

Basin Electric:

Compiled by Julie Slag

On May 5, 1961, representatives of 67 rural electric systems signed documents that created Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, ND. Basin Electric will celebrate these past five decades during the 2011 annual meeting. Highlights will include an evening celebration Nov. 9 and distribution of a new commemorative Basin Electric 50-year history book. It's a magnificent story about people and their principles – working together to create a better way of life for all.

1960s

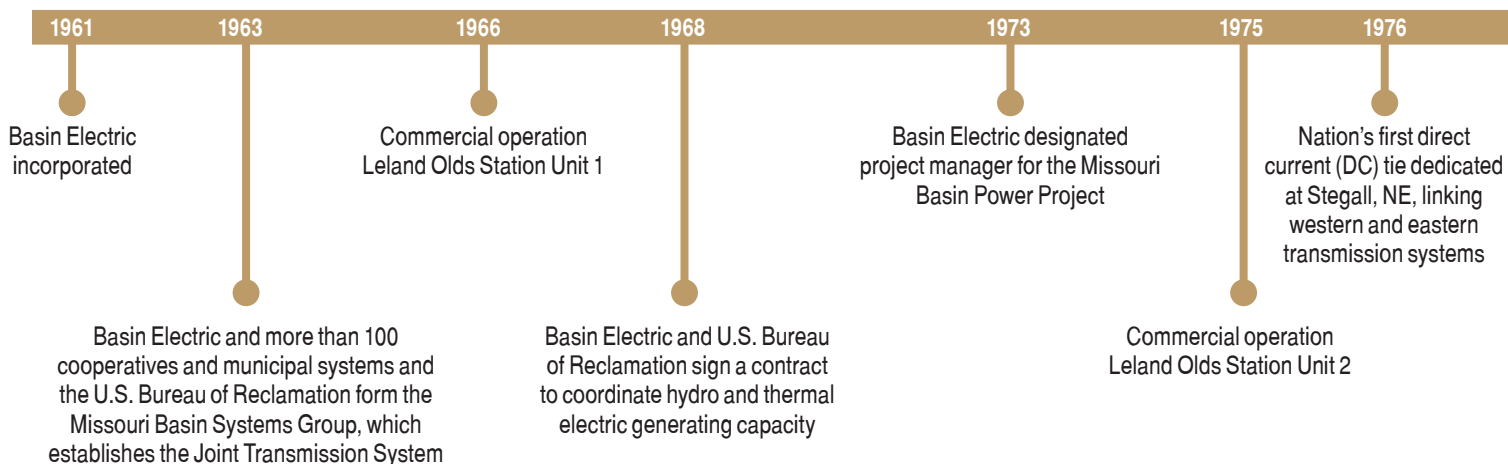
Significant events:

James L. Grahl hired as Basin Electric's first general manager; struggle to achieve financing through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in Washington, D.C.; construction begins on Leland Olds Station; board establishes reclamation policy for spoil banks; Basin Electric signs historic pooling agreement with the Western Area Power Administration to deliver power across the federal transmission system.

1970s

Significant events:

Member systems' demand for electricity increases rapidly; massive construction phase begins as interest rates rise 146 percent; Basin Electric and American Natural Gas announce plans to consider a coal gasification/ electric generation project; construction begins on the Laramie River Station and the Antelope Valley Station; Missouri Basin Power Project establishes a \$7.5-million trust fund to enhance whooping crane habitats.



More than 8,500 people attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the Leland Olds Station in June 1963.



(From left) Basin Electric's Robert Boettcher, Kent Janssen, Richard Fockler, Vern Smith, James Grahl and Brown-Boveri Corporation's Didier De Vulpilleres watch the initial turbine roll at Leland Olds Unit 2 in 1975.

First 50 years

1980s

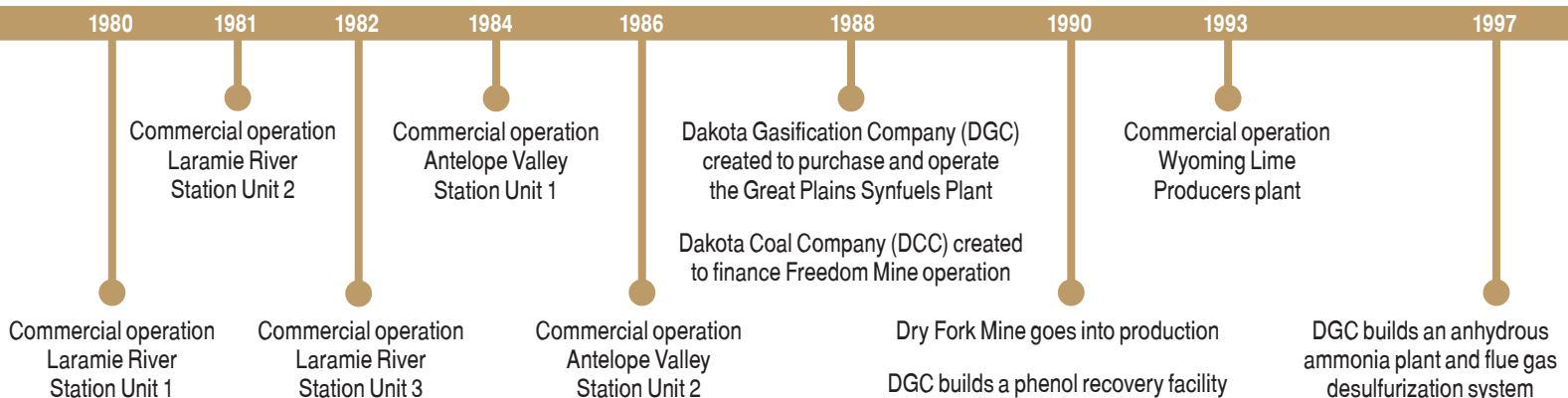
Significant events:

Investor-owned utility competition and takeover attempts against member co-ops; transition from construction to operations mode; James Grahl retires; Robert L. McPhail becomes Basin Electric's second general manager; workforce downsizing, load management, off-peak heating, energy audits; Great Plains Synfuels Plant turned over to the U.S. Department of Energy; co-ops fight to prevent sale of power marketing agencies.

1990s

Significant events:

Basin Telecommunications Inc. is incorporated; Basin Electric replaces a Rural Utilities Service (RUS) standard consolidated mortgage with an indenture; William J. Neal Station near Velva, ND, dismantled; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announces Order 888; PanCanadian Petroleum Ltd. agrees to purchase CO₂ from the Synfuels Plant; Environmental Protection Agency proposes labeling CO₂ a "pollutant."



Representatives from participants of the Missouri Basin Power Project address attendees at the dedication of Laramie River Station in 1980.



Dakota Gas representatives including Basin Electric General Manager Bob McPhail (left) put their shovels in the ground at the groundbreaking for a phenol plant at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant in April 1990.

“I am excited about what we are doing and what we have accomplished over the last few years. We have diversified our generation portfolio and we are continually raising the bar with our involvement in new technologies. These are exciting times because together we are writing the next page in the history book of Basin Electric. That is humbling, but that is what Basin Electric and its history is all about.”

Ron Harper, 2006 annual meeting speech



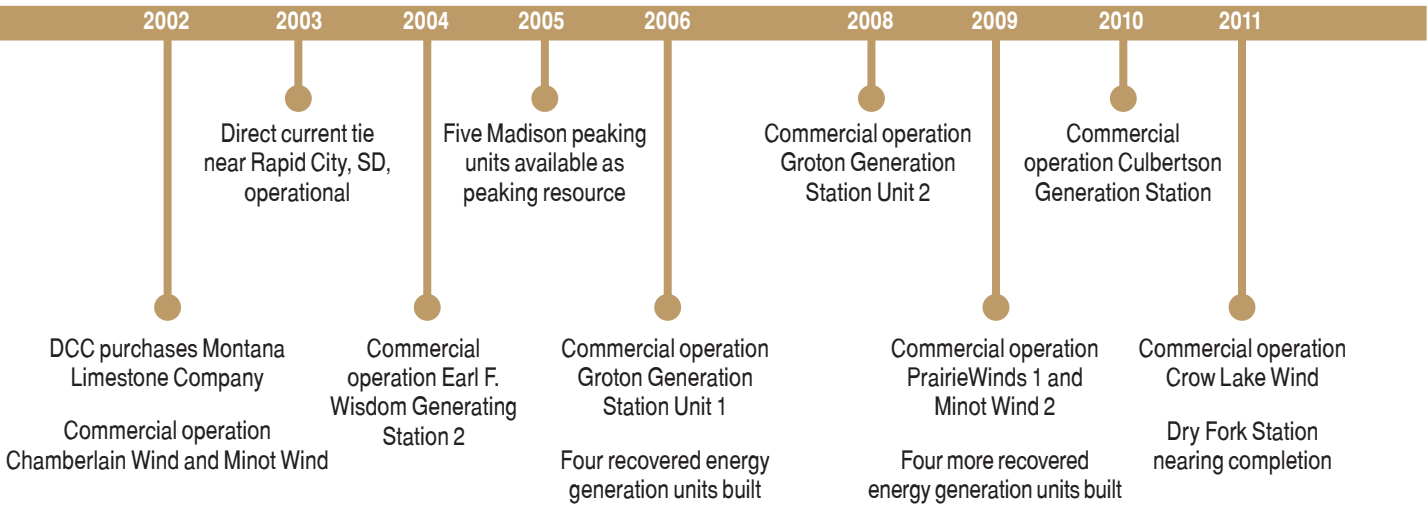
1961 – 2011

2000s

Significant events:

Ronald R. Harper becomes Basin Electric's third general manager; CO₂ flows from Synfuels Plant to Canada oil fields; load growth throughout the system; resource expansion to serve new loads; Basin Electric taps taxable public bond marketplace for the first time; Western Fuels and Basin Electric petition Surface Transportation Board (STB) on decision that denied rate relief from BNSF Railway;

PrairieWinds ND 1 Inc. and PrairieWinds SD 1 Inc. subsidiaries created; Leland Olds Station emissions control project; STB orders BSNF to establish lawful rates for Laramie River Station; Corn Belt Power Cooperative becomes Class A member; Basin Electric incorporates power from a nuclear facility for the first time; evaluates new and untested technologies for carbon capture and storage.



Joe Bowden walks the high steel during construction of Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station near Gillette, WY.



Clyde Bush (seated center), Basin Electric vice president of coal-based resources, syncs the Dry Fork Station to the transmission grid for the first time in May 2011.

“My whole time at Basin Electric was a marvelous experience. I was able to hire all the best people—to pick out the very brightest young men and women. They did a fine job. I’ve never known such a group of competent people in any other job I’ve had.”



James L. Grahl, Basin Electric general manager (1961-1985)

“It’s amazing when you look at what Basin Electric was and where we are today—it’s a small miracle. Our business is so complicated, but it works well for the member-owners. I enjoyed working with the fine people in the rural electric program because they have a value system that agrees with mine, which is: family, a belief in God, and patriotism for our country.”



Robert L. McPhail, Basin Electric general manager (1985-2000)

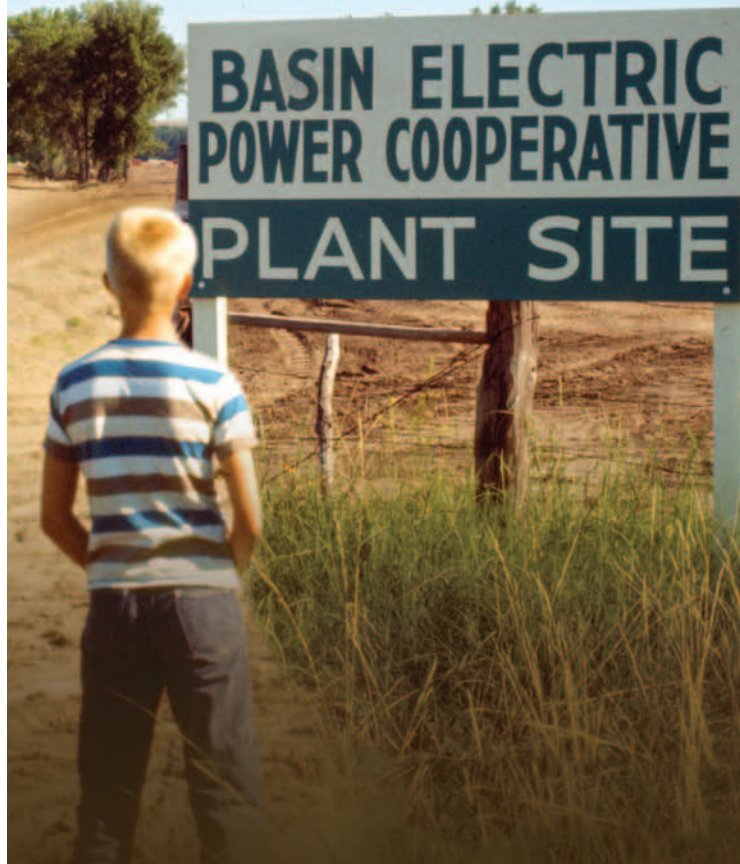
“Basin Electric has talented, resourceful, and dedicated people who are able to meet challenges to co-op interest. Electric co-ops work for consumers—that’s a story American consumers need to hear—and its principles upheld today, tomorrow and for future generations.”



Ron Harper, Basin Electric general manager (2000-present)

Basin Electric pioneers
managed to do
what had **never** been done
“... simply because they ‘didn’t
know it couldn’t be done.’”

*~Power for the Plains,
Basin Electric’s
25-year history book*



Basin Electric celebrated **50 years** of incorporation May 5, 2011. Join us as we **celebrate** this milestone during our **annual meeting banquet Nov. 9.**

Basin Electric’s story is an exciting one and it’s one worth sharing. The cooperative’s 50-year history book is nearing completion and will be distributed at the annual meeting.

Meeting details and registration information will be available on [basinelectric.com](http://www.basinelectric.com) in the coming months. In the meantime, relive Basin Electric’s history. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/basinelectric> and find videos of groundbreaking, dedications and plant aerials from the beginning.