

Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

OCTOBER 2016 VOL. 17 NO. 6



Annual Meetings Give
Members A Voice

P8-9

Safety, Blinks, Budget, & Politics



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

When you read the title of my column this month, you might appreciate how many important issues we are trying to balance at your cooperative. Before I get to these issues, I want to thank each of you who were able to celebrate with us at the ribbon cutting for our Wessington Springs Service Center. It was a nice event and gave us a chance to show off our new facility.

Your cooperative has always taken safety very seriously. Last year, our insurance carrier reported 13 fatalities

nationwide resulting from people contacting power lines. Unfortunately, this year, one fatality occurred in our state where we lost a young farmer, who was also a husband and a father.

This harvest season, take the time to be aware of your surroundings. Maintain a minimum distance of ten feet (twenty feet is better) between your equipment and any electric utility equipment. Call 811 before doing any excavating, and educate yourself on what to do if you come into contact with a power line. It may save your life! When harvest is over, please do not store your equipment near or under power lines. We want everyone to come home safe each and every night.

Over the past 3 months, Central Electric has experienced a rash of blinking lights that have tested the patience of our employees and our members. We have asked you to call and report to us when you see interruptions in your power supply. It may seem at times that you are calling a lot, and that the situation is not improving, but your calls do help.

One cause of these interruptions was occurring at a remote pasture service. Starlings were flocking to the top of a transformer and causing blinks. The installation of that transformer has been redesigned to prevent this from happening again. We found glass insulators and glass lightning arresters that were damaged from recent storms. We have also found cattle rubbing on poles so hard that the overhead conductors would slap together. These causes and others, when combined with problems on the transmission system, have made for a trying summer for our linemen.

In last month's newsletter, I provided information on the increase in wholesale power rates from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. I also revealed that East River Electric Power Cooperative was absorbing the majority of those increased costs through the end of 2016. This has allowed Central Electric to maintain your current electric rates through the end of the year. We know that our wholesale power costs are increasing in January of 2017. We are including this information into our plan of work and budget for 2017 and will present this information to the Board of Directors to evaluate in November.

"We know that our wholesale power costs are increasing in January of 2017."
See pg. 10 for more information on our wholesale power.

In May of 2016, the full D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decided to review the litigation around the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. Their decision by-passed the usual process of having a three-judge panel hear the litigation first. As a result, oral arguments are

scheduled for September 27th. It is extremely rare that the full court hears cases without an earlier three-judge panel review, and is an indication that this is an extraordinary case. No matter the D.C. Circuit Court decision, I anticipate there will be an additional round of appeals before this issue is truly decided.

We are fast approaching the presidential election and sometimes we may think that our voice is not being heard. Do yourself a favor and speak up for rural America. Visit the Co-ops Vote web site at www.vote.coop and take the quick and easy pledge to become a Co-op Voter. By doing this, you will be joining co-op members across the country in sending a powerful message, "America's electric cooperatives are voting in 2016 and expect our elected leaders to address the issues facing rural communities."

With 42 million members in 47 states, electric cooperatives can stand together as a powerful voice in this year's election. I hope you will join me in taking the pledge and going to the polls in November.

Central Electric Cooperative Connections

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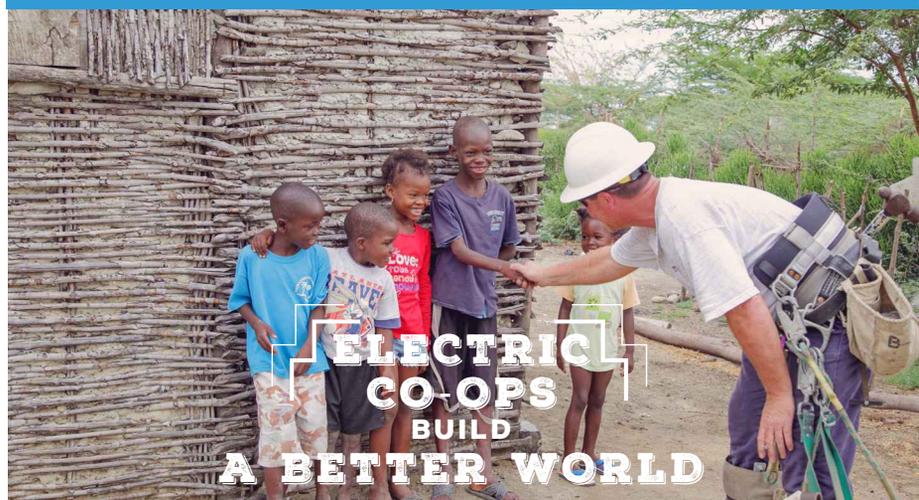
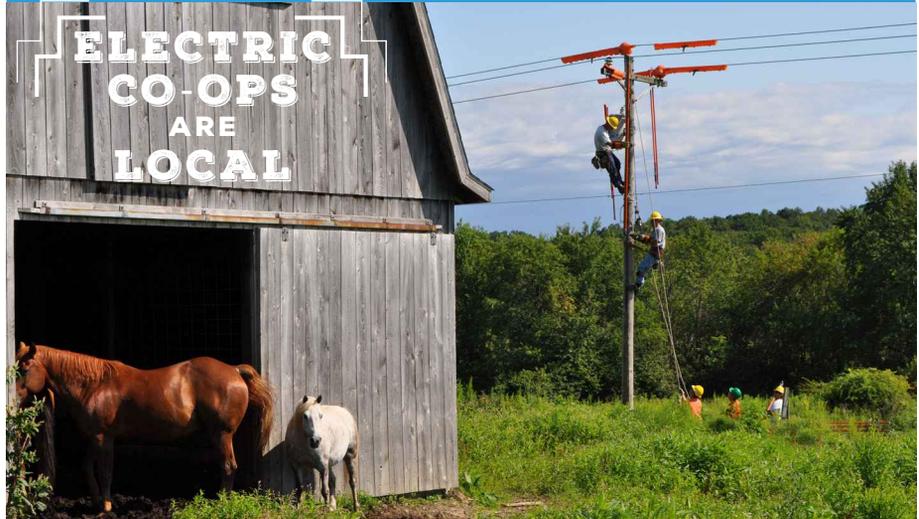
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Co-op Month October 2016 #coopmonth



Fall Electrical Safety Tips

As the calendar makes its way ever closer to October, we find ourselves preparing for fall. During this transitional period, when the kids are headed for school but the weather has yet to cool down, it's a good time to review fall electrical safety. When activities move inside, it's important to consider the electrical hazards that become more prevalent as the temperatures begin to plummet. We've put together a list of practical safety tips for both inside and outside the home.

Outdoor Electrical Safety

Electrical Wires – When using your ladder outside, especially for projects on the roof or rain gutter, be mindful of overhead electrical wires.

Battery Chargers – Unplug and store those battery chargers for yard tools that won't be used until next spring.

Outdoor Devices – Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture. Cover any exposed electrical outlets and check outdoor electrical cords for damage or a faulty connection.

Leaves/Debris – Keep fallen leaves away from outdoor outlets, power cords and outdoor lighting. Also make sure that tree debris is kept away from the air conditioner condenser.

Cold Weather Tools – Inspect the electrical tools that you will be using for fall yard work. Make sure to check the cords for wear and tear – and either repair damaged equipment or replace it.

Outdoor Lighting – Less sunlight in the fall will mean the exterior lights to the house will be on longer. Check the lights to ensure that the bulbs are the correct wattage and that any cords have not been damaged over the summer.

Indoor Electrical Safety

Electric Blankets – Make sure that you inspect all of your electric blankets for worn areas both in the fabric and on the electrical cord. Never tuck an electrical blanket under a mattress or animals to sleep on them.

Space Heaters – If you use a space heater, inspect it and have a quick test run before running it this season. Be mindful of space heater placement. Always allow at least a foot of space around the perimeter of unit and never leave unattended toddlers in the same room with one.

Smoke/CO Detectors – Every season you should check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Since the fall usually means more inside activities, including cooking and use of the fireplace, it's good practice to ensure the smoke detectors are working properly. If you own gas heater, stoves or other gas-fueled appliances, make sure that you own CO detectors – and that they are working properly.

Light Bulbs – In the fall we start to lose daylight, which will mean more dependence on indoor lighting. Check the bulbs throughout the house to make sure they are the proper wattage for the size of the light fixture.

Source: www.universalthomeexperts.com



VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT R

★ NOVEMBER 2016 ★

WHAT WILL IT DO?

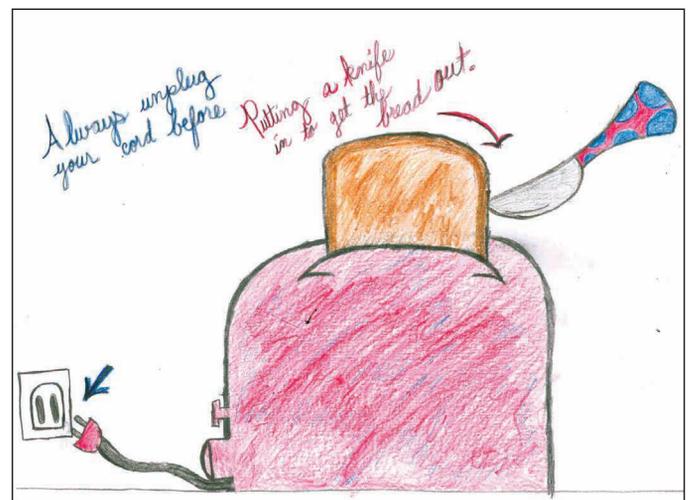
- Amendment R merely updates our Constitution's language to reflect today's marketplace for workers and employer needs.
- Employers will have an easier time finding specialized workers with a specific skill set.
- More students will have access to programs that bring them immediate employment.
- Technical institutes and career education programs will have direct access to government decision-makers for support and funding.
- Amendment R improves communication and support among the career and technical education schools and their governing body.
- As workers fill positions that would otherwise have remained empty, South Dakota's economy grows.

THERE IS NO COST TO THE TAXPAYER FOR AMENDMENT R



Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Always unplug your cord before putting a knife in to get the bread out."



Jacyne Romey, 11 years old

Jacyne is the daughter of Tracy Romey, Oelrichs, S.D. She is a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Custer, S.D.

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.

Plenty of Pasta



Refrigerator Chicken Casserole

- 2 to 2-1/2 cups diced cooked chicken
- 2 cups elbow macaroni, uncooked
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 soup can milk
- 1-3/4 cup chicken broth
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 green pepper, diced
- 1 (2 oz.) jar pimento, diced
- 1 (5 oz.) can sliced water chestnuts
- 8 oz. Cheddar cheese, grated

Mix together all ingredients in order given. Pour into well-greased 9x13-inch pan. Cover with aluminum foil. Refrigerate overnight until ready to bake. Uncover and bake at 350°F for 1 hour.

Karen Huether, Tripp

Fettuccini Alfredo

- 24 oz. dry fettuccini pasta
- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 pint heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 dash garlic salt
- 3/4 cup grated Romano cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add fettuccini and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain. In a large saucepan, melt butter into cream over low heat. Add salt, pepper and garlic salt. Stir in cheese over medium heat until melted; this will thicken the sauce. Add pasta to sauce. Use enough of the pasta so that all of the sauce is used and the pasta is thoroughly coated. Serve immediately.

Jillian Nedved, Harrisburg

Tomato Basil Linguine

- 1 lb. Brie cheese, rind removed and cut into small pieces
- 4 large tomatoes, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1-1/2 lbs. uncooked linguine
- Shredded Parmesan cheese

In a large serving bowl, combine Brie, tomatoes, basil, oil, garlic, salt and pepper. Let stand at room temperature for up to 1-1/2 hours. Cook linguine according to package directions; drain. Toss with cheese mixture. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson

Sausage and Pepper Spaghetti Pie

- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1/2 lb. Italian sausage, casing removed
- 1 cup thinly sliced green bell pepper
- 1 cup thinly sliced onion wedges
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 tsps. Rosemary leaves
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. oregano leaves
- 1 tsp. thyme leaves
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 8 eggs

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, heat oil in large ovenproof skillet on medium-high heat. Break up sausage in skillet. Add bell pepper and onion; cook and stir 5 minutes or until sausage is browned. Add tomatoes, rosemary, garlic powder, oregano, thyme and salt; cook and stir 10 minutes until most of the liquid has evaporated. Beat eggs in large bowl. Add spaghetti and 1 cup of the cheese; mix well. Stir into mixture in skillet. Cook on medium-low heat 5 minutes or until bottom is set. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake at 350°F for 8 to 10 minutes or until center is just set and cheese is melted. Cut into 8 wedges to serve.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 367, Total Fat 19g, Cholesterol 246mg, Sodium 754mg, Carbohydrates 28g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Protein 21g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Spaghetti Corn

- 1 can creamed corn
- 2 cups broken spaghetti
- 1 stick melted butter
- 1 can whole corn
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese
- Onion, optional

Combine all ingredients; pour into buttered casserole. Bake at 350°F for 25 minutes with lid off and an additional 20 minutes with lid on.

Nikki Larson, Hayti

Pasta Bake

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 3 cups penne pasta, cooked and drained
- 1 (24 oz.) jar spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1-1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Brown beef and drain. Add pasta, sauce and 1/2 the Parmesan cheese, mixing well. Spoon into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Top with remaining cheeses. Bake at 375°F for 20 minutes or until heated thru.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

Please send your favorite crockpot, holiday treat and soup 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 2016. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Safety **FIRST**

Look Up, Look Down and Look Around

THE APPROACH OF FALL BRINGS HARVEST, end-of-the-year home improvement projects and other activities that can bring people outdoors near power lines and other electrical equipment.

In 2015, the insurer of electric cooperatives reported that there were 99 electrical contacts nationwide that year. Unfortunately, these contacts led to numerous injuries and 13 fatalities.

The largest number of reports came from things – from booms, cranes and buckets to antennas, flag poles, ladders and trees – making contact with overhead power lines.

Electric cooperatives strive to keep these contacts at zero. Cooperatives have these tips for staying safe:

Stay Clear

- Do not store equipment near or under power lines. Not only can the equipment be damaged in an accident, but workers climbing on the equipment can be harmed as well.
- Be careful when working around bushes or trees as they can easily hide electrical lines and other equipment.

Be Careful Around Trees

If you plan to cut down a tree, make sure no power lines are nearby. If you cut down a tree, and it falls on a power line, don't touch it or try to move it. Contact your Central Electric immediately.

Finally, you should never plant trees directly under power lines. Short trees should be planted at least 25 feet away from power lines, while medium trees should be planted at least 40 feet away.

Always call 8-1-1 before you dig to have underground lines, pipes and cables identified.

Vehicle Accidents: Stay in your Vehicle

Accidents between vehicles and power lines can be extremely dangerous. If you are ever involved in an accident that includes downed power lines, follow these simple steps:

- Do not leave your vehicle; it's the safest place for you.
- Wait for emergency workers and local electric crews before exiting as they will ensure the lines are completely de-energized.
- If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the



Every 6 minutes

an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

Digging in to electric and other underground utilities can pose problems and possibly fatal situations. Being aware of where the above ground components – such as green cable boxes shown below, pad-mount transformers and other devices is also important.



vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, “bunny hop” to safety. Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

- Be aware that, after an accident with a pole, wires can fall at any time.
- Downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, but this is not always the case. Treat all downed wires as though they are energized.
- Remember, most power lines are not insulated. The coating on the lines is for weather proofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current.

• The tires of the vehicle do not insulate it from electrical dangers. Follow the above safety precautions even if the car has rolled and is upside down or on its side. The vehicle is the path to ground for the electrical current. So while you remain in the car, you are safe. If you step out of the car, you are in danger of becoming the path to ground.

• If you come upon the scene of an accident involving downed power lines, avoid the area around the downed line entirely and do not touch the vehicle, as everything from trees to manhole covers can become energized.

If you have any questions, please contact Central Electric.

Use Extreme Caution When Burning Ditches

It is common practice in Central Electric’s service area for some members to control weeds and clean debris by burning ditches in the spring and fall seasons. Left unattended, these fires can damage or even destroy everything in their paths, including your cooperative’s utility poles, fiberglass enclosures and underground attachments to poles.

Electrical poles are treated with a protective coating that keeps moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing it to rot. Even if a pole appears to be slightly scorched or blackened, this protective coating has been damaged. The “life” of the pole has been shortened or the pole may even have become weakened and now a safety hazard or future power outage cause.

The person who starts the fire or owns the property is liable for such damage. Central Electric would like to remind you to do some planning before you begin burning. It is much less expensive to prevent a pole from being damaged than to pay for a new pole.

If you are planning on burning ditches or fields, clear the weeds or vegetation at least four feet around the base of all poles and wet the base of the pole with water before beginning to burn. If the fire gets out of hand and a pole becomes engulfed in flames, call the fire department immediately and notify Central Electric. Do not spray water close to the electrical conductors as this could cause serious injury or electrocution.

Report any fire damaged poles or underground enclosures to Central Electric. Not reporting the damage may cause a serious accident in the future.



Members' Democratic Participation

Co-op Annual Meetings Give Members a Voice

By
Brenda Kleinjan
and
Meghaan Evans

EACH AND EVERY YEAR, COOPERATIVE MEMBERS are encouraged to attend their local cooperative annual meeting and exercise that most fundamental of democratic principles – the right to vote.

Your cooperative is not owned by far away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. It is run by a democratically elected board of directors – a board who is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

A cooperative members' vote is his or her say in the business dealings of their cooperative, whether it be their electric cooperative, telephone cooperative, grain or elevator cooperative or similar businesses. That vote by the very same people using the business' products and services is what sets co-ops apart

from other types of businesses.

Votes for candidates for local boards of directors are not typically flashy affairs with big campaigns. In many cases, a nominating committee works to find interested people to stand for election. At other cooperatives, members petition to run for the board. The end result is that an individual is selected to represent his or her neighbors in making decisions that ensure their homes, farms/ranches and businesses are best served by the cooperative.

At the end of the day, the members hold the power with their vote.

The directors of your local cooperative are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them





Photo Courtesy Southeastern Electric Cooperative/Marion, S.D.

Left: A banner hoisted between two bucket trucks welcomes members to their annual meeting in Lennox this June. **Opposite Page:** The annual meeting format allows members to learn more about issues facing their cooperative on a national, state and local level. **Inset:** Future co-op members, such as Brooklyn Kodet at her co-op annual meeting in Bird Island, Minn., in March, often win prizes selected just for kids.

too. And don't forget – members of a local cooperative are eligible to run for the board – that includes you!

Each year, thousands of co-op members in South Dakota and western Minnesota will attend their

co-op's annual meeting. These meetings are designed for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and – perhaps most importantly – vote to elect the board members or approve bylaw changes.

Many co-ops seek to make these annual meetings community events, offering meals, kids' activities and entertainment. Some also offer prizes to members.

The food, games and prizes are often considered the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event.

The annual meeting is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting local communities and cooperatives? For example, in the past year, many cooperatives have talked about the federal Clean Power Plan. While national press coverage of the plan gives far-off perspectives, the co-op annual meeting gives attendees the opportunity to learn first-hand what impacts the plan may have on their local cooperative and, perhaps more meaningfully, on the members' monthly electric bill.

The annual meeting is an opportunity to learn more about the topics that impact you and talk

about what local individuals, working as a community, can do to address our most pressing challenges and take advantage of available opportunities.

The meeting also affords members the chance to visit with others in the co-op community – it's

also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by the cooperative and get to know your co-op staff. The annual meeting makes it possible for co-ops to gather feedback from members by providing a forum where they can let the co-op know how it can better serve you and your family.

A democratic and open election is one of the many elements that make electric cooperatives stand out from other utilities. Having a voice in who makes the major decisions that directly affect your life and your family is a right we all share as Americans. We all vote for our state and federal Congressional representatives, but not every American has the right to vote for those who will represent community interests within their electric utility. You have that right, so why not exercise it?

Rest assured, no matter what happens, electric cooperatives remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but all cooperative members are encouraged to take part in helping their cooperative improve how it delivers that service.



Photo Courtesy Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association/Danube, Minn.

Not every American has the right to vote for those who will represent community interests within their electric utility. You have that right, so why not exercise it?

WHAT IMPACTS MY RATE\$?

A WHOLESALE POWER PROVIDER PERSPECTIVE

Who supplies my power?

Basin Electric is the provider for 138 electric cooperatives across nine states. Those cooperatives in turn serve just under 3 million consumers consisting of residential, commercial and industrial loads in urban, suburban and rural areas.

Basin Electric, alongside the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), provides electric power to East River Electric. East River then provides power to Central Electric.

Basin Electric was created by its members to provide power beyond (WAPA) could provide. At first, this was a modest percentage. In the past 50 years, however, that has changed dramatically. By year-end 2016, the cooperative will hold more than 6,500 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity, and will have produced approximately 30 million megawatt-hours in annual sales. To put this into perspective, one megawatt typically serves 800-1000 homes.

138
CO-OP MEMBERS



NEARLY
3.0
MILLION
MEMBER
CONSUMERS



9
STATE
SERVICE
TERRITORY

Basin Electric serves its membership through owned and operated resources along with purchase power contracts. The cooperative holds a diverse generation portfolio mix designed to best serve its members with low-cost, reliable power. Generation resources include coal, natural gas, nuclear waste heat (known as recovered energy), wind and hydro. In order to balance resources with actual load, Basin Electric and its members continually undergo vigorous load monitoring and load forecasting processes.

What is impacting Basin Electric's bottom line?

Lower than anticipated member sales: very mild weather conditions, a decrease in grain drying and irrigation loads, as well as an impact on commodity prices which affected Dakota Gasification Company. Decreased revenue from non-member sales (surplus sales): decline in market prices for electricity, due to low natural gas prices and an influx of wind generation into the system.

Added costs to operate generation facilities: installation of emissions control technologies due to EPA regulations.

How is Basin Electric working to keep rates manageable?

Keeping rate increases manageable begins with the most efficient use of what co-ops have. That includes looking at facility operations and administrative functions. The cooperative is in full austerity mode, which includes a hiring freeze. About \$100 million in expenses was taken out of its consolidated budgets for 2016. For example, Dakota Gas responded to



NEARLY \$100 MILLION
EXPENSES TAKEN OUT OF CONSOLIDATED BUDGET

the decline in revenue by reducing expenses by approximately \$57 million. These reductions were accomplished through a combination of direct budget cuts and delay of projects, which shifted spending into future periods.

- From a policy perspective, Basin Electric and its membership are fully engaged to ensure co-op members' voices are heard in the courts, on Capitol Hill and within the Environmental Protection Agency. The co-op is litigating the Clean Power Plan.

EMISSIONS CONTROL TECHNOLOGY **\$1.6 BILLION** OPERATE AND MAINTAIN CONTROL **\$181 MILLION**

- Basin Electric has a team that reviews current and proposed regulatory activities that could in any way impact the cooperative.

Generation and transmission investments needed to reliably serve the membership:

extreme growth and need for more assets in certain service territories alongside low oil and natural gas prices, resulting in lower than anticipated revenue.

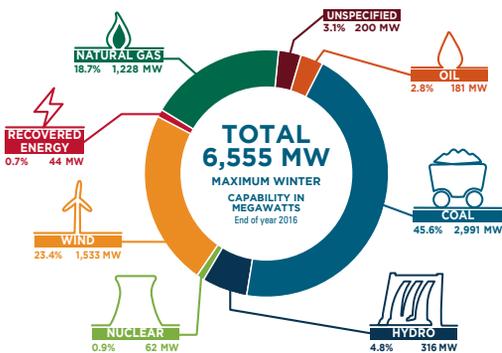
This team is also evaluating potential technology innovations which could keep coal as a sustainable and viable energy source going into the future.

Decreased revenue support from non-electric or subsidiary businesses (Dakota Gasification Company):

Through Basin Electric's for-profit subsidiary, Dakota Gasification Company, it owns and operates the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. The Synfuels Plant manufactures natural gas and has typically contributed financial support to Basin Electric. Even though the subsidiary has diversified its products to cushion the impact of low natural gas prices, DG has experienced a significant across-board drop in commodity prices and is unable to provide dividends to Basin Electric in 2016.

- Over the last decade, Basin Electric mitigated its risk by diversifying its energy portfolio to ensure the most reliable and cost effective power supply possible. The co-op added more than 1,500 megawatts of wind generation capacity and installed more than 1,200 megawatts of natural gas resources.

- Basin Electric's Market and Asset Management department developed comprehensive market mitigation strategies to help offset dramatic swings in commodity prices.



October 14th of Cooperative Month: Coop-Connections Card Day

During Cooperative Month, October 14 will be recognized nationwide as Co-op Connections Card Day. The Co-op Connections Card provides discounts to our members, as sponsored by local and national businesses.

Simply show your card at any of these participating businesses and receive the sponsored discount. For a full list of local and national discounts, visit <http://www.connections.coop/>.

Thank you to these local businesses for offering discounts to our coop members!

AAA South Dakota, Mitchell
Save \$15 on a NEW Membership by waiving the entrance fee. FREE atlas with insurance quote.

Advantage Auto Glass, Mitchell
10% off windshield replacement. \$10 off windshield repairs.

County Fair Food & Fuel, Mitchell
5 cents off per gallon of gas/fuel

Dakota Sunset, Mitchell
5 cents off per gallon of gas/fuel

Double D Body Shop, Woonsocket
\$5 off windshield chip repair.

Ken's Service, Gann Valley
10% off tire repair services.

M & H, Mitchell
5 cents off per gallon of gas.

Mega Wash, Mitchell
\$1 off automatic car wash.

Northside Sinclair, Mitchell
5 cents off per gallon of gas/fuel.

Westside Sinclair, Mitchell
5 cents off per gallon of gas/fuel

Village Bowl, Mitchell
Bowl 2 games get the third game free.

AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Chamberlain
10% off rack rate - not valid with any other offer.

AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Mitchell
10% off rack rate - not valid with any other offer.

Mitchell Econolodge Motel, Mitchell
10% discount.

Mitchell KOA, Mitchell
10% discount May 1 - October 25.

Daylight Donuts and Bake Shoppe, Mitchell
Donut & Regular Coffee for \$1

Domino's Pizza, Mitchell
\$3 off any large pizza at regular price - carry out only.

Rob's Short Stop, Mitchell
Large nachos with chili and 16 oz fountain pop for \$2.75

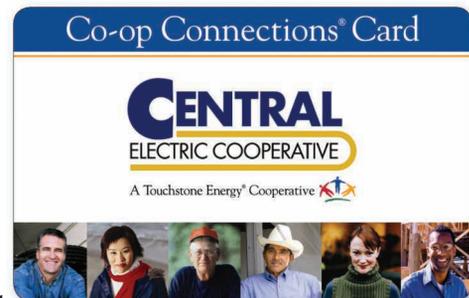
Avera Home Medical Equip, Mitchell
10% off cash items only.

Hard Drive Central, Mitchell
10% off regular price of any one item or service.

The Little Red Hen, Mitchell
\$5 off any 22 oz Yankee Candle at regular price.

Merchandise Outlet, Mitchell
10% off on boots, some exclusions apply. Not good with other discounts.

Mueller Lumber Company, Mitchell
10% off regular priced hardware store & lumber merchandise. 5% off in stock regular priced power tools cash and carry.



Oak by Amish, Etc, Chamberlain
40% discount on any "displayed" framed artwork including Tim Cox, Terry Redlin, John Green, Jon Crane and many others.

Sun Gold Trophies, Mitchell
15% off storewide, some exclusions apply.

Williams Musical & Office Equipment, Mitchell
10% off regular prices.

Aero Dyna Kleen Services, Mitchell
\$20 off on furnace and duct cleaning or 10% off on carpet cleaning.

Gene's Photography
1010 S Miller, Mitchell
1/2 price on session fees.

Hair Expressions Salon, Chamberlain
Free parafin hand treatment with pedicure. Byr 300 minutes tanning and get 100 minutes free.

New Leaf Body Spa, Mitchell
\$5 off treatment of one hour or more.

Photography Unlimited, Mitchell
1/2 price on session fees.

R M Associates, Mitchell
Farm or personal income tax \$125 for appointments made by December 1st. All short form income tax returns 1040A and 1040EZ \$15.

Think Before You Aim and Fire

By
Brenda Kleinjan

Below: Each fall, a reminder to be safe while hunting greets visitors to FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D.

WHETHER IT'S CARELESSNESS OR INTENTIONAL vandalism, shooting at or near power lines or associated equipment can create big problems.

Any responsible hunter or outdoors person knows that before pulling the trigger, one is to be certain of what lies beyond one's target.

"Be sure of what you're shooting at," said Roger Crom, a gun safety instructor from Watertown, S.D., who is also responsible for safety education for the state's electric cooperatives.

"You have to be sure you know what your target is and what your back stop is," Crom said, who has instructed about 150 students a year for the past two decades on gun safety.

"A .22 shell can travel about a mile-and-a-half and high-powered shells can travel 3.5 to 4 miles," Crom said. And, shotguns can have a range of 90 to 100 feet, but the spray pattern widens out.

Crom noted that one doesn't shoot at water or

rocks. Or power lines, for that matter.

"The immediate danger in shooting at a line is that it could break and fall down putting the shooter or nearby people or animals at risk," said Crom.

And, the damage isn't always immediate.

"It can fray and cause problems down the line," said Crom.

While the potential for damage caused by bullets to electric equipment is a concern, the frequency of the problem has been decreasing.

"It's not as much as it used to be. During the earlier dove hunting times, people were shooting them off the power lines causing frays. Now, the rules for hunting call for further set backs," said Crom.

According to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Park's web page on mourning dove hunting, one is not to hunt doves on or within 50 yards of a public road nor is one to shoot at a bird that is not flying.





Left: Crews at FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D., found bullet holes in an cabinet this fall. The damage from the bullets did not cause immediate outages, but did weaken the equipment.

Crom said most hunters are responsible, but that the “slob” hunters are causing the problems. “These are the ones shooting transformers or using a high-power rifle to shoot transformers or the insulators off of lines.”

Sometimes the damage caused by a poor decision is unintentional, such as when a hunter takes aim at birds sitting on a power line, assuming the spray of his or her shot won’t spread far or cause damage. However, the BBs often hit the conductor, sometimes breaking the strands of wire that form the line or simply nicking a strand causing it to weaken and become vulnerable for failure at a later – and often inconvenient – time.

“Often, the dove hunters don’t even realize the damage they’ve caused,” said Rob Vetch, line superintendent at FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D. “They shoot a dove and the BB penetrates the wire and weakens it. As time progresses, it wears that wire down.”

“Then, the temperature will hit 20 below and tension is on that wire and “poof” – it breaks,” said Vetch.

Sometimes, the shot will cause the wire to fray which will be noticed during annual line patrols conducted by co-op crews to assess the condition of the co-op’s equipment.

“On line patrol, every year you run across frays that when they go up and make the repair, they know it was shot,” said Vetch.

While an errant shot can have devastating consequences, possibly more concerning are the vandals who purposefully take aim at co-op equipment.

“You often wonder why it’s being done,” said Vetch.

“To me it’s like a stupid kid doing something he shouldn’t be doing; they have a gun and looking for something to shoot,” said Vetch. “They’re not thinking of the damage it could cause.”

And, that damage creates risks that could potentially involve peoples’ lives.

When underground cabinets, transformers and even substations are shot at, the damage isn’t always

immediately apparent.

Just this September, FEM’s crews found evidence of a cabinet being shot.

“We have no idea when it happened. Our crews were out GISing our system,” said Vetch, referring to the process co-ops are using to record all electric equipment and its locations into geographic information systems.

“I look at my guys going in there, if something is knicked it could arc and injure them. Or, I could have one of my guys working on the other side of that equipment when it’s being shot,” said Vetch.

“It’s just plain being foolish,” said Vetch.

Vetch remains optimistic that the damage was not intentional and is more an issue of ignorance rather than intent.

“I hope that it’s the kid having fun and not the 40-year-old drunk or the person with a grudge,” said Vetch.

No matter the cause, it’s preventable and can be avoided.

“It’s just a matter of using common sense,” said Matt Eldridge, line superintendent at Oahe Electric Cooperative in Blunt, S.D.

“Shooting so close to a power line is not a good idea,” said Eldridge. “It causes frays of the wire and makes the line weak.”

Like FEM’s employees, Oahe Electric crews don’t always find the damage right away.

“Usually, we find the damage during line patrol or when there’s an outage and the line burns down,” said Eldridge, noting that fall and winter seem to be the seasons with greater problems.



Left: A bullet dented portions of the electrical equipment inside the underground cabinet that FEM Electric Association crews found damaged by gunshots.

Wessington Springs Service Center Open House

An open house and ribbon cutting was held on Monday, August 22 for the new service center in Wessington Springs. A ground breaking ceremony was initially held on May 26, 2015.

The 60' x 85' building contains a warehouse, storage area, and office for the Wessington Springs Crew. This crew includes Foreman Don Patton and Journeyman Lineman Phil LaBore. This service center will store equipment and other means needed to provide reliable electric service to Jerauld and Buffalo counties.

Along with Central Electric members, employees, and directors, members from the Wessington Springs Chamber and Development and Mayor Melissa Mebus were present for the ribbon cutting.



Pictured left to right: WSACD board members Jon Niemeyer; Jason Zacher; David Gaulke, CEC Director for Buffalo Co.; Mette Ness, WSACD board member; Lisa Sall, WSACD Director; Quinton Burg, WSACD President; Mayor Melissa Mebus; Mark Reindl, CEC Director for Jerauld Co.; Philip LaBore, Journeyman Lineman; Don Patton, Foreman; Duane Wolbrink, CEC Director for Aurora Co. and President; Bernetta Burghardt, CEC Director for Miner Co. and Secretary; Ken Schlimgen, CEC General Manager; Butch Morrison, CEC Director for Davison Co.; Todd VanWalleghen, CEC Director for Sanborn Co. and Vice President; Jim Headley, CEC Director at large.

Operation Round Up® Applications Available



One of the governing principles of electric cooperatives is "Concern for Community," which includes working for sustainable development of our local

communities. Central Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for Operation RoundUp program funds. Operation RoundUp is a voluntary program where members' bills are rounded up each month, and the extra cents flow into a charitable fund. Funds will be granted to worthy individuals or organizations to benefit our local communities.

The next application deadlines are November 1, 2016 and May 1, 2017.

Funds will be awarded each December and June; the next application deadlines are November 1, 2016 and May 1, 2017. The Operation RoundUp Board of Trustees will review the applications. Full funding guidelines, applications and a listing of the Board of Trustees can be found online at www.centraleccoop.org or by contacting Courtney Deinert at 605-996-7516 or 800-477-2892.

Applicants need not be members of Central Electric Cooperative; however, they must reside in or directly influence the Central Electric service territory.

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Heating System Inspection? *Already?*



Lincoln Feistner
Sales/Project Manager

Before the cold fall and winter nights set in, homeowners should make a service appointment to have an annual pre-winter furnace check-up.

A heating system could quickly wear itself out without annual maintenance. Once a central heating system has been sitting idle for several months, the home's heating system and furnace should be inspected and serviced prior to turning up a thermostat and using heat.

A winter inspection also prevents potential furnace or heating system problems. Early detection can be important if you think about the cost of an emergency repair. An emergency repair call could cost a homeowner up to twice as much as a repair which had been taken care of during routine maintenance.

Some residential heating system maintenance or troubleshooting may be done by homeowners, such as the cleaning of equipment or replacement of air filters. Other issues are best done by a qualified technician who can do a more thorough examination of a home heating system. A

qualified furnace technician will have no problem with any necessary repairs or adjustments.

The goal is to detect potentially dangerous problems such as a cracked heat exchanger pumping deadly carbon monoxide into your home or a heating system that simply stops working due to poor maintenance and worn out parts. A Central Electric HVAC technician will come to your home to conduct a series of heating efficiency tests as well as safety tests. This will include the inspection of the venting system, ductwork, thermostat, electrical system, the blower operation, and additional assessments of the overall health of your furnace:

- Check / Service thermostat operation
- Check / Service furnace ignition system
- Check / Service for proper combustion
- Check/ Service coils
- Check / Service blower operation
- Check / Service area around furnace for hazards
- Check / Service and replace filters and clean electrostatic filters
- Check / Service exhaust vent system
- Check / Service all limit and safety switches
- Check / Service condensation pump / lines for condensing furnaces

Should any heating system problems be found, our technicians will discuss them with you as well as any potential hazards and the cost of any needed repairs. Most repairs may be performed at the time of the tune-up. Call and schedule your tune up today!

Fall Furnace Tune-Up Special

Furnace Tune-Up
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Regional Dateline

September 21-25

South Dakota Film Festival
Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2697

September 24

22nd Annual Radio Chili
Cook-off, Watertown, SD
605-882-6269

September 24

South Dakota Women's Expo
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

September 24

Sweat for Vets, 5K Run, 2K
Walk, 2K Kids Run, 10 a.m.
Cabelas, Mitchell, SD
Contact Angie Mueller at
605-770-0617

September 24

12th Annual OutKast Car
Show, Parade 11 a.m., Show
Downtown until 4 p.m., Dance
8 p.m. Old Time Rock N' Roll
at Corn Palace, Mitchell, SD
For entering or questions, call
Dave Linke at 605-630-4874 or
Dan Lang at 605-999-9134

September 24

Great Downtown Pumpkin
Festival, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

September 24-25

Pioneer Power & Toy Show
Menno, SD, 605-387-5166

September 29-October 1

Custer State Park Buffalo
Roundup & Arts Festival
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

September 30-October 1

Oktoberfest, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876



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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

October 15-January 3

2016 Pheasant Hunting Season
Statewide, Pierre, SD
605-223-7660

November 5

DCS Fall Fling Vender and
Craft Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dakota Christian School
Corsida, SD, Contact Val
Hubers at 605-680-3573

October 1

11th Annual Custer Stampede
Buffalo Art Auction, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

October 1

27th Annual Buffalo Wallow
Chili Cook-off, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

October 1

Bierbörse, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

October 1

Prairie Village Hobo Marlin
Pumpkin Train, Madison, SD
605-256-3644

October 8

Carrie Underwood:
The Storyteller Tour
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

October 8

Strawbale Winery Harvest
Festival, Renner, SD
605-543-5071

October 9

28th Annual Farm, Toy & Doll
Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Codington County Extension
Complex, Watertown, SD

October 13-15

Wild West Songwriters Festival
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

October 14

Pheasants Forever Banquet
8 to 9 p.m., American Legion
Hall, Wessington Springs, SD
Contact Darwin Wheeldreyer
at 605-280-0768

October 15

28th Annual Fall Craft Fair
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Elementary
Gym, Wessington Springs, SD

October 15

Dare to Dream Conference
Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
Convention Center, Rapid City, SD
605-361-3171, sdparent.org

October 22

Ducks Unlimited Banquet and
Auction, 6 p.m. social hour
7 p.m. supper, 8 p.m. live
and silent auction
American Legion Hall
Wessington Springs, SD

October 29

12th Annual Holiday
Shopping Extravaganza
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Davison County Fairgrounds
Mitchell, SD, Contact Cindy
at 605-996-8563

November 11

Brown Family Concert, 7 p.m.
Dakota Christian School
Corsica, SD

November 18-19

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft
Show, Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD
605-248-2526 or
nanvan@santel.net