

# BASIN TODAY

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE | SPRING/SUMMER 2023

**HELPING  
RURAL AMERICA  
BLOSSOM**



Shaun Hottell, maintenance planner/scheduler at Dry Fork Station, helps serve a meal at the Gillette (Wyoming) Senior Center. Once every month, Dry Fork Station and First Interstate Bank team up to serve lunch at the center. On those days, the seniors get their lunches for free. They aren't the only ones looking forward to these lunches; Dry Fork Station employees love giving back to their community.

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| NUMBER 1

## ON THE COVER

Tulips line the streets of Orange City, Iowa, during the annual Tulip Festival, a celebration held every May celebrating the area's Dutch Heritage. Read more in the member focus on page 10.

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# TODD TELESZ

## RELIABILITY TO THRIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD

The people who are the Basin Electric membership come from many walks of life. We range from farmers and ranchers, to small business owners and large industrial facilities, to members raising a family, working remotely, or enjoying life in rural America. Living, working, and playing in rural America is constantly evolving.

As we strive every day to provide reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity for our members (produced safely by our employees), we recognize the significance of electric cooperatives to the communities and people of our service territory.

It is important we listen to the people we serve and who benefit from the value Basin Electric provides to our membership. Every story we hear reinforces who we work

for and the importance of providing reliable electricity long into the future.

Our members and stakeholders received our 2022 Annual Report and our first-ever Sustainability Report in their mailboxes in early May. The Annual Report shares the stories of members who have been able to thrive as a result of the reliable electricity we provide. They have stories of lives impacted by evolving markets and new opportunities, made possible significantly by how Basin Electric and our membership continues to successfully adapt to a dynamic and complex world.

The story of Meghan and Travis Will resonates with me because of the trajectory of Meghan's life when her dad moved his family from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to

Bismarck, North Dakota. In 1979, he purchased Capital Scale Company in Bismarck, and became a member of Capital Electric Cooperative, a Basin Electric Class C member. Meghan and her husband, Travis, bought the business in 2018 and continue her father's legacy.

Meghan has a 1983 photo that shows her as a little girl, helping her dad install the scale in the livestock ring at Kist Livestock in Mandan, North Dakota. Forty years later, Capital Scale Company continues to service and certify the scale that has weighed countless head of cattle raised and brought to market by area ranchers.

As Meghan and Travis have spent their days selling, servicing, and certifying scales, reliable electricity has powered their business and the operations of their customers.

Access to reliable and affordable electricity creates immense opportunities for people like the Wills. Basin Electric creates this access to electricity through a variety of ways. Our all-of-the-above energy strategy means we generate electricity using both dispatchable and non-dispatchable generation from diverse fuel sources. The geographic diversity of both our generation and the load we serve means we have access to generation and transmission that can transmit electricity efficiently and economically, accessing better market prices to ensure we are serving our members at the lowest price possible.

Our cooperative is also investing our members' capital into a multi-year effort to build additional generation and

transmission assets to ensure we have enough supply and infrastructure to power our growing membership. Shovels started turning this spring even before the snow was melted at the Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV construction site where Basin Electric is building nearly 600 megawatts of dispatchable generation in western North Dakota. In parallel, our team is working with landowners, permitting agencies, and surveyors to prepare to build more than 300 miles of high-voltage transmission lines to move electricity from both dispatchable and non-dispatchable generation sources to our member cooperatives to deliver to homes, schools, hospitals, industrial sites, and more.

Through energy booms, stock market rallies and crashes, global pandemic challenges, and rising interest rates and inflation, reliable electricity is the foundation that drives quality of life, economic prosperity, economic opportunity, and resiliency in rural America.

Reliability has been and always will be the key to helping rural America thrive.



*Todd E. Telesz, CEO and general manager*

## Construction begins on solar project

A new solar project is on its way to providing affordable, renewable electricity to Basin Electric’s members.

The Wild Springs Solar Project, a 128-megawatt project in Pennington County, South Dakota, has begun construction. Basin Electric will purchase 114 megawatts of the output.

The project, owned and operated by National Grid Renewables, is the largest solar project to be built in South Dakota.

 <https://bit.ly/WildSpringsSolarConstruction>



## Member manager named Touchstone Energy board president

Tim McCarthy, CEO of Sioux Valley Energy, a Basin Electric Class C member headquartered in Colman, South Dakota,

has been elected to serve as the next president of the Touchstone Energy board of directors.

“We are so excited to have Tim as board president. He brings strong leadership experience and demonstrated support for Touchstone Energy that will help us continue to grow and serve our members across the country,” said Jana Adams, Touchstone Energy’s executive director.

“Helping cooperatives across the country provide the best service to members is what Touchstone Energy is all about,” McCarthy said.

 <https://bit.ly/McCarthyTouchstonePresident>



## Dakota Gas sees record truck and rail shipments of urea in May

For three days in a row at the end of May, Dakota Gasification Company beat previous records for urea fertilizer truck shipments. On May 25, the Basin Electric subsidiary reached the final new all-time truck

shipment record in a single day in five years of urea production at Dakota Gas.

The record-after-record-after-record days helped put an exclamation point on a record month for all-time shipments of urea, both truck and rail.

“Our staff has spent the last few months focused on building fertilizer inventory and getting ready for the spring sales rush. The teamwork between the plant operations, maintenance, marketing, and logistics teams has been truly impressive. Now we are seeing our hard work come to fruition,” said Dale Johnson, Basin Electric senior vice president and Synfuels Plant manager.

 <https://bit.ly/UreaRecord>



## Basin Electric receives United Way awards

Basin Electric was given six awards, including the top corporate and employee investor, at Missouri Slope Areawide United Way’s annual luncheon and meeting on March 30 in Bismarck, North Dakota. The event recognizes those who have played a role in serving their community.

“Through our Commitment to Community Campaign, employees raised \$138,725 last year, proving that bettering our communities and rural America is not only part of the work we do every day but is also at the core of who we are as individuals,” said Basin Electric CEO and General Manager Todd Telesz.

Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principles on which Basin Electric was founded more than 60 years ago.

 <https://bit.ly/2022UnitedWayAwards>



## Basin Electric’s 2022 Annual Report available

The 2022 Basin Electric annual report focuses on how our cooperative provides reliable and affordable electricity to power a growing membership. Member features throughout the report highlight the stories of member-owners who have been able to thrive in their daily lives, supported by cooperative electricity that is reliable and affordable.

The report presents a review of 2022 business and financial activities, how Basin Electric protects the membership from price volatility in the market, and how strong commodity prices and operational excellence at Dakota Gasification Company and record-setting demand and surplus power sales set the stage for a year of incredible financial performance.

The cooperative’s first-ever Sustainability Report was mailed along with the annual report.

The reports were sent to member-system directors and managers, representatives of financial entities, and congressional delegates in Basin Electric’s nine-state

service area. It will also be provided to employees and affiliated organizations.

The report is also available for download on Basin Electric’s website.

 <https://bit.ly/2022AnnualReport>

## Cliff Gjellstad, former Basin Electric president, dies



Cliff Gjellstad, Basin Electric board president from 2009-2011, died on May 8.

Prior to serving as board chairman, he had been vice president for six years and a Basin Electric director since 2000. Gjellstad

represented Basin Electric Class A member Central Power Electric Cooperative in Minot, North Dakota, and Class C member Verendrye Electric Cooperative in Velva, North Dakota. He began serving as an electric cooperative board member in 1985.

Wayne Peltier, current Basin Electric board president, served alongside Gjellstad on Basin Electric’s board for many years and said he was a true cooperative leader.

 <https://bit.ly/304fnMU>

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Contractors perform mass grading and excavation of the reciprocating internal combustion engine laydown and power block areas. The laydown area is where parts and equipment will be delivered and staged until they are ready to be installed.



# CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON PIONEER GENERATION STATION PHASE IV

Construction has begun on Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV (PGSIV), Basin Electric's newest generation project near the existing Pioneer Generation Station northwest of Williston, North Dakota.

Snow removal and earthwork began March 22 and was focused in the area where the combustion turbine and generator will be located. "As they move dirt, they dig what they call a 'bathtub,' which is typically down as far as where the bottom of piping will be located and the bottom of the foundation. Then they work their way back up with gravel," says Darrell Slavick, Basin Electric's North Dakota field coordinator.

On April 24, they began drilling auger cast piles, which are used for ground stabilization. "Basically a hole is drilled and filled with concrete, and those piles or pilings will help hold the weight of the turbine foundations," Slavick says.

Slavick says safety is the main focus throughout the project.

Once complete, PGSIV will generate about 600 megawatts of electricity. The new natural gas-fueled generation will be a combination of combustion turbine and reciprocating engine units to provide dispatch flexibility while addressing near-term load growth and long-term grid stability in the Bakken region.



When drilling auger cast piles for ground stabilization, an auger drills down 34-65 feet. As the auger is slowly removed, cement-like grout is pumped down through the center of the auger, backfilling the entire hole. Rebar cages are then installed toward the top of the hole to a set elevation and allowed to cure.



# FIXED ON PHYSICS

## HOW BASIN ELECTRIC MAINTAINS RELIABILITY AND STABILITY WHEN THE LAWS WON'T CHANGE

By Tracie Bettenhausen

Do you love learning mind-blowing facts about physics?

- Did you know time moves more quickly the farther you get from earth? It's called time dilation and it's related to Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity.
- Water can freeze and boil at the same temperature, and it's possible when the pressure of the water is just right. It's called triple point, and the three states of water – solid, liquid, and vapor – coexist in equilibrium.

Now let's talk about electricity. Let's focus on the G&T (generation and transmission) function of the electric business.

- At every second of the day, the amount of electricity being generated needs to match the amount of electricity people are using.

Tom Christensen, former Basin Electric senior vice president of Transmission, Engineering, and Construction, addressed the physics of electricity during the cooperative's 2022 Annual Meeting: "The Laws of Physics are immutable, non-negotiable, and not subject to the rules of man, and the Laws of Physics will prevail every time. . . . If the grid is going to operate reliably and maintain 60-hertz frequency, which by the way is absolutely critical, then generation needs to match load."

Basin Electric has 3 million members across a nine-state service territory. Each of these members is represented by meters. Each meter keeps track of the electricity used by hot water heaters, blenders, irrigation systems, oil rigs, data centers, and the list goes on.

The Laws of Physics say that at the very second electricity is being used, it must be generated somewhere.

So, every time you turn on a light switch, imagine somewhere machinery is turning to generate electricity and move it out onto the transmission grid to your home.

### Keeping electricity reliable

Resource adequacy is the term used to capture what Basin Electric must maintain to ensure reliable electricity. In other words, the resources used to generate electricity and maintain reliability have to be adequate to meet the load (the electricity being consumed).

Diverse generation sources across a widespread geographical region are vital to Basin Electric achieving resource adequacy. How each unit operates and the fuel each uses both lend to the diversity of the generation.

There are two ways generation can be categorized: dispatchable and non-dispatchable.

Dispatchable generation has a readily available fuel supply like natural gas, coal, or fuel oil. The generation unit is usually situated near the mines, wells, pipelines, or tanks that provide their fuel. Non-dispatchable generation is usually a renewable resource like wind or solar power that generate when the wind blows or the sun shines. Both dispatchable and non-dispatchable generation provide value to the cooperative's all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Geographical diversity is a unique strength Basin Electric has thanks to the vast geographical area our member cooperatives occupy and the location of our generating units in relation to that area. The high-voltage transmission system is the link between those units and our members. Barbara Sugg, CEO of Southwest Power Pool, has said, "The transmission grid is the single most complex piece of technology ever built by mankind."

Our generation units are built in several different transmission regions and in both the Western Interconnection and Eastern Interconnection.

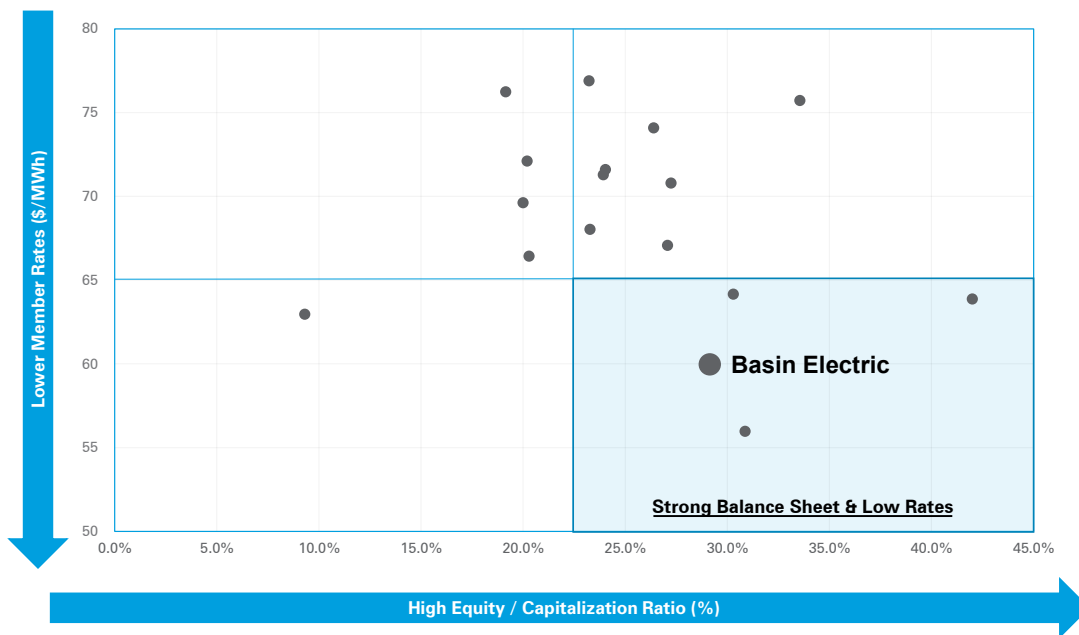
The people who use the electricity, or the load, are located in both interconnections as well. Basin Electric also has access to the facilities called DC ties to move the electricity between interconnections as it is generated to where it is needed, at the most optimal prices.

Basin Electric owns and maintains more than 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission line and is investing more than \$600 million over the next five years in new transmission. Managing how the electricity moves to where it is used is a job done by thousands of highly trained people at several levels from regional transmission organizations, to federal power agencies, to generation and transmission cooperatives, to distribution cooperatives. The balance described by Tom Christensen at the beginning of this article between generation and load, keeping the system at 60 hertz, is vital to keep the grid reliable.

Moving beyond the “what” and “where” of generation and transmission, maintenance is “how” the system remains reliable. Regular maintenance is conducted to ensure systems are ready to run when they are needed, and a program is in place to replace aging transmission infrastructure over the next several years.

“There’s been a lot in the news recently about the country’s aging infrastructure. Our system is not immune to the passage of time either, but we pride ourselves by being ahead of the curve in evaluating and upgrading our substation facilities,” says Gavin McCollam, Basin Electric senior vice president and chief operating officer. “More than five years ago we embarked on a systematic, methodical program to ensure our members’ high-voltage assets are reliable. Also, with the implementation of modern, high-capacity, high-strength conductors in our new transmission projects, we are confident the transmission system across our service territory will be reliable long into the future.”

## FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND AFFORDABLE RATES



This graphic shows how Basin Electric compares to other the generation and transmission electric cooperatives in the nation. Basin Electric is one of the few cooperatives that has been able to maintain low member rates and a strong balance sheet.

## Keeping rates stable

While it might not be one of the Laws of Physics, it is just as fundamental that the price of electricity must remain affordable and predictable for people to pay their bills, plan their budgets, and grow their businesses.

While inflationary pressures and rising interest rates are impacting all sectors of the economy, Basin Electric was able to lower rates and return value to the membership at the end of 2022 through bill credits and patronage retirements. Take a look at the graphic on page 8, which shows where Basin Electric ranks amongst all the generation and transmission electric cooperatives in the nation. Basin Electric has been able to maintain lower member rates and a strong balance sheet.

The cooperative's diverse generation fleet, alongside market purchases, is key to making this work. Nearly 60% of Basin Electric's generating capacity is dispatchable generation that can be counted on to run when electricity is needed. For our coal-based units, that comes from being located near a mine, what is known as a mine-mouth facility, or striving to have enough coal at the generation unit to fuel the unit for more than 30 days.

Our natural gas-based units are located close to where electricity is needed, and Basin Electric's Marketing team procures the units' fuel needs on the Northern Border Company and WBI Energy pipeline systems. Basin Electric has a unique advantage in a situation when natural gas prices spike, and that is our subsidiary, Dakota Gasification Company. The company's facility, the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, turns lignite coal into synthetic natural gas which it sells on the market.

Our Marketing group includes the use of this natural hedge in Basin Electric's natural gas strategy execution. On an annual basis, a majority of Basin Electric's natural gas consumption for its generating units is offset by the Synfuels Plant's natural gas production. This strategy allows Basin Electric to reduce its risks, in particular its price risk, and allows for reduction of risk and volatility across the cooperative.

As an example, during times of extreme spikes in market prices for electricity or natural gas, Basin Electric has some safeguards or natural offsets in place — the cooperative has both dispatchable generation and a facility that produces natural gas.

The Marketing team also helps the cooperative leverage its geographical diversity to capture additional economic value from our assets for the membership. Basin Electric has the ability to purchase lower-priced power in the Eastern Interconnection and flow it across the ties, selling it into markets in the West where prices have been high. This value is passed on to our membership, and it has also created grid stability and reliability for consumers in the West when they need it.

## Fund for future risk

Under unique circumstances of high commodity prices and high prices for surplus power, 2022 was a year where everything fell into place for Basin Electric. High natural gas prices and fertilizer prices meant good margins for Dakota Gas' products. High prices for surplus power in the Western Interconnection and the ability to capture non-member sales meant Basin Electric was able to capture margins and de-risk the cooperative in several ways.

These margins were moved to a Rate Stability Fund which is a savings account to be used in years that don't turn out as well financially as 2022 did. This fund is yet another cushion for Basin Electric's membership to stave off rate increases during financially challenging years.

"Our Rate Stability Fund is a classic example of rural American prudence — we have saved something for a rainy day," says Todd Brickhouse, Basin Electric senior vice president and chief financial officer. "While our diversified resources help us absorb market volatility, we cannot mitigate all risks. The Rate Stability Fund is designed to keep our rates stable for a period of time when these risks materialize."

The cooperative business model provides the governance to help Basin Electric make sound decisions with members' capital. The owners of the cooperative, the membership, are the same people who pay the electric bill, determine rates, and make strategic decisions about the direction the business will go.

The Laws of Physics are immutable, as is Basin Electric's dedication to providing reliable electricity at stable rates to its members.

People of all ages don their Dutch costumes as part of the Tulip Festival. Pictured are Ellie and Payton Hutton, son and daughter of Brett and Brittany Hutton. The Hutton family is a member of North West REC.



# EVERYTHING'S COMING UP TULIPS

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF ANNUAL TULIP FESTIVAL

*By Angela Magstadt*

In Orange City, Iowa, on the third weekend of every May, "If you ain't Dutch, you ain't much."

Whether it's in their blood or they are just Dutch at heart, some 100,000 people flock to northwestern Iowa for the annual Orange City Tulip Festival, a three-day celebration of the area's Dutch heritage that has been held for over 80 years.

Basin Electric Class C member North West Rural Electric Cooperative is headquartered in Orange City and serves the rural homes, farms, and businesses surrounding the city. While the Tulip Festival doesn't take place on co-op lines, the impact it has on its members is immeasurable, both financially and in terms of community pride.

Junior and Kim Hoogland are members of North West REC and are co-owners of Woudstra Meat Market, a business that has been a fixture in Orange City since 1926. Woudstra's not only sells meat but recently expanded to include food and gifts imported from the Netherlands and items it sells on consignment for local small businesses that don't have a storefront. The store is located on the street where most of the events are held, so it sees tremendous traffic during the festival.

"The Tulip Festival is a way for our community to celebrate our ancestors and how hard they worked to get here," says Martina Hoogland, Junior and Kim's daughter and Woudstra's marketing manager. Many locals and visitors dress in traditional costumes and local children



Kim Hoogland and her daughter, Martina, at the counter of Woudstra Meat Market during this year's Tulip Festival. Kim and her husband, Junior, are members of North West Rural Electric Cooperative and co-own the store with Steve and Vonda Post, who are also members of the co-op.

learn Dutch dances in physical education class from first grade through high school. Martina says she fondly remembers performing those dances in the Volksparade, or people's parade, while she was growing up.

From a business standpoint, Martina says the festival brings in new customers from surrounding states and beyond, and the businesses in the area get a lot of exposure they wouldn't otherwise get. "There are times during the festival when the line at our store is from the counter to the middle of the street. In addition to the store, we have two food stands where people can stop for a meal or snack. Businesswise, it's like a second holiday season tucked into three days in the middle of the year," she says.

And just like the holidays, preparations for the Tulip Festival begin long before the actual event. Martina says they start ordering for the festival in January to allow ample time for imported items to arrive in time for the festival. "The days heading up to the festival are long, hard, exhausting days, but when people start coming in, they bring in such positive energy and it rubs off on us. It's so exciting meeting people and getting to experience the Tulip Festival for the first time through their eyes," she says.

Kim and Junior have been members of North West REC since they got married over 30 years ago, and Junior

was a member before that. In addition to co-owning Woudstra's, they own and operate a dairy farm on co-op lines. "We have about 2,600 animals and the business is buzzing 24 hours a day," Kim says. "Electricity is necessary for all aspects of our operation from the milking parlor to the maintenance area, and we couldn't function without it. North West REC has always been so good to work with. They are extra helpful and have always been there for us and our dairy farm through thick and thin." Steve and Vonda Post, the other owners of the meat market, are also members of North West REC, owning and operating a hog farm on co-op lines.

North West REC Executive Assistant and Human Resources Coordinator Renee Wynia has lived in the community since graduating from college 25 years ago and has volunteered her time during the festival ever since.

"It takes a lot of community volunteers to put on something like this," Wynia says. "Over the years I've been a parade usher, taken tickets and given tours at the Century Home (a 1900s-era home filled with artifacts), an usher for the night show (an annual musical production), and for the last several years I've worked at the Little White Store making and selling poffertjes." Poffertjes are a Dutch treat resembling mini pancakes. At the Tulip Festival they are topped with rum butter and powdered sugar and served with a little Dutch flag.

Wynia says her favorite part is meeting new people. “They come from all over,” she says. “I love hearing their stories – where they’re from, how they heard about the festival. This year, I met a doctor from Dubai who moved to Sioux Falls (South Dakota) a couple years ago. After living here for so many years, the Tulip Festival reminds me just how special this little town is. It’s so fun to see new people experience the festival for the first time. It gives me a new appreciation for the festival and our community.”

For many years, the Sioux County Regional Airport, a member of North West REC, has hosted a fly-in breakfast on the last day of the Tulip Festival. “We put the word out to surrounding airports, clear out a hangar, put in some temporary griddles, and cook breakfast for anyone who flies or drives in,” says Line Service Manager Lane Mars. “It’s an opportunity for pilots to fly in, have breakfast, and hopefully take in some of the festival before heading back home.” Mars says they typically serve around 1,000 people, and this year 20 aircrafts flew in from several cities in Minnesota and South Dakota.

Community organizations do the cooking at the fly-in breakfast. Since 2019, Living Water Community Church in Orange City has served the breakfast. This year the free-will donations went to the church’s youth group.

Mars says the airport temporarily adds extra outlets in its hangar to host this event because it doesn’t have

enough to power all the griddles, coffee machines, and crockpots in addition to its normal electric needs. “A local contractor comes out and does that for us and we get fantastic service from North West REC that day and all year long,” he says.

North West REC Communications and Member Services Coordinator Emily Vander Velde says the Tulip Festival is an annual tradition for many of the co-op’s members and employees who live in the area around Orange City. “They went with their parents and grandparents as little kids, participated in it in middle and high school, and now take their own kids and grandkids to it,” she says. “Growing up in this community, I have attended the Tulip Festival most years since I was very young, and now I bring my own kids to it.”

Martina Hoogland says at the parade at the end of the festival, alumni are invited to play with the band – the same song they played when they were in school – and it symbolizes the end of another year’s festivities. “Every time I hear it I get goosebumps on my arms and tears in my eyes,” she says. “It makes me feel so proud and blessed to be part of a community that comes together to celebrate its heritage and put on such a wonderful event.”

Plans are already underway for next year’s festival, which will be held May 16-18, 2024.

The Dutch tradition of scrubbing the streets is carried on at the festival. Boys and men throw buckets of water on the streets while women and girls follow with brooms ensuring the streets are clean for the Tulip Queen and her court, which consist of five high school seniors selected by the public.



Two large-scale carbon capture projects held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Wyoming Integrated Test Center located at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station in early May. Pictured at the groundbreaking are Basin Electric CEO and General Manager Todd Telesz, MTR Director of Process Research and Development Dr. Tim Merkel, MTR Carbon Capture Product Manager Brice Freeman, Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon, and President of MTR Carbon Capture Brett Andrews.



# INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR CARBON MANAGEMENT

*By Kalli Senske*

Reliability has ensured Basin Electric's members can provide opportunities for the breadbasket and energy corridor of America. To provide reliable and affordable electricity to our members, Basin Electric uses an all-of-the-above generation strategy. We use coal, natural gas, hydro, renewables, and market purchases to generate the electricity we deliver.

The world is headed towards power generation under a carbon-constrained future, so Basin Electric has made a responsible decision to put resources into figuring out how to capture and store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to continue utilizing fossil fuel-based generation while reducing emissions.

## MTR pilot project

It's vital that we gather economic and technical information on CO<sub>2</sub> capture of coal-based generation facilities to continue utilizing this reliable resource.

Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station in Gillette, Wyoming, is a coal-based generation facility that provides 405 megawatts (MW) of reliable, dispatchable generation to our members and the market. This unit is a critical piece of Basin Electric's promise to keep reliability front and center in what we do. Dry Fork Station is amongst the newest coal-based facilities in the country, making it a

great location to host the Integrated Test Center (ITC).

Along with in-kind contributions from Basin Electric, the ITC has been supported by several partners. Basin Electric Class A member Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association committed \$5 million, the State of Wyoming committed \$15 million, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association provided an additional \$1 million.

Membrane Technology and Research (MTR), a tenant at the ITC, broke ground in May on its carbon capture technology project that is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) large-scale pilot carbon capture program.

Membranes have emerged as a compelling capture technology which offer distinct advantages over amine-based capture alternatives. They are simple, compact, and environmentally friendly with no emissions, requiring only electricity for operation. MTR's project will use the equivalent of 10 MW of flue gas from Dry Fork Station to prove the technology.

"MTR was awarded \$52 million to begin Phase 3. There will be roughly a year of construction, and then operating it and working the kinks out to prove the technology," says Basin Electric Manager of Mechanical Engineering Jim Sheldon.

In parallel, a FEED (front-end engineering and design) study was conducted by MTR considering capture from the entire flue gas stream at Dry Fork Station. Both the large-scale carbon capture pilot project and FEED study were funded by the DOE.

The FEED study was done to give stakeholders a solid idea of the cost of implementing the project at the size needed to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from the flue gas at Dry Fork Station.

"A project like this is important to get an idea of how much a nascent technology like this costs. We want to know

what the investment entails, but the capital cost is only part of it. The operating costs are ongoing. We would need to have more people, use more power, and have utilities, and all those things add up," says Basin Electric Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Gavin McCollam. "In addition, some of the power that would normally be sent to the membership would now be used for carbon capture. This is necessary information to inform our decision-making process."

"Essentially we need to understand if it makes business sense to move forward, and if not, what additional DOE grants would be required to advance the technology to make it commercially feasible," says Sheldon.

The FEED study that was completed last June assumed 70% flue gas capture. The next phase will be building on the original FEED study to determine if 90% carbon capture is achievable. After completion, Basin Electric will have an estimated cost for commercial-scale carbon capture technology at this location and can make educated decisions for the future. To date, no one has been selected to fund an additional FEED study.

"Our learnings from the work done at the ITC could provide us a pathway to a technology solution to allow us to continue operating responsibly and also ensure the reliability our members expect," says Basin Electric CEO and General Manager Todd Telesz. "We will not sacrifice reliability, but we will remain dedicated partners in achieving the mutual goals of providing reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity, 24/7/365."

## CarbonSAFE

The Wyoming CarbonSAFE Project, which stands for Carbon Storage Assurance Facility Enterprise, is a carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) project site funded by the DOE and located at Dry Fork Station.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of CarbonSAFE have been completed. Phase 1 consisted of a pre-feasibility study to determine



whether there were any obstacles to project success. Phase 2 focused on site characterization; a 9,800-foot well was drilled to study four different geological formations and a 3-D seismic survey was conducted to study the subsurface away from the well.

Phase 3 will finalize site characterization, permit wells for CO<sub>2</sub> storage, integrate carbon capture technology from Wyoming ITC (working with MTR), and conduct environmental analysis for commercial operation.

“We need to amend the scope and schedule of the project due to the requirements to apply for Phase 4, so Phase 3 won’t end this fall as originally anticipated. The critical path for the remaining Phase 3 activities seems to be completing the environmental assessment which started earlier this year. The extension of the project would allow for completion of the environmental assessment and completion of a supplemental MTR FEED study focusing on 90% capture,” says Sheldon. “These efforts all lead up to the information needed to complete the business case and understand the impacts of CCUS at Dry Fork Station. We should have a lot more information by the end of 2024 with these items complete and demonstration of the MTR technology at the 10-MW scale.”

There is also potential to utilize 45Q tax credits with this project.

“We are excited to be a part of the pursuit to find a means of reducing carbon while continuing to use coal to power our economy,” says Telesz.

### Dakota Gasification Company

Since 2000, Dakota Gasification Company has been an early leader in CCUS. Located near Beulah, North Dakota, the Great Plains Synfuels Plant currently captures approximately 2 million metric tons of the plant’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which are piped to Saskatchewan for use in

enhanced oil recovery.

The Synfuels Plant’s CCUS efforts are being taken one step further with the Great Plains Carbon Sequestration Project. This innovative project will benefit the environment by sequestering and permanently storing CO<sub>2</sub> from the Synfuels Plant. The project includes the 6.8-mile Dakota Carbon Pipeline and an injection well which will be located on reclaimed land owned by The Coteau Properties Company. The CO<sub>2</sub> will be injected more than a mile below the surface in the Broom Creek (sandstone) formation.

### Sustainability Report

Basin Electric recently released its first-ever Sustainability Report. The report shares Basin Electric’s story regarding our leadership in environmental stewardship, renewable generation, and reclamation; leadership in carbon capture; the importance of sustainability; our commitment to the people and communities we serve; democratic member control; and more.

Every decision Basin Electric makes is intentional, and deciding to not include a carbon reduction goal in the report was no exception.

“Because the technology isn’t yet available to reach a zero-carbon goal, we felt it wasn’t prudent to set a goal we aren’t confident we could achieve at this time,” says Todd Brickhouse, Basin Electric senior vice president and chief financial officer. “We have a long history of CCUS at Dakota Gas, and we’ve invested in developing new ways to make carbon capture and sequestration an even bigger part of our story. We are committed to lowering our carbon footprint strategically and sensibly in a way that will allow us to serve our members reliably and affordably.”



# HOW WE SERVE... ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

*By Jenifer Gray*

Most of us take clean air for granted as we go about our day, never thinking about what's in the air we are breathing, while behind the scenes generation facilities like Laramie River Station, located in Wheatland, Wyoming, are working hard to ensure the air we're breathing is safe and clean.

Laramie River Station consists of three coal-based generation units that have the capability of producing up to 1,700 megawatts of dispatchable electricity. The plant is unique in that it sends electricity to two separate electrical grids: the Eastern Interconnection and the Western Interconnection. It is the second largest coal-based power plant in Wyoming, and with nearly 250 employees it plays

a vital role in providing Basin Electric and its members with reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity.

Generating that much electricity requires all hands on deck, and one critical aspect of running a coal plant is operating its environmental controls. In 2016, Laramie River Station reached an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the plant. Unit 1 was retrofitted with selective catalytic reduction technology, which is a reactor that uses catalyst layers and anhydrous ammonia to remove NO<sub>x</sub> from flue gas by converting it to nitrogen and water. Units 2 and 3 were retrofitted with selective non-catalytic reduction,

which uses liquefied urea to reduce  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions. While these controls were installed fairly recently, Basin Electric's commitment to the environment is nothing new. Stewardship of the environment has been a guiding principle since its incorporation more than 60 years ago.

While every job at Laramie River is critical to the functionality of the plant, it's the scrubber operator whose role it is to monitor equipment and to take immediate action should problems occur such as load changes, equipment failure, or if any type of abnormal operation happens. Between environmental controls and the work of the scrubber operator, dispatchable generation at plants like Laramie River Station are able to remain online to ensure reliability for Basin Electric's members.

James Wagner, a scrubber operator at Laramie River Station, is one of six operators who monitor environmental controls using wet scrubbers for Units 1 and 2 and a dry scrubber for Unit 3. Wet scrubbers work by wetting the gas, enabling the  $\text{SO}_2$  in the gas to react with limestone and be converted to calcium sulfate, while a dry scrubber uses slightly different calcium chemistry to neutralize the  $\text{SO}_2$  from the gas.

As a scrubber operator, Wagner monitors up to 25 screens in the control room to ensure equipment is running smoothly and efficiently to maintain and meet standards set by the EPA and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. He watches equipment for evidence of operating problems, controls auxiliary equipment such as pumps, fans, and compressors, and maintains levels in towers, sumps, and storage tanks. Wagner also maintains EPA compliance when load changes occur. This means

controlling flows, temperatures, air pressure, and valve positions on certain equipment as the load changes.

Being a scrubber operator means staying on your toes. Wagner says every day is different, which challenges him to keep doing better. "I'm always learning something new about how everything works together to operate and provide reliable electricity to power businesses, homes, and machinery," he says.

As part of environmental control efforts, the fly ash accumulated from Units 1 and 2 is sold for use in concrete, cement manufacturing, soil stabilization, and waste treatment. The waste slurry is made up of calcium sulfate and unreacted limestone and stored in the landfill or a lined storage pond.

The waste from Unit 3 is mixed with the waste slurry from Units 1 and 2 and is sent to the landfill. Laramie River Station also has lined ponds where waste slurry is held and reused in its systems. The pond liners were recently upgraded to conform with the EPA's Coal Combustion Residues Rule.

"We all do our part at Laramie River Station to contribute value to the cooperative," Wagner says. "The team of scrubber operators works together to maintain a safe work environment and to keep equipment running efficiently." He says he has a great crew out in the field who help him maintain equipment. "I appreciate their efforts to keep me aware of what is going on and how I am doing in the control room, along with letting me know about any problems they see. Helping each other keeps us all safe so we can continue to provide reliable electricity to our members."



Laramie River Station uses environmental controls such as wet and dry scrubbers to reduce emissions. The technology helps ensure the air we breathe remains safe and clean.



# IT'S NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

## BASIN ELECTRIC EXPERTS EXPLAIN TRANSMISSION CONGESTION

*By Angela Magstadt*

The first thing that might come to mind when you hear the word congestion is not being able to breathe due to springtime allergies or the common cold. Roadways can also be congested during a traffic jam when too many cars are plugging up the road or construction forces you to take an alternate route.

The concept is similar when referring to congestion in the energy industry – it's the lack of ability to move power freely on the transmission system. "Simply put, congestion is the result of limited transmission," says Alycia Kramer, Basin Electric supervisor of market analytics and strategy. "As more generation and load gets added to the power grid, the transmission system is running out of spare capacity, creating congestion."

While congestion has always been present on the transmission grid, it has become increasingly problematic over the past five to 10 years as additional generation and load have come online. The buildout of wind and other generation projects, along with the addition of load, has been using up the existing margin on the grid. Insufficient transmission has been added as more generation and load is added to move the electricity generated to where it needs to go.

One example of "positive congestion" in Basin Electric's service area is the Bakken region in North Dakota. "The Bakken is a high load area that is

transmission-constrained," says Valerie Weigel, Basin Electric vice president of Asset Management and Commodity Strategy. "This leads to increased market prices for our generation and load in that area. The increased prices provide an incentive for extra generation to be produced in this area."

On the flip side, Weigel says we typically see "negative congestion" in the area of Laramie River Station, a coal-based generation facility near Wheatland, Wyoming. "This area is also transmission-constrained and does not have enough transmission to move out all the generation," she says. "The negative congestion provides lower prices to the generation and load in the area that incentivizes generation to back down in this area to maintain system operating limits."

According to an April 14 article in the industry publication *Utility Dive*, a report by the consulting firm Grid Strategies reported that costs to consumers from congestion on the U.S. power grid more than doubled to an estimated \$13.3 billion in 2021 from the year before and will likely keep rising until transmission capacity is built.

Jeremy Severson, Basin Electric vice president of Transmission, says the cooperative is doing its part to help fix the problem and is on track to energize nearly 350 miles of high-voltage transmission line in western North Dakota by the end of 2027. The projects,

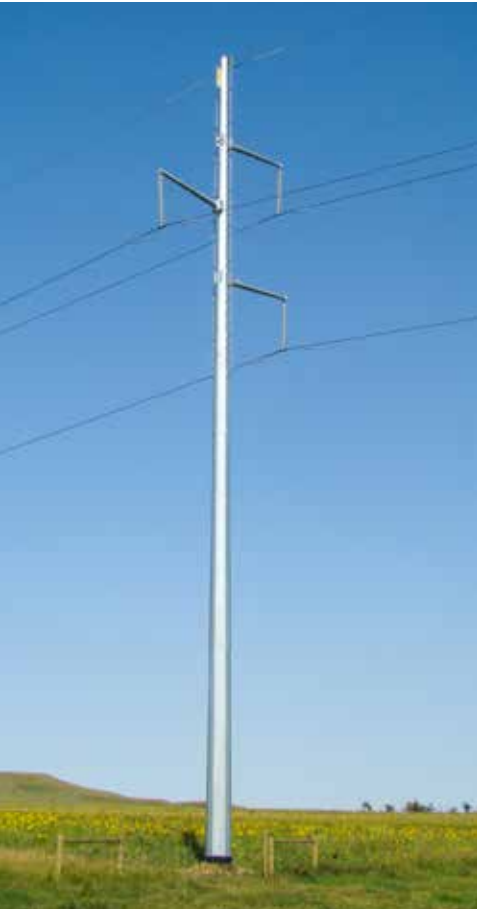
summarized below, are being constructed to address concerns with future reliability, additional load service, and alleviation of economic congestion.

“The two projects in the Bakken region (Roundup-to-Kummer Ridge and Leland Olds Station-to-Tande) are aimed at maintaining reliability as well as allowing the market to economically dispatch generation,” Severson says. “These lines will maintain and improve reliability for the load in the region as well as allow additional margin on the transmission system. That extra capacity will raise the system’s operating limits in the region and clear up the existing congestion issues we see in the market. More transmission capacity equates to less congestion, allowing for the economic dispatch of market generation to serve our membership.”

In its work to combat congestion in its system, Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is considering several recommendations regarding its congestion hedging process, some of which could have negative impacts to Basin Electric. “There is potential that we would not

continue to receive the same value from our allocations as we have in the past, so we have communicated that we are not supportive of the market-related changes to SPP’s Congestion Hedging Construct,” Weigel says. “We have also shared our views and advocated our position with various SPP working groups and the North Dakota Public Service Commission.” Basin Electric has voting members on 17 of SPP’s 24 working groups. Weigel, Severson, and Kramer are among the cooperative’s voting members.

With Basin Electric’s most recent load forecast projecting growth over the next 10 years and the clean energy transition in full swing, transmission is key to providing reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity to the people and businesses who will use it. Basin Electric has invested \$1.3 billion in high-voltage transmission and will invest another \$620 million in the next five years. That nearly \$2 billion commitment to high-voltage transmission is nothing to sneeze at – it demonstrates the cooperative family’s dedication to its members and rural America.



## TRANSMISSION PROJECTS TO ENSURE RELIABILITY AND SERVICE

Following is a list of the transmission projects recently completed and underway at Basin Electric.

### Neset-to-Northshore

230-kilovolt, 27-mile transmission line to be energized in January 2023

### Pioneer Generation Station-to-Judson

345-kilovolt, 15-mile transmission line to be energized in 2024

### Springbrook

345/115-kilovolt substation  
Includes new delivery point for Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative to be energized in 2025

### Roundup-to-Kummer Ridge

345-kilovolt, 35-mile transmission line to be energized in 2025

### Leland Olds Station-to-Tande

345-kilovolt, 175-mile transmission line and new 345/115-kilovolt substation to be energized in 2026

### Wheelock-to-Saskatchewan Tande-to-Saskatchewan

230-kilovolt transmission lines, 50 to 60 miles each to be energized in 2027



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Twenty-five \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to children of Basin Electric and subsidiary employees to further their education this fall. Recipients were chosen for their participation in school and community activities, academic excellence, work experience, and career goals.



**Isaac Anderson** is the son of Ryan (Headquarters) and Staci Anderson. He is studying mechanical engineering at University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.



**Timothy Gaab** is the son of Nicole (Headquarters) and Troy Gaab, and Christina Hansen. He will be studying mechanical engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City.



**Olivia Anderson**, daughter of Ryan (Headquarters) and Staci Anderson, will be studying music at University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.



**Kade Goebel**, son of Kristina Goebel (Dakota Gasification Company), will be studying instrumentation and control at Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.



**Brooke Burgard**, daughter of Alan (Headquarters) and Lynn Burgard, is studying nursing at University of Jamestown, North Dakota.



**Jacob Goettle**, son of Chris (Headquarters) and Kristy Goettle, will be studying civil engineering at North Dakota State University in Fargo.



**Logan Ching**, son of Kristie (Deer Creek Station) and Chris Ching, is studying energy technology at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, South Dakota.



**Colten Halvorsen** is the son of Jason (Wheatland TSM) and Allison Halvorsen (Laramie River Station). He will be studying electrical engineering technology at Casper (Wyoming) College.



**Daxtyn Eslinger** is the son of DeAnn (Headquarters) and Eric Braun and Donovan (Menoken TSM) and Kristine Eslinger (Headquarters). He will be studying electrical construction at North Dakota State College of Science, in Wahpeton.



**Katrina Hellman**, daughter of Michele (Headquarters) and Delan Hellman, is studying communications at University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.



**Brett Hoffman** is the son of Matt (Dakota Gasification Company) and Rebecca Parisien and Chris Hoffman. He will be studying mechanical engineering at University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.



**Briska Johnson**, daughter of Abon (Gillette TSM) and Heidi Johnson, is studying biology at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon.



**Klel Johnson**, son of Abon (Gillette TSM) and Heidi Johnson, is studying electrical construction and maintenance at Mitchell (South Dakota) Technical Institute.



**Ty Johnson**, son of Derik Johnson (Menoken TSM) and Nichole Schlosser, will be studying engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City.



**Adin Jungers**, son of Char (Headquarters) and Mike Jungers, is studying cyber operations at Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota.



**Kaison Kaylor** is the son of Jerard and Heidi Kaylor (both Dakota Gasification Company). He will be studying business administration at Dickinson (North Dakota) State University.



**Creed Olson**, son of Guy (Dry Fork Station) and Megan Olson, will be studying electrical engineering technology at Gillette (Wyoming) College.



**Isaac Peterson** is the son of Colleen (Headquarters) and Eric Peterson. He will be studying business administration, accounting, and law at University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.



**Sydney Rogness**, daughter of Tim (Dakota Gasification Company) and Corrie Rogness, is studying nursing at North Dakota State University in Fargo.



**Aliya Selensky**, daughter of Tera (Headquarters) and Donovan Selensky, will be studying business administration at University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.



**Thatcher Solem** is the son of Dennis (Dakota Gasification Company) and Erica Horning and Scott Solem. He is studying business administration at University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.



**Emma Vallie**, daughter of Jeanelle (Headquarters) and Daniel Vallie, will be studying civil engineering at Iowa State University in Ames.



**Garret Wallender**, son of Phil (Dakota Gasification Company) and Jennifer Wallender, will be studying mechanical engineering at North Dakota State University in Fargo.



**Mason Wick** is the son of Angie (Antelope Valley Station) and Aaron Wick. He is studying cybersecurity at Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.



**Paige Wolf**, daughter of Kenneth (Dakota Gasification Company) and Michelle Wolf, will be studying engineering and architecture at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Matthew Weigel and his daughter, Michele, both compete in shooting sports. Matthew also volunteers as a coach for the Junior Marksmanship Program.



# BASIN ELECTRIC EMPLOYEE, DAUGHTER HIT THE MARK ON FAMILY TIME

*By Angela Magstadt*

Anyone who has a teenager knows that getting quality time with them can be a “long shot.” But Antelope Valley Station Mechanic Matthew Weigel and his daughter, Michele, are able to spend several hours a week together participating in a sport they both love.

Shooting sports encompass many forms of shooting. It is both an intercollegiate club sport recognized by many colleges across the United States and sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and also an Olympic sport. A person can compete as an individual or with a club, and shooting can be a lifetime sport.

The sport involves an individual shooting a firearm at a target. There are several competitive events marksmen can participate in, including high-power rifle, cowboy action, and bullseye pistol, to name a few. There is also a Junior Marksmanship Program where youth from ages 12-20 can learn firearms safety and marksmanship.

The Junior Marksmanship Program, sponsored by the Bismarck-Mandan (North Dakota) Rifle and Pistol Association, was the program Matthew got involved in as a teenager. He says he loved the sport and actively participated in it through high school.

As often happens, college, a career, and parenthood became Weigel’s priorities, but eventually he started shooting again. When one of the youth coaches mentioned that he should get his then-12-year-old daughter involved, he asked her if she wanted to give it a try for a year. “When she started, she really took off after it,” Matthew says.

As Michele became more active in the sport, Matthew began helping with tasks such as scoring targets. A year later, when he learned the club needed more coaches, he took a step he never thought he’d take and began working on his coaching certification.

Junior Marksmanship coaches must participate in intense, multi-level courses certified by the National Rifle Association. The courses cover not only the rules and fundamentals of the sport but most importantly, they stress safety. “This is a supervised, safe sport,” says Tom Thompson, the program’s head coach. “Before every practice and every match, we hold a safety briefing with all the participants. The guns are only loaded when the shooters are in position and the command to load has been given. Fingers are never to be on the trigger unless they’re actively shooting. Muzzles are always pointed in a safe direction, usually up, when not shooting. And, we



always put a flag in the empty chamber to show that the gun is not loaded. Safety is second nature but something we never take for granted. There is no room for mistakes.”

In addition to coaching, Matthew still competes in the sport himself, and he and Michele even compete against each other in a few events. “Normally she beats me, but I’ve beat her a couple times,” he says. “Between school and work it’s really the only time we get to hang out together.”

“I like it because it’s different,” Michele says. “Guns are often portrayed as bad and the people who have them as violent. When you get involved in this sport you see how everyone involved is so nice. The coaches, no matter if you’re on their team or part of another one, give you pointers to help you improve. The people are the best part of the whole experience.”

## KUDOS



### Hovey nominated to the Greater North Dakota Chamber list of 15 Women to Know in North Dakota Business

Kelby Hovey, Basin Electric pilot and safety officer, has been selected as one of the 15 Women to Know in North Dakota Business by the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce (GNDC).

The GNDC looked at industry and geographical diversity when selecting its nominees rather than a traditional list where companies toss up the same names and lists. “We wanted a grassroots effort based off the unsung heroes who don’t take time to put their name forth and never would,” says Amanda Remyse, GNDC vice president of operations and outreach. The list includes women who hustle, communicate, and collaborate to get the job done.

Hovey uses her skills as a pilot to safely fly people in company aircrafts to airports across the country. This allows passengers to more efficiently use their time to conduct business across the cooperative’s nine-state service area and beyond. She also pilots low-level powerline and pipeline patrol flights and manages several safety programs in her department.

“I am honored to have been selected amongst such a remarkable group of women,” Hovey says.



### Schnabel named Bismarck State College Graphics Design and Communications Outstanding Student of the Year

Joy Schnabel, Basin Electric member relations assistant, was named Bismarck State College’s (BSC) 2023 Graphics Design and Communications Outstanding Student of the Year.

“Choosing a student of the year is rarely easy, but Joy meets all the criteria with five stars. She is very talented, always has a positive attitude, is fun to work with, and is a great ambassador for the BSC Graphic Design and Communications program,” says Jason Lueder, BSC assistant professor of Graphic Design and Communications. “Joy gives everything she does 100%.”

Schnabel works as a graphic design and photography assistant, filling internal design needs to serve members. Much of her time is spent working on print materials such as brochures, banners, and stickers. She also designs digital graphics for social media, digital news monitors, and for member use. “Hearing from my teachers that they see me as someone who leads and gives their all was very reassuring since it can be difficult to balance work and school,” Schnabel says. “I’m so incredibly grateful!”

## RETIREES



**Myron Singleton**, plant engineer at Laramie River Station, retired on Dec. 2 after 33 years with the cooperative. Singleton worked on multiple projects over the years including turbine repairs, low NO<sub>x</sub> burner installation, and overfire air installation. Prior to working at Laramie River Station, Singleton was a project engineer for Nevada Power Company.

“Myron was one of my many mentors when I was first hired at Basin Electric, and I will always appreciate the knowledge he passed along to me,” says Ed Rademacher, mechanical engineer at Laramie River Station. “He loved to tell stories and many of them will be passed along for years to come. I’ll miss heckling him when the Wyoming Cowboys would beat his Utah State Aggies.”

Rademacher says Myron liked to educate summer interns with words of wisdom such as, “Every solution breeds new problems,” “When in doubt, build it stout out of something you know about,” and “Garbage in equals garbage out.”

In retirement, he plans to camp, travel around the country, and work in his shop at home.



**Kerry Neuberger**, maintenance field technician at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 9 after more than 26 years with the cooperative. The Hazen, North Dakota, native began as a temporary employee in 1994 working as a welder before becoming a permanent employee in 1996. In 2001, Neuberger moved into general maintenance.

In retirement, Neuberger is going to do more hunting and fishing. In addition, he has some small home remodeling projects on his list and plans to keep farming. “Doing grandpa things” is also a priority.



**Owen Price**, control room operator at Leland Olds Station, retired on Dec. 15 after more than 33 years with the cooperative.

“Owen was one of those quiet, steady operators who never got rattled or flustered by any of the stressful situations we deal with somewhat regularly. Owen was the guy who would stand there for a couple minutes, then come up with a simple solution that no one else thought of, probably because of his many years of experience. His steadiness and calmness during those stressful events are some of the things I’ll miss about him. He also had a knack for finding the easy way to get things done – in a good way,” says Stan Burling, Leland Olds Station shift supervisor.

“LOS was a very good place to work. Good people. Good location. Good pay,” Price says.

In retirement, he plans to travel, fish, and golf.



**Randy Thielman**, process operations field technician at Dakota Gas, retired from the cooperative on Dec. 26 after more than 39 years working in steam generation.

“Randy had an excellent work ethic and a great attitude. He was very knowledgeable and was always striving to improve the operation,” says Tim McEvers, Dakota Gas pipeline/utilities operations supervisor. “DGC will miss his expertise.”



**Robin Richter**, mechanic at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 27 after 37 years with the cooperative.

“Robin took on any job and got it done. If he hadn’t done the work before, he would take time to figure it out himself,” says Seth Nehl, Dakota Gas weld/pump/machinist shop supervisor. “He was a joy to visit with and was very easy to talk to.”



**Steve Pouliot**, operations section manager at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 29 after 33 years with the cooperative. Pouliot held many positions prior to his role as operations section manager including process and operations engineer, byproducts operations superintendent, operations manager, maintenance manager, and engineering manager.

“I’ve known Steve for over 15 years. He’s a genuinely good person and would help anyone with anything, even if it was someone he just met,” says Trinity Turnbow, vice president and operations manager at Dakota Gas. “Steve has been a go-to person when it comes to large, challenging projects. He was always willing to give advice and share his knowledge and experiences. I will miss our talks and laughter about work and life and just seeing and visiting with him every day. I wish Steve the best in his retirement and hope it is filled with all the fishing and Vikings-watching he can handle.”

In retirement, he plans to move to his lake house in northern Minnesota where he and his wife, Linda, will enjoy the outdoors fishing, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, skiing, and trail riding.



**Simon Schmidt**, control room operator at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Dec. 29 after 39 years with the cooperative.

“Simon was a dedicated employee who was always willing to help out in any way he could,” says Jared Borlaug, operations shift manager. “I’ll miss the knowledge he accrued over his career, along with his fishing reports. I wish him all the best in retirement.”

“I had a good experience working at AVS,” Schmidt says. “It’s the only job I ever had aside from working on the farm.”

In retirement, he plans to travel, fish, golf, and “play it by ear.”



**Rick Volk**, gas production and section manager at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 29 after 26 years with the cooperative. Prior to working at Dakota Gas, the Hazen, North Dakota, native worked for Madison Gas & Electric.

“Rick was a dedicated employee who genuinely cared about the success of DGC. He has high expectations of himself and others, which drove him to constantly make improvements to his area of responsibility,” says Trinity Turnbow, vice president and operations manager. “Rick did what was right, not what was easy, and didn’t get rattled during difficult situations. I will miss his advice and our talks about work, family, and life. Rick has become a good friend and I know I’ll be calling him long after he retires.”



**Mark Wasem**, control room operator at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Dec. 29 after 37 years with the cooperative.

“Mark was a knowledgeable operator who dedicated his career to shift work,” says Jared Borlaug, Antelope Valley Station operations shift supervisor. “I wish him all the best in retirement and hope he enjoys his time in Arizona.”



**Curtis Wiedrich**, operations supervisor at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 29 after 39 years with the cooperative. Wiedrich started working at Dakota Gas a week after he graduated from high school. He

worked in the boiler house during the initial startup of the plant as an operations technician and spent the last 18 years as the operations supervisor.

“Curtis always had a positive attitude and a good sense of humor,” says Aaron Marquardt, section manager. “He was always on the lookout for ways to improve or optimize the units and was even known to call in on his day off to check on them. He really cared about the plant. His wealth of knowledge and experience will be missed.”

In retirement, he plans to do a lot of camping over the summer, ride his motorcycle, and finish some projects on the farm. In the winter, he plans to travel south where it’s warmer.

## RETIREES



**Bill Baer**, network security analyst III at Headquarters, retired on Dec. 30 after 21 years with the cooperative.

“Bill was a dedicated employee who showed up every day and worked to better the cooperative,” says Bob Meckle, Basin Electric manager of Network and Telecom. “Bill constantly worked to improve the cooperative’s security posture and to make sure our solutions were reliable. I’ll remember him for his interesting naming conventions during device configuration.”

Baer’s job was to keep all of Basin Electric’s network assets safe from cybercriminals. During his career, he designed and implemented firewalls to keep all systems secure. “In the earlier days it was easier to do that, but in today’s world it’s much more complex,” Baer says.

In retirement, he plans to do woodworking, camping, hunting, fishing, and traveling.



**Larry Boeck**, senior system administrator at Headquarters, retired on Dec. 30 after 18 years with the cooperative.

“Larry is incredibly knowledgeable and took pride in his work,” says Jeff Przybylski, Basin Electric manager of Enterprise Infrastructure. “He looked for better ways to do things, and I could rely on him to quickly come up with a plan of action. Larry’s expertise and dedication to the team will be greatly missed.”

“Working at Basin Electric has truly been an enjoyable and rewarding experience from day one,” Boeck says. “During my career, I have had the privilege of working with some of the greatest people in the IT field.”

In retirement, he plans to spend time at the lake and coach youth basketball.



**Pius Fischer**, vice president of Transmission at Headquarters, retired on Dec. 30 after more than 28 years with the cooperative.

Fischer has a wide variety of electrical engineering experience including the design, supervision, and management of the Basin Electric engineering and construction division for upgrades and new facility projects in generation, transmission, and telecommunication infrastructure.

“Pius is the salt of the earth. He’s a genuinely good person,” says Tom Christensen, former senior vice president of Transmission. “I’ll miss his attention to detail, his reliability, and the feedback he provided.”

“I had the distinct pleasure of working with Pius in various capacities for over 20 years, and everyone should be as fortunate as I was to have him as a colleague,” says Gavin McCollam, Basin Electric senior vice president and chief operating officer. “Pius left no stone unturned in his quest for knowledge and understanding, and he put in as much time as necessary to create a quality product. Pius’ congenial nature and dry sense of humor was certainly appreciated over the years. I will miss his trustworthy nature and his consistent personality, but mostly his day-to-day friendship.”

“The last four-and-a-half years of my career, I had the privilege of managing the transmission professionals who participate in the SPP (Southwest Power Pool) RTO (regional transmission organization) functions and model, and who maintain reliability and compliance, and determine the transmission rates for tariff recovery for all of Basin Electric’s transmission facilities,” Fischer says.

In retirement, he says he plans to “pray more, play more, fish more, hunt more, read more, serve more, and love more. With my wonderful loving wife, an expanding family of four married children and 10 grandchildren, I hope to continue living life abundantly according to God’s plan.”



**Deirdre Forstner**, senior enterprise applications architect at Dakota Gas and Headquarters, retired on Dec. 30 after 25 years with the cooperative.

Forstner worked for Dakota Gas in 1983, back when it was Great Plains Gasification Associates. After working as an operator in coal and ash handling, she left in 1986 to continue her education. In 1997, she was hired to work in IT at Dakota Gas. In 2017, she transferred to Headquarters.

“DeDe was dedicated, reliable, and customer-focused. She was a positive influence and a great example to other employees,” says Corey Perman, manager of Enterprise Business Applications. “DeDe did not intend to retire in 2022, but like many folks she could not ignore the strong financials. I came into the office on Dec. 29 at about 9 p.m. to deliver Christmas gifts to all of my employees. I thought I would be able to do this in secret without any employees being around, but there was DeDe putting in long hours to try and wrap up loose ends for customers two days before her retirement. This speaks volumes about her character.”

“Twenty-five years flew by and I will really miss all the people I worked with,” Forstner says.

In retirement, she plans to spend more time with her grandchildren and horses.



**Rhonda Fritts**, Security and Response Services (SRS) shift lead for Security, retired on Dec. 30 after 23 years with the cooperative.

“Rhonda was a steadfast fixture of the department for over two decades; she embodied dedication and professionalism in the workplace and possessed an admirable work ethic,” says Brandon Grosz, Basin Electric SRS shift lead. “Security and Response Services will never be quite the same without her.”

“Rhonda was an extremely hard worker. She was very helpful and always willing to pass on her years of experience to new staff,” says Bryan Fischer, SRS shift lead. “I wish her and her family an enjoyable retirement.”

“I’ve worked in Security at Headquarters for the last 23 years, and I’m so thankful for the great experiences and friends I’ve made during that time,” Fritts says.

In retirement, she plans to travel, fish, and spend more time with family.



**Debra Honeyman**, senior accounting analyst at Headquarters, retired on Dec. 30 after more than 12 years with the cooperative.

Honeyman started working in Internal Auditing, which helped her learn about Basin Electric and its subsidiaries. In 2013, she moved to Financial Reporting/Accounts Receivable.

“Debra was a valuable team member and helped implement and utilize Dakota Gas’ enterprise management system as well as Basin Electric’s commodity trade and risk management software,” says Darla Jensen, Basin Electric manager of financial reporting and planning. “She cared about her coworkers and was always willing to try new things; she had a real zest for life.”

In retirement, she plans to travel, spend time on Lake Sakakawea, volunteer, and garden.



**Ronnie Opp**, maintenance planner at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 30 after 25 years with the cooperative.

## RETIREES



**Karen Ulrich**, executive administrative assistant at Headquarters, retired from the cooperative on Dec. 30 after 24 years with the cooperative.

Ulrich was hired as a temporary employee in 1998 before becoming a full-time employee later that same year. She has worked in Information Services and Telecommunications, Tax and Insurance, and Financial Services.

“There are many adjectives that can be used to describe Karen’s work ethic and demeanor. Conscientious, professional, caring, and detailed are only a few,” says Steve Johnson, former Basin Electric senior vice president and chief financial officer. “I thoroughly enjoyed working with Karen and always knew that she had matters under control. Karen was proactive with her responsibilities and anticipated what needed to be done rather than waiting to be given an assignment. One could be assured that whatever she worked on would be done efficiently and without error. She was always pleasant and wore what I will describe as an infectious smile. I wish Karen a long and happy retirement.”

In retirement, she plans to spend more time tending her large garden, traveling, and enjoying time with family.



**Tracy Vaughn**, operations supervisor at Laramie River Station, retired on Dec. 30 after 32 years with the cooperative. Prior to working at Laramie River Station, Vaughn was a ranch hand.

“From the day Tracy was hired, LRS benefited from his outstanding performance. Not only did Tracy earn a retirement package – he earned the respect of everyone who worked with him, for him, and around him,” says Levi Mickelsen, Laramie River Station’s plant manager. “Thank you, Tracy. I wish you the best going forward.”

“Thank you for all that you have taught me on how to handle some of the strangest situations I have ever been caught in here at LRS. I have nothing but well wishes for you and your family in the coming years,” says Tyler Sorensen, yard and coal supervisor. “Thank you for everything Tracy. You will be missed!”

“Tracy always carried the façade of being grumpy and all business, but he wasn’t. He was a down-to-earth guy with a big heart,” says Gary Lockman, operations superintendent. “Tracy was always there when needed; a lot of times he was there even before he was needed to lend a helping hand.”



**Daniel Vega**, welder/mechanic at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 30 after 20 years with the cooperative. Prior to Dakota Gas, Vega was a welder at Bobcat.

“Dan was a great employee. He had a great attitude and was very easygoing,” says Joe Neumiller, Dakota Gas field maintenance supervisor. “He was a great fit on our crew and always kept the guys laughing. I wish Dan nothing but the best in his retirement.”



**Vickie Volk**, labor relations specialist in Human Resources, retired on Dec. 30 after 32 years with the cooperative. Volk began her career at Dakota Gas as an Electrical/Instrument administrative

assistant and has since worked in almost every area of Human Resources.

“Vickie was a dedicated and kind employee who went out of her way to assist others,” says Erica Petrowitz, Basin Electric Human Resources manager. “I will miss Vickie’s attention to detail and how she was able to offer a solution when problems were identified. I wish her the best in retirement. It was definitely earned!”

“I have met so many great people at Basin Electric/DGC. Some of my favorite job responsibilities were working closely on job descriptions, compensation, affirmative action, workforce plans, and recruitment,” Volk says. “I also enjoyed organizing family nights, fundraising for nonprofit organizations, career fairs, and serving on college committees and scholarship programs.”

In retirement, she plans to spend more time with family and friends and relax at the lake.



**Mike Wilhelm**, shift supervisor at Laramie River Station, retired on Dec. 30 after 34 years with the cooperative. Wilhelm started as a laborer and worked his way up to shift supervisor.

“Mike and I worked together off and on for 33-plus years. Mike was always willing to lend a helping hand. He had a lot of energy and reminded you of a pinball at times, bouncing from one task to another,” says Gary Lockman, Laramie River Station operations superintendent. “Mike’s knowledge and willingness to help will be greatly missed by all. I wish him the best in retirement.”

In retirement, he plans to golf and travel.



**Donavon Schnabel**, process operations field technician at Dakota Gas, retired on Feb. 5 after nearly 23 years with the cooperative. Prior to working at Dakota Gas, he was a boiler operator at ADM Co-Gen in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

“Donavon had a good sense of humor and liked to joke around with the guys,” says Paul Remmick, Dakota Gas utilities shift supervisor. “He was easy to work with, dependable, and enjoyed training the new guys. He also liked to cook!”

“I’ve been a boiler house operator at DGC working on a crew with the best bunch of guys,” Schnabel says about his job at Dakota Gas.

In retirement, he plans to continue photographing sports and wildlife, along with drumming and doing live sound and lighting.



**Brett Erickson**, electrical/instrument and control technician at Deer Creek Station, retired on March 3 after 12 years with the cooperative. Prior to working at Deer Creek Station, Erickson was a robotics technician at Hutchinson Technology.

“Brett is a Navy veteran, and we want to thank him for his service to our country. We also want to thank him for his service to the membership and helping make Deer Creek Station a great place to work,” says Jim Gerlach, Deer Creek Station maintenance supervisor. “He always had a positive attitude and a smile on his face. We wish him the best in retirement and all his future endeavors.”

“Being an employee of Basin Electric has given me the opportunity to work with an extensive group of skilled and talented people,” Erickson says. “Our goal was to get Deer Creek station operational and keep it there. The employees are a group of individuals who can come together to solve complex problems, and it has been a pleasure to be a part of that environment.”

In retirement, Erickson plans to camp and fish.

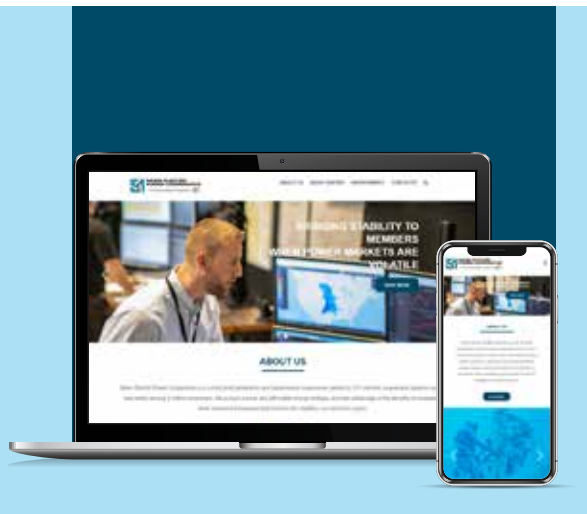
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## NEW EMPLOYEES



**Brian Aichele** began working at Antelope Valley Station as a laborer on Jan. 3. Originally from King Cove, Alaska, he was previously employed by Silver Bay Seafoods as a deck boss in Valdez, Alaska. He is currently attending Bismarck (North Dakota) State College to obtain an associate's degree in applied science and a certificate for power generation technology.



**Blake Backman**, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Jan. 3 as a maintenance field technician.



**Matt Bopp** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a maintenance field technician on Jan. 3. Originally from New Salem, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Carpenter's & Millwrights Union Local 1091 as a journeyman.



**Caleb Candrian** began working at Antelope Valley Station on Jan. 3 as a laborer. Originally from Regent, North Dakota, he is working towards a certificate in power generation technology from Bismarck State College.



**Matthew Colton** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a maintenance field technician on Jan. 3. Originally from Golden Valley, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Industrial Contractors, Inc. as a journeyman.



**Nathan Hathaway**, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working at Antelope Valley Station as a laborer on Jan. 3. He was previously employed by Bobcat in Bismarck as a welder.



**Preston Kus** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Jan. 3 as a maintenance field technician. Originally from Beulah, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Inland Truck Parts and Service as a mechanic in Bismarck.



**Jared Lange** began working at Antelope Valley Station on Jan. 3 as an instrumentation and controls technician. Originally from Hazen, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Marco Technologies in Bismarck as a service technician.



**Brodey Matthiesen**, from Mandan, North Dakota, began working at Antelope Valley Station on Jan. 3 as a laborer. He was previously employed by Sanford in Fargo, North Dakota. He received a certificate in power plant technology from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.



**Gina Ottem** began working at Laramie River Station as a lab technician on Jan. 3. Originally from Douglas, Wyoming, she was previously employed by Cameco Resources in Glenrock, Wyoming. She has a bachelor's degree in environment and natural resources.



**Cade Steffan** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Jan. 3 as a maintenance field technician. Originally from Beulah, North Dakota, he previously worked at Scheels as a hunting and fishing salesman in Bismarck, North Dakota.



**Tyler Wahus**, from Watford City, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Jan. 3 as a maintenance field technician. He was previously employed by Zuroff Repair in Glen Ullin, North Dakota, as a mechanic.





**Jared Keidel**, originally from Mandan, North Dakota, began working as a maintenance field technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Jan. 16. He was previously employed by Bobcat in Bismarck, North Dakota, as a welder/fabricator. He received an associate's degree in welding.



**Mitchell Kraft** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as an electrical and instrumentation maintenance technician on Jan. 16. Originally from Mandan, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Skeels Electric in Bismarck as a journeyman electrician.



**Corey Leingang**, from Washburn, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Jan. 16 as a maintenance field technician.



**Pete Pfeifer** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a maintenance field technician on Jan. 16.



**Shannon Vaira** began working as a GIS analyst at Headquarters on Jan. 16. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she was previously employed by McKenzie Electric Cooperative as a GIS technician in Watford City, North Dakota.



**Alan Dalbol**, from Mandan, North Dakota, began working at Leland Olds Station on Jan. 23 as an electrician. He previously worked at NextEra Energy in Mandan as a wind technician.



**Kristina Goebel**, originally from Hazen, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Jan. 30 as an administrative assistant. She was previously employed by Blue Top Steering Gears as an administrative assistant in Stanton, North Dakota.



**Aaron Hornstein** began working at Leland Olds Station on Jan. 30 as a laborer.



**Bryce Leavitt** began working at the Stegall (Nebraska) Transmission System Maintenance outpost as a journeyman lineman on Jan. 30. Originally from Gering, Nebraska, he previously worked for the City of Gering as a journeyman lineman. He received an associate's degree in powerline maintenance and construction.



**Alaina Moser**, originally from Baldwin, North Dakota, began working at Headquarters on Jan. 30 as a facilities technician II. She previously worked at Bobcat in Bismarck as an assembler.



**Becky Haider**, from Mandan, North Dakota, began working at Headquarters on Feb. 6 as supervisor of Financial Planning. She was previously employed by Marathon Petroleum in Mandan as an accounting supervisor.



**Jesse Thrall**, originally from Mandan, North Dakota, began working at Leland Olds Station on Feb. 13 as an instrument technician. He was previously employed by Cavendish Farms as an electronic maintenance technician in Jamestown, North Dakota. He has also worked as an inventory returns coordinator/shipping coordinator with Border States Electric in Fargo.

## NEW EMPLOYEES



**Linda Unruh** began working at Headquarters on Feb. 17 as an engineering document controller. A native of Bismarck, North Dakota, she previously worked for Vitality Wellness in Bismarck as a receptionist.



**Matthew Beckman**, from Hazen, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a protection services specialist II on Feb. 20. He was previously in the U.S. Army as a Special Forces team Sergeant at Fort Carson in Colorado.



**Troy Morgenstern** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a process operations field technician on Feb. 20. Originally from New Salem, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Nabors Drilling USA in Williston, North Dakota, as a technician.



**Jamey Amdahl**, originally from Breckenridge, Minnesota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Feb. 20 as a process operations field technician. He was previously employed by Cargill Inc. in Wahpeton, North Dakota, as an operations technician.



**Tanner Scofield** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels plant as a lab technician on Feb. 20. Originally from Minot, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Rainbow Energy Center as a chemist in Underwood, North Dakota.



**Dane Fischer** began working at Headquarters on Feb. 27 as a mechanical engineer. Originally from Bismarck, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Bobcat in Bismarck as a design engineer. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from North Dakota State University in Fargo.



**Andrew Schafer**, from Flasher, North Dakota, began working at Headquarters on Feb. 27 as a mechanical engineer. He was previously employed by Steffes LLC, in Dickinson, North Dakota, as a manufacturing engineer. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from North Dakota State University in Fargo.



**Stefanie Schettler** began working at the Menoken (North Dakota) Transmission System Maintenance outpost as a senior administrative assistant on Feb. 27. Originally from Sidney, Montana, she was previously employed by the North Dakota Court System's Morton County Clerk's Office in Mandan as deputy clerk supervisor. She has also worked at Bismarck (North Dakota) State College and Crowley Fleck Attorneys. She received a bachelor's degree from Dickinson (North Dakota) State University.



**Justin Hill**, process operations field technician, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on March 6. He is originally from Fargo, North Dakota.



**Luke Roehrich** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on March 6 as a process operations field technician.



**Caleb Kirsch** began working as a lineman at the Gettysburg (South Dakota) Transmission System Maintenance outpost on March 13. Originally from White Lake, South Dakota, he was previously employed by Probst Electric in Heber City, Utah, as a general foreman.



**Nichole Sarkilahti**, senior administrative assistant, began working at Headquarters on March 13. Originally from Bismarck, North Dakota, she was previously employed by Sanford Health in Bismarck as a credentialing specialist.



**Carter Scanson**, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working at the Menoken Transmission System Maintenance outpost as a lineman on March 13. He was previously employed by Verendrye Electric Cooperative as a lineman in Harvey, North Dakota.



**Matthew Applegate**, service dispatcher, began working at Headquarters on March 20.



**Jeffrey Landblom** began working at Headquarters on March 20 as a commodity risk analyst II. Originally from Manning, North Dakota, he was previously employed by The Eye Clinic of North Dakota in Bismarck as a clinic administrator. He has also worked at Wells Fargo Bank as a business/agricultural banker and credit analyst. He received a master's degree in finance from the New England College of Business and Finance, now known as Cambridge College, in Boston, Massachusetts.



**James Duncan**, originally from Chicago, Illinois, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a maintenance field technician on March 27. He was previously employed by Danny's Construction as an iron worker.



**Hunter Fears** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on March 27 as a maintenance field technician. He is originally from Riverdale, North Dakota.



**Landon Henke**, from Beulah, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a process operations field technician on March 27. He was previously employed by Every Service Center as a plant equipment operator in St. Joseph, Missouri.



**Kolter Quick**, field lab technician, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on March 27. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota.



**Amber Ost**, service dispatcher, began working at Headquarters on April 3. Originally from Beulah, North Dakota, she was previously employed by Beulah Public School where she worked as a paraprofessional.



**Braddy Taylor**, from Gillette, Wyoming, began working at Dry Fork Station as an electrical and instrumentation technician on April 3. He was previously employed by Thunder Creek Gas Services in Gillette as an electrical and instrumentation technician.



**Cameron Fuerstenberg** began working at Headquarters as a settlements analyst on April 10. Originally from Bismarck, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Bobcat as a supply chain analyst.



**Tyler Horn**, apprentice substation electrician, began working at the Huron (South Dakota) Transmission System Maintenance outpost on April 10. Originally from Wolsey, South Dakota, he was previously employed by NorthWestern Energy in Huron as a communication technician. He received associate's degrees in electrical construction and maintenance and electrical utilities and substation technology at Mitchell (South Dakota) Technical College.

## NEW EMPLOYEES



**Colton McLaughlin**, from Beulah, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as an electrical and instrumentation technician on April 10. He was previously employed by The Coteau Properties Company in Beulah as a heavy equipment operator and electrician. He has an associate's degree in electrical technology and a journeyman electrician license.



**Craig Naasz** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on April 10 as a process operations field technician. He is originally from Mandan, North Dakota.



**Michael Nordhougen**, apprentice system protection technician, began working at the Gillette (Wyoming) Transmission System Maintenance outpost on April 10. Originally from Fargo, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Eagle Specialty Materials in Gillette as an electrician. He received an associate's degree from the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton.



**Marianne Schmitt** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on April 10 as an administrative assistant. Originally from Bottineau, North Dakota, she has lived in Hazen, North Dakota, for the last 28 years. She was previously employed by Hazen Public Schools as a high school English teacher.



**Theodore Zetocha**, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working at Headquarters as an associate contract administrator on April 10. He was previously employed by Baker Snow and Ice Management in Fargo, North Dakota, as an operations manager. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from North Dakota State University in Fargo.



**Jalen Braden** began working at Headquarters as an auditor on April 17. Originally from Williston, North Dakota, he was previously employed by American State Bank and Trust in Williston as an auditor. He received a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.



**Sonya Middlemas**, originally from Sidney, Nebraska, began working at Headquarters as an executive administrative assistant on April 18. She was previously employed by Pepsi-Cola Company as an associate administrative assistant in Mandan, North Dakota. She received an associate's degree in business administration from Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, Alabama. She is currently working toward receiving a bachelor's degree in business management.



**Tyrel Albers** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on April 24 as a maintenance mechanic.



**Keith Baker** began working at Laramie River Station on April 24 as a laborer. Originally from Cheyenne, Wyoming, he was previously employed by Croell Inc., in southern Wyoming as an area manager.



**Derek Coplen**, originally from Ashton, Nebraska, began working at Laramie River Station as a laborer on April 24. He was previously employed by Britz and Company as a computer numerical control operator in Wheatland, Wyoming.



**Jhett Eike** began working at Laramie River Station as a laborer on April 24. Originally from Wheatland, Wyoming, he was previously employed by Twin Pine Bison Company in Wheatland as a ranch hand.



**James Howe** began working as a laborer at Laramie River Station on April 24. Originally from Casper, Wyoming, he was previously employed by Pason Systems USA in Casper as a field technician.



**Chase Irvine** began working at Laramie River Station as a laborer on April 24.



**Keith Kaley**, originally from Lakeview, Oregon, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a maintenance field technician on April 24. He was previously employed by Dug Rite Excavating as a foreman in Hazen, North Dakota.



**Owen London** began working at Laramie River Station as a laborer on April 24. Originally from Mount Vernon, South Dakota, he was previously employed by Summit Contracting in Platte, South Dakota, as a crewman. He has also worked at Wagner Building Supply and Synrgy Sign Company. He received an associate's degree in architectural design and building construction at Mitchell (South Dakota) Technical College.



**Matthew Miller** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as an electrical and instrumentation technician on April 24. Originally from Garrison, North Dakota, he previously worked as an electrician/foreman.



**Kevin Montez** began working at Laramie River Station as a mechanic/welder on April 24. Originally from Laramie, Wyoming, he was previously employed by Mountain Cement Company in Laramie as a repairman.



**Andrew Perkerewicz** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as an electrical and instrumentation technician on April 24. Originally from Washburn, North Dakota, he was previously employed by IBEW Local 714 as a journeyman electrician.



**Korey Rueb** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as an electrical and instrumentation technician on April 24. Originally from Beulah, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Kinder Morgan in Williston, North Dakota, as a field technician. He has an associate's degree in applied science and an electronics certificate.



**Dustyn Turk**, originally from Cheyenne, Wyoming, began working at Laramie River Station as a mechanic/welder on April 24. He was previously employed by Anheuser-Busch, Inc. in Fort Collins, Colorado, as a maintenance technician.



**Dusty Windhorst**, manager of material services, began working at Headquarters on April 24. He was previously employed by Marathon Mandan (North Dakota) Refinery as a commercial sourcing advisor. He received a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.



**Kelly Allmendinger**, from Dodge, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a process operations field technician on May 8.



**Nick Brosseau** began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a process operations field technician on May 8. Originally from Bismarck, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Nabors Drilling as a floor hand in western North Dakota. He has also worked as an operator at Tharaldson Ethanol.

## NEW EMPLOYEES



**Robert Domogalski** began working at Laramie River Station as a laborer on May 8. Originally from Sturgis, South Dakota, he was previously employed by the Hot Rod Shop in Spearfish, South Dakota, as a body technician.



**Bo Feist**, originally from Velva, North Dakota, began working as a process operations field technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on May 8. He was previously employed by Blue Flint Ethanol, LLC in Underwood, North Dakota, as a shift lead.



**Chase Hibel** began working as a maintenance field technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on May 8. Originally from Jamestown, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Collins Aerospace as a machinist.



**Devan Reinhardt**, from Beulah, North Dakota, began working as a process operations field technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on May 8.



**Tanner Richter** began working as a maintenance field technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on May 8. He is originally from Bismarck, North Dakota.



**Troy Schlichenmayer**, from Wheatland, Wyoming, began working as a laborer at Laramie River Station on May 8. He was previously employed by Brown Company in Wheatland as a mechanic/precision solutions specialist. He is a certified master technician in four product lines of New Holland equipment.



**Melissa Schmitcke** began working at Headquarters as a settlements analyst on May 8. A native of Bismarck, North Dakota, she was previously employed by the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services as a laboratory program administrator.



**Zach Westby** began working as a process operations field technician at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on May 8. He is originally from Mandan, North Dakota.



**Mark Dihle**, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working as a senior environmental compliance administrator at Headquarters on May 15. He was previously employed by MDU Resources in Bismarck as a senior environmental specialist. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from North Dakota State University in Fargo.



**Evan Smith** began working as an accounting analyst at Headquarters on May 15. Originally from Sunman, Indiana, he was previously employed by MDU Resources as an accounts payable intern. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

# SERVICE AWARDS



**Darcy Birkholz**  
40 years  
Lead mechanic  
*Antelope Valley Station*



**Tim Oliger**  
40 years  
Water treatment operator  
*Antelope Valley Station*



**Paula Schroeder**  
30 years  
Senior accounting analyst  
*Headquarters*



**Marvin Stastny**  
25 years  
Senior network security analyst  
*Headquarters*



**Donovan Eslinger**  
20 years  
Telecommunications supervisor  
*Menoken TSM*



**Donnie Finnicum**  
20 years  
Lead mechanic  
*Laramie River Station*



**Lance Fuller**  
20 years  
Instrument - lead  
*Laramie River Station*



**Becky Kern**  
20 years  
Vice president, Resource Planning and Rates  
*Headquarters*



**Brian Klinker**  
20 years  
Instrument I  
*Laramie River Station*



**Scott Schaner**  
20 years  
Assistant coal yard supervisor  
*Antelope Valley Station*



**Craig Scheresky**  
20 years  
Lead yard operator  
*Antelope Valley Station*



**Joseph Suko**  
20 years  
Electrician  
*Laramie River Station*


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