

Northern Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Cooperative Connections

MAY 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 1



Avoid a Moving Violation

Page 8-9

Youth Excursion is July 24-27th

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held March 23 at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the February 20, 2017, minutes and February expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety and communications.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the March meeting. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association board meeting will be March 30-31, 2017. Directors Mike McHugh, Glen Larson, Francis Esser and Manager Char Hager reported on the NRECA annual meeting held February 26-March 1, 2017, in San Diego, CA. Director Mike McHugh reported on the Electric Cooperative Day at the Capitol held February 23, 2017, in Pierre. Director Mike McHugh reported on the South Dakota Wind Energy Association annual meeting held February 22, 2017, in Pierre.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Update and discussion on new and progressing development projects and activities taking place in the community and our service area.
- Brief update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund activities.
- Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor announced the 2017 Scholarship winners: Roman Orr chosen for the \$1000 Basin/Northern Electric Scholarship and Lily Cutler chosen for the \$500 Northern Electric Cooperative Scholarship.
- Informed the board of the Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting, April 6, 2017, in Miller, SD at the Miller High School Gymnasium.
- Informed the board of the Whetstone Electric annual meeting, March 23, 2017, Milbank, SD, at the Milbank High School Auditorium.
- 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 9:00 A.M. on Monday, May 1, 2017.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$4,770.67.
3. Approved Work Order Inventories #17-02 for \$665,871.58 and #17-02MC for \$61,604.49 to be submitted to Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Approved 16 estate requests for out of order capital credit retirements totaling \$14,222.07.
5. Adopted Policy P-29E, Interconnection of Distributed Resources.
6. Approved revisions to existing Electric Tariffs and marketing programs.
7. Approved a donation of \$500.00 to be given to SPURS Equestrian Special Olympics.
8. Approved a donation of \$250.00 to be given to Frederick Area Athletic Association.
9. Held Executive Session.

Questions or more details on any of these matters? Please ask your cooperative manager, staff or director.

Financial Report – February 2017

	February 2017	February 2016
kWh Sales	26,259,047 kWh	25,961,641 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,317,848	\$2,161,702
Total Cost of Service	\$2,414,596	\$2,153,408
Operating Margins	(\$96,748)	\$8,294
Year to Date Margins	(\$708)	\$218,430

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

February '17	2,643 kWh	\$230.37	.0872 per kWh
February '16	2,648 kWh	\$223.03	.0842 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest and depreciation accounted for 83.9% of NEC's Total Cost of Service.

Northern Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 396-040)

CEO/General Manager

Char Hager
info@northernelectric.coop

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Mike McHugh, **President**
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Kay Albrecht, Executive Secretary
Ben Dunsmoor, Communications Director

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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 Northern Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Northern Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

Subscription Information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Bath, SD 57427.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Northern Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427; telephone (605) 225-0310; fax (605) 225-1684;

NEC Web site: www.northernelectric.coop

TOLL-FREE: 1-800-529-0310

Design assistance by SDREA and TDG Communications



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Editor's Column

The Trump Take Down of The Clean Power Plan

DONALD TRUMP IS ROLLING BACK regulations.

At the end of March President Trump signed an executive order to delay and review the Clean Power Plan which called for a 32 percent reduction in carbon emissions by the year 2030. The plan was threatening to increase the cost of electricity and force Northern Electric's North Dakota power supplier - Basin Electric Power Cooperative - to spend billions of dollars in the next 13 years to restructure its power-generation facilities.

Since the Clean Power Plan was introduced more than two years ago, electric cooperatives across the country have been saying the plan is a regulatory and legal overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency. Electric cooperatives want the freedom and flexibility to meet our members' needs through an 'all of the above' approach to electric generation.

Electric cooperatives have been turning toward more environmentally friendly sources of electric generation in the past decade because we know it's the right thing to do not because of government regulations.

More than 33 percent of the electricity you currently purchase from Northern Electric every month comes from renewable wind and hydro sources. In 2016, 46 percent of that electric generation came from coal sources. That is a shift from just a few years

ago when nearly 60 percent of electric generation came from coal. Plus, the coal generation being used today is more environmentally friendly than it was in the past. To date, Basin Electric has invested \$1.6 billion in emission control technologies for its power plants.

With or without the Clean Power Plan electric cooperatives will continue to look for innovative ways to reduce emissions. This year, Basin Electric plans to open the Integrated Test Center at its Dry Fork Station power plant in Wyoming. Researchers from around the world will be invited to test technology that turns CO₂ from the plant into useful products.

Basin also just added three more wind projects to its portfolio at the end of 2016. The three projects combined added more than 400 megawatts of generation to the grid bringing the cooperative's wind portfolio to more than 1,200 MW.

Solar generation is also being researched by Sioux Valley Energy in Brandon, South Dakota, and Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell. In 2017, cooperatives across the country are expected to collectively double their solar capacity by adding another 480 MW.

So even though President Trump's executive order is welcome news for electric cooperatives, it doesn't mean co-ops will be turning their backs on new technology, innovation, and renewable resources. ■



Ben Dunsmoor
Communications Director

Keep Your Family Safe During a Flood

Heavy rains often cause flooding in lowland areas, homes and basements. Safe Electricity reminds everyone to be alert to electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water, along with other potential hazards that create a serious danger of electrocution. Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks.



As part of the “Teach Learn Care” TLC Campaign, Safe Electricity urges parents and other caregivers to make sure

children are aware of these hazards as well.

“The prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind when you’re dealing with a flooded basement, room or even outdoors,” said Molly Hall, executive director of Safe Electricity. “But it’s the first thing you should think of before you step foot in the water.”

Safety measures to keep in mind include:

- Never drive into flooded waters.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other room if water may be in contact with electrical outlets, appliances or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can’t reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches or fuses when you’re wet or when you’re standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it’s raining or the ground is wet.
- If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.

“A good safety measure is to have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed on outlets,” Hall said. “These safety devices can cut off power instantly if there’s a problem.”

GFCIs are recommended for outdoor outlets and outlets near wet areas of the home such as kitchen, bath and laundry room.

Source: www.safelectricity.org

May is National Electrical Safety Month

 plug into safety



Never use electrical equipment near water and other liquids.



Never use electrical cords that are frayed or damaged.



Do not overload electrical outlets.



Never use light bulbs that exceed the recommended wattage for any lighting unit or fixture.



Kids’ Corner Safety Poster

“Don’t put electronics near water.”



Ryder Vrchota, 9 years old

Ryder is the son of Stacy and Judy Vrchota, Aberdeen, S.D. He attended Ipswich, S.D., based-FEM Electric Association’s annual meeting last June.

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.

Comforting Casseroles



Ham and Pasta

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 (16 oz.) pkg. elbow macaroni | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 4 cups fresh broccoli florets | 6 cups milk |
| 1/2 cup finely chopped onions | 1 (15 oz.) jar processed cheese sauce |
| 1/2 cup butter, cubed | 2 cups (8 oz.) shredded Cheddar cheese, divided |
| 1/2 cup flour | 4 cups cubed, fully cooked ham |
| 1 tsp. ground mustard | |
| 1 tsp. salt | |

Cook macaroni according to directions, adding broccoli during the last 3 to 4 minutes; drain. In a large Dutch oven, sauté onion in butter 2 minutes. Stir in flour, mustard, salt and pepper until blended. Gradually stir in milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in cheese sauce and 1 cup Cheddar cheese until blended; remove from heat. Stir in ham, macaroni and broccoli. Divide between a greased 9x13-inch pan and 8-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake one and freeze the other. Cover and bake at 350°F. for 50 to 60 minutes or until bubbly. To use frozen casserole: Thaw in refrigerator overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking.

Joane Beringer, Gettysburg

Green Bean Casserole

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 T. melted butter | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 2 T. flour | 1 cup sour cream or light cream |
| 1 tsp. sugar | 3 cans cut green beans, drained |
| 1/2 tsp. grated onion or | 8 oz. grated Cheddar cheese |
| 1/3 tsp. onion powder | 1/2 cup crushed corn flakes |
| 1 tsp. salt | |

Combine 2 T. butter with flour; mix over low heat until smooth. Remove from heat; add seasonings and cream. Fold in beans. Place in greased 8x10-inch baking pan. Top with grated cheese. Mix remaining butter with corn flakes; sprinkle on top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 45 minutes.

Belle Kvale, Lemmon

Quick Casserole

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 can vegetable soup |
| Onion | 1 can SpaghettiOs |

Brown ground beef with onion; drain. Combine all ingredients. Bake at 350°F. for 45 to 60 minutes. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, if desired.

Shirley Dreher, Clark

Cheesy Mexican Cornbread Casserole

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 lb. prepared cornbread, cut into 1/2-inch cubes | 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Chipotle Chili Pepper |
| 6 eggs | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1-1/2 cups milk | 2 cups (8 oz.) shredded Mexican blend cheese, divided |
| 1 cup sour cream | 1 can (14-1/2oz) petite diced tomatoes, drained |
| 1 T. McCormick® Chili Powder | 1 can (8-2/4 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained |
| 2 tsp. McCormick® Oregano Leaves | 1 can (4 oz.) chopped green chiles |
| 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder | |

Place cornbread in 9x13-inch baking dish sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Set aside. Beat eggs in large bowl with wire whisk. Add milk, sour cream and seasonings; mix well. Stir in 1-1/2 cups cheese, tomatoes, corn and chiles. Gently pour over cornbread. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 45 to 55 minutes or until center is set and edges are golden browned. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serve with additional sour cream, if desired. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 275, Total Fat 15g, Sodium 653mg, Cholesterol 141mg, Carbohydrates 23g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Protein 12g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Jalapeno Popper Casserole

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2 lbs. tater tots | 1 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled |
| 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese | 6 green onions, thinly sliced |
| 1 cup sour cream | 6 jalapeno peppers, deseeded and diced |
| 2 cups Mexican shredded cheese | |

Place tater tots in a 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 425°F. for 15 minutes. Combine cream cheese, sour cream, 1-1/2 cups cheese, bacon, onions and jalapenos; spread over tater tots. Top with the remaining cheese. Sprinkle bacon and onions over top, if desired. Bake for 20 minutes. Note: Prepackaged bacon pieces may also be used.

Kim Jost, Agar

Chicken Spaghetti Casserole

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 oz. spaghetti, broken into pieces | 1/4 cup pimento |
| 1 chicken, cooked and cut up | 1/4 cup minced green pepper |
| 1 can cream of chicken soup | 1 T. minced green onion |
| 1/2 cup milk | 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Combine with remaining ingredients. Place in greased casserole dish. Sprinkle with cheese, if desired. Bake at 350°F. for 35 minutes.

Mary Truman, Kimball

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert or salad 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 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

FREDERICK FUELS UP



REED Fund Loan Helps Build Refueling Station

by Ben Dunsmoor

“We’ve had people come for sporting events and not be able to get home.”

Leaders in Frederick, South Dakota, want visitors to stop in their town but they don’t want visitors to get stuck in their town.

For more than a decade Frederick has not had a gas station, and local residents can tell numerous stories about stranded travelers who have rolled into the northern Brown County town on fumes.

“We’ve had people come for sporting events and not be able to get home,” Frederick Development Corporation Vice President Gary Peterson said.

Frederick sits just off U.S. Highway 281. The town is 14 miles south of Ellendale, North Dakota, and 29 miles north of Aberdeen. Until a few months ago, those were the only nearby towns where travelers could fill their tanks.

“We’ve needed a gas station for

some time in this area,” Peterson said.

Last fall, the Frederick Development Corporation started working on plans to build an unmanned refueling station along the highway to give drivers a spot to fill up in the 43-mile stretch between Aberdeen and Ellendale. The project was completed in January thanks to financing from the Northeast South Dakota Economic Development Corporation (NESDEC), the North East Council of Governments (NECOG), and Northern Electric Cooperative through the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund.

“We’re proud to be able to help the Frederick Development Corporation provide needed services locally,” Northern Electric Cooperative CEO/General Manager Char Hager said.

Members of the Frederick Development Corporation signed the final paperwork for the \$300,000 loan from the REED Fund on March 21



“REED provides business and community project financing in partnership with commercial and other economic development lenders to leverage private investment and make a difference in the region it serves.”

WWW.REEDFUND.COOP

along with the financing documents from NESDEC and NECOG.

The REED Fund is governed by 22 electric cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota through East River Electric Power Cooperative. It was established in 1996 to promote growth and development in rural areas and the Frederick project fits that mission.

“We are committed to growing our rural communities, and we’re happy to be a part of this exciting opportunity to make a difference in rural South Dakota,” Hager said.

The refueling facility includes four diesel pumps and one pump with unleaded and ethanol blends. The Frederick Development Corporation coordinated the construction and financing but North Central Farmers Elevator supplies the station with fuel and handles the daily operations.

Local leaders know the project is already filling the tanks of travelers and a need the area has had for a long time.

“It’s a project we have whole-heartedly embraced as a board and community,” Peterson said. “We have had tons of positive comments.”



BELOW: Northern Electric CEO/General Manager Char Hager presents a \$300,000 loan from the REED Fund to Frederick Development Corporation board members.

(L to R) Rich Bakeberg, Chris Sumption, Robert Smith, Gary Peterson.



Planning, Communication Help to Avoid a Moving Violation

Brenda Kleinjan

ENCOUNTERING A LARGE, OVERSIZED LOAD ON THE highway can make one wonder what the load is and where it is going – and how long you may be following it as it winds its way to its destination.

But for your local electric cooperative, these loads can create some challenges, especially really tall loads.

“We see a lot of oversized loads any more,” said Brett Fosheim, operations manager at Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., which lies on the northern edge of the Black Hills. U.S. Highway 85 runs north to south through the co-op, connecting Interstate 90 to the oil patch in western North Dakota. Additionally, U.S. Highway 212 cuts an east-west path through the cooperative.

“We didn’t really see a decrease in those moves

when things slowed down up north,” Fosheim said.

Fosheim noted that most of the oversized loads were large industrial equipment.

“Almost all of it is tanks moving up 85 from 212,” he said.

“Most of them we’ve been working with are doing a really good job of contacting us about their routes,” said Fosheim of the companies entrusted with transporting the large cargo.

That can be crucial as the often power lines need to be moved by utility crews as the load moves toward its destination.

“We probably have a better group of movers than we ever had in the past,” Fosheim said.

Before the larger industrial loads became more commonplace for Fosheim and his crews, the co-op





The types of large, oversized loads moving down the region's highways can be quite varied. Here, Murdo, S.D.-based West Central Electric crews lift a line for a historic train depot that returned to Fort Pierre after spending several decades as a ranch in western South Dakota. **Opposite page:** Large structure and equipment moves can often take multiple utility crews to safely lift lines.

would see “a fair amount” of house moves annually, “but those have really slowed down for us. Now it’s just equipment moving up to the oil patch.”

And with the change in type of oversized load comes increased frequency.

“Now, we’re averaging two or three large loads a month. I can’t remember the last time we had a house move,” Fosheim said.

Coordinating the moves can create challenges.

“Our territories are intermingled out here, especially in the Northern Hills,” Fosheim said, referring to how electric cooperative areas and investor-owned utilities areas can intertwine. Adding to the complexity is that multiple types of utilities may also have infrastructure affected by the moves.

“We have communications carriers attached to our facilities,” Fosheim said. “We advise the movers of all the carriers we know that are in the area.

Moving lines for the large loads can be very time-consuming, Fosheim said, especially with really, really large loads.

“Some of these tanks are really big with a lot of axles underneath them. We’ve seen them with two pusher trucks in addition to the pull trucker. There have been some big monstrosities coming through,” Fosheim said.

While the sheer size of the load makes for interesting conversation, it also creates logistical challenges.

“We run out of right-of-way to lift the line, so our crews may wind up to bottom of the ditch, another 10 feet lower than the roadway,” Fosheim said. And, once they lift the line, the size of the load may make it impossible for the crew to get around the load to the next crossing. This means that the co-op must plan for a multiple crews to assist with the move.

“It can be quite time-consuming and very hard to plan around,” Fosheim said, pointing that often the load can encounter delays before it gets to the

co-op’s area, pushing project from a morning timeline to afternoon.

“It just takes more personnel to move these bigger loads,” he said.

“We get just as many moves in winter as we do in spring or summer,” Fosheim said.

Problems can arise, however, when those moving large loads fail to contact the utilities about lines.

In the past, co-ops have found evidence of damage – sometimes downed lines – from someone simply ignoring basic safety.

“The ones that are contacting us are quite good,” said Fosheim, noting that state efforts in monitoring big moves and making sure utilities are notified has helped. “There are some that get by that we don’t see.”

Hire a professional for the moving and contact your electric cooperative.

“We haven’t had any mover damage for several years,” Fosheim said.

In northeast South Dakota, Webster-based Lake Region Electric Association has also seen a decrease in damage caused by large loads.

Operations Manager Jim Grimes notes that the large industrial loads have decreased in recent years and they see an occasional house move coming into the area.

At Lake Region Electric, they took steps to adjust their major highway crossings to accommodate most higher loads.

Grimes’ advice?

“Hire a professional for the moving and contact your electric cooperative. That’s what they are geared up for and set up for,” Grimes said. “The guys doing it on their own are the ones that tend to get into trouble.”



Spring Digging: **Call 811**



**DIAL 811 to have
underground utility
lines marked
BEFORE DIGGING.**

**Ma i Na i I
Elect i I Safety Month**

plu into safety

by **Ben Dunsmoor**

**Whether it is
a homeowner
tackling a do-
it-yourself
project, or a
professional
contractor, the
person who is
actually doing
the digging
should call
811.**

SPRING IS HERE AND THAT OFTEN means it is time to dig into those outdoor projects that have been on the shelf since last fall. But, before homeowners and landowners start those projects they need to call 811 to locate any underground utilities.

Calling 811 is free and ensures that property owners can dig safely without cutting into a fiber optic cable or severing an underground electric line.

“Homeowners who have utilities located before they dig can avoid causing a major outage, or even worse, suffering serious injury or death,” Northern Electric Cooperative Operations Manager Mike Kelly said.

Calling 811 Is Easy

Whether it is a homeowner tackling a do-it-yourself project, or a professional contractor, the person who is actually doing the digging should call 811 before starting the project. The call must be made 48 hours before the project begins – excluding weekends

and holidays - to ensure local utilities have enough time to locate the buried lines. Homeowners who are simply planting a garden at a depth less than 12 inches are not required to call 811 before they plant their produce.

The South Dakota 811 system takes information about digging projects 24 hours a day and seven days a week and then passes the information on to the appropriate gas company, cable company, or an electric cooperative like Northern Electric. Those utilities have 48 hours to locate the lines and mark the ground with the appropriate colored paint. This is a completely free service.

Utility Lines vs. Private Lines

Utility companies, however, are only required to mark the buried lines that they own and operate and not the lines that are privately owned.

This means Northern Electric crews will mark the underground lines that run from a main electric line to the meter but not the lines that run from

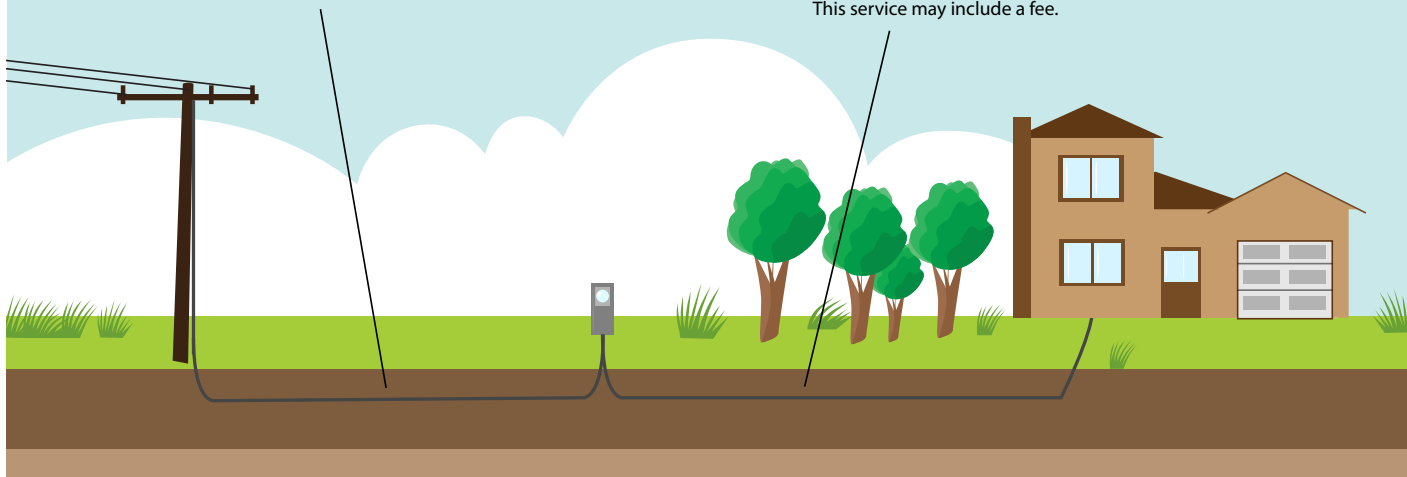
Know What Is Below

Buried Utility Line

This underground electric line will be located for free by the utility with a call to 811.

Private Line

Any line that runs from the meter and across a yard to a home, shed, or grain bin must be located by a private electrician or locating service. This service may include a fee.



the meter through a yard to a home, shed, or shop.

“Our crews will mark all underground distribution lines up to the meter but it is up to the property owner to locate the lines that leave the meter and power buildings, grain bins, or yard lights,” Kelly said.

Professional electricians and private locating companies will do this work but often charge a fee for locating the buried lines. The fee, however, is small in comparison to cutting into a gas line or electric line and creating a dangerous situation and being held responsible for the repairs.

After The Call

After property owners have called 811 or an electrician to have all utility and private lines located and waited the 48 hours it is time to dig. If digging needs to be done within 18 inches of a marked line South Dakota 811 recommends digging by hand and using caution so the buried line is not damaged during the landscaping activity.

If damage ever does occur the person digging should notify the utility and 811 immediately and should not try to repair the damage.

Following these rules and safety practices will help homeowners avoid digging into buried lines and ensure that digging into those spring projects will be safe and enjoyable.

Color Code For Marking Underground Utility Lines

electric

gas-oil

cable-communication

water

irrigation

sewer

temporary survey

proposed excavation

Update on the CPP

BASIN ELECTRIC CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER Paul Sukut issued the following statement on President Trump's executive order on the Clean Power Plan (CPP):

"President Trump's announcement is a positive step forward in our efforts to seek time and flexibility when it comes to developing a carbon management plan, hopefully, in the context of a national energy policy.

"EPA's Clean Power Plan would have significant impacts on Basin Electric and our membership. Of the 13 states hit the hardest by this rule, eight are in Basin Electric's service territory. Financially, Basin Electric would have to spend billions of dollars to comply. These dollars would simply cover adding new generation and potentially impact the operations of our existing facilities. This does not even include the expense of additional electric, gas or transmission infrastructure to support the new generation required to meet the proposed mandates of the CPP. These costs would be

unfairly borne by our membership.

"Over the last decade, Basin Electric and our membership have taken a leadership role in the development of renewable generation. We've added more than 1,500 megawatts of wind generation to our system (which represents approximately 23 percent of our generation capacity), invested more than \$1 billion in natural gas generation resources and have invested more than \$1.6 billion in emissions control technology to make our already clean generation fleet even cleaner. Even more, our Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant is home to North America's largest carbon capture and sequestration project – capturing more than 30 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Our most recent project to add urea production to the Synfuels Plant continues that tradition by capturing CO₂ to make urea and for sale as a food grade product.

It's important to note that the CPP, as proposed,

FAQ REGARDING THE CLEAN POWER PLAN (CPP)

What is the current status of the Clean Power Plan?

The rule hasn't been implemented and is still in legal limbo. The Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule didn't go into effect because the Supreme Court issued a "stay" of the rule in February 2016.

The full D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on the merits of the case against CPP. That was an unusual circumstance. Typically only a three-judge panel of the Circuit Court would hear a case, but because of the gravity of the CPP, the court decided to hear the case "en banc" which means all of the available judges heard the case. The D.C. Circuit Court ruling could come sometime this spring.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order that would start the process of rolling back the Clean Power Plan. The Department of Justice will ask the D.C. Circuit to hold the case until the EPA can analyze the Clean Power Plan. They will have to go through a full rulemaking process to undo the rule or propose a new, more friendly rule.

What can the administration do?

The Trump administration has some alternatives to consider, but it isn't as easy as just saying they don't want to implement the rule. Here are some of their options:

They could wait for the D.C. Circuit's decision, and if the CPP is upheld, they could choose not to defend the CPP in front of the Supreme Court.

Before the D.C. Circuit's decision, the Trump administration could request the D.C. Circuit Court to hold the case in "abeyance" and remand CPP back to the EPA for reconsideration. They could ask for the court to still have jurisdiction so that the CPP remains under the Supreme Court stay.

Can the administration get rid of the Clean Power Plan?

Before the Clean Power Plan can be changed or undone, the EPA will have to go

through a full rulemaking process which includes notice in the *Federal Register*, time for public comment, a response to public comment, etc.

The EPA could propose a "no action" rule or propose a scaled back version of 111(d) that is much more favorable to power plants and utilities. But they would still have to go through the rulemaking process.

What are the next steps?

In late 2017 or early 2018, the EPA will likely begin a new rulemaking process to replace the Clean Power Plan.

In late 2018, EPA will likely respond to public comments on the new rule. Depending on what the new rule may look like, there will likely be a legal challenge from those who wanted the Clean Power Plan. That will lead to another long legal fight that could bring us into 2020 before the old rule is gone and a new rule is finalized.

What else might impact the outcome?

- Neil Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court vacancy.
- EPA budget cuts.
- Legal action against President Trump's Executive Order concerning the CPP.
- Other unknowns.

Where can I get more information about the Executive Order?

There will be many articles coming out on the executive order but this link from vox.com provides the quickest cleanest look at it so far.

<http://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2017/3/27/14922516/trump-executive-order-climate>

EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN TIMELINE

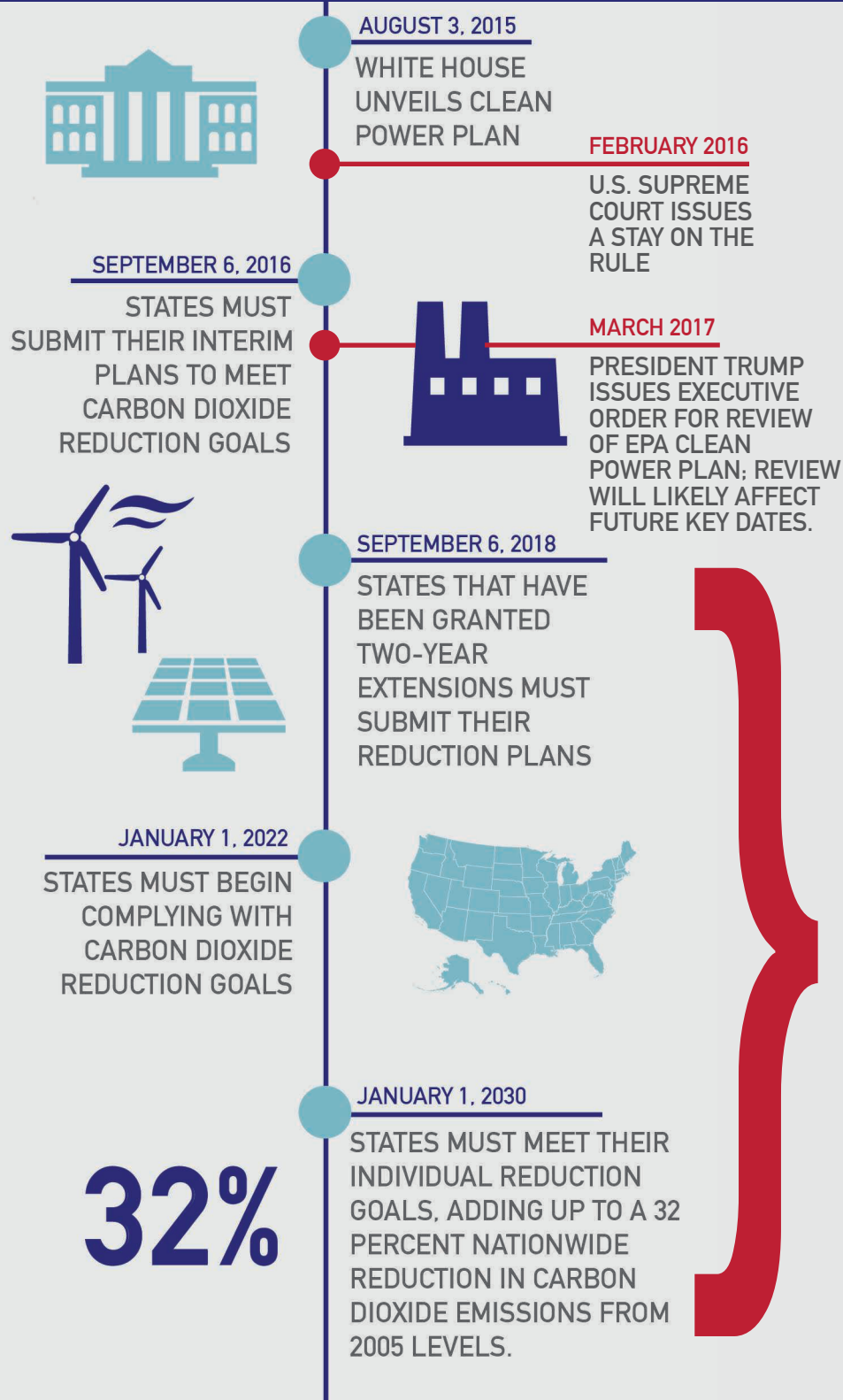
On Aug. 3, 2015, then President Obama announced the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan to slow climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions 32 percent by 2030. Below are the key dates leading to the implementation of the plan (unless they are changed by lawsuits or congressional action.) Recent actions are included in red.

did not allow Basin Electric credit for our current investments in natural gas generation or renewables, nor our carbon sequestration efforts through Dakota Gas.

"President Trump's action does not, however, impact Basin Electric's efforts to seek a viable path forward in a carbon constrained future. We are actively seeking solutions that reduce our carbon footprint while keeping coal as part of our energy portfolio, preserving both the reliability and cost competitiveness of our members' energy supply.

In addition to our wind and natural gas investments, we are actively working to advance clean coal technology. Examples include hosting the Integrated Test Center at our Dry Fork Station in Gillette, Wyo., and our investments in research, most recently in the development of a high efficiency power generation technology that generates high quality CO₂ as a product stream, along with participation in DOE's CarbonSAFE program to further the science of CO₂ sequestration in saline aquifers."

In November 2015, utilities across the country, including Basin Electric, filed a Motion to Stay with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which was denied. On Feb. 9, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court granted Basin Electric and several other petitioners' Motion to Stay the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, giving the current administration time to review the rule and issue today's executive order.



Tschetter Headed To Washington D.C.

Jazzlyn Tschetter

2017 Northern Electric Youth Tour Participant



More than 1,500 teens from electric cooperatives across the country will travel to Washington D.C. in June for the 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour. Doland High School junior Jazzlyn Tschetter will be one of them.

"I have not been to Washington D.C. but I am so excited to go," Tschetter said.

Tschetter was selected to represent Northern Electric Cooperative on Youth Tour following an essay contest this spring. She previously went on the South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion trip to North Dakota in 2015 to learn about electric generation and distribution. Tschetter will join teens from South Dakota and across the country to tour the sites in Washington D.C. and meet with

members of Congress.

"I am looking forward to learning more about our government and visiting the different memorials that are in Washington D.C.," Tschetter said.

The 2017 Youth Tour will be held from June 8 -15.



2017 Youth Excursion Application Deadline April 26, 2017

WHO:

High School students of Northern Electric members

WHAT:

During this FREE trip, teens will tour power plants, wind farms, and participate in fun group activities

WHEN:

July 24-27, 2017

HOW:

Send in the application on this page to PO Box 457 Bath, SD 57427 or apply online at www.northernelectric.coop



**2017 Youth
Excursion
Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

School: _____

Present Year In School: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____



2017 VIP TOUR

WHO: All Northern Electric Cooperative consumers can apply for the VIP Tour; even if they have gone on the tour before.

WHAT: Tour Basin Electric Power Cooperative headquarters, the Garrison Dam, a coal mine, the Antelope Valley Station power plant, and the Dakota Gasification plant in Beulah, North Dakota.

WHERE: Bismarck and Beulah, North Dakota

DATES: June 27-28, 2017

COST: FREE (bus, meals, and lodging are covered by the cooperative. Members must bring their own shopping/spending money)

APPLY: Mail in the completed form below or apply online at www.northernelectric.coop by **May 26, 2017**.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC VIP TOUR:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS MAY 26, 2017

Return form to: Northern Electric

Attn: Kay Albrecht

PO Box 457

Bath, SD 57427



Regional Dateline

April 22-23

Banff Mountain Film Festival
World Tour, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4101

April 26-29

Black Hills Film Festival
Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

April 29-30, May 6-7

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing
Fort Pierre, SD, 605-223-7603

May 5-7

Naja Shrine Circus
Rapid City, SD, 605-343-4076

May 6

Frühlingsfest and Spring
Market, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

May 12-14

Siouxpercon, Sioux Falls, SD
www.siouxpercon.com

May 14

1880 Train Mother's Day
Express, Hill City, SD
605-574-2222

May 19

Tesla Car Rally, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

May 19-20

Sioux Empire Film Festival
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

May 19-21

State Parks Open House and
Free Fishing Weekend
Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

May 20

Turkey Days, Huron, SD
605-352-0000



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

May 6-7

23rd Annual Bike Show
Dakota Events Center
Aberdeen, SD, 605-216-2174

July 1

Downtown Wine Walk
1 to 4 p.m., Redfield, SD
605-472-2621

May 20-21, 28-29

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing,
Aberdeen, SD, 605-715-9580

May 26-27

State Track Meet
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

May 26-28

South Dakota Kayak Challenge
Yankton, SD, 605-864-9011

May 27-28

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo
Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-4370

May 30

26th Annual Kids Art Fest
Yankton, SD, 605-665-9754

June 2-3

Rockin' Ribfest, Yankton, SD
605-665-2263

June 2-3

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD
Contact Scott Junke at
605-367-8222

June 2-4

Fort Sisseton Historical Festival
Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

June 2-4

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show
and Sale, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

June 2-4

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD
605-353-7340

June 2-4

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD
pattironfeldt@hcinet.net

June 3

Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD
605-692-7539

June 9-10

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD
Contact Brett Rauterkus
at 605-722-1430

June 17-18

South Dakota Peach Festival
Sioux Falls, SD

June 17-18

Coin and Stamp Show
Fort Meade Gym
Sturgis, SD, 605-381-4625

June 23

148th Annual Midsummer
Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran
Church, Vermillion, SD
605-253-2575
www.dalesburg.org

June 23-24

Senior Games, Mitchell, SD
Contact Howard Bich at
605-275-6891 or email
sdsrgames@gmail.com

July 22

Holy Smoke Car Show
O'Gorman High School
Sioux Falls, SD
www.holysmokecarshow.org

July 29

Make-A-Wish 14th Annual
Poker Run, Aberdeen, SD
605-225-7262