

South Dakota Electric

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Cooperative Connections

MARCH 2015 VOL. 67 NO. 3



BRAVING THE SHAVE

Pg 6

 SDGE

St. Baldrick's
FOUNDATION
Conquer Childhood Cancers

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South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

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Southeastern Electric, Marion, S.D.
Traverse Electric, Wheaton, Minn.
Union County Electric, Elk Point, S.D.
West Central Electric, Murdo, S.D.
West River Electric, Wall, S.D.
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Editorial

New Year, Same Old EPA



Ed Anderson
General Manager, South Dakota
Rural Electric Association

impacting the Midwest and East Coast reminds us that electricity is a vital service for families across the nation. If the EPA continues on its current path, it will shut down many plants. That means it will be harder to keep electricity affordable and reliable.

In recent weeks, several Members of Congress have taken up your rally cry and asked the EPA to stop pursuing these new rules. Moving forward, state governments will also be able to ask EPA tough questions. We'll keep you informed about opportunities to lend your voice again.

Make sure to check out the new and improved www.action.coop and learn how you can stay involved in keeping your electric rates affordable. It may be a new year, but our mission continues – making sure we work with you to promote common sense solutions in Washington.

In January, the EPA announced it would delay plans to finalize its new rules on the power plants that light our homes.

That tells us the EPA is starting to recognize how many people are really uncomfortable with its ideas. Make no mistake, your voice helped drive that message home. Thank you for standing with us!

While a delay is good news, we are still determined to highlight how these rules will impact American families and businesses. The bitter cold impacting the Midwest and East Coast reminds us that electricity is a vital service for families across the nation. If the EPA continues on its current path, it will shut down many plants. That means it will be harder to keep electricity affordable and reliable.

In recent weeks, several Members of Congress have taken up your rally cry and asked the EPA

RELIABILITY... SECURITY... AFFORDABILITY...

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Co-ops keep electricity flowing when demand surges, thanks to diverse power supply and adequate capacity.

When severe weather strikes, co-ops and many other utilities produce record amounts of electricity just to keep lights on and houses warm.

If new regulations force more generation to be shut down, will we be able to meet the demands of tomorrow?

We can't afford new EPA regulations that hurt the reliability of America's power supply.

LEARN MORE AND FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS AT **ACTION.COOP**

There's An App For That...

If you're one of the millions of Americans with a smart phone or a tablet device, you are probably quite familiar with the phrase "there's an app for that." Here's a quick look at some useful apps in the co-op world:

Politically Speaking

The **NRECA Advocacy** app by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Cooperative Action Network brings national issues to your finger tips and provides a quick way to contact your elected officials in Washington, D.C.

Published by South Dakota's electric cooperatives, the **South Dakota Legislative Roster**, app provides information about the South Dakota legislature and other statewide elected officials along with committee information and how to contact your leaders in Pierre. The app also provides information on the state's electric cooperatives.

And for tablets only, check out the **South Dakota Legislature's** bill tracking app.

Before you Dig

Planning some outdoor projects involving digging? Check out the **South Dakota 811** or **Gopher State One Call**.

Rain or Shine

Need road conditions? Yep, there's an app for that, too. Check out **South Dakota 511** and **511 Minnesota**.

And the **Weather Connection** app by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives is a handy weather tool.

Energy Efficiency

Want to save money on your energy bill? Check out the **TogetherWeSave.com** app also from America's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives.

In an Emergency

The **First Aid by American Red Cross** app is a good choice, giving you a portable first aid guide for a variety of emergencies. (**Pet First Aid by American Red Cross** is available for a small fee and is handy for helping out for your four-legged friends.) Other American Red Cross apps help you schedule blood donations, prepare for hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, wildfires and find shelters after disasters.)

Looking for news about electric cooperatives across the nation? Check out NRECA's **Co-op Nation** app.

Being a Member Pays

Several co-ops offer the **Smart Hub** or a similar app to manage your electric bill. And, don't forget savings from the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives **Co-op Connections Card** app.

March is Eye Safety Month

With so many people using computers at work and at home, complaints of eye strain, difficulty focusing and discomfort have become commonplace in doctors' offices.

One of the main reasons for this is although offices have marched into the age of technology, not much else has. People are still using the same lighting, furniture and desk configurations they had when using typewriters.

To mark March as Workplace Eye Safety Month, the American Academy of Ophthalmology has put together some tips to help us alleviate some of the eye problems modern technology has given birth to. They are:

- **First and most important** – **get an eye exam by your ophthalmologist**, who can rule out the possibility of eye disease as the cause of your symptoms. You could simply need glasses when working at a computer or your prescription might need updating;
- **Screen distance** – you should sit approximately 20 inches from the computer monitor, a little further than you would for reading distance, with the top of the screen at or below eye level.
- **Equipment** – choose a monitor that tilts or swivels and has both contrast and brightness controls;
- **Furniture** – an adjustable chair is best;
- **Reference materials** – keep reference materials on a document holder so you don't have to keep looking back and forth, frequently refocusing your eyes and turning your neck and head;
- **Lighting** – modify your lighting to eliminate reflections or glare. A hood or micromesh filter for your screen might help limit reflections and glare; and
- **Rest breaks** – take periodic rest breaks, and try to blink often to keep your eyes from drying out.

Another thing to remember is that the forced-air heating systems in big office buildings can increase problems with dry eyes during the winter months. The usual symptoms of dry eye are stinging or burning eyes, scratchiness, a feeling that there's something in the eye, excessive tearing or difficulty wearing contact lenses.

Over-the-counter eye drops, called artificial tears, usually help, but if dry eye persists, see your eye doctor for an evaluation.

Source: wellnessjunction.com

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Never cut down trees by power lines."



Norah Fadness,
10 years old

Norah is the daughter of Jon and Lisa Fadness, Minneota, Minn. They are members of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Tyler, Minn.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.



Satisfying Seafood

Country Catfish

- 2/3 cup cornmeal
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- Few drops Tobasco sauce
- Catfish fillets
- 2 eggs, beaten lightly

Combine cornmeal and salt in small bowl; stir well. Dip fish in eggs seasoned with Tobasco sauce, then in cornmeal. Place fish on cookie sheet lined with foil and coated with cooking spray. Bake at 425°F. for 8 to 10 minutes until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

Crab Linguine

- 8 oz. linguine noodles, cooked and drained
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2 cups mock crab, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 (10 oz.) cans cream of shrimp soup
- 1/4 cup onion flakes
- 2 T. parsley flakes

Cook celery in a small amount of water until tender; drain. Mix together all ingredients; simmer until bubbly.

Barbara Angerhofer, Hendricks, MN

Seafood Slaw

- 6 oz. macaroni, cooked and drained
- 3 cups finely shredded cabbage
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1-1/2 cups cooked or canned salmon, tuna or shrimp
- 2 T. minced onion
- 1/4 cup salad oil
- 2 T. vinegar
- 1-1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Combine macaroni, vegetables and seafood in a large bowl. Mix remaining ingredients; pour over macaroni/cabbage mixture and toss lightly. Chill 30 minutes. Add 2/3 cup salad dressing for a more creamy salad.

Shirley Dreher, Clark

Crab Salad

- 8 oz. crab sticks, cut into small pieces
- 16 oz. ranch dressing
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 ribs celery, diced
- 1 can water chestnuts, drained and diced
- 1 pkg. chicken-flavored ramen noodles and seasoning

Break noodles. Add dressing and let set for 10 minutes. Add seasoning packet and remaining ingredients. Chill.

Donna Glanzer, Carpenter

Baked Salmon Over Apple-Ginger Quinoa

- 1 cup plus 2 T. Apple NESTLÉ® JUICY JUICE® 100% Juice, divided
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 T. honey
- 2-1/2 tsp. peeled, grated fresh ginger, divided
- 1 tsp. rice wine vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. sesame oil
- 4 (about 6 oz. each) salmon fillets
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped shallots or onion
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 cup ivory quinoa, rinsed
- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp. MAGGI Instant Chicken Flavor Bouillon
- Ground black pepper
- Sliced green onions (optional)

Whisk 2 T. Juicy Juice, soy sauce, honey, 1-1/2 tsp. ginger, vinegar and sesame oil. Reserve half of mixture for serving. Pour remaining mixture into shallow pie plate. Add salmon and turn to coat. Cover; marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 450° F. Line baking sheet with foil. Heat olive oil in medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Add shallots and garlic; cook, stirring frequently, for 2 to 3 minutes or until fragrant. Stir in quinoa; cook, stirring constantly, for 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in water, remaining 1 cup Juicy Juice, bouillon and remaining 1 tsp. ginger. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low. Cover; cook for 15 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Fluff with fork; cover to keep warm. Place salmon on prepared baking sheet; sprinkle with pepper. Discard marinade. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Drizzle reserved marinade over salmon; serve with apple-ginger quinoa. Makes 4 servings

Nutritional information per serving: 510 calories; 17g total fat; 2.5g saturated fat; 95mg cholesterol; 41g protein; 46g carbohydrates; 3g fiber; 990mg sodium; 12g sugars

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Shrimp Lover Squares

- 1 (8 oz.) tube refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/2 tsp. dill weed
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup seafood sauce
- 24 cooked, medium shrimp
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

In a greased 9x13 pan, unroll the crescent dough; seal seams. Bake at 375°F. for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely on a wire rack. In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, sour cream, dill weed and salt until smooth. Spread over crust. Top with sauce, shrimp, green pepper, onion and cheese. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. Cut into squares.

Becki Hauser, Tripp

Please send your favorite appetizers, beverages, casserole and dairy recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Improve Comfort In Your Home By Increasing Thermal Mass



Jim Dulley
www.dulley.com

Dear Jim: We are planning to remodel our older home and I've read that increasing thermal mass can improve energy efficiency. What exactly does this mean and how do we incorporate it into our home? – Sharon T.

Dear Sharon: Increasing the thermal mass means increasing the ability of materials to retain heat energy. This can be done anytime, but it is ideal when remodeling. Increasing the thermal mass does not require a “Fred Flintstonesque” decor with a pile of rocks in the center of every room. Actually, most of these improvements are quite attractive.

The concept of increasing thermal mass means having the house structure and interior objects absorb and hold as much heat energy as possible. The heavier the items in your home, the more mass it has to better absorb heat. As the outdoor temperature changes, thermal mass helps moderate indoor temperature swings to improve comfort and efficiency. It is comparable to the way a heavy, high “physical” mass automobile provides a smoother ride by absorbing the energy from bumps.

Old-fashioned solid log and heavy timber-framed houses used this thermal mass concept. Even though a log house has a small amount of actual insulation R-value when compared to a typical framed house, its utility bills are often not significantly higher, particularly during the summer.

There are several ways thermal mass can save energy in your home. By reducing the indoor temperature swings during winter months, less heat is lost through the walls and windows. This is particularly true in rooms where heat is generated, such as the kitchen or bathroom, or rooms with large south-facing windows. During summer months, the mass will help keep rooms cooler and delay the use of air conditioning.

In winter months, during the day, heat produced by the HVAC system is absorbed by the home's thermal mass. At night, heat is released to warm the home.

The greater the mass, the more it will keep the home comfortable.

During the summer, high thermal mass delays the need for the air conditioner to kick on in the morning and throughout the daytime. Unless high humidity is an issue, opening windows at night and running a whole-house or window fan allows the thermal mass to lose the heat stored from the daytime. Close the windows in the morning and the cooled thermal mass absorbs heat coming in without causing the room temperature to rise as fast. The thermal mass of air is extremely low, so the cold outdoor air quickly absorbs heat from the indoor thermal mass.

Increase the thermal mass in your house by selecting proper high mass, or heavier, materials. They should be located throughout the home, but concentrate on rooms that generate heat or tend to overheat during the summer. When building a house or adding rooms, use heavy foam insulating sheathing on the outside of the wall framing. This allows the framing lumber to become part of the interior thermal mass.

The thermal mass of various materials is rated by heat capacity properties. Water has a high relative heat capacity of 62.4 per cubic foot compared to drywall at only 1.3 per cubic foot. Wet soil rates about 55, concrete is about 31, brick is about 27 and stone/tile ranges from 18 to 36 depending upon type. Their natural thermal properties, in addition to their densities, determine the above relative numbers.

Installing a dark, ceramic-tile flooring near a door or window is an excellent source of thermal mass. Decorative walls using solid bricks work well in a room with a fireplace or large windows. Heavy granite or slate countertops in a kitchen are effective. Wooden floors can also be a good source for thermal mass. Remember, the idea is to replace lighter materials with heavier materials.

The damp soil in large potted plants can store much heat and the plants naturally purify the indoor air. For emergencies, storing old milk jugs full of water under cabinets and near your heating system increase thermal mass.

Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, *Cooperative Connections*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

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Speech Contests Offers Scholarship Opportunities

Contestants in the 2015 State Finals of the Resource Conservation Speech contest will be eligible to win a total of \$2,300 in college scholarships.

All South Dakota students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete for \$2,300 in higher education scholarships which are provided by the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. Scholarships are awarded to the top three finalists: first place is \$1,100; second place is \$750; and third place is \$450.

The theme for the 2015 contest is "Technology: Bridging the Conservation Generation Gap."

Contests are coordinated by local conservation districts and are held prior to March 28. Local winners advance to area contests held in seven locations prior to

April 11. The top area speakers compete at the state finals in Pierre on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

The contest is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA), in cooperation with Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

For more information on the Resource Conservation Speech Contest, contact the Fall River-Custer County conservation district office at 745-5716, or call Cec Johnson, natural resource specialist for SDDA, at 605-773-3623.

An entry form and complete list of rules can be found online at: <http://sdda.sd.gov/legacydocs/Forestry/educational-information/PDF/2015Speech-BrochureTouchstone.pdf>

Educators Sought for Lignite Energy Council Teacher Seminar

Educators can walk away with graduate credits and lesson plans ... for free

On June 15-18, 2015, the Lignite Energy Council will conduct an education seminar for approximately 130 elementary and secondary teachers from Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota. The seminar was totally revamped in 2009 and made into a two-credit class which lasts for four days. Participants can receive credit from the University of North Dakota (economics), North Dakota State University (education), or Minot State University (science). This means that teachers who took the class when it was a one-credit course can take it again if they need a refresher as there is lots of new information.

The seminar, which will be held at Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D., will provide teachers with the information and educational materials they need to teach their students about how lignite is mined and used to produce electricity for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. In addition, the seminar covers lignite's economic impact on the region, as well as important environmental issues affecting the

lignite industry.

Since 1986, more than 3,000 teachers have attended the Lignite Energy Council's teacher education seminar.

The teacher education seminar is sponsored by the Lignite Energy Council, in cooperation with Bismarck State College, The Center for Economic Education at the University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Minot State University.

During the seminar, teachers hear presentations by educators, researchers and lignite industry representatives. One day is devoted to touring mining operations, reclamation sites and coal conversion facilities.

Question and answer sessions in the classroom and on the tour give teachers the opportunity to find out what they need to know for their individual classroom needs.

Two graduate credits are available through the Center for Economic Education at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D.; North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D. or Minot State

University, Minot, N.D.,. To receive the credits, teachers must attend all portions of the seminar and prepare lesson plans demonstrating how they will use the seminar information and materials in their classrooms.

Teachers attending the seminar will receive lecture outlines on each presentation, examples of lesson plans, classroom exercises, coal and ash samples, audiovisual materials and information on the facilities they tour. In addition, they also receive resource guides listing publications and audiovisual materials available for energy education.

Free lodging is provided in a Bismarck State College dormitory (two people per room). Meals will be provided. Also, transportation will be provided by the Lignite Energy Council for the tour of a mine, power plant and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

Applications are due prior April 10. Apply online at https://www.lignite.com/become-a-member/our-programs/teachers-seminar/out_ofstate_teachers/

Fighting Childhood Cancers One Shave at a Time

SCORES OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEES IN THE region will be facing the clippers in March as they raise money to fight childhood cancer as part of Basin Electric's 2015 Brave the Shave events.

The annual event brings area organizations, schools, citizens and kids together to go bald as part of Basin Electric's "Brave the Shave" campaign to raise funds for pediatric cancer research.

The Brave the Shave campaign has evolved from a single event in Bismarck/Mandan, N.D., to a multi-state campaign, featuring several head-shaving events throughout the community and beyond. Since 2008, nearly 1,500 volunteers have shaved their heads in solidarity of children with cancer and more than \$1.5 million has been raised for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity dedicated to raising money for life-saving childhood cancer research and funds more in childhood cancer grants than any organization except for the U.S. government. Since the Foundation's first grants as an independent charity in 2005, St. Baldrick's has funded more than \$222 million to support the most brilliant childhood cancer research experts in the world.

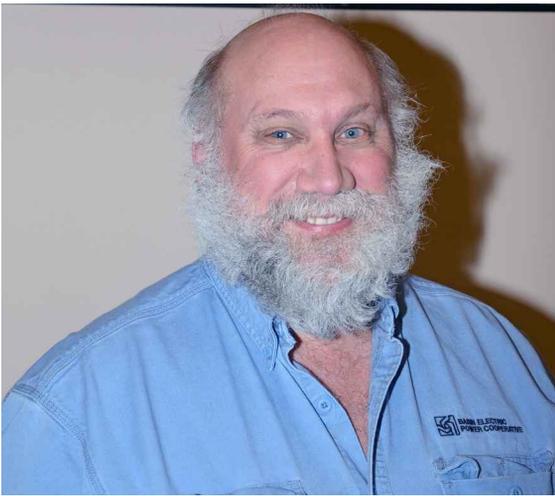
A bulk of co-op employee involvement takes place at Basin Electric's flagship event, the Official Brave the Shave 2015 event on March 13 at the Missouri Valley Family YMCA, Bismarck, N.D.

Doors open at 1 p.m. for silent auction, kids' activities and other fun, including a Brave the Shave merchandise store.

By Brenda Kleinjan

From Basin Electric Press Releases





All photos courtesy Basin Electric



Basin Electric's Gerry Henricksen posed for before (above left) and after (left) photos at the 2014 event in Brookings. Above right: Kevin Crose from the Deer Creek team, Lynn Warnke of Dakotaland Federal Credit Union's team and Kyle Crose of the Deer Creek team livened up the event with dyed locks. Right: Warnke went on to become the Brookings event's first female shavee. Bottom right: Prize drawings are part of the festivities. Opposite Page: Participants at the main 2014 Brave the Shave event in Bismarck, N.D., pose for a photo. Cover: Brave the Shave Honoree, Dash Ohlsen, shaves his dad's head.



In South Dakota, employees of Basin Electric's Deer Creek Station located on the Minnesota/South Dakota border east of Brookings lead the charge, teaming up with the Brookings Fire Department and South Dakota State University's Sigma Lambda Chi to host a Brave the Shave on March 16 at 4:30 p.m. at the fire department's East Station at 607 20th Ave in Brookings, S.D.

The 2014 event in Brookings brought 33 participants together, including three from Deer Creek Station.

Basin Electric employees in western North Dakota and Wyoming will ring in St. Patrick's Day on March 17 with Brave the Shave events. At 10 a.m. MST, the hair clippers will be buzzing at the Dry Fork Station at Gillette, Wyo., and not long after, employees at Antelope Valley Station near Beulah, N.D., will be getting a trim for a cause.

"It's been humbling to watch this campaign grow from a modest goal to raise \$10,000 to a multi-state campaign that ranks among the top 10 St. Bal-

drick's campaigns in the world," says Mike Eggl, Basin Electric senior vice president of communications and administration, and annual shavee. "The reason why we do this is simple: the kids. We've met heroes, survivors, fighters and angels. For as hard as they fight, we'll continue to do our part to help."

Jennifer Holen, Basin Electric event planner/charitable giving coordinator, has been working closely with honoree families.

"It's been an honor to get to know our honorees and their families. They motivate us and inspire us with their kindness, fighting spirit and perseverance," Holen says.

Individuals and families who have someone they'd like honored can contact Holen at 701-557-5624.

The public is welcome to attend any of the Brave the Shave events. Silent auction items are welcome for the March 13 event. To participate, volunteer, donate or for more information go to bravetheshave.coop or contact Holen.



Facing Challenges and Creating Opportunities

SOUTH DAKOTA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES GATHERED IN PIERRE Jan. 15 and 16 for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association's 73rd annual meeting. During the meeting, 325 cooperative leaders, which represented each of the state's 31 electric cooperatives, gathered to discuss issues facing electric cooperatives on a state and federal level.

On Thursday, co-op leaders heard presentations about the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed 111(d) rules to the Clean Air Act. They also discussed pending state legislation that may impact cooperatives this session.

On Thursday evening, cooperatives hosted legislators and other elected officials at the SDREA Legislative Dinner, which saw more than 450 people attend.

On Friday morning, representatives of Sen. John Thune, Sen. Mike Rounds and Rep. Kristi Noem spoke to the group and gave an update on issues from a national perspective.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard spoke to the group on Friday and talked about the importance of co-ops facing challenges.

Cooperatives also heard updates on safety issues, financial issues facing cooperatives and on distributed generation challenges and opportunities.

"Working together, we collectively will face these challenges and find the opportunities to provide the service our members expect and demand," said SDREA board president Don

Heeren.

The importance of co-op members being involved in their cooperatives was stressed by SDREA's general manager.

"Face the challenges and look ahead to yet unidentified opportunities, realizing that as in the past, the best chance of success will come from working together," said SDREA general manager Ed Anderson.

Board Reorganizes

During the meeting four new directors were seated on the SDREA board. Joining the board are:

- Lacreek Electric Association director Donovan Young Man of Oglala who replaces Marion Schultz of Batesland in representing the Martin, S.D., cooperative.
- Lake Region Electric Association director Rodney Tobin of Pierpont who replaces Jason Medhaug of Veblen in representing the Webster, S.D., cooperative.
- Northern Electric Cooperative director Mike McHugh of Aberdeen who replaces Kurt Bindenagel of Frankfort in representing the Bath, S.D., cooperative.
- Oahe Electric Cooperative director Ross Sperry of Blunt who replaces Jake Weischedel of Pierre in representing the Blunt, S.D., cooperative.

Following the meeting, the board of directors held its re-





SDREA board president Don Heeren, left, presents former SDREA and Rosebud Electric director Earl Drey with the Legacy of Leadership Award.

organizational meeting. Southeastern Electric director Don Heeren of Parker was re-elected as the association's president while Grand Electric director John Long of Red Owl was re-elected as the association's vice president. West River Electric director Bill Bielmaier of Wall was re-elected secretary of the association and West Central Electric director D.J. Mertens of Kennebec was re-elected as the association's treasurer.



Above: Legislators and co-op employees and directors were able to discuss legislative issues important to cooperatives during the SDREA Legislative Dinner. **Opposite page:** The SDREA board consists of 30 directors representing 31 member cooperatives. Front row, from left: John Van Beek, Rushmore Electric; Robert Seyer, Cam Wal Electric; Henning Hansen, Sioux Valley Energy; Board Treasurer D.J. Mertens, West Central Electric; Board President Don Heeren, Southeastern Electric; Board Vice President John Long, Grand Electric; Board Secretary Bill Bielmaier, West River Electric; Kermit Pearson, Basin Electric; and Steven Hansen, H-D Electric. Middle row, from left: Mark Hofer, Central Electric; Gerald Haupt, FEM Electric; Ken Gillaspie, East River Electric; Jim Preston, Black Hills Electric; Thomas Brunner, Butte Electric; Delbert Wendell, Rosebud Electric; Joel Baier, Douglas Electric; Tom Larsen, Clay-Union Electric; Donald Schurdevin, Union County Electric; Rodney Tobin, Lake Region Electric; and Donovan Young Man, Lacreek Electric. Back row, from left: Bill Tostenson, Whetstone Valley Electric; Richard Abrahamson, Kingsbury Electric; Garry Dearborn, Dakota Energy; L. Myron Johnson, Codrington-Clark Electric; Joseph Rysavy, Jr., Charles Mix Electric; Mike McHugh, Northern Electric; David Sternhagen, Bon Homme Yankton Electric; Ross Sperry, Oahe Electric; Beverly Birkeland, Moreau-Grand Electric; Arthur "J.R." Reagle, Cherry-Todd Electric.

Drey, South Dakota Co-ops Honored

During the 73rd South Dakota Rural Electric Association annual meeting Jan. 15 and 16 in Pierre, numerous South Dakotans were recognized for their dedication to the electric cooperative program in the state.

Legacy of Leadership Award Presented

Former Rosebud Electric Cooperative director Earl Drey was honored with the South Dakota Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legacy of Leadership Award. Drey is the third recipient of the award which was created in 2014 by the SDREA board to recognize outstanding contributions in the rural electric community in South Dakota.

Drey retired from the Rosebud Electric board in 2014 after serving on that board for 40 years, including as board president and vice president. Drey represented Rosebud on the SDREA board for 22 years. He also served on the Gregory County Conservation board for 26 years and was supervisor for Union Township for 41 years beginning in 1958. Drey raised registered Simmental cattle on his farm and ranch near Herrick. Drey and his wife, Mary, live at Burke.

Years of Service Recognition

Cooperative directors and employees were recognized for 25 or more years of service to the state's electric cooperatives. Those recognized, along with their years of service and the cooperative they are affiliated with, were:

25 years: Nicole Einrem and Dave Sternhagen, Bon Homme Yankton Electric; Frank Dobesh, Chuck Even and Steve Smeenk, Butte Electric; David Allen, Dakota Energy; Michelle Burggraff, East River Electric; Tamara Kilcoyne and Gene Stensland, Grand Electric; Ellis Rae Hicks, Lacreek Electric; Mike Storm, Lake Region Electric; Neil Hahne, Mary Lou Kraft and Sheila Scherer, Moreau-Grand Electric; Vic Warnke, Rosebud Electric; Todd Eliason and Darci Lanam, Rushmore Electric; Mark Anderson and James Beyers, Sioux Valley Energy; Paul Feterl, Don Heeren, Mark Neu and Brett Snyders, Southeastern Electric; Scott Kittelson and Jim Nickelson, West Central Electric; Mark Weber, Whetstone Valley Electric. **30 years:** Bill Showers, Bon Homme Yankton Electric; Dan Conner, Butte Electric; John Litzen, Cam Wal Electric; Tim Harrington and Mick Poncelet, Central Electric; Beth Bottolfson and Mike Hauck Clay-Union Electric; Amy Iverson, Dakota Energy, Doug Case, Tom Holt and Jeff Rud, East River Electric; Keith Hulm, Grand Electric; David Hancock, Lacreek Electric; Melissa Maher, Moreau-Grand Electric; Mike Kelly, Northern Electric; Edie Larsen, Sioux Valley Energy; Lyle Linderman, West Central Electric; Jerry Hammerquist, West River Electric; Wayne Shull, West River Electric; and Mark DeFea, Whetstone Valley Electric. **35 years:** Karla Kortan, Bon Homme Yankton Electric; Brett Fosheim, Butte Electric; Dan Fritz, Teresa Goehring, Steve Hofman and Paul Lambert, East River Electric; Deb Holzer, Moreau-Grand Electric; Robert Dubbelde and Jason Peterson, Southeastern Electric; and Dave Semerad, West River Electric. **40 years:** Gary Clayton, Earl Drey and Karen Willuweit, Rosebud Electric; Barb Westover, Sioux Valley Energy; and Tim Chance, Southeastern Electric. **45 years:** Tim Vasknetz, Butte Electric; and Loren Noess, Central Electric.

Safety Recognized

Three cooperatives were recognized for their 2014 safety accomplishments during the SDREA annual meeting.

Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, Clay-Union Electric Corporation in Vermillion and Dakota Energy Cooperative in Huron each completed its three-year enhanced assessment process in 2014.

Diving In

To the Southwest Power Pool

AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF STUDY AND CONSIDERATION, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and its member systems are jumping in to the Southwest Power Pool.

The process actually started a decade ago with initial meetings and discussions about joining a regional transmission organization.

The decision to join an RTO has been anything but quick and straightforward, especially for an organization as complex as Basin Electric, a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative that provides electricity for other cooperatives – G&Ts and distribution co-ops that ultimately serve the end consumer. In addition, Basin Electric has worked in partnership with the Western Area Power Administration and Heartland Consumers Power District over decades to build a robust transmission

infrastructure, the Integrated System (IS).

In its own way, the IS has been like a mini transmission organization.

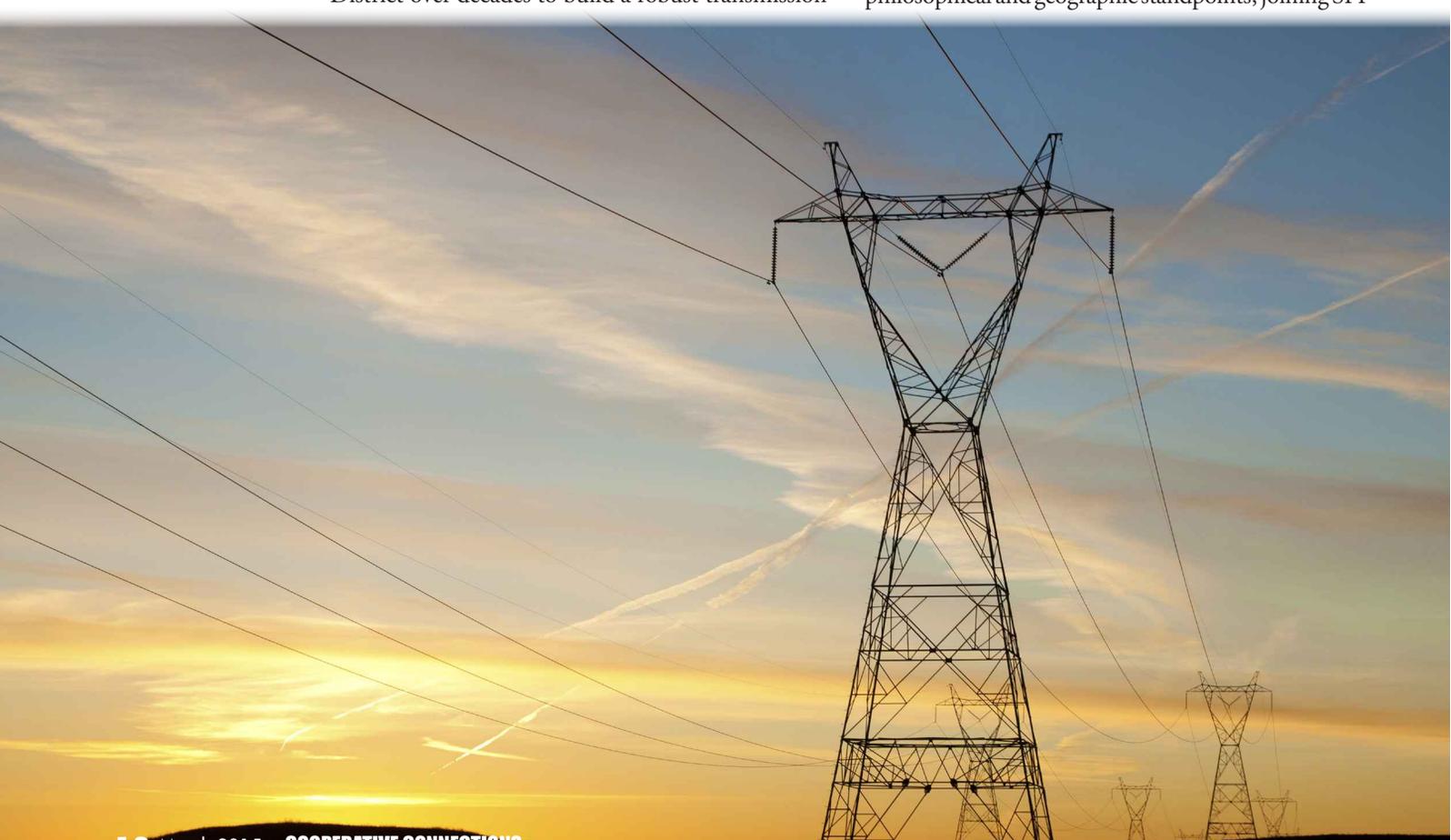
However, with the creation of surrounding RTOs, the IS became somewhat of an island, excluded from access to neighboring RTO's market power. The boundaries of the region and limited access to markets caused constraints in times of surplus generation or when the members required more power.

“Ultimately, we had to balance the needs of our membership,” says Mike Risan, Basin Electric senior vice president of transmission. “Basin Electric is charged with providing power for our members at the lowest possible cost.

From cost, benefits, transmission, market access, philosophical and geographic standpoints, joining SPP

By
Andrea Blowers

Editor's Note:
This story is reprinted from the September/October 2014 issue of Basin Today.



(Southwest Power Pool) became our best option.”

Basin Electric’s board of directors agreed with staff’s recommendation and, at their July meeting, the directors authorized Basin Electric to join SPP, the RTO to the south.

The course to this decision has been somewhat uncharted and though it may seem that reaching the decision to join was the ultimate goal, it was really only half the journey.

For Basin Electric, its membership and the IS partners, the tasks yet to be addressed and fully vetted will take several months. Full membership in SPP will not happen until Oct. 1, 2015.

From here, Basin Electric staff and members will charge ahead tackling the tasks and outlining the details of integration for each of the eight defined areas of concentration: operations, transmission planning/engineering, information technology, regulatory, compliance, markets, settlements and training.

Part of those integration efforts reside in understanding how the SPP marketplace functions. Marketing and Asset Management Vice President Ken Rutter says in an RTO there are two markets – a day-ahead market and a realtime market.

“The day-ahead market is a kind of setup for what and how people think the real time is going to operate,” he says.

“At 11 a.m., the day before, we offer our generation units into the marketplace. We find out at 4 p.m. if they clear and what price they cleared for. Then, later that evening, right before real time, SPP begins running their real time models, which essentially gives the five-minute price signals to the marketplace. These should pretty closely replicate the day-ahead market,” Rutter says.

“The reason we have a different market for real time is because weather changes, loads can vary, units trip, the wind can pick up and different things happen where more or less generation is needed. So, every five minutes then the real time market gives a new price signal and a new dispatch signal from the marketplace, which will be the real signal in terms of how the unit will operate.”

That doesn’t necessarily mean the cooperative’s baseload units are going to be ramped up and down at five minute intervals. “We can fully control how we operate our units in the marketplace,” Rutter says.

“It’s critical that we understand our unit dispatch costs and structure our generation offers in the marketplace in order to maximize the value of the

membership.”

Rutter says every day Basin Electric will put in its offers for all of its generation on how the cooperative wants the units to run, for how long and other parameters. “We have control, in large part, as to how each of our units will operate in SPP. It’s a balancing act. Our goal is to have the baseload units baseloaded.”

Rutter acknowledges the process will not be successful without good communication between the marketing group and the folks at the plants.

“At this stage of development, this is one of the most important tasks,” Rutter says. “We want to ensure the employees at the plant sites have a good understanding of how the SPP market functions

and how we’ll be working within that market and we need to have a good understanding of how each of the plants operate.”

Rutter has been making trips with John Jacobs, vice president of plant operations, to each of the facilities to talk with the plant operators and staff. The overall message during these trips is that Basin Electric is going to make every effort to replicate how the cooperative operates today, but still take advantage of the fact that it will have access to a broader marketplace.

“There’s a lot of training for everyone involved,” Rutter says. “For example, one of the other elements in an RTO

market is market monitors. These monitors ensure there’s no gaming in the market. They have rules in terms of how you can offer units, so an organization can’t manipulate the market. The market monitors test each organization’s offers every day and if they believe you’re violating rules, you’ll be penalized.”

Rutter says ensuring his staff is properly trained and advised on these nuances of SPP membership are vital to successful operation within an RTO.

In addition to training, other tasks on the marketing group’s to do list include determining the software for tagging and scheduling in the market, ensuring they have a full staff, defining their strategy for moving power west to east and east to west across the DC ties, congestion modeling and a number of other tasks.

“There’s a lot to do from all areas of the cooperative,” Rutter says. “Communication is going to be key to all our integration efforts. This has certainly been a journey and we’re learning every day, but as they say, it’s the journey that teaches you a lot about your destination.”



The footprint of the Southwest Power Pool will expand in October 2015 when Basin Electric Power Cooperative joins the RTO.

**“This has certainly been a journey and we’re learning every day.”
~ Ken Rutter**

The State of Generation

ENSURING THAT COOPERATIVE MEMBERS HAVE enough electricity to power their lives is a responsibility taken seriously by the region's electric cooperatives.

Discussions about power needs both today and even 10, 20 and 50 years down the road are discussed at many levels within cooperatives which receive their power from two main resources: federal hydropower allocations and from a generation and transmission cooperative built more than five decades ago to provide power to member cooperatives.

Hydro generation from the state's four mainstem dams continue to be an important part of the energy mix delivered to electric cooperative members.

Roughly one-fifth of the electricity used by electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota comes from hydro allocations. (The amount varies among cooperatives. Hydro electric-

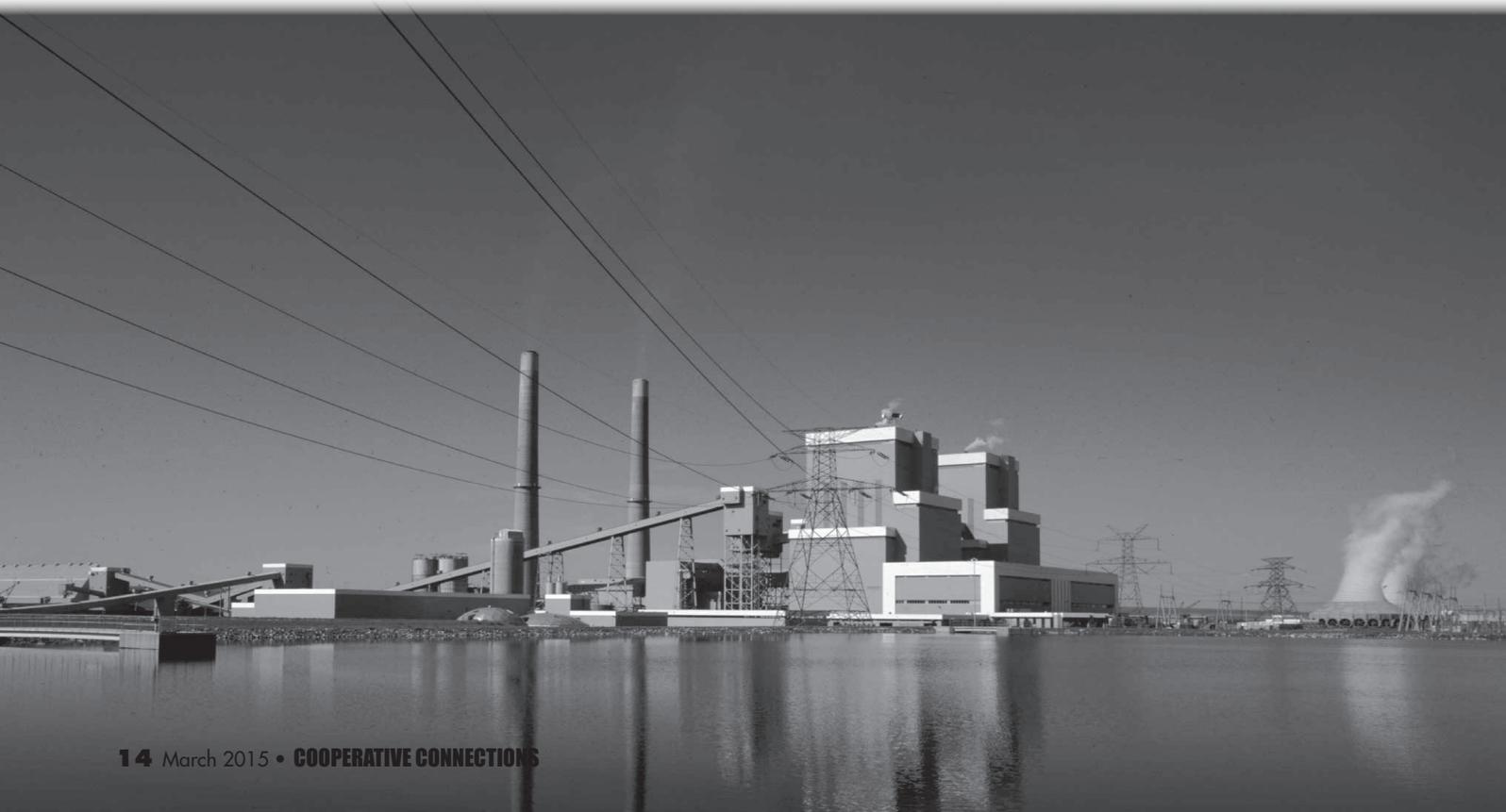
ity is a major source of power generated within the state of South Dakota.)

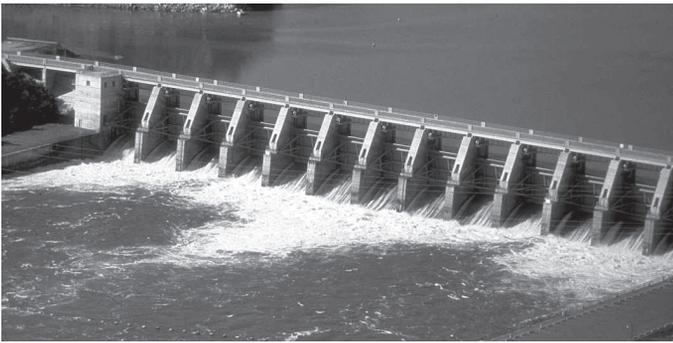
The bulk of electricity used by cooperative members in the region comes from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative located in Bismarck, N.D., which serves – and in turn is owned by – 135 electric cooperatives in nine states.

“Basin Electric is also continuing to evaluate and develop interim and long-term power supply plans to meet our expected power supply obligations beyond the next five years,” said Dave Raatz, Vice President of Cooperative Planning at Basin Electric's 2014 annual meeting.

“As we develop these plans, Basin Electric is not discounting any options that will help keep member rates low. Wind generation is one of those options. In 2013, we entered into contracts to purchase 376

**By Brenda
Kleinjan**





Hydropower produced at federal dams located in South Dakota and western Minnesota accounts for about one-fifth of the electricity used by cooperative members.

megawatts of additional wind generation and this year we're in final negotiations to add another 300 megawatts of wind generation to our resource portfolio. About 250 megawatts of this wind is contingent upon the extension of production tax credits beyond 2015. If wind production tax credits are extended into 2016, Basin Electric will have almost 1,400 megawatts of wind generation in our resource portfolio by the end of 2016," Raatz went on to tell the cooperative leaders gathered at the November annual meeting.

To meet the need for additional generation, Basin Electric has constructed additional power plants outside North Dakota to free up generation capacity within the state:

Basin Electric is installing distributed generation closer to the Bakken load to quickly support the voltage on the system. Built in two phases, the Pioneer Generation Station, a 135-MW natural gas-fired power plant, sits northwest of Williston, N.D. It is equipped with a synchronous clutch that allows the

turbine to uncouple from the generator, allowing the generator to provide fast-acting reactive power on the transmission system. Construction was complete in 2014.

Lonesome Creek Station, a 135-MW natural gas-fired power plant, is located west of Watford City, N.D. The first phase is commercial; construction on the second phase began in spring 2014.

Basin Electric also has a contingency plan to bring in additional generation from outside the area via transmission paths, either from generation stations in Wyoming or through purchases from power markets, if loads develop faster than anticipated. Basin Electric and its membership support a clean environment and recognize the need to use energy more efficiently to hold down the cost of producing additional energy and to conserve our natural resources.



Basin Electric Signs Contracts for Wind Generation

Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, N.D., has signed two power purchase agreements associated with the development of two new wind projects in North Dakota. The combined capacity is 300 megawatts (MW).

The developers are a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC Juno Beach, FL, and Tradewind Energy, Lenexa, KS. NextEra Energy Resources will be developing the Dickinson Wind Energy Center, a 150-MW wind farm near Richardton, ND, and Tradewind will be developing the Lindahl Wind Project, a 150-MW wind farm near Tioga, ND.

Paul Sukut, Basin Electric CEO and general manager, said these new wind resources will increase the renewable portion of Basin Electric's generating portfolio, which includes waste heat, to more than 1,400 MW when combined with additional wind generation commitments made in 2013. "As we develop plans to meet our members' energy needs, we have not discounted any options that will

help keep our member rates low," Sukut said. "These additional wind purchase opportunities fit nicely into our existing generation portfolio."

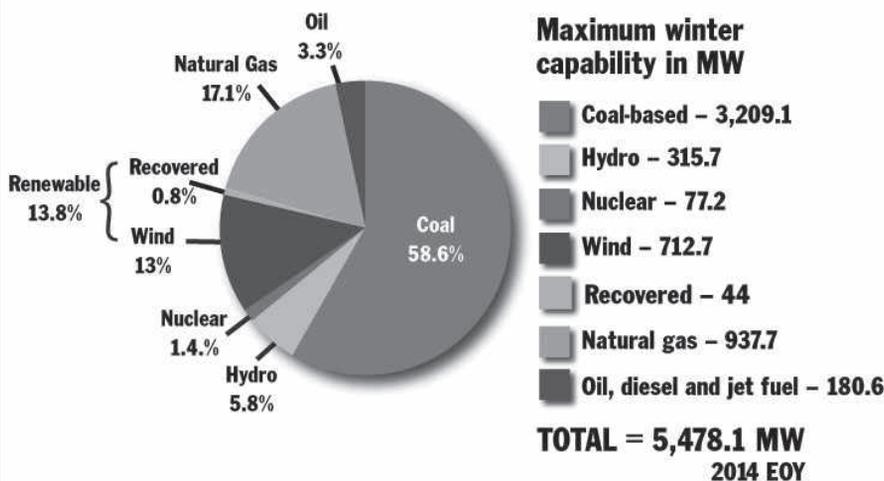
The wind project near Richardton being developed by NextEra Energy Resources is expected to be complete by the end of 2015.

Mike O'Sullivan, senior vice president of development for NextEra Energy Resources said, "We are pleased to expand our partnership with Basin Electric through our Dickinson Wind Energy Center to bring more renewable energy to Basin's members."

The wind project near Tioga, N.D., being developed by Tradewind is expected to be complete by the end of 2016.

"We are tremendously excited to be in North Dakota where the wind energy industry is only beginning to capitalize on the region's enormous potential," said Sanjay Bhasin, Tradewind's senior vice president for business development. "Lindahl will meet the incredible demand in the region with low-cost energy for Basin Electric members, and we are thrilled to make this project happen."

BASIN ELECTRIC GENERATION PORTFOLIO



Basin Electric's Resource Portfolio (above) consists of generation in megawatts (winter ratings) from owned facilities and purchased power contracts longer than 3 years. The renewables percentage includes wind, recovered energy generation, and flare gas totals.

Regional Dateline

February 21 and March 21
 James Valley Model Railroad
 Open House, Aberdeen, SD
 605-226-2139

February 22
 Hub City Radio's Bridal
 Showcase, Aberdeen, SD
 605-229-3632
 www.hubcityradio.com

February 24-26
 Ag Expo, Aberdeen, SD
 605-725-5551
 www.aberdeenagexpo.com

February 28-March 1
 Home Builders Show
 Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814
 watertownhomebuilders.com

March 3
 Nickelback, Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-7288
 dennysanfordpremiercenter.com

March 6
 Clint Black, Deadwood, SD
 605-559-0386
 deadwoodmountaingrand.com

March 7-8
 Big Boy Toy Show
 Watertown, SD, 605-884-3548

March 7-8
 Home Builders 14th Annual
 Home Show, Aberdeen, SD
 605-225-2055
 www.aberdeenhba.com

March 13-14
 Advantage RV Spring
 Camper Show
 Watertown, SD, 605-753-5022



To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

Events of Special Note

February 26
 18th Annual Liberty Ball
 Game, 7 p.m., Riggs High
 School Gym Pierre, SD
 605-341-4311

March 7-10
 Summit League Basketball
 Tournament, Sioux Falls, SD
 www.sfarena.com

March 14-15
 2015 Gun Show
 American Legion Hall
 Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. MST
 Philip, SD, 605-859-2635
 605-859-2280, 605-859-2892
 or 605-859-2219

March 19-21
 Southern Hills Community
 Theatre Spring Play
 Hot Springs, SD, 605-745-4140

March 21
 South Dakota Taxidermy
 Competition, Watertown, SD
 605-886-6127

March 21-22
 Farm Toy and Collectibles
 Show, Aberdeen, SD
 605-225-4841

March 21-22
 Spring Craft Show
 Watertown, SD, 605-882-1734

March 21-22
 Curt Carter Gun Show
 Watertown, SD, 605-793-2347
 www.koneskorner.com

March 28
 WineFest Renaissance 2015
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-225-8714
 www.bgcaberdeen.com

April 4-5
 Lions Club Ice Show
 Watertown, SD, 605-886-8588

April 6
 Shrine Circus, Huron, SD
 605-225-4841
 www.yelduzshrine.org

April 9-11
 Shrine Circus, Aberdeen, SD
 605-225-4841

April 11
 Spring Fling Home &
 Garden Show, Hot Springs, SD
 605-745-4140
 www.hotsprings-sd.com

April 18
 LATI Auto Club Car Show
 Watertown, SD, 605-882-5284

May 1
 Special Olympics Spring
 Games, Watertown, SD
 605-237-3933

May 1
 Mellette House Opens
 Watertown, SD, 605-886-4730

May 2
 S.D. Coin and Stamp Club
 Show, Watertown, SD
 605-886-4609

May 2
 Spring Market and Boats
 Jets and Pets, Rapid City, SD
 605-716-7979

May 2
 Springtime in the Country
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-4414
 maryjowegnerarboretum.com