

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS®



Jessie Ruml pursues a labor of love growing an assortment of fresh-cut flowers at Pixie Acres Flower Farm near Castlewood
Photo by Rachel Clelland Photography

In Bloom

Cut flowers spread summer cheer
Pages 8-9

Addressing power supply and demand
Pages 12-13

Electric cooperative system set to supply reliable power all summer long



Ben Dunsmoor
Editor

You probably like to keep your eye on the forecast.

Local weather forecasts can play a big role in helping us plan what we do from day to day. If the forecast says it is going to rain, you probably won't plan to do fieldwork that day. If the forecast calls for an extended period of hot and sunny weather this summer, you may have to plan to turn on an irrigation system to get enough water on the crops. Forecasts can help us plan and prepare for nice days and not-so-nice days.

It is important to know that your cooperative is invested in providing safe and reliable electricity no matter what the forecast says.

Lately, there has been a lot of attention on another type of forecast concerning the nation's power supply. It is a forecast that the power industry – and your local electric cooperatives - have been watching closely. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation – or NERC – put out its 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment in May. NERC is a nonprofit corporation that develops and enforces reliability standards and monitors the bulk power system in North America. The NERC report pointed out that many northern and central states which are in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) region are facing a 'capacity shortfall' this summer. MISO operates the bulk electric grid in states like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan. MISO forecasts that its peak demand

this summer will be 124 gigawatts (GW) compared to just 119 GW of available electric generation. MISO said in a statement in April that this shortfall could lead to 'increased risk of temporary, controlled outages,' which are also known as rolling blackouts.

That forecast is good news and bad news for electric cooperatives in the region. The bad news is that there are a few electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota that are members of MISO and may experience these outages. The good news, however, is that the majority of electric cooperatives in South Dakota – including Northern Electric - are in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). SPP is a regional transmission operator (RTO) just like MISO, but it serves as the 'air-traffic controller' for the electric grid in the central portion of the United States. SPP's forecast says it anticipates it will have enough electric generation this summer to meet demand. SPP predicts its summer peak will hit 51.1 GW and it has 55.5 GW of electric generation available. Simple math suggests that we should be okay barring any unforeseen extreme weather events or unexpected outages.

A lot of the generation in SPP is coming from cooperative-owned power plants and renewable resources. Many of the electric cooperatives throughout the central United States are members of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in North Dakota. Basin Electric is required to have enough generation to meet the demand of member cooperatives like Northern Electric. In other words, co-ops in the Basin Electric system have actual physical resources and contracts to meet the power needs of every co-op member in the region. It means electric cooperatives are in a good position during extremely hot days or extremely cold days. It is a co-op system that is built on a strong foundation of working together to provide power to the members at the end of the line.

There is a lot more information about these summer forecasts on **pages 12-13** of this issue. But as we head into the hottest days of summer it is important to know that your cooperative is invested in providing safe and reliable electricity no matter what the forecast says.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

(USPS 396-040)

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Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held May 20, 2022, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. CEO/General Manager Tom Boyko and General Counsel Bob Sahr were guests for the meeting. As the first order of business, the board seated William (B.J.) Hansen on the NEC board for District 7 director. Following the seating of director, the board approved the April 22, 2022, minutes and April expenditures. The Board reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Kirk Schaunaman reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the May 5, 2022, board meeting. General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River MAC meeting held May 3, 2022. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association board meeting will be June 23-24, 2022, in Pierre.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update on development projects.
- Legal and Legislative report.
- Reminded the board of the CFC Forum, June 20-22, 2022, in Boston, MA
- Reminded the board of the 2022 Basin VIP Tour, June 28-29, Bismarck/Beulah, ND.
- Calendar review of upcoming meetings and events.

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Friday, June 17, 2022.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$5,974.65.
3. Approved Work Order Inventories #22-04 for \$181,671.54 and #22-04MC for \$81,337.85 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Authorized retirement of Basin Electric capital credits in the amount of \$513,355.70 based on first in, first out, methodology.
5. Adopted resolution restating employee retirement plans.
6. Authorized board attendance to the SDREA Board Leadership Summit, July 21-22, 2022, in Pierre.
7. Approved Brown County Fair sponsorship.
8. Authorized board attendance to the 35th American Coalition for Ethanol Conference, August 10-12, 2022, in Omaha, Nebraska.
9. Held Executive Session.

Talk to your director or co-op manager if you have questions on these matters.

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | April-22 | April-21 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| kWh Sales | 25,401,113 kWh | 24,103,444 kWh |
| Electric Revenues | \$2,427,233 | \$2,282,245 |
| Total Cost of Service | \$2,345,420 | \$2,232,493 |
| Operating Margins..... | \$81,813 | \$49,752 |
| Year to Date Margins | \$434,453 | \$139,973 |

RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| APRIL-2022..... | 2,165 kWh..... | \$231.34 | 0.1069 per kWh |
| APRIL-2021..... | 1,719 kWh..... | \$200.77 | 0.1168 per kWh |

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 82.4% of NEC's total cost of service.

Reduce your risk of shock in the home

Contact with electricity can result in something as innocuous (but still painful) as a mild shock to severe injuries like nerve damage and burns. In some cases, it can even cause cardiac arrest and death. Here's a list of some of the most common shock risks inside a home.

1. Appliances. Most shocks from household appliances occur during repairs. It's not enough to turn off an appliance before working on it - you need to unplug it to reduce risk. Large appliances are responsible for 18 percent of household electrical accidents; small appliances account for 12 percent.

There's also danger if your appliance comes into contact with water. Many of these hazards can be avoided by using a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI is a protective device installed on electrical outlets, primarily used where water is present. When the device detects an imbalance in the electric current, it turns off the power to minimize the potential for an electric shock.

2. Ladders. Typically, ladders present a falling hazard, but 8 percent of household shocks are also related to ladders. Electrocutation typically happens when the ladder makes contact with electrical wires. Before you use a ladder, make sure you can clearly see all power lines in the area - including those that may be hidden by tree branches. Ensure that the ladder is 10 feet away and won't contact a power line if it falls in any direction.

3. Power tools. Power tools account for 9 percent of consumer product-related shocks. According to OSHA, when you use power tools that are not double-insulated, are damaged or have damaged cords, you increase your chances of being injured. The chance of danger also increases when you use incompatible cords, use power tools incorrectly or use them in wet conditions. This is another situation in which GFCIs can help.

4. Electrical outlets and extension cords. Inserting anything that doesn't belong - screwdrivers, knives, fingers or toy cars, to name a few - into an electrical outlet can result in a dangerous electrical contact.

Use cover plates that fit properly and safety covers on all outlets. By installing tamper-resistant receptacles, outlets will have permanent security against foreign objects being inserted into the slots.

Any broken, loose or worn-out plugs, switches and light fixtures should be replaced immediately.

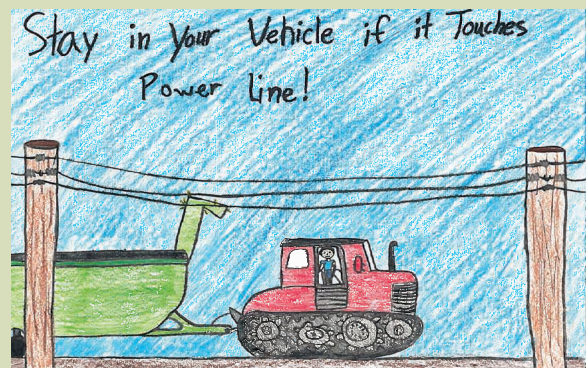
COOPERATIVES RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES



When back-to-back spring snow storms struck Burke Divide Electric Cooperative (Columbus, ND), cooperatives from South Dakota and Minnesota traveled long distances to respond to the call for help.

When a deadly derecho swept through eastern South Dakota in early May, co-op crews worked long hours to restore power to thousands of electric cooperative members. It's what cooperative linemen do.

Find out more about how our line crews respond to emergencies by visiting Cooperative Connections Plus. Simply scan the QR code at right.



Call 811 before you dig

Esmae Beld

Esmae Beld, age 11, offers some sound advice to stay inside your vehicle and call for help if it comes in contact with energized power lines. Esmae is the child of Orlando and Shanna Beld. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative.

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.

DREAMY DESSERTS



DUMP BARS

Ingredients:

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup cocoa
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup chocolate chips

METHOD

“Dump” all ingredients except chocolate chips together in bowl. Mix with spoon. Spread in greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top. Do not stir. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Deanna Poppen, Sioux Falls

CARAMEL STUFFED KRISPIE BARS

Ingredients:

Caramel filling

- 4 oz. caramel Kraft bits, unwrapped
- 4 oz. sweetened condensed milk
- 8 tbsp. butter

Rice Krispie layer

- 12 tbsp. butter, halved
- 10 cup Rice Krispies, halved
- 8 cup mini marshmallows, split in half
- 2 cup additional mini marshmallows for sprinkling

METHOD

Line pan (9x13) with nonstick foil. Microwave caramel bits, butter and condensed milk until melted and smooth when stirred. Microwave 6 tablespoons butter and 4 cups marshmallows just a minute and stir. Stir in cereal and press into pan. Pour on the caramel. Sprinkle on the additional 2 cups marshmallows and place in freezer for 15 minutes. Use the remaining Krispie ingredients and repeat directions. Press this layer on top of the marshmallows and caramel layer and return to freezer. Switch to the refrigerator and let set for a few hours. Cut into big squares and enjoy.

Eric Neville, Milesville

LEMON MERINGUE PIE

Ingredients:

Pie

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1-1/2 cups cold water
- 3 egg yolks, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick® Pure Lemon Extract
- 1 baked pie crust (9-inch)

Meringue Topping

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick® Cream Of Tartar
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick® Pure Lemon Extract

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix sugar and cornstarch in medium saucepan. Gradually stir in water until smooth. Stir in egg yolks. Stirring constantly, bring to boil on medium heat; boil 1 minute. Remove from heat. Stir in lemon juice, butter and extract. Pour hot filling into baked pie crust. For the Meringue Topping, mix sugar and cream of tartar. Beat egg whites in medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until foamy. Gradually add sugar mixture and extract, beating until stiff peaks form. Spread meringue evenly over hot filling, sealing to edges of crust. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until meringue is golden. Cool completely on wire rack. Store in refrigerator.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



B.J. Hansen (right) is the new Northern Electric Cooperative board member representing District 7. Hansen and his wife Katie (left) have three children and live near Turton.

Submitted photo

HANSEN NAMED NEW DIRECTOR

B.J. Hansen will replace Jeff Vander Wal who moved out of the co-op's service territory

Ben Dunsmoor

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The Northern Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has named William 'B.J.' Hansen as the cooperative's new director. Hansen replaces Jeff Vander Wal as the board member representing District 7. Vander Wal resigned from the board earlier this spring after he moved out of the co-op's service territory.

Hansen and his family farm and ranch near Turton. He is involved with Spink County 4-H and served as a director for the South Dakota Charolais Breeders Association (SDCBA) for seven years. During his time with SDCBA he was named the national junior advisor of the year in 2015. Hansen is also a lifelong member of the Brentford UCC church and is the chairman of its board. He is looking forward to serving on the Northern Electric Board of Directors.

"I felt like this was a good opportunity for me to give back to my community and keep our co-op strong and healthy so it is around for my children," Hansen said. "I have always been a big supporter of the member owned co-op system."

Hansen wants to learn as much as possible about the electric cooperative system so he can represent the members in his district.

"During my time on the board I hope I can understand and be able to explain to member owners all the wheels that turn to keep our co-op successful. I feel as a director it is my job to understand and be able to answer questions and concerns that patrons in my district may have," Hansen said.

Hansen and his wife Katie live west of Turton and have three young children who go to school in Doland. His family enjoys showing hogs and fishing in their spare time.

Hansen will serve out the remainder of Vander Wal's current term on the board which expires in September 2023.

DTOM Veterans Ranch near Warner selected as the grand prize winner for the 2022 'Who Powers You' contest

The Don't Tread on Me (DTOM) Foundation and Veterans Ranch near Warner has been awarded the first place \$3,000 prize in the 2022 Touchstone Energy 'Who Powers You' contest. This was the first year the region's electric cooperatives hosted the 'Who Powers You' contest to highlight local figures who are making a difference in their communities.



Grand Prize Winner

The DTOM Foundation and Veterans Ranch was selected for the \$3,000 'Who Powers You' contest grand prize on May 11.

The DTOM Foundation and Veterans Ranch is a Northern Electric Cooperative member located between Aberdeen and Warner. The ranch provides a safe place for healing and recovery for military service members, veterans, and their families. The organization provides housing assistance, food and clothing assistance, and medical assistance to veterans along with Max Rhythmic Motion Sequencing (MRMS) equine therapy. This specialized therapy uses horses to treat veterans for traumatic brain injuries, PTSD, anxiety, and other injuries. All services at the ranch are funded by donations and offered at no cost.

"We believe we are winning every day because when you can see families put back together it is just a wonderful thing to do and an honor," DTOM CEO and Founder Chris Reder said. "The funds will go right back into helping veterans as we do not charge veterans one penny for our services. This will make a huge difference in what we do."

The DTOM Foundation and Veterans Ranch was one of 19 finalists that were featured throughout the spring on Keloland Living. The contest winners were announced during the May 11 broadcast.

"As an electric cooperative, our services extend beyond delivering safe, affordable and reliable power to our member-owners," Northern Electric Cooperative Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor said. "The 'Who Powers You' contest highlights the commitment of our co-op to the communities and member-owners that we serve. We are excited that the DTOM Veterans Ranch was selected as the grand prize winner in 2022."

The second place \$1,500 prize was awarded to Jady Ramazani, who lives in Sioux Valley Energy's service area. At just 14, Ramazani has already dedicated several years of her life to serving the region's first responders, veterans, and assisted living center residents. This selfless dedication is what earned her recognition as the contest's second place winner.

The contest's third place \$500 prize went to Bruce Weller, who serves as chief executive officer of Wings of Valor Lodge near Parker, S.D. Wings of Valor operates on the mission of supporting those who have served by providing a gathering place to motivate and empower disabled veterans in the outdoors. Wings of Valor is served by Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

More information,
visit: whopowersyoucontest.com



IN BLOOM

Philip and Jessie Ruml raise an assortment of fresh-cut flower varieties on their micro-farm near Castlewood. *Photo by Rachel Clelland Photography*

Specialty micro-farmers raise fresh-cut flowers for weddings, parties and other red-letter events

Billy Gibson

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The last time you saw a summer bride carrying a brightly colored floral bouquet down the aisle, it's likely those flowers came from some faraway field in some other part of the planet.

But that's quickly changing as a growing group of intrepid micro-farmers throughout the Upper Midwest are finding their way into the specialty fresh-cut flower business.

Emphasis on the word intrepid: it's not easy raising red roses in a climate more associated with icicles than irises.

Jessie Ruml isn't the least bit intimidated. She's in her fourth year of growing a variety of decorative flowers and reports that the bulbs are blooming and business is booming at Pixie Acres Flower Farm near Castlewood.

After 10 years as a dental hygienist waging a protracted war against plaque, Ruml decided to turn in her stainless steel sickle scaler and look for another occupation that would keep her on the

family farm and close to home with her four spirited daughters.

One afternoon while the children were out playing in the yard, she was swiping through her social media accounts and up popped a picture of a brilliant display of dahlias lying in the bed of an old pickup truck. The scene stopped her dead in her scrolling tracks.

"The colors were so vivid, I immediately felt the hair stand up on the back of my neck. I knew in an instant that's what I needed to do with my life," said Ruml, a self-described farm girl originally from Elk Point and a current member of H-D Electric Cooperative.

It didn't take long for Ruml to realize why South Dakota is not exactly known as the fresh-cut flower capital of the world - at least not yet. She compares growing flowers in eastern South Dakota to 24-hour babysitting. It's a painstaking task to bring flower seeds to full bloom in such a capricious and often harsh climate.

She and her husband Philip, who works full time in the ag industry,

don't even consider taking an extended vacation between the months of March and October when the Rums hold a "fall finale" on the farm to sell off the remainder of their crop or donate it to local charities. Flower plants are high maintenance, sensitive to the elements and require tons of TLC with watering, weeding and fertilizing, she explained: "We can't leave them untended for more than a few hours at a time."

But Jessie keeps a positive perspective when her back and her body start aching from all the hard work.

"You have to get on your hands and knees because there's not a lot of mechanical equipment like in larger scale farming," she said. "But all the effort only makes it that much more special to bring somebody joy, to see the happiness on their faces when you give them a bouquet of fresh flowers. It's hard on your body, but I'm grateful for each day I get to put my hands in the dirt."

She breaks up the monotony and the grind of flower farming by conducting floral design workshops, which she describes as a "girls' night out" where there's lots of laughs and perhaps some light spirits flowing in the

ZONE 4 FLOWER VARIETIES

Here are the top five flower varieties most suitable for USDA Hardiness Zone 4 planting:

1. Petunias
2. Daisies
3. Dahlia
4. Zinnia
5. Tulips



Christy Heckathorn, owner of Fleurish Flower Farm and Design near Elk Point, shows Union County Electric General Manager Matt Klein how she uses soil blocking to grow hardier seedlings and increase production. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

studio. Participants learn how to make arrangements and fill vases and tour the fields to see how the operation works.

She also looks for opportunities to support the community, like donating a portion of her sales to assist families whose homes were destroyed by a tornado that severely damaged much of Castlewood on May 11.

Over the past few years, more growers are taking on the challenge of Zone 4 flower farming and have entered the market in places like Belle Fourche, Vermillion, Lake Preston, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Wolsey, Artesian and others. Many are members of the South Dakota

Specialty Growers Association based in Yankton. The group held a virtual “member meet-up” on June 14 to collaborate, educate and exchange ideas.

One floral designer who jumped into the fresh-cut flower business two years ago is Christy Heckathorn, owner of Fleurish Flower Farm and Design in Ruml’s native Elk Point. In point of fact, it was Heckathorn - a family friend - who designed the floral arrangement for Ruml’s bridal bouquet 15 years ago.

Heckathorn got involved in the industry when she went to work at Pioneer Drugs, a local pharmacy that also had a flower shop and a soda fountain

inside. She spent five years there serving customers and also working on the side to help brides select arrangements for their big day.

While Heckathorn has gathered an wealth of training and experience over the years, she said she delights in using flowers to elicit smiles and positive reactions in her clients and other people she meets – especially those who could use a laugh when battling through personal challenges.

“A lady once came with her family and I could tell she had a lot on her mind,” she recalled. “I talked with her and found out she was going through cancer treatment and they had come here just to get away for awhile, enjoy the flowers and forget about things. My mother just went through cancer treatment. So I told them to come back any time and they would always be welcomed.

“One of the reasons I love flowers is because they bring joy to other people. If you can grow flowers and put a smile on someone’s face as a result of your labor, that’s a good life recipe.”



Jessie Ruml uses a pair of high tunnel greenhouses on her farm near Castlewood to shelter her flower plants from often unpredictable South Dakota weather patterns. *Photo by Rachel Clelland Photography*



Ryan Perrion of Aberdeen is preparing for the World Axe Throwing League (WATL) U.S. Open in Minneapolis in July. Perrion is the owner of Hub City Axe Throwing which is a Northern Electric Cooperative member business. **Photo by Billy Gibson**

RIGHT ON TARGET

Aberdeen business owner prepares for World Axe Throwing League U.S. Open

Billy Gibson

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Just about anyone can hurl a hatchet toward a stationary target. Hitting the bullseye? Well, that's going to require some practice.

Ryan Perrion is putting in all the practice time he can muster as he prepares for the 2022 World Axe Throwing League (WATL) U.S. Open competition set for Minneapolis in July.

Ranked No. 33 in the overall WATL standings going into the tournament, Perrion is honing his hatchet blade – and his skills – in his quest to bring a title back to his home in Aberdeen.

“I’m pretty confident in my abilities because I’ve put in the work to be the best I can be,” Perrion said. “A perfect score is 64, and right now I’m averaging about 55 or 56 in league play. Like a lot of sports, anyone can have a good match but consistency is the hard part.”

As a member of the WATL pro league and several regional leagues, Perrion also has plans to compete in Pennsylvania, Missouri and Wisconsin in the coming months.

Perrion’s interest in the sport started out as a hobbyist. He set up a target in his back yard and as his abilities increased it was clear this wasn’t just a passing fad in his life. Perrion and his wife Amanda decided to go all in and open an indoor range to spread

the axe-throwing love to the community. They launched Hub City Axe Throwing in Aberdeen with the goal of providing a venue for clean family fun. Hub City Axe Throwing is a Northern Electric Cooperative member business.

“We built this place to bring a new sport into town and for families to get together and have a good time. That’s our true focus. I have four little kids and they love throwing things. You’re not allowed to throw a real hatchet until you’re 12, but kids like to come in here and throw foam axes and they have a great time with their parents. Anyone can do it at any level.”

Another goal, Perrion said, is to work with individuals of all ages and abilities and make them more knowledgeable about the sport and more skilled than when they arrived.

While some questioned the safety aspect when Perrion was proposing the new axe-throwing facility, he said he’s never witnessed or heard of an incident where someone was injured by an axe. He said all safety precautions are taken at Hub City Axe Throwing to ensure safety, including sturdy chain-link barriers between the venue’s eight lanes.


Hub City offers recreational play, league play and special events. There’s also ‘glow throws’ held on Friday nights to spice things up and add to the adventure.

“I find that it’s not only fun but very stress relieving,” Perrion said. “You can get a rush of adrenaline when you get a bullseye, but you also have to quiet your mind, settle down and focus.”




PANCAKE FEED

FRIDAY, JULY 22

-  6:30 am - 9:30 am
-  Spink County Fairgrounds (Redfield, SD)
-  Northern Electric Cooperative is hosting a **FREE** pancake feed during Spink County Achievement Days. **The event is open to co-op members and the public.**
-  Northern Electric staff and board members will be available to answer questions from members.



Northern Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

POWER

Local co-ops are prepared to meet peak demand for electricity this summer

You may have seen articles recently about the potential for rolling power outages across the West and Midwest that could be triggered by a combination of insufficient generation, increased demand for power and warmer than normal temperatures expected this summer across the region. While no one can predict what extreme weather could be coming our way, or unexpected issues with power plants and renewable resources, electric co-ops in South Dakota and western Minnesota are confident that we will have enough generation to meet our electric needs.

The following questions and answers aim to provide background on Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs), the role RTOs play in serving consumers, potential power supply impacts to this region throughout the summer,

and some lessons learned from the February 2021 energy emergency.

WHERE DOES MY ELECTRICITY COME FROM?

Decades ago, when electric cooperatives were created to bring power to rural America, there were few electric generation options available. In our region, electric cooperatives worked together to access hydropower from the dams on the Missouri River and later created East River Electric Power Cooperative, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative to fulfill their power needs.

These generation and transmission cooperatives provide transmission services and construct regional power plants and transmission infrastructure. In the past, when co-ops needed

more electric generation because of economic growth, we built it.

Co-ops still own and build generation units today, but the operation of the grid that serves our region changed significantly about seven years ago. In 2015, East River Electric, Rushmore Electric, Basin Electric and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), which sells hydropower from the dams, all entered the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). SPP is an RTO that operates throughout the central portion of the United States and allows utilities to work together to provide the most efficient and cost-effective generation and transmission services to control costs.

DOES THE SOUTHWEST POWER POOL (SPP) EXPECT TO HAVE ENOUGH GENERATION TO MEET DEMAND THIS SUMMER?

SPP operates like the “air-traffic controller” of the bulk electric grid from Canada to Texas. It oversees the grid and the wholesale power markets serving most of the electric cooperative consumers in South Dakota. According to a May 12 press release from SPP, the organization said it “expects to have enough generating capacity

to meet the regional demand for electricity through the summer season.” SPP anticipates that demand for electricity will peak at 51.1 gigawatts during the summer season, which runs June to September 2022. According to SPP, a diverse fleet of generation units, including cooperative-owned power plants and renewable resources, will be prepared to serve at least 55.5 gigawatts of demand.

WHAT IS THE MIDCONTINENT INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR (MISO) AND WHY DOES IT EXPECT TO HAVE AN ENERGY SHORTFALL THIS SUMMER?

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is similar to SPP – it is an RTO responsible for matching generation resources with power demand from consumers throughout the Midwest in states like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and Illinois. Each RTO serves different areas of the country and has a different mix of generation resources. Some consumers in South Dakota are served from the MISO system, but most cooperative consumers are served through SPP. MISO raised alarms in April when the organization said it projects “insufficient firm resources” to supply the summer demand for electricity.

In 2005, MISO’s total generation mix was 76 percent coal, 13 percent nuclear, 7 percent natural gas and the rest came from a mix of other resources. By 2020, the amount of coal-based generation fell to 33 percent while natural gas grew to 34 percent, nuclear reached 17 percent and wind and solar accounted for 13 percent. It has been a drastic change in a short amount of time. With a higher amount of variable generation resources, less

SPP “EXPECTS TO HAVE ENOUGH GENERATING CAPACITY TO MEET THE REGIONAL DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY THROUGH THE SUMMER SEASON.”

firm generation available and the anticipation of increased electric usage because of higher than average temperatures, it sets up the potential for rolling power outages across the MISO footprint this summer.

HOW DO THE ENERGY MARKETS WORK?

Basin Electric owns generation and sells it into the SPP and MISO markets. Basin Electric buys all the power they need from those same markets to serve their membership, including your local electric co-op. It helps control costs throughout our co-ops by allowing us to sell generation into the markets when it is economically advantageous, or to access cheaper generation from the market when we need it. It was a critical strategic step taken by electric cooperatives to save their members money. But it also means that we can be subject to SPP directed rolling outages if demand exceeds generation across the entire SPP footprint like we saw in February 2021. Although electric cooperatives in the Dakotas are required to have enough generation to serve our own consumers, because co-ops are integrated in the grid we must share in any potential outages due to an energy emergency.

DID UTILITIES LEARN ANYTHING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2021 ENERGY EMERGENCY?

In February 2021, record-low temperatures and record-high electricity use across a region stretching from the Canadian border to Texas created what SPP called “the greatest operational challenge in its 80-year history.” Yet, even in

the extreme conditions, SPP had about four hours total of rolling outages across its 14-state region. That included South Dakota and cooperatives served by East River Electric and Rushmore Electric. East River was required to drop about 83 megawatts of demand over a short time on Feb. 16, 2021. Rushmore Electric was required to drop 22 megawatts on Feb. 16, 2021. After the emergency, SPP commissioned a comprehensive report and conducted an in-depth analysis of what happened. The report produced 22 actions, policy changes and assessments related to fuel assurance, resource planning and availability, emergency response and other areas.

Joining SPP was a strategic step that our cooperative network took several years ago to capture the benefits of being in an RTO. We have experienced immense financial and operational benefits over the past several years from our membership in SPP which have helped to keep electric rates stable. Looking ahead to this summer, most electric cooperatives in South Dakota are not within the MISO footprint and are not expecting an impact from any potential MISO rolling power outages. However, a few local co-ops in Minnesota and northern South Dakota may be called upon to take a rolling outage. Those co-ops will communicate with members if this becomes a possibility and will work to minimize the impact of these potential outages.

Petitions are now available for 2022 board of directors seats

Nominating Petitions Due By July 15

During Northern Electric Cooperative's 2022 Annual Meeting (Tuesday, September 13, 2022) members will elect Directors for Districts 2, 5, and 9.

Incumbent directors Todd Hettich (Dist. 2) and Nolan Wipf, Hitchcock (Dist. 9) are eligible to run again and are up for re-election. The District 5 seat will be vacant because board president Donna Sharp of Bath has reached her term limit.

Northern Electric Cooperative uses a petition process to nominate directors. The procedure requires all candidates to circulate a petition. Candidates must be cooperative members and reside in the district they wish to represent. Each petition must be signed by at least ten (10) cooperative member-consumers residing in that candidate's specific district.

For a joint membership, either the husband or wife may sign a petition but NOT both.

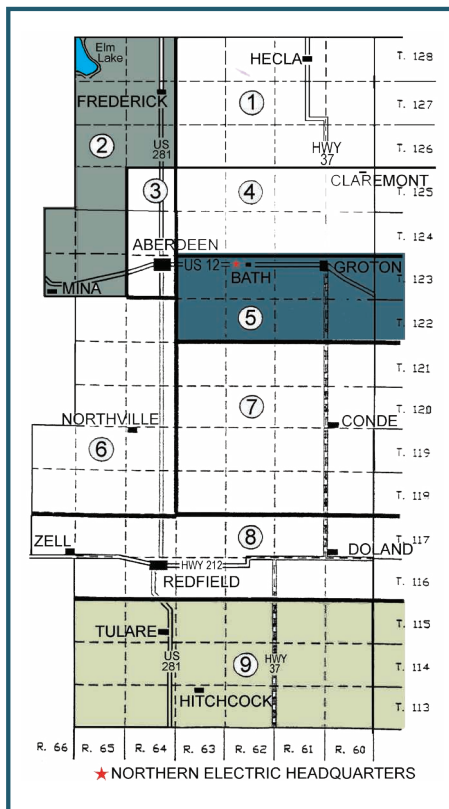
Petitions are available at the Northern Electric offices in Bath and Redfield. Director petitions must be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting to have names placed on the official ballot and the Notice of the Meeting. No petitions filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting shall be considered valid.

Petitions must be filed at a Northern Electric Cooperative office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) Friday, July 15, 2022.

Nominations are not permitted from the floor during the meeting.

Members may only sign ONE nominating petition for a director candidate from their district of record.

For a complete copy of the Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws contact Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 or stop by one of the offices in Bath or Redfield. The bylaws are also available online at www.northernelectric.coop/cooperative-bylaws



RE-ENERGIZING CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

YOUR VOICE. YOUR POWER. YOUR CO-OP.

The best part about being a member of your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative is just that ... it's YOUR cooperative. That means:

- One member = One vote
- You have a say
- Your co-op answers to you
- Invested in community
- Capital credits (get money back!)



Learn more about the power of membership at YourCoopPower.com



DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws
Article IV Section 3

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

1. Is an employee of Northern Electric Cooperative.
2. Is not a member and bona fide resident of the service area served by the Cooperative located within the particular District up for election;
3. Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
4. Has been previously removed as a Director of the Cooperative in accordance with the procedures provided for removal in these Bylaws;
5. Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.
6. Has been employed by the Cooperative in the past five years.
7. Has pled guilty or has been convicted of:
 - A felony,
 - Any crime involving dishonesty, or
 - Any crime involving moral turpitude

DIRECTOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS

2022 Annual Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, September 13

NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BYLAWS ARTICLE IV SECTION 5

Section 5. Nomination of Directors. The nominating process shall be premised on a nine (9) District - nine (9) Director Cooperative. Any ten (10) or more members residing in such District may file a nominating petition with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. Each signatory shall place the date of signing and his address on said petition. No member may sign a petition to nominate more than one candidate, and to do so shall invalidate the member's signature on the petition signed on the latest date.

This procedure shall be followed in each Director District in which the Director terms shall expire. Upon receipt of such petition and having found the same to be in order, the Secretary shall post such nomination in the principal office of the Cooperative. Candidates so nominated shall be identified in the Notice of the Meeting and shall also be named on the official ballot.

No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting shall be considered valid.

The order in which the nominees

shall appear on the printed ballot shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Secretary. If any nominee should refuse to become a candidate or is not qualified, in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Secretary of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to remove the name or names from the list of posted nominees and/or from the ballot.

The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of the Meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board Members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated. No nominations shall be permitted from the floor. Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their specific District from which a director is to be elected. Voting may occur two hours before or during the official meeting in accordance with the procedure established by the board of directors. The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a Board member.



JULY 2-4
Fourth of July Holiday Weekend

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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

JUNE 24-26
Black Hills Bluegrass Festival
Rush No More RV Resort & Campground, Sturgis, SD, blackhillsbluegrass.com

JUNE 24-26
Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival
Centennial Park, Hot Springs, SD, mainstreetartsandcrafts.com

JUNE 24-26
Quarry Days
Citywide, Dell Rapids, SD, 605-428-4167

JUNE 25
Zippity Zoo Day
805 S. Kiwanis Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

JUNE 26
Prairie Village Variety Show
Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

JUNE 30-JULY 4
Annual Black Hills Roundup
300 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD, blackhillsroundup.com

JULY 2-4
Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo
Various Locations, Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2387

JULY 3
Richmond Lake Fireworks
Richmond Lake at Edwards Preserve Point, Aberdeen, SD, www.facebook.com/RichmondLakeLife/

JULY 4
4th of July Parade & Celebration
Kemp Avenue, Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814

JULY 9
AutoValue Car Show
Hav-A-Rest Campground, Redfield, SD, 605-450-0332

JULY 9-10
Brookings Summer Arts Festival
Pioneer Park, Brookings, SD, bsaf.com

JULY 10
Summer Fest/Car Show
City Park, Groton, SD, 605-846-7607

JULY 14-17
Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo
Various Locations, Mitchell, SD, cornpalacestampede.com

JULY 14-17
Danish Days
Various Locations, Viborg, SD, danishdays.org

JULY 15-17
Gold Discovery Days
Various Locations, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

JULY 15-17
Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant
43379 Rose Lane, De Smet, SD, desmetpageant.org

JULY 16-17
Hills Alive
Memorial Park, Rapid City, SD, hillsalive.com

JULY 23
19th Annual Make-A-Wish Poker Run
C&S Motorsports, Aberdeen, SD, 605-225-7262 or 605-228-0604

JULY 23
Richmond Lake Association Pontoon Poker Run
Anchor's Away Resort, Aberdeen, SD, www.facebook.com/RichmondLakeLife/

JULY 23
Yankton Rock-N-Rumble Motorcycle Rally
3rd Street, Yankton, SD, 605-299-9734

JULY 25-30
Days of '76 Rodeo and Parades
18 Seventy Six Drive, Deadwood, SD, daysof76.com

JULY 29-31
Bruce Honey Days
Various Locations, Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671

JULY 30
South Dakota Chislic Festival
Prairie Arboretum, Freeman, SD, sdchislicfestival.com

AUGUST 5-13
Sioux Empire Fair
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxempirefair.com

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.