 Larry Kittilson  
 Shane Kost  
 Tracy Weil  
 Kevin Beauchamp  
 Mike Doe  
 Marcus Keller  
 Craig Phelps  
 Les Mahin  
 Shannon Sivak  
 Field technician IV  
 Chad Weisenberger  
 Field technician V  
 Jim Alt  
 Mike Forrest  
 Scott Fritz  
 Greg McCarthy  
 Rick Volk

*Headquarters*

BTI help desk coordinator II  
 Casey Kitzan  
 Business system specialist –  
 procurement  
 Deb Grueneich  
 Data communication network  
 specialist II  
 Marv Stastny  
 Data communication network  
 specialist III  
 Greg Dahmus  
 Desktop application analyst I  
 Rhonda Thill  
 Desktop application developer III  
 Lori Duchscherer  
 Draftsperson I  
 Stacy Ziemann  
 Hardware maintenance technician  
 Paul Olson  
 Information security administrator II  
 Connie Simonson  
 Manager of network service and  
 telecommunications  
 Mark Kinzler  
 Mechanical engineer III  
 James Lund

Network engineer  
 Greg Aufenthie  
 Records coordinator II  
 Karla Huncovsky  
 Senior system software analyst  
 Jeff Przybylski  
 System software analyst I  
 Chad Heck

*Leland Olds Station*

Maintenance planning and scheduling  
 supervisor  
 Henry Klindworth  
 Maintenance superintendent  
 Mark Thompson  
 Yard operator  
 Delmer Meissel  
 Monty Sailer  
 Rodney Wagner

**Service Awards**

**25 years**

*Headquarters*



**Cheryl Wenzel,**  
 senior  
 accountant/  
 accounts  
 receivable,  
 Nov. 8

**25 years**

*Leland Olds Station*



**Kevin Borner,**  
 control room  
 operator, Nov. 15

**20 years**

*Antelope Valley Station*

**Mark Straub,** scrubber attendant,  
 Nov. 10

**20 years**

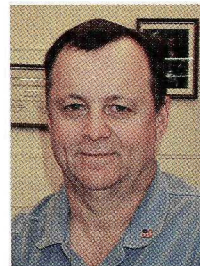
*Headquarters*



**Kathleen  
 Risch,**  
 publications  
 coordinator,  
 Nov. 2

**20 years**

*Laramie River Station*



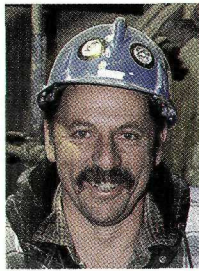
**Arnold Minear,**  
 electrical  
 supervisor-LRS,  
 Nov. 16



**Gerald  
 Swanson,**  
 scrubber  
 operator,  
 Nov. 16

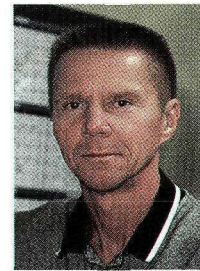


**Joel Dingman**, assistant safety and training coordinator, Nov. 30



**Randall Hite**, auxiliary operator, Nov. 16

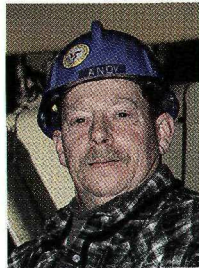
**20 years**  
*Transmission Systems Maintenance – Mandan*



**Lynn Beiswanger**, TSM safety coordinator, Nov. 1



**Judy Whelchel**, engineering assistant-WY, Nov. 9

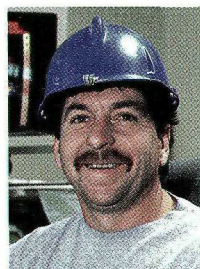


**Richard Anderson**, equipment operator, Nov. 30

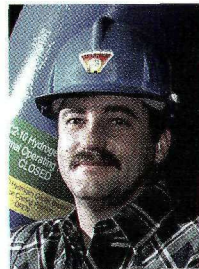
*Employee Highlights* is written by Julie Slag, Erin Laverdure and Joan Dietz. Contact them with employee news of national or regional significance:

Basin Electric employees – Julie Slag ([jslag@bepc.com](mailto:jslag@bepc.com)) 701-223-0441, ext. 5608 and Erin Laverdure ([elaverdure@bepc.com](mailto:elaverdure@bepc.com)) 701-355-5625

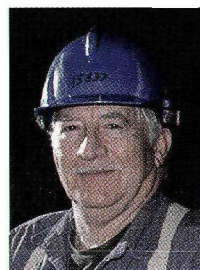
Dakota Gasification Company employees – Joan Dietz ([jdietz@bepc.com](mailto:jdietz@bepc.com)) 701-873-6667



**Kent Dannels**, scrubber operator, Nov. 2



**Rodney Seymour**, assistant plant operator, Nov. 16

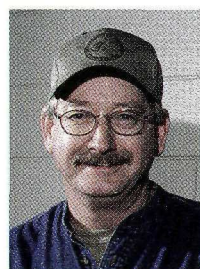


**Martin McGuire**, painter/insulator/metalsmith/mechanic, Nov. 16

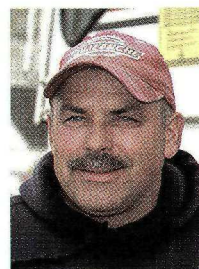
**Tom Pindell**, auxiliary operator, Nov. 16

**John Troutd**, equipment operator, Nov. 16

**20 years**  
*Transmission Systems Maintenance – Logan*



**Walter Meyer**, painter/insulator/metalsmith/mechanic, Nov. 16



**Timothy Helstedt**, lineman-journeyman, Nov. 2



To America's heroes: thank you.

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