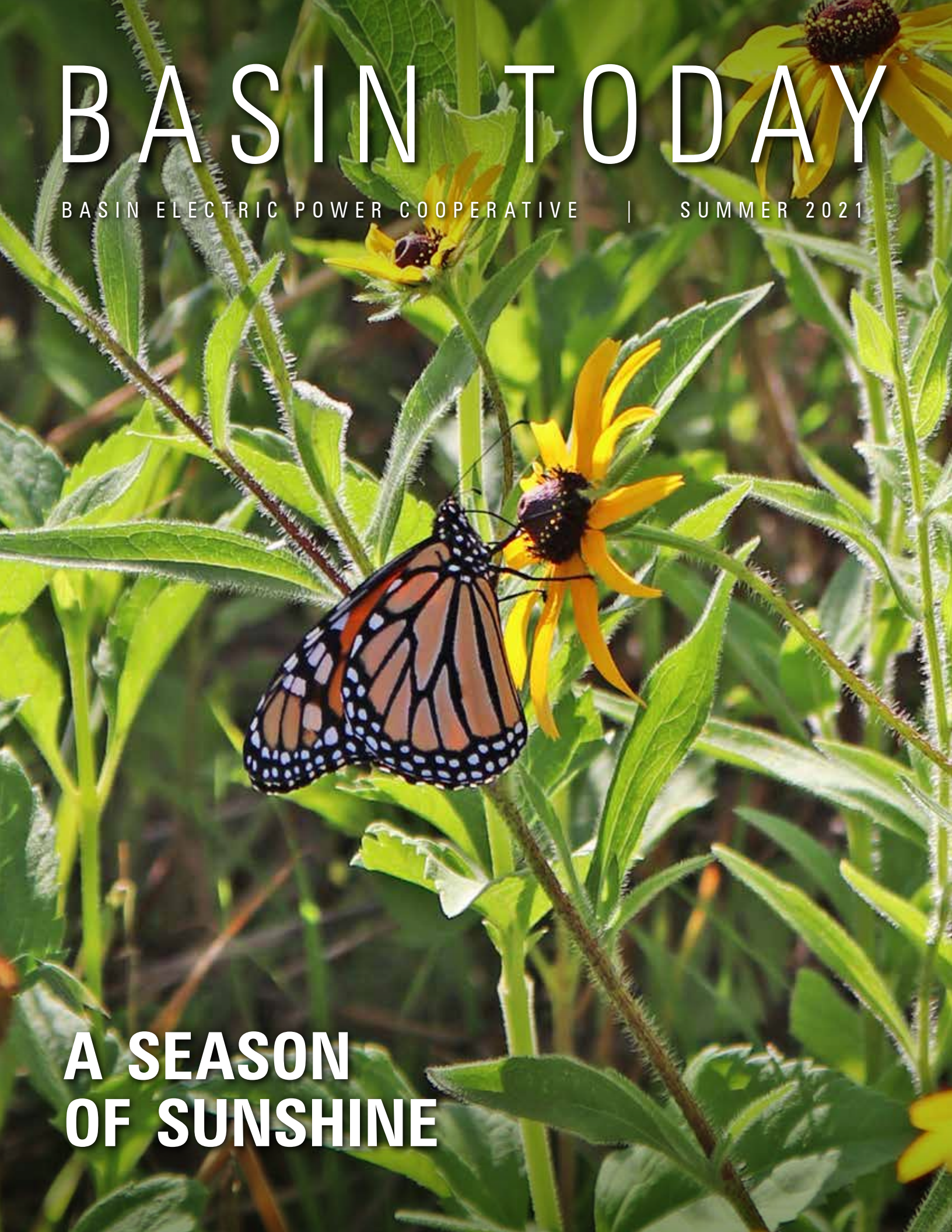
BASIN TODAY

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE | SUMMER 2021



A SEASON OF SUNSHINE

A group of graduate and undergraduate students known as the University of North Dakota "Energy Hawks" spent a week in July traveling around North Dakota, experiencing the breadth and depth of the state's energy industry. This included stops at Basin Electric's PrairieWinds 1 in Minot (pictured). The Energy Hawks is a group of graduate and undergraduate students from a wide range of disciplines focused on adding value to North Dakota's energy industry through a broad range of concepts. Photo by Ananth Ramaseri, concept by Payton Wolf.

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ON THE COVER

Basin Electric Class A Member Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association planted a pollinator garden next to the solar panels at its headquarters in Rockford, Minnesota. See page 10 to learn more about how innovation and environmental values work together at this co-op. Photo by Andrea Unger, Wright-Hennepin's director of marketing and member services.

IN EVERY ISSUE

FEATURE STORIES

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PAUL SUKUT

INNOVATION WILL ENSURE RELIABLE POWER FOR ELECTRIC CO-OPS

I've been thinking a lot about change these days. It's no surprise given that I announced I'll be retiring this year. But here at work, there remains work on the near horizon that looms much larger for me.

Basin Electric is on the cusp of important decisions. I can tell you, in more than 35 years at this cooperative, it's hard to remember a time when that hasn't been the case. But of course we look back at times of change once they're past with rose-colored glasses. We know how things turned out, we can marvel at the choices that were before us, sometimes reflect on the intense discussions that went into our decisions, and know we did the best we could with what we knew at the time.

We have been grappling with finding ways to meet our members' growing demand for electricity while keeping rates steady. We have done a good job of that, and I thank the membership and our employees for all their work to accomplish a pretty big feat. But looming in the back of our minds, we are thinking about the carbon-constrained future we continue to move into.

I look at the pressure on coal generation and don't see a day where that lessens much. It's clear to me we need to figure out how to capture and store the carbon dioxide that is inevitable when you burn any carbon-based fuel. If we can do that for our coal-based generation, we solve perhaps the most important issue facing our industry today.

What we are hearing from our members is that reliability is one of the top three issues they are most focused

on. Without a doubt, and I can say this because it has proven itself for decades, coal generation provides our membership with steady, reliable power with a fuel source that sits at the plant site, ready to be used. We don't need to rely on pipelines, or the wind and sun, to monitor the fuel for this particular generation; we keep tabs on the coal piles every day and know exactly how many days we can run these power plants if we couldn't get more coal to the site. It's rock solid.

Because we know this reliable generation comes with the release of carbon dioxide, it's smart to put resources into figuring this out. Today, electric cooperatives are teaming up with researchers, investors, and each other, to study both carbon capture and carbon storage.

We are proud to host two such projects at our Dry Fork Station near Gillette, Wyoming.

The Wyoming CarbonSAFE project is putting attention on the geology for carbon dioxide storage underground. The ability to store carbon dioxide permanently and practically is being studied by geologists at the University of Wyoming. The project is in its third phase – researchers have found the geology is good for storage, and are now working on site characterization, permitting wells, integrating carbon capture technology, and environmental analysis for commercial operation.

Carbon capture technology research is being done just steps away on the Dry Fork Station site at the Wyoming Integrated Test Center. The center has received more than $100 million in research and development funding to advance carbon capture and utilization research. It provides space for researchers to test technologies using 20 megawatts of flue gas from Dry Fork Station. Membrane Technology and Research, a group onsite for about two years so far, has a process called PolarCap™, which was chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy for a large-scale demonstration trial. In addition to Basin Electric, other partners at the center include Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. It is managed by the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority.

Once the technology to capture carbon dioxide is figured out, the price tag on the technology is our next consideration. Nearly a decade ago, we worked with a third-party developer on a study into carbon capture at our Antelope Valley Station. At the time, we determined the cost of such innovation was much too costly for our membership to pay through rates. The decision was the right one then, but we continue to evaluate opportunities.

Today, we are seeing investment from both government and the private sector, and that's encouraging to me. Basin Electric's investment in cash and assets so far has been pretty small – we've allowed major research on a working power plant site, and we've contributed our expertise and knowledge throughout.

People working together as partners, contributing their resources, time, and expertise will enable our industry to find solutions to keep power reliable. Electric cooperatives have been at the forefront in this effort, and I'm proud that our history of innovation continues to provide a way forward today.

We're proud Basin Electric is part of both the CarbonSAFE project and Integrated Test Center in Wyoming, and I look forward to the day we can say we have a solution for carbon dioxide.

I don't need rose-colored glasses to see a future where power continues to be reliable because coal-based generation is viable. And electric co-ops are just the pioneers to help get it done.

Paul Sukut, CEO and general manager

Basin Electric partners with Bakken Energy, Mitsubishi Power to establish clean energy hub

Bakken Energy, LLC, formerly Bakken Midstream Natural Gas, LLC, and Mitsubishi Power Americas, Inc. have signed a strategic partnership agreement to create a world-class clean hydrogen hub in North Dakota. This hub will be composed of facilities that produce, store, transport and consume clean hydrogen.

Bakken Energy, supported by Mitsubishi Power, is currently working with Basin Electric and its subsidiary Dakota Gasification Company on the potential acquisition and redevelopment of the Great Plains Synfuels Plant located near Beulah, North Dakota. The redevelopment would make the facility the largest producer of clean hydrogen in North America. The project is in due diligence, and specific details are confidential until that phase is complete.

"While still early in the due diligence process, we are excited about the prospect of the Great Plains Synfuels Plant being redeveloped into a world-class clean hydrogen complex, and everything that means for the workforce, the region, and the whole state," said Basin Electric Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Paul Sukut.

https://bit.ly/HydrogenHub

Basin Electric CEO and General Manager Paul Sukut speaks at a press conference about the partnership at the North Dakota State Capitol on June 2.

Telesz to lead Basin Electric

Basin Electric Power Cooperative announced July 26 that Todd Telesz will lead the cooperative as chief executive officer and general manager beginning Sept. 1.

"Todd brings experience and a proven track record of success in finance and energy, which will be invaluable in meeting our cooperative's goals and objectives," said Basin Electric board president Wayne Peltier.

Prior to accepting this position, Telesz served as senior vice president of the Power, Energy, and Utilities division at CoBank, a cooperative bank that provides loans and financial services to cooperatives, agribusinesses, rural utilities, and farm credit associations throughout the United States.

Telesz has led CoBank's efforts in the generation and transmission sector for more than a decade and worked extensively with Basin Electric and its Class A members during that time.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected to lead Basin Electric and to succeed Paul Sukut," Telesz said. "Basin Electric and its members' shared purpose and focus on improving the quality of life and driving the economic vitality in rural America is only exceeded by our responsibility to provide the member at the end of the line with affordable, reliable, and responsible electricity provided by a diverse portfolio of power generation."

"I am confident that Todd will be an excellent match for this position and a strong asset to Basin Electric," Peltier said.

https://bit.ly/TeleszNewCEO

DEF production increases to meet strong demand

Prices and demand for diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) have soared, and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant has adjusted production to capitalize on the market changes.

As the market for DEF increased in early July, production at the Synfuels Plant was shifted to making less granular urea so additional DEF could be produced. The Synfuels Plant can make about 200 gallons per minute of DEF at maximum rates.

A truck is loaded with diesel exhaust fluid at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

Zach Jacobson, Dakota Gas marketing account manager, said July set a record for DEF production and sales, and he expects the strong demand to continue through Labor Day. "August is likely to set even higher records, and we likely will see above-average demand for DEF through the end of the year," he said.

DEF is used in selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technology to remove harmful NO_x (nitrogen oxides) emissions from diesel engines.

https://bit.ly/DEFProduction

Wyoming Integrated Test Center hits funding milestone

With large project announcements in 2020 and 2021 and construction slated to begin onsite for multiple projects in 2022, the Wyoming Integrated Test Center (ITC) has surpassed $100 million in research and development funding to tenants to advance carbon capture and carbon utilization research in Wyoming.

"The goal of the ITC was always to help scale up CCUS (carbon capture, utilization, and storage) technologies to commercialization," said Jason Begger, ITC's managing director. "We have had tenants successfully complete testing at different scales and have more lined up to test onsite over the next 18 months."

https://bit.ly/ITCfundingmilestone

Basin Electric to add more solar power in Montana

Custer Solar, a 20-megawatt solar project to be located in Yellowstone County, Montana, was approved in April, and the contract signed with Energy of Utah, a solar developer, in June.

The project is set to be operational in late 2023 or early 2024. With the addition of this contract, Basin Electric has plans to bring on more than 300 megawatts of solar capability within the next three years.

https://bit.ly/CusterSolar

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BOLD ENOUGH TO BEGIN

Back in the early 1960s, large cities and businesses had electricity, but much of the rural areas of the Northern Great Plains were still left in the dark. Basin Electric's story started with the farmers and ranchers of the Upper Great Plains who worked together to bring electricity to their land because no one else would do it. Basin Electric was formed on the premise it would provide power for intermediate generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts). This power would be low cost because of economies of scale, and Basin Electric would be managed by a board of directors elected from the membership and run in a manner consistent with cooperative principles.

> "…THIS BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TRANSMISSION SYSTEM IS KNOWN AS THE MISSOURI BASIN SYSTEM. THEY DIDN'T WANT TO GO SO FAR AS TO SAY BOTH MISSOURI AND BASIN, BUT THEY ENDED UP TAKING BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE."
>
> *Bill Wisdom, original incorporator*

1961

1962

Basin Electric's commitment to preserving resources and reclaiming land spans decades. Shown here is a reclamation site In 1980.

PROTECTING PRECIOUS RESOURCES

In a time when many weren't thinking about environmental impacts, Basin Electric was looking to the future. In July 1962, directors shaped a policy requiring that all coal companies include the cost of leveling the land after it has been mined as part of their price. Then in the mid-1960s, Basin Electric proposed model laws to the North Dakota legislature to protect the air, water, and land. The cooperative advocated legislation requiring mined land reclamation and prohibiting dumping industrial wastes into the rivers.

A VISION FOR GIANT POWER

When Leland Olds Station Unit 1 went online in 1966, it was the largest lignite-based power plant in the Western Hemisphere and had the first pulverized lignite coal-fired boiler. The site had the necessary resources — a water supply, nearby rail line, and plenty of lignite. It also was close to the federal transmission system; just 12 miles of transmission would be needed for an interconnection to that system.

> "WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ABUNDANT, LOW-COST POWER TO OUR MEMBERS IN THE MISSOURI BASIN JUST AS WE HAD PLANNED."
>
> *James L. Grahl, Basin Electric's first general manager (June 1962-March 1985)*

1966

1970

SUPPORTING RURAL HOUSING

In 1970, Basin Electric initiated the People's Housing Program to help relieve the critical shortage of adequate rural housing in the region. This program later received national acclaim.

DARING TO INNOVATE: 60 YEARS OF AMBITION

Basin Electric has had the privilege of serving rural Americans for 60 years. The cooperative has been able to meet the needs of members and end-of-the-line consumers by prioritizing innovation and taking chances. From environmental impacts to new ways to generate power, here's a look back at some of the pivotal decisions that made Basin Electric the successful cooperative it is today.

By Kalli Senske

1973

TYING IT TOGETHER

Basin Electric announced a joint project with Class A member Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (headquartered in Denver, Colorado) to build a 100-megawatt (MW) direct current (DC) tie in Stegall, Nebraska. This was the nation's first DC tie linking the eastern and western transmission systems.

1978

A tour of the 270 double glass solar collectors at Headquarters in 1978.

HARNESSING THE SUN

Basin Electric's first solar project began in May 1978 when the co-op installed solar collector plates near the then 67,000 square-foot Headquarters building. You can read more about this solar heating project in the LiveWire blog post: https://bit.ly/TBT-solar. Today, Basin Electric has solar power purchase agreements in South Dakota and Montana.

1980

LINKING INTERCONNECTIONS

Laramie River Station is part of the Missouri Basin Power Project (a partnership with originally six and today five electric utilities) that provides power to homes and businesses in Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The project includes Laramie River Station, Grayrocks Reservoir, and high-voltage transmission lines. Laramie River Station is unique because it delivers electricity to two separate electrical grids. Unit 1 is connected to the Eastern Interconnection, while units 2 and 3 are connected to the Western Interconnection.

1982

The dragline at Glenharold Mine in 1984.

MOVING INTO MINING

Basin Electric moved into mine management in 1982 when it assumed responsibility for the ownership and operation of the Glenharold Mine, the lignite source for Leland Olds Station until 1993. Again, Basin Electric pioneered another first for a rural electric entity by forming a subsidiary, Basin Cooperative Services, in 1982 to manage the mine and other non-electric utility functions.

PURCHASING A PLANT

When the company that owned the Great Plains Synfuels Plant went bankrupt, it turned the plant over to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Great Plains Synfuels Plant is one of only two gasification plants in the world (the other one is in South Africa) and the only commercial-scale coal gasification plant in the United States that manufactures natural gas. The plant purchased its power directly from Basin Electric. The cooperative's members discussed what would happen if the plant shut down permanently: the employees would lose their jobs and Basin Electric would lose millions of dollars a year in lost revenue from electric sales, including shared resources of coal and water related to Antelope Valley Station. On Aug. 5, 1988, DOE announced that Basin Electric was the successful bidder for the plant. Since Basin Electric purchased it, Dakota Gas has brought the membership a total benefit of $800 million-plus, resulting in bill credits and lower rates.

> "THE GREAT PLAINS PROJECT WILL NOT SOLVE ALL OF OUR ENERGY NEEDS, BUT IT IS A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF FUEL, AND THEREFORE IT IS IMPERATIVE TO ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT IS OWNED BY SOMEONE COMMITTED TO ITS LONG-TERM OPERATION."
> *North Dakota Rep. Byron Dorgan (1981-1992)*

FOCUSING ON CARBON CAPTURE

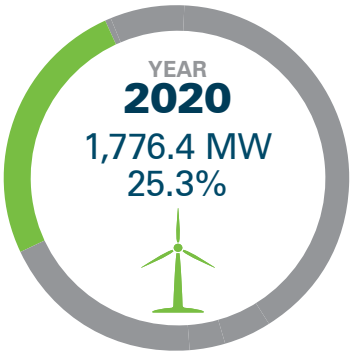
In 2000, the Synfuels Plant commissioned the first capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from a coal process energy facility. The three CO_2 compressors are serial numbers one, two, and three. The Synfuels Plant supplies CO_2 to one of the world's largest carbon capture and storage projects in Saskatchewan, Canada, and has sent 41 million metric tons of CO_2 to date. The plant captures about 2 million metric tons of CO_2 each year.

RESPONDING TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Encouraged by its member systems, Basin Electric resolved to obtain renewable resources equal to 10% of the megawatt capacity needed to meet member demand by 2010.

1988 — 1996 — 2000 — 2001 — 2005

Workers assemble the original ammonia towers in 1996.



DIVERSIFYING REVENUE

Innovative thinking led to byproduct expansions at Dakota Gas, ultimately resulting in significant dividends for Basin Electric and the membership. The first anhydrous ammonia plant from North Dakota lignite-derived synthesis gas was commissioned at the Synfuels Plant in 1996. Then in 1997, the flue gas desulfurization unit became the first commercial application of General Electric's ammonia scrubber technology.

CAPTURING WIND

In 2001, Basin Electric and Class A member East River Electric Power Cooperative (headquartered in Madison, South Dakota) jointly brought the first two wind turbines to South Dakota, located in Chamberlain. Today, Basin Electric owns and operates two wind projects that are the largest owned solely by a cooperative in the United States: the 162-MW Crow Lake Wind Project in South Dakota and the 115.5-MW PrairieWinds 1 in North Dakota. The turbines are the first GE turbines in the United States to have service lifts installed.

2007

WIND-TO-HYDROGEN

One of the first demonstration projects of wind-to-hydrogen technology, located near Minot, North Dakota, was completed by Basin Electric, the Department of Energy, and other partners. The project investigated the potential for storage of wind-generated electricity by using wind energy to power a commercial hydrogen generator to separate the hydrogen and oxygen contained in water. The hydrogen was then stored and used as transportation fuel. This plant was recently decommissioned and dismantled.

2010

CO_2 REMOVAL FOR ELECTRIC GENERATION UNITS

Basin Electric was the first utility in the nation to issue a request for proposals from CO_2 removal technology providers. As a result, Basin Electric completed a front-end engineering and design study exploring the feasibility of capturing CO_2 from its Antelope Valley Station. Basin Electric is currently engaged with regional partners for the Department of Energy's CarbonSAFE program. The goal of the program is to develop long-term CO_2 sequestration solutions.

2016

> "PEOPLE WHO ONCE WERE BANGING ON THE GATES OF COAL-FIRED PLANTS SAYING WE NEED TO SHUT THESE DOWN WILL SOON BE BANGING ON THE GATES SAYING, 'WE WANT IN BECAUSE WE WANT ALL THE PRODUCT, WE WANT THE CO_2 (CARBON DIOXIDE)."
>
> *Wyoming governor Matt Mead (2011-2019)*

A SITE FOR RESEARCH

In 2016, officials broke ground on the Wyoming Integrated Test Center (ITC) at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station, which provides space for researchers to develop commercially viable uses for CO_2 emissions from coal-based power plants. Dry Fork Station was the first Basin Electric coal plant to install activated carbon injection for mercury removal and selective catalytic reduction with ammonia injection for control of nitrogen oxides. It is now using amended silicates to remove mercury as well. The ITC recently surpassed $100 million in research and development funding to tenants to advance carbon capture and carbon utilization research.

2017

GOING UNDERGROUND

In 2017, Basin Electric became a partner in North Dakota Carbon Storage Assurance Facility Enterprise (CarbonSAFE) and participated in a CarbonSAFE pre-feasibility project in Wyoming. The CarbonSAFE initiative was implemented by the U.S. Department of Energy to develop commercial-scale carbon capture and storage complexes. Basin Electric chose to continue supporting Wyoming CarbonSAFE as it advances in phase 3.

Extracting sediment samples from a Wyoming test well in 2019.

2018

Urea is the most widely traded fertilizer in the word.

PIONEERING FERTILIZER IN NORTH DAKOTA

The first and only urea production facility in North Dakota was built at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. It produced urea for the first time on Jan. 19, 2018. Urea added to the fertilizer line-up which already included anhydrous ammonia and ammonium sulfate. The plant also has the ability to shift urea production to produce diesel exhaust fluid.

PANELS AND PETALS

WRIGHT-HENNEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BUILDS AN ENVIRONMENTAL OASIS OUTSIDE THE BIG CITY

By Angela Magstadt

Not far from the buzz of the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, lies a cooperative that has created a haven for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The pollinator garden is located alongside the co-op's solar project and is proof of the beautiful things that can happen when technology and environmental values work together.

Helping members follow their renewable ideals

Last year, for the first time ever, Basin Electric added solar to its future energy portfolio, with its first solar contract beginning in 2023. Solar energy is now competitive in the market, and it provides generation during the daytime when the system peaks.

But seven years before Basin Electric announced its first solar power purchase, one of its members was installing a solar project of its own.

In 2013, when community solar projects were still relatively new, Basin Electric Class A Member Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association installed a solar array at its headquarters in Rockford, Minnesota. These initial 171 panels were the first of four solar projects located on the cooperative's property. The second project was built alongside the first one the following year and the third project in the same area two years after that. The most recent project was built three years later (in 2017) at the co-op's Willow substation in Medina, Minnesota.

Before constructing the first solar project, Wright-Hennepin conducted a survey that ultimately showed the importance of using renewable energy to many of its members. Installing solar panels isn't a good option at some of these members' homes, for reasons such as a high initial installation cost or the home may not be well-suited for solar. As a result, the cooperative constructed the projects on its own property to give their members a way to purchase renewable energy. "It's a way for our members to show their environmental values in a way that works for them," says Andrea Unger, Wright-Hennepin's director of marketing and member services.

Every bit of the power from the co-op's existing community solar projects is spoken for and purchased by members. Today, Wright-Hennepin is offering two additional programs for members who want to support renewables. The first program, Solar Choice, allows members to purchase blocks of solar energy equal to 100 kilowatt hours per month – the amount that a typical household uses.

The second program, Renewable Choice, provides members with the opportunity to add renewable attributes from the energy generated by renewable resources such as wind turbines and solar arrays in the region to match 100% of the member's energy consumption. Any home receiving power from Wright-Hennepin is eligible to participate in either of these programs.

Blooming where it shines

Last summer, Wright-Hennepin took its environmental commitment a step farther by installing a pollinator garden near the solar panels at its headquarters building. The garden is over an acre of native perennial plants that attract birds, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators– species that are vital to crop production and whose populations are decreasing at an alarming rate.

"When I saw the work other cooperatives across the state and nation have been doing with pollinator gardens, I thought the areas near our solar panels would be the perfect place to plant one," Unger says. "Initial planting costs were minimal and the ongoing maintenance is very similar to mowing, so it was a great option for us."

Just one year after it was planted, blooms already adorn the area, providing beauty to humans and critical habitat to pollinators and other wildlife.

Unger says it will take a few years before the garden is fully mature, but over time it will be converted into a rich landscape of native grasses and wildflowers for animal nesting, resting, and feeding habitat. "It will provide a home for various pollinators, which help support the food supply for animals and humans alike. We look forward to watching the habitat grow and seeing what kinds of creatures make this area their home."

BASIN ELECTRIC'S FIRST FEMALE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT ENDS 40-YEAR CAREER

By Angela Magstadt

When Diane Paul began her career at Basin Electric straight out of college, she had no idea she would end up making history as Basin Electric's first female senior vice president.

Paul, Basin Electric senior vice president of Human Resources is retiring after a 40-year career, and looks back on her time with the cooperative with fondness. "Never did I think I would end my career as a senior vice president," Paul says, "but I had a sign in my office that read 'the harder you work the luckier you get,' and I truly believe that."

In 1979, after receiving a degree in business administration from Mary College (now University of Mary) in Bismarck, North Dakota, Paul was hired for a job in Basin Electric's Finance department. She was no stranger to the co-op, having grown up in Hazen, North Dakota, and seeing the construction of Leland Olds Station, Antelope Valley, Station, and Dakota Gasification Company in Mercer County.

About eight years into her career, Paul moved from Finance to Human Resources (HR), a department she says had always interested her. Her first position was

as a personnel assistant, writing job descriptions and completing salary surveys, which she says taught her about the many different positions throughout the cooperative. She then worked in employment and recruitment, compensation, and equal employment opportunities and affirmative action before becoming a supervisor in the late 1990s.

"Every day is different when you work in HR," Paul says. "You never know what the day will bring when you walk into work in the morning. But one thing I've strived for throughout my career is to be kind and compassionate because your decisions can be far-reaching, not only affecting employees, but their families as well. Every day I hoped to be able to say and do the right things, because you never know who will be impacted by those everyday decisions."

Paul says it is also important to not be afraid of doing things that might be tough but are the right thing to do for the cooperative, because "at the end of the day, the work we do is for our member-owners," she says.

One such challenge was the Enhanced Voluntary Separation Program (EVSP) in 2018. "I remember when we went through an involuntary reduction in force early in my career and I never wanted to go through that again, so having a voluntary reduction was very important to not only me, but Paul (Sukut, Basin Electric CEO and general manager) and the rest of senior staff," she says. "While the EVSP was a difficult decision, we knew it was necessary due to the changes in our industry."

Paul says while that process was difficult, it did result in some positive outcomes. Not only did the employee count go down (from 2,354 to 1,883), resulting in a significant cost savings for the cooperative, but it provided opportunities for employees who wanted to pursue careers outside of the cooperative, early retirements, and also advancement opportunities for those who decided to stay.

Working for the members and employees of Basin Electric was an honor, Paul says. In fact, it was the cooperative culture that brought her back from a two-year retirement in 2015.

"Early on when I came back to Basin Electric after two years away, the HR employees and I made a commitment to focus our efforts to truly be at the service of employees," Paul says. "Our department's accomplishments have been founded on our culture of customer service, professionalism, and integrity. That's what brought me back from retirement – to rebuild that culture in the department."

Paul is thankful for the opportunities throughout her years at Basin Electric. "When the department moved to the new building, we chose old black and white photos to line the walls of HR," she says. "I'd encourage employees to learn about Basin's history and honor those who came before us and who helped make Basin Electric the organization it is today. Stand on their shoulders, they built a good foundation, and make them proud."

Now that she has retired, she and her husband, Mike (newly retired Basin Electric chief technical advisor), plan to split their time between Arizona and North Dakota, with family in both places. She and Mike are also looking forward to spending more time pursuing their passion for classic cars.

"Diane's dedication and loyalty to Basin Electric is unsurpassed," Sukut says. "She was particularly helpful during her last years here at Basin Electric as she was the first woman senior vice president. Her experience with complicated Human Resource issues was so helpful during difficult times. It was especially helpful as we conducted the Employee Voluntary Separation Program in 2018. It was the first since the 1990s at Dakota Gas and Basin Electric. I want to personally thank Diane for her invaluable help to me personally."

"In my view, Basin Electric is and has always been the premiere employer in the region," she says. "I am thankful to have had the opportunity to build my career with Basin Electric. It's hard to leave behind the employees who make up the Human Resources department, but to everything there is a season."

2021 BASIN ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Twenty $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 will be a freshman at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, studying mechanical engineering.

Kora Biffert is the daughter of Doug (Dakota Gasification Company) and Kim Biffert. She will be a sophomore at North Dakota State University (Fargo) studying nursing.

Christina Bingham is the daughter of Mark (PrairieWinds) and Peggy Bingham. She will be completing her final year at the University of Mary, where she majors in nursing.

Brooke Burgard, daughter of Alan (Headquarters) and Lynn Burgard, will be a freshman at the University of Jamestown (North Dakota). Her major is nursing.

Dawson Dutchuk, son of Kurt Dutchuk (Dakota Gasification Company), will be starting his final year at Bismarck (North Dakota) State College. He is studying to be an electrical line worker.

Landen Fuller, son of Lance (Laramie River Station) and Katrina Fuller, will be entering his final year at University of Wyoming in Laramie. He is majoring in petroleum engineering and geology.

Jordan Johnson, son of Tim (Leland Olds Station) and Becky Johnson, will begin his final year at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. He is studying information systems.

Dawson Kaylor is the son of Jerard (Dakota Gasification Company) and Heidi Kaylor. He will be studying diesel technology at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton.

Paige Lang, daughter of Ryan (Headquarters) and Beth Lang, will be a junior at the University of Mary, majoring in civil engineering.

Garrett Mahin, son of Les (Dakota Gasification Company) and Carrie Mahin, will be a junior at North Dakota State University. His major is computer science.

Zachary Mahin is the son of Les (Dakota Gasification Company) and Carrie Mahin. He will be a freshman at North Dakota State University studying business administration.

Dean Marquardt is the son of Aaron (Dakota Gasification Company) and Melissa Marquardt. He will be a freshman at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, studying mechanical engineering.

Tryston Miller, son of Robyn (Dakota Gasification Company) and Scott Miller, will be completing his final year at Bismarck State College. His major is instrumentation and control technology.

Caleb Myhra, son of Phil (Dakota Gasification Company) and Jennifer Wallender, will be a sophomore at North Dakota State University, and is majoring in computer science.

Megan Radenz, daughter of Tom (Headquarters) and Steph Radenz, will begin her senior year at Dickinson (North Dakota) State College. She is studying business administration.

Easton Schantz, son of Rick (Dakota Gasification Company) and Tina Schantz, will begin his first year studying instrumentation and control technology at Bismarck State College.

Brandon Snyder, son of Kelly (Leland Olds Station) and Jonella Snyder, will be a sophomore attending North Dakota State University. His major is computer science.

Erik Solie son of Kevin (Headquarters) and Tami Solie, will be a junior at University of North Dakota. He is majoring in chemical engineering.

Cade Steffan, son of Todd (Dakota Gasification Company) and Jennifer Steffan, will be entering his final year at Bismarck State College this fall. He is studying mechanical maintenance.

Jayden Vollmuth, daughter of Dana Friedt (Headquarters), will be a sophomore at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Her major is chemical engineering.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF… LEAD SUBSTATION ELECTRICIAN

ADAM MALSOM

By Angela Magstadt

Adam Malsom, Basin Electric lead substation electrician, has always been fascinated by electricity. "I don't want to say I 'played' with electricity when I was a kid, but I definitely was intrigued with it and how it works," he says.

Malsom is one of six people that make up the Huron, South Dakota, Transmission System Maintenance (TSM) outpost. He, along with two other electricians, two system protection technicians, and a telecommunications technician work to maintain substations and communication sites that cover about 18,000 square miles of service territory in eastern South Dakota.

Malsom grew up on a family farm in Ipswich, South Dakota. After graduating high school, he attended North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton where he earned an associate's degree in electronic servicing. His first job out of college was doing service work on sound, telephone, and intercom systems at a business in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He then worked at a disc drive manufacturing facility, working on robotics as the technology and equipment evolved over time.

Malsom began working for Basin Electric in 2010. "The power industry has always interested me, and it is really nice to be able to work outside, not locked in a building every day," he says. "I really enjoy it."

Malsom says inspections and testing are the biggest and his favorite parts of his job at Basin Electric. As a rule, electricians at the Huron outpost inspect 15 sites around the perimeter of Huron every two months to ensure everything is working properly. "We check to make sure breakers open and close like they're supposed to, monitor transformers and switches, and make sure the batteries that serve as backups in case the substation loses power are working," he says. "It's basically ensuring the overall health of the equipment at these sites. And if something doesn't work like it should, we troubleshoot what is going on and fix it."

Each substation is also on a five-year maintenance schedule, where equipment is tested in detail to ensure the substation's reliability. Maintenance is typically done during the summer months.

Traveling is a big part of Malsom's job, and he says that he easily drives 30,000 miles per year going to all of the substations he and his crew serve.

For the last several months, the crew has also been hard at work updating the Broadland substation near Huron, a substation that takes power generated at Antelope Valley Station from 345-kilovolts (kV) and steps it down to 230-kV so it can safely travel the distribution lines and power homes in Huron and beyond. "We've replaced all the bushings, switches, light arrestors, safety devices, changed out sensors… it's really almost a whole new substation," Malsom says.

After Malsom and his crew spent every day since late May replacing equipment and testing and retesting it all to ensure it works the way it should, the new and improved Broadland substation went live on July 27. The Broadland project is part of Basin Electric's Aging Substation Infrastructure Replacement Initiative, a project with the goal of strengthening and modernizing the cooperative's infrastructure, much of which was constructed between the 1960s and 1980s.

Malsom says he enjoys his job and working for Basin Electric, because the co-op family feels just like – well – a family. "I work closely with the others at the Huron shop, but also with a lot of the people who work at East River (Electric Power Cooperative, Basin Electric Class A member in Madison, South Dakota). They're all very nice, down-to-earth people. And knowing that I am playing a part in keeping my community's lights on makes me feel good about what I do for a living," he says. "Often when people realize who I work for, especially after an outage caused by a storm, they are very appreciative for the work I do and the role I play in getting power to their homes. Others don't even know we're here (at the Huron TSM facility), which is actually a good thing. It means we're doing our jobs."

A converted World War II military truck was used to drill the well.

Martin (right) stands by the hose that was previously the sole water source for all 700 people in the village.

Martin (left) in front of the new water tank and freshly poured cement pad.

CLEAN WATER FOR THE ROMA

By Kalli Senske

What would you do if you had two weeks of vacation time to spend? Many people dream of relaxing at the beach, visiting family, or maybe even hiking through the mountains. But Mike Martin, maintenance electrician at Basin Electric Headquarters, wanted to spend his time improving the lives of underprivileged people in Macedonia.

Martin is involved in an organization called The Global Community Health Evangelism Network (CHE). CHE serves poor communities around the world by lifting them out of cycles of poverty and disease. They are working to reach 1 million villages around the world.

"One thing I appreciate about CHE is that they care about the total health of a person: education, life skills, health, family counseling, and entrepreneurship," Martin says.

Martin first got involved with CHE after his friend went on a mission trip to Hungary. After hearing about the impact his friend was able to make, Martin decided it was time to get involved, too. The next village CHE had scheduled to visit was in Macedonia, but there were a few delays along the way.

"The trip was supposed to happen two years ago but got postponed," says Martin. "Finally on our fourth attempt to get over there, six of us made it to Macedonia in mid-May."

Arriving in Prilep, Macedonia, it's easy to see the charm of this 66,000-person city. Thirty miles north of the Grecian border, it has rolling hills, vineyards, and amazing food. But once you step outside the city border, you see a very different view.

More than 1,000 years ago, 13 million nomads came out of India and scattered in small communities across Europe. Among them is a small village of 700 people that settled just outside of Prilep, called the Roma people.

"It's a strange mix looking at people in Prilep and then seeing the Roma people," Martin says. "It's modern living in the city and then people living like 1,000 years ago in the village – and they're right next to each other."

The Roma people don't own the land, and the cleanliness of the village and quality of the infrastructure is very poor.

"A lot of the homes look like a kid's tree fort," Martin says. "At one point, a man with a wife and six kids wanted to add a bathroom to his house, so we saw him nail sticks together, throw carpet over it, and there was his bathroom."

Even though the Roma people have been settled outside Prilep for 50-70 years, there's no running water or septic beyond the city, and electricity is limited. "The city gives them a single power line and they just run it to their individual homes that way," Martin says.

Lack of clean water was one of the primary issues in the village. Before Martin's team arrived, the whole village would go up a hill and use a buried garden hose that ran 24/7.

"One of the reasons we went over there is for the health of the Roma people. There's a lack of education so they don't get that they shouldn't pile garbage and dirty diapers over their water supply," Martin says. "By age 30, many in the village have lost their teeth, probably because of high levels of arsenic in the drinking water."

Martin's team focused on drilling a well and installing a water tank for the Roma people to drink from. They had older well-drilling equipment to work with, including a converted military truck from World War II, but had the benefit of working with many construction workers who have experience with block building.

The team drilled down 156 feet through granite and rock, and Martin says, "there's very good water once you get down that far." Martin also ran power to the well site. He says the team couldn't put the wellhead out because they were afraid someone would steal it, so they will eventually construct a building around the wellhead for security.

Martin says while they were pouring the cement pad, he learned that the workers didn't know how to use a level; they usually just "eyeball it."

"The pad was poured on a hill so it's hard to tell what's level," he says. "The last thing we wanted was for the pad to be wavy and have the water tank be at an angle and risk collapsing."

Another thing his team focused on while in Macedonia was teaching the Roma people skills to prevent illness.

"We taught them really baseline stuff. Wash your hands, don't play with garbage and then eat your food, how to dress a wound. Really basic, but it's stuff they never learned, and a lot of them just don't care or think it's important," Martin says.

Martin stressed that education is the key to changing the conditions of the village, not just money. Some Roma don't view education as important, but also human trafficking is prevalent and parents fear their children will be kidnapped if they go to school. So rather than learning in school, they learn from the older generations.

After his work in Macedonia came to an end, Martin came back to the United States more thankful for what he has. But upon reflecting, he saw a lot of positives in the Roma culture that we could benefit from in America, such as slowing down, having long meals together, focusing less on devices, and having quality family time.

"They have less in terms of material possessions but they have stronger relationships," he says. "Here, we feel disconnected from others. But their families are closer, and they rely on each other more. There's more togetherness."

He also pointed out that they eat a lot of vegetables (and very little fast food), are very artistic, know at least two languages, and are very generous, even with the little they have.

Martin says he could easily make another trip to Macedonia, but next time he'd like to take his two teenage sons. He says, "They need to get out a little bit."

Service awards

Steve Mundahl
40 years
Instrumentation and controls / telecom engineering supervisor
Headquarters

Sheila Brunner
25 years
Purchasing agent
Headquarters

Gene Giesen
25 years
Manager, physical security
Headquarters

Kerry Neuberger
25 years
Maintenance field technician
Dakota Gasification Company

Darvin Schmidt
25 years
Maintenance shift supervisor
Dakota Gasification Company

Terry Stoner
25 years
Process operations field technician
Dakota Gasification Company

Chris Bakken
20 years
Mechanic
Leland Olds Station

Jesse Eckroth
20 years
Shift supervisor, gas production
Dakota Gasification Company

Jerrett Gustafson
20 years
Process operations field technician
Dakota Gasification Company

Jeremy Horning
20 years
Mechanic
Antelope Valley Station

Derik Johnson
20 years
Manager, Transmission System Maintenance
Menoken TSM

Myron Jorgenson
20 years
Maintenance field technician
Dakota Gasification Company

Bob Meckle
20 years
Cyber systems security specialist
Headquarters

Quinn Messer
20 years
Supervisor, field maintenance
Dakota Gasification Company

Robb Moore
20 years
Senior rotating equipment engineer
Dakota Gasification Company

Chad Reisenauer
20 years
Director, community/ member relations
Headquarters

Bryce Reynolds
20 years
Maintenance field technician
Dakota Gasification Company

Jaye Sailer
20 years
Maintenance field technician
Dakota Gasification Company

Garrett Wahl
20 years
Process operations field technician
Dakota Gasification Company

Mitch Weigum
20 years
Mechanic
Antelope Valley Station

New employees

Rogetta Schmit started working as a settlements analyst at Headquarters on May 10. She previously worked as a controller at Tri-Energy Cooperative in Bismarck, North Dakota. Schmit studied accounting at University of Mary in Bismarck.

Scott Barbie began work as a laborer at Leland Olds Station on May 24. He previously worked in boiler operations at Sprung Services in Minnesota. Barbie earned a bachelor's degree in business management and business marketing from the University of Montana in Missoula and an associate's degree in power plant technology from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.

Savanah Emmil, started working as a service dispatcher at Headquarters on May 24. She previously worked in credits and collections for CenturyLink.

Evan Gowen began work as a support center representative at Headquarters on June 1. Before joining the cooperative, he provided technical support for NISC in Mandan, North Dakota. Gowen earned his bachelor's degree in information technology from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

We will remember …

Randy Wagner passed away on April 19. He was employed at Laramie River Station for nearly 27 years. He began his employment in 1989 as an Instrument II and was promoted to Instrument I, a position he held until he left the plant in 2004. He returned to the co-op as an Instrument II in 2009 and was promoted to NERC compliance administrator in 2014, the position he held until his passing.

"Randy was one of the nicest guys around. He always had a smile on his face and always was willing to lend a hand with whatever you needed help with," says Levi Mickelsen, Laramie River Station's plant manager. "We all miss his presence around here and he will not soon be forgotten."

Kathy Jacobson passed away on June 28. She joined the co-op in 2014 as a payroll analyst at Laramie River Station. In 2018, she transferred to Headquarters as a payroll analyst.

"It was great working with and getting to know Kathy over the past six years," says Jon Klein, payroll manager and Jacobson's supervisor. "She had a huge passion for the arts, especially music played on the guitar by her husband. Kathy had a spark that will be missed but not forgotten."

Devin Calhoun passed away on July 22. Calhoun began his career at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant six years ago as a process operations student intern. In 2016, Calhoun became a full-time employee as a process operations field technician after graduating from college.

"Devin was very good at his job and was always willing to help others. He will truly be missed by his coworkers at DGC," says his supervisor Lyle Zinke.

"Devin was a smart, driven young man with big ambitions for life," says Chuck Lawhorn, chemical products field technician and Calhoun's friend in and outside of work. "He was very good at his job and was an up-and-coming board operator in his unit. Devin had a positive effect on people here at DGC where he made several buddies outside of work. He will be truly missed, and a void will always remain at DGC with his absence."

Retirees

Cindy Becker, senior administrative assistant at Headquarters, retired on March 1 after 30 years with the cooperative.

"I worked with Cindy for almost 30 years and during all that time, she was consistently a pleasant member of the department who worked hard to do the right thing," says Gavin McCollam, vice president of engineering and construction. "She had her work cut out for her keeping all the engineers in line and following the various iterations of Basin Electric administrative standards over the years."

McCollam adds, "I'll probably miss Cindy's friendly demeanor most of all. She was polite to all the people she worked with over the years, and was quick with a smile or a wave."

Chuck Fritel, process operations shift superintendent at Dakota Gasification Company, retired on March 3. The Rugby, North Dakota native first started working at the plant in 1984 as a contract laborer and took a permanent position in 1985.

"I worked with Chuck mostly during his time as a shift superintendent for Dakota Gas. He was someone I could always count on to stay calm and make the right decision during tough situations," says Trinity Turnbow, operations manager and assistant plant manager. "Chuck worked at Dakota Gas a long time and pretty much saw everything there was to see. He had very high expectations of himself and others, and a great positive attitude. Chuck did whatever needed doing, including stepping out of his role to spend months helping guide the commissioning of the load-out area for the urea project. He shared his knowledge with anyone willing to learn and helped to ensure the next generation of shift superintendents were ready to step in and fill that role."

Turnbow adds that his first meeting of every day is always 30 minutes with whichever shift superintendent is working. "Over the years that added up to spending a lot of hours with Chuck, not only discussing how the plant was running at the time, but also getting to know each other personally. I miss our talks and all the laughs that helped the day start out right."

Fritel says he has worked with a lot of great people over the years and had a great work experience. "I got to see a lot of changes that Dakota Gas has gone through with the threat of the plant shutting down, but we always pulled through with a lot of work from the management and employees to keep it going," says Fritel. "Thanks for the opportunity to work at Dakota Gas all these years."

Fritel plans to spend his retirement with family, traveling, and doing a lot more fishing and hunting.

Mark Schaper retired as a process operations field technician from Dakota Gas on April 5. He was with the cooperative for 38 years.

"Mark was a great employee who always had an opinion," says Lyle Zinke, shift superintendent. "He was always willing to train new technicians."

In his retirement, Schaper plans to continue to ranch and spend time raising his kids.

Blaine Fischer, scrubber supervisor, retired from Antelope Valley Station on April 8.

"It has truly been a great 35-year ride, I've worked with many great people over the years and enjoyed the many positions I held during my career," Fischer says. "Basin Electric has given me the ability to provide a great life for my family and the ability to retire early to enjoy the next journey, wherever the road takes me."

"Blaine has a wide understanding of the plant and scrubber. He was a great resource and was always willing to answer questions and help train the new employees," says Duane Poitra, operations superintendent. "I am very thankful for his deduction to Basin Electric and wish him all the best in retirement."

In his retirement, the Mandan, North Dakota, native looks forward to spending more time with his kids in Bismarck. He also plans to do a lot of traveling with his wife (some on motorcycle), take numerous cruises, and spend more time lake fishing.

Timothy Seidler, process operations section manager of gas production, retired from Dakota Gas on April 9. Originally from New Leipzig, North Dakota, Seidler said he enjoyed his more than 37 years with Dakota Gas.

"It's been interesting over the years to see the plant change from a simple gas plant into one with many different byproducts as well as fertilizers," Seidler says. "I had the opportunity over the years to work in many areas of the plant with the latest challenge being the urea plant start-up."

"Over his 35-plus year career, Tim either worked in or managed just about every operational area of the plant. Tim was always willing to troubleshoot and help anyone who needed it," says Trinity Turnbow, operations manager and assistant plant manager. "I remember early on when working with Tim, the plant had to come down for some reason, and we worked late into the evening coming up with the operational schedule to effectively shut down the plant, make repairs, and start back up. It was that day that I really understood just how dedicated Tim was and how well he knew the plant."

Turnbow adds, "I think Tim would say the same, that the highlight of his career was being the section manager overseeing the original startup and operation of the urea plant. I greatly appreciate Tim's leadership and the long hours he put in to ensure we had successful new product streams that significantly benefit Dakota Gas. Tim should be proud of the legacy he left bringing online the largest addition in the history of the plant."

Seidler plans to spend his retirement traveling to different parts of the U.S. he hasn't had the time to visit in the past. He also plans to spend the winters at different ski areas, continuing to downhill ski as long as possible.

Tim Morrell, shift supervisor at Antelope Valley Station, retired on April 21. He was with the cooperative for more than 38 years.

"Tim is very dependable, and he dedicated most of his career to working shift work for Basin Electric. He is very knowledgeable of the plant and was always willing to help out when needed," says Duane Poitra, operations superintendent. "I am very thankful for his dedication to Basin Electric and wish him all the best in retirement."

Rodney Sterkel, mechanic/welder, retired from Laramie River Station on June 3. Originally from Torrington, Wyoming, Sterkel previously worked for the University of Wyoming.

"Rod was an exceptional employee. His work ethic and positive attitude were something I could always count on. His positive attitude would reflect on others who may have been having a bad day at first but then put smile on their face," says Kelly Simonton, mechanical maintenance supervisor. "Rod would always look at a job task and try to figure out how he could make it better than before. This is something I believe you cannot teach. He was truly a great employee and co-worker. Thanks, Rod, from all of us at LRS."

Now that Sterkel is retired, he bought a house in Florida and plans to enjoy the beach and do some fishing. He will also travel and spend time with his grandchildren.

Retirees

Mike Schwartz, manager of desktop and operational technology, retired from Headquarters on June 4.

Schwartz began his career with Basin Electric in management information systems as a programmer analyst. He then advanced to system programmer and eventually finished his career as manager of desktop and operational technology.

"Thinking back to April of 1984, the thought of retiring with Basin wasn't even a part of my thought processes. But then before you know it, time slips by and you have been on the job for 37 years," Schwartz says.

Schwartz describes his life at Basin Electric as a journey that at times was a bit of a roller coaster ride with a positive outcome. "I have made many friends along the way and enjoyed the company of many very talented and dedicated people, most always willing to work together for the common good of those on the end of the line. I have most enjoyed my time working at the generating facilities and with the fine folks that operate those facilities; they take so much pride in where they work and what they do."

Schwartz adds that he appreciated the many benefits offered by the cooperative, especially the training and educational opportunities and the time allowed to volunteer and be civically involved. "Looking back, my years at Basin have truly been a good experience. Many thanks to those who have helped to make the journey a very good one," Schwartz says.

"Mike is down-to-earth, pragmatic, and incredibly knowledgeable," says Brian Matthews, vice president and chief information officer. "I will miss his candor and wit."

In retirement, Schwartz plans to build a shop and work on restoring serveral antique cars, including a 1936 Chevrolet Coupe and a 1972 MgB. He also plans to hit the road and visit his daughters in California and Texas.

Kelly Neuberger, process operations field technician, retired from Dakota Gas on June 7. The Hazen, North Dakota, native was with the cooperative for 31 years.

"Kelly always had a good attitude, strong work ethic, and was dependable. Talking to the guys, they said he always liked to keep the unit clean and stay busy," says Paul Remmick, utilities shift supervisor.

Remmick adds that, "Kelly had a great knowledge of the plant and how things worked. When I became a supervisor, he really helped me out with plant policies and procedures, and gave me all the info he had collected over the years. I will miss being able to talk to Kelly about problems in the plant and trying to figure out solutions together."

Jarvis Schmidt, maintenance planner at Dakota Gas, retired on June 8 after 25 years at the plant. The Flasher, North Dakota, native says, "I very much enjoyed the opportunity to work at Dakota Gas and the great people I met and got to work with."

Schmidt plans to spend his retirement doing more hunting, fishing, camping, and traveling.

Bruce N. Banks, process operations shift supervisor, retired from Dakota Gas on July 1. He worked for the cooperative for 38 years. Before that, he was a shift supervisor/driller for Cardinal Drilling Company.

"Bruce has been involved in a lot of large projects and activities throughout the plant's history. During his years at the plant he wasn't afraid to take on a new challenge and took on new roles," says Brandon Hicks, chemical products section manager.

"Coming from all of C crew, we collectively agree that Bruce was a supervisor that cared a lot about his operators and fellow employees," says Greg Berger, process operations field technician. "Bruce never hesitated to go out into the field to help us troubleshoot, clean up, or fix a problem. He was always checking in on us making sure the units were running correctly and we had what we needed to do our jobs properly."

"Dakota Gas is the best place I have ever worked at with some of the best people I have ever met in my life," Banks says. "I will miss it for a while – not too long though."

"All of us are going to miss how easygoing Bruce was," says Berger. "He was always good about giving us jobs that needed to get done in a respectable manner and never talked down to us. Every interaction with Bruce was accompanied by a sense of humor that we will all miss."

Hicks added, "I'll miss Bruce's sense of humor. I'm sure Bruce will miss the plant and the relationships he built but will make the most of his extra time at the lake."

Now that he's retired, he says he plans to spend time relaxing and sleeping in.

Dave Pfliger, mechanical maintenance field technician at Dakota Gas, retired on July 15 after 30 years.

Quinn Messer, field maintenance supervisor, says the Hazen, North Dakota, native was a good employee and worker. "Dave was always willing to help or lend a hand to others on his crew when they needed assistance. He would work at a good, steady pace and came back for more work when he finished jobs that were assigned to him. He was always on the move and a go getter."

Messer also says that in the last few years, Pfliger took over a majority of the tasks on the winter one-job list, which is a list of jobs to try to complete before the cold weather hits. "That really lightened that work for the rest of the crew so they could concentrate on other priority work. Dave was great to have on the crew and was always one to crack a joke or two. We all wish him the best of luck in retirement."

Stanley Grad, process operations field technician at Dakota Gas, retired on July 19 after 36 years with the company.

Grad started out working in the gasification area and moved into coal handling in 1993-1994. He then went to the wastewater area for 30 days before coming back to gasification. "There are great people in this area," Grad says. "Time went very fast."

"Stan experienced a tremendous amount of things in his career. We all will miss the knowledge he is taking with him," says Jesse Eckroth, process operations shift supervisor.

"Stan was kind of the crew jokester. He was a hard worker and still had no problem keeping up with the young guys," says Eckroth. "We will also miss his cooking. Stan was the crew 'master chef' and would frequently whip up a meal for the crew on nights and weekends."

Allan Frederick, mechanical maintenance supervisor, retired from Antelope Valley Station on July 21. He's been with the cooperative for nearly 24 years, starting out at Dakota Gas and switching to AVS in 2008.

"Allan is honest, hard working, and dependable. He showed up early and worked late. Allan always gave 110%," says Chad Edwards, Antelope Valley plant manager. "He was very well-respected by his co-workers and always had a positive attitude at work. I am very thankful for his dedication to Basin Electric over the years and want to wish him all the best in retirement."

Frederick plans to spend his retirement traveling, restoring old cars, and spending time with his grandchildren.

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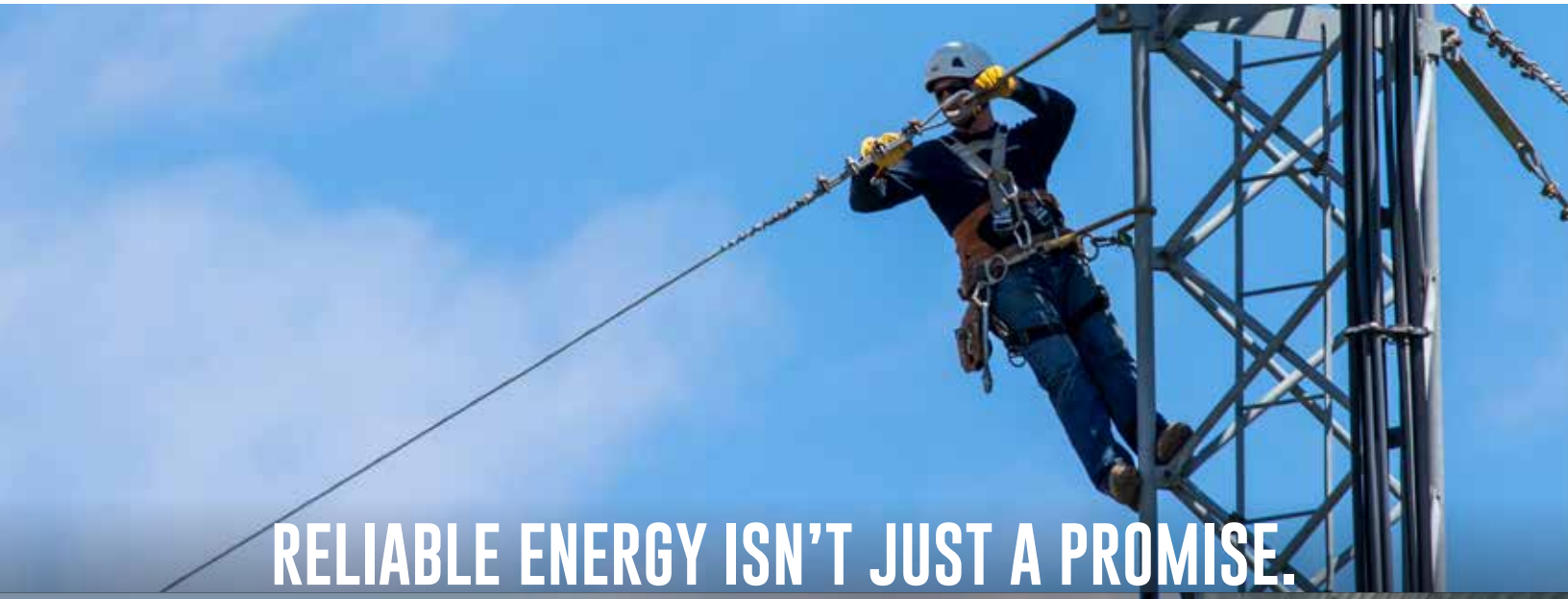

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