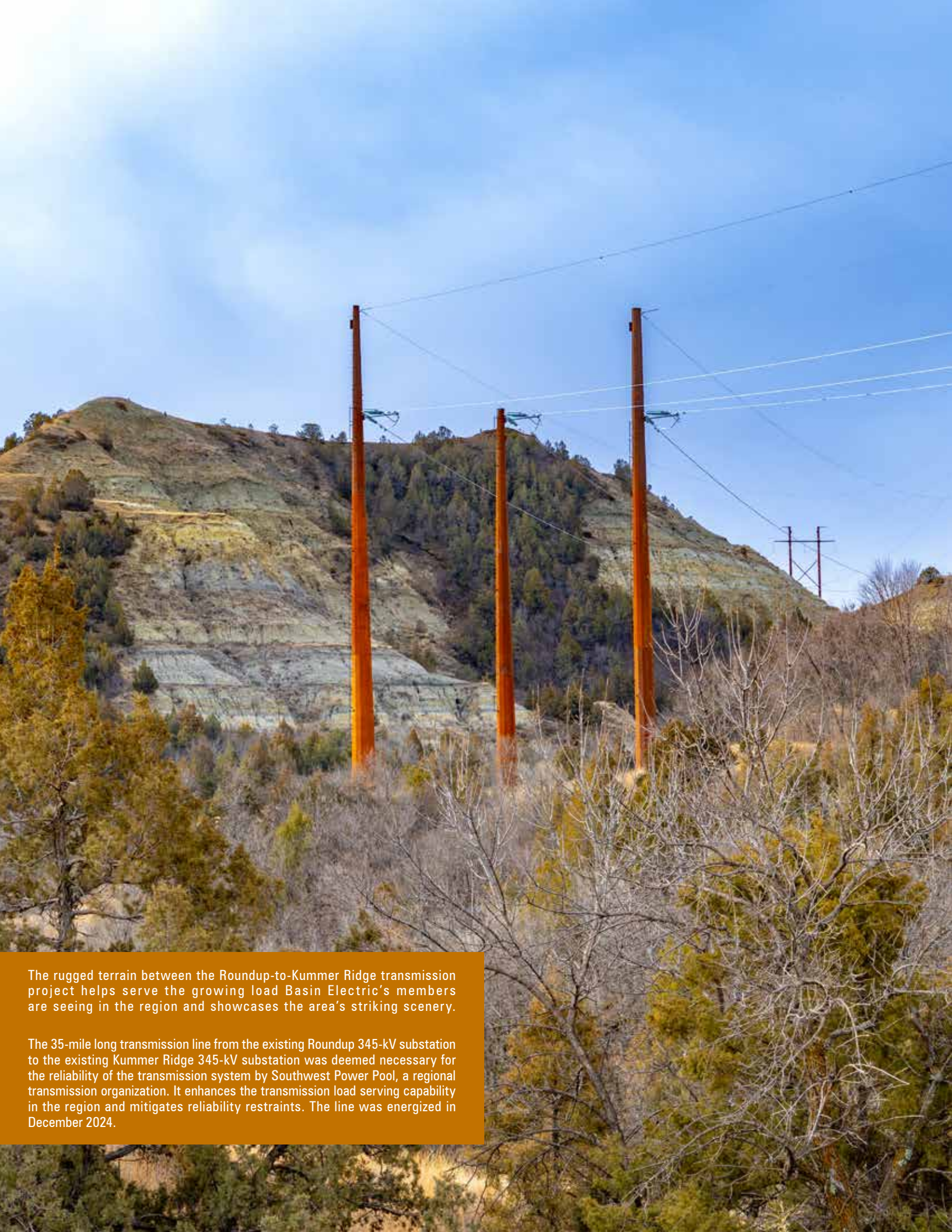


BASIN TODAY

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE | SPRING/SUMMER 2025

A glowing street lamp in the foreground, set against a backdrop of rolling hills and a sunset sky. The lamp is on the left side of the frame, casting a warm glow. The background features a line of trees and a range of hills under a sky with soft orange and yellow hues.

**RELIABLE POWER
TO LIGHT YOUR WAY**



The rugged terrain between the Roundup-to-Kummer Ridge transmission project helps serve the growing load Basin Electric's members are seeing in the region and showcases the area's striking scenery.

The 35-mile long transmission line from the existing Roundup 345-kV substation to the existing Kummer Ridge 345-kV substation was deemed necessary for the reliability of the transmission system by Southwest Power Pool, a regional transmission organization. It enhances the transmission load serving capability in the region and mitigates reliability restraints. The line was energized in December 2024.

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VOLUME 28 | NUMBER 2

ON THE COVER

Basin Electric's member cooperatives are experiencing significant and sustained growth. In western North Dakota and eastern Montana, that growth is due to economic development related to oil and gas, and the ancillary services that go along with this progress.

Pictured is Medora, North Dakota, a town served by Basin Electric Class C member Roughrider Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Hazen and Dickinson, North Dakota.

Read more about the economic development in Medora and how Roughrider Electric Cooperative is helping power that growth on page 10.

Photo courtesy of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Editor: Kalli Senske (communications@bepc.com)

Graphic designer: Joy Schnabel

Photographers: Joy Schnabel, Juan Thomas, Greg Wheeler

Writers: Erin Becker, Jenifer Gray, Dana Hager, Alison Kirsch, Andrew Weeks



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TODD BRICKHOUSE

POWERING THE FUTURE

At Basin Electric, transmission and technology work hand in hand to deliver what matters most: safe, reliable power for our members. Together, they power our mission, connect our communities, and ensure energy is delivered efficiently and securely across our 500,000-square-mile service territory. This coordinated approach is essential to meeting growing energy needs while maintaining our commitment to reliability, sustainability, and service for our members.

Our transmission infrastructure plays a vital role in delivering electricity over long distances, moving power from our large generation facilities to our members' local distribution systems that serve homes, farms, and businesses across our nine-state region. As the largest generation and transmission cooperative in the country, we are committed to investing in this critical infrastructure to support our members and meet the needs of a growing and evolving electric grid. Every mile of line we build and every investment we make is driven by our responsibility to serve and support our members today and in the future.

Investing in critical projects

I am proud to share the progress we've made on key transmission projects and technological upgrades designed to prepare us for future growth and improve service reliability across our footprint.

One of our most transformative projects, the Leland Olds-to-Tande 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, moved into final planning stages. This approximately 175-mile line will enhance transmission load-serving capability in

western North Dakota and mitigate regional reliability constraints. Construction is slated to begin in 2025, with energization expected by November 2026.

To strengthen cross-border exchange and system stability, we're also constructing two new 230-kV transmission lines: Tande-to-Saskatchewan and Wheelock-to-Saskatchewan, totaling approximately 110 miles. These lines will enhance import/export capabilities between the U.S. and Canada.

Construction also advances on the Leland Olds Station Substation, one of the largest 345-kV substations in our system. Located near Stanton, North Dakota, this critical asset is set for completion by summer 2025 and will support long-term system reliability.

We celebrated a major milestone with the early completion of the Roundup-to-Kummer Ridge transmission line – a 33-mile, 345-kV line energized in December 2024, five months ahead of schedule. This project enhanced grid reliability and helps alleviate system congestion.

Leveraging smart technology

Investing in infrastructure also means investing in innovation. Through the integration of Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) technology, we are maximizing the efficiency of our existing transmission system. In 2024, we installed 19 DLR sensors across the 75-mile-long Williston-to-Charlie Creek line in northwest North Dakota. Earlier this year, we added an additional 12 sensors across two more lines totaling 50 miles. These devices provide real-time transmission capacity data, allowing for greater flexibility during peak demand periods, improved efficiency, and support for load growth without needing to build new lines.

This level of infrastructure expansion and technological advances is unprecedented, and it comes with unique challenges. From navigating rugged terrain and extreme weather conditions to working through complex regulatory and permitting processes, our teams continually rise to the challenge. Their dedication ensures we meet growth demands while staying true to our cooperative values.

Meeting challenges

Behind every project is a team of professionals who make it happen. Engineering, transmission services,

right-of-way specialists, environmental experts, legal counsel, communication professionals, and many others collaborate and do the hard work to ensure projects move forward responsibly and effectively. Our construction crews then bring these plans to life, prioritizing safety at every step.

The success of the Roundup-to-Kummer Ridge line is a powerful example of this collaboration. Completed ahead of schedule, the project showcased strong coordination, open communication with landowners and tribal members, and an unwavering commitment to doing the job right.

With every new asset comes a responsibility to maintain it. Our Transmission Systems Maintenance team manages a growing number of substations, structures, and telecommunications sites. Their proactive approach to inspection, repair, and reliability ensures our entire system continues to operate smoothly, day in and day out.

At Basin Electric, we believe trust is the foundation of every successful project. That's why we prioritize open, transparent communication with communities and landowners from the start through one-on-one conversations, public meetings, and ongoing project updates. Our right-of-way agents work closely with landowners to explain project goals, gather input, and minimize disruption. This relationship-based approach helps us balance system needs with community concerns, because we know success depends on collaboration.

As new technologies emerge, populations shift, and demand grows, Basin Electric remains committed to staying ahead of the curve. Our proactive, cooperative approach to long-term planning ensures we continue delivering on our promise: reliable, affordable, and safe power for our members – now and for future generations.

Thank you for your continued trust in Basin Electric.



TODD BRICKHOUSE
CEO and general manager



Cooperative leaders gather for a photo at the White House. (starting left) Jeffrey Connor, Mac McLennan, Chris Perry, Lisa Johnson, Chris Cosby, Annalisa Bloodworth, Vernon 'Buddy' Hasten, Craig Grooms, David Tudor, Jim Matheson, Todd Brickhouse, and Tony Campbell.

Photo courtesy of NRECA.

Brickhouse attends executive order signing at White House

Todd Brickhouse, Basin Electric's CEO and general manager, attended the White House on April 8 for the signing of four executive orders aimed at providing immediate relief to the United States energy industry.

"It was an honor to represent Basin Electric at the White House for the signing of the recent executive orders. It was gratifying to be in the company of cooperative leaders from across the country," said Brickhouse. "As the largest electric utility in the United States by service territory, Basin Electric is exposed to severe climates and weather events which require an all-of-the-above energy strategy. Basin Electric's coal fleet is a key component of this strategy. We fully support the Administration's efforts to secure the future of dispatchable generation."

<https://bit.ly/BrickhouseAtWhiteHouse>

Canadian man sentenced to federal prison for damaging Basin Electric substation

A 50-year-old Canadian man was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison for the destruction of two energy facilities in North Dakota and South Dakota in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Cameron Monte Smith was in the U.S. illegally on May 13, 2023, when he fired rounds from a high-powered rifle into the Wheelock electric substation near Ray, North Dakota. The substation is operated by Basin Electric and

Class C member Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative. A year prior, in July 2022, Smith fired shots at a transformer and pump station of the Keystone Pipeline near Carpenter, South Dakota.

Mountrail-Williams initially responded to the damage but soon informed law enforcement and management at Basin Electric. Daniel Graham, Basin Electric's chief security and compliance officer, said while more bullets had hit Mountrail-Williams equipment, Basin Electric's 115-/230-kilovolt transformer received the most damage. Derik Johnson, manager of Basin Electric's Transmission Systems Maintenance, called it "major damage." Bullets from Smith's rifle hit the transformer's radiators, causing oil leaks and damaging other ancillary equipment, Johnson said.

<https://bit.ly/SentencingForDamage>



The Wheelock substation sustained damage after Smith fired rounds from a high-powered rifle, resulting in the disruption of electrical services for many.

Construction update at Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV

Construction is wrapping up at Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. Located near the existing Pioneer Generation Station northwest of Williston, North Dakota, it will be Basin Electric's largest generation project built in North Dakota since the 1980s.

Recent milestones include putting the reciprocating internal combustion engine into commercial operation on April 11; first fire of the Unit 5 combustion turbine generator on April 14; turnover of the administration building and control room to Pioneer Generating Station Operations team on April 18; and completing the

345-kilovolt back feed to both combustion turbines for commissioning and first fire support. Current in-service date projections are:

- Combustion Turbine Unit 5 – May 2025
- Combustion Turbine Unit 4 – August 2025

 <https://bit.ly/PGSIV-progress>



Kurt Dutchuk, pipeline superintendent at Dakota Gas, receives the Excellence in Innovation Award on behalf of Dakota Gas at the Energy Progress and Innovation Conference.

Dakota Gas receives award for carbon capture project

Dakota Gasification Company (Dakota Gas), a subsidiary of Basin Electric, received the Excellence in Innovation Award for its Great Plains CO₂ Sequestration Project. The award was presented in January at the Energy and Environmental Research Center's (EERC) Energy Progress and Innovations Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota. EERC chose to recognize the carbon dioxide (CO₂)

capture project because of Dakota Gas' dedication and commitment to excellence in innovation.

When the Great Plains CO₂ Sequestration Project went into service in mid-February 2024, Dakota Gas became home to the largest geologic sequestration project in the world. It is expected the facility will capture up to 2.25 million metric tons of CO₂ per year.

Dakota Gas captures and sequesters CO₂ via a permanent geologic storage reservoir adjacent to the facility, the Broom Creek sandstone formation. The project is operating safely, and each individual well is performing better than anticipated, which provides a favorable outlook for long-term economic return on investment.

 <https://bit.ly/DGCaward>

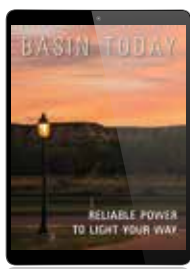
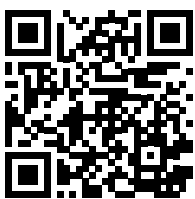
Board approves 2025 load forecast

At its January meeting, Basin Electric's board of directors approved the member load forecast for 2024-2050. The forecast shows growth at 3.3% annually across the membership, according to Jay Lundstrom, Basin Electric senior load forecast analyst.

Growth within Basin Electric's service area in the residential and commercial sectors as well as cryptocurrency load and continued economic development in western North Dakota all contribute to the load growth in the forecast.

 <https://bit.ly/Basin25Forecast>


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Todd Brickhouse, CEO and general manager of Basin Electric, provided testimony during the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy in Washington, D.C.

Photo courtesy of Denny Gainer, NRECA

STAYING THE COURSE

AMID POLICY AND REGULATION CHANGES, BASIN ELECTRIC REMAINS FOCUSED

By Andrew Weeks

The one thing you can always count on is change. That might be an old mantra, but it remains true for cooperatives as it does for people.

In this case, a change in federal administration means changes to policies and regulations that often impact cooperatives, including Basin Electric.

Since taking office in January, for instance, President Donald Trump has signed more than 100 executive orders, many aimed at overturning policies from President Joe Biden's administration, some having to do with the energy sector. These orders bring uncertainty, especially since new policies and regulations – even erasing old ones – often take time to implement.

Erin Dukart, director of Environmental Services at Basin Electric, says while it might be tough navigating changes in policy every time a new administration takes office, there are some positives that come with the shifts.

Something positive so far this year was when Basin Electric Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Todd Brickhouse was invited to provide testimony during a hearing held by the U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy in Washington, D.C. The March hearing focused on the challenges facing utilities to deliver reliable and affordable electricity to consumers amid the growing demand for power across the United States. The invitation provided an opportunity for Brickhouse to address reliability issues in the nation's electric grid and the significance of enhancing the ability to generate and distribute power to homes, businesses, and emerging data centers.

Looking ahead, however, there is still the task of maneuvering through the unknowns that stem from a new administration.

Navigating uncertainties

"I think the biggest regulatory uncertainty right now is the pendulum swing between conservative and liberal policies that happens when administrations change," Dukart says. "Basin Electric generation and transmission resources take multiple years to plan, develop, design, and permit. Once constructed, we rely on those resources for decades to come. It is very difficult to complete this process in the best manner for the membership when we are unable to anticipate huge swings in policy that may come whenever the federal administration changes."

There seems to be more of an effort now to “go back to cooperative federalism,” which, she says, is traditionally a positive shift, but explains some of those entwined duties “belong with federal agencies, others in state agencies.” Finding balance is important.

“We believe that states are best equipped to regulate the sources in their states because they understand the sources and the region,” she continues. “From the beginning, Basin Electric has been committed to environmental protection. However, we also believe that needs to be done within the constraints of existing laws and should not be done based on rules that have no basis in science or law.”

Ryan Norrell, vice president of Government Relations at Basin Electric, echoes similar sentiments about the changing of the guard in Washington. “That’s one of the hardest parts, trying to navigate all of the unknowns,” he says. “There are a lot of big ideas coming from the Trump administration about enhancing grid reliability, security, and powering new generation. But there are also a lot of questions about how those things are going to come about. That’s where uncertainty comes in.”

Beyond politics

Norrell says if any administration can see beyond politics, important issues would likely align more quickly to the common good.

Case in point, the Empowering Rural America Program (New ERA) was a Biden program that at its core aimed to provide more electricity to rural communities. Unfortunately, the program got tied up in politics. Dukart says while it “provided a lot of funding for rural cooperatives, there were also a lot of potential strings with it. The former administration’s goal was more renewables and clean energy. We’re not against renewables by any means, but that can’t be the only solution.”

“We encouraged policymakers to see beyond the politics, because New ERA was really about powering rural America,” Norrell says. “Why wouldn’t we want more generation for rural America? We’re going to need every electron we can get. Luckily, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Trump administration agree with that assessment and have given the green light for that program to proceed.”

A change to the recent greenhouse gas rules from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that impacts new

and existing power plants, Dukart says, would also be positive.

“If not repealed,” she says, “the EPA will dictate what resources we can build and operate in the future to meet load growth, how we operate existing units, and how long we can operate our existing coal fleet, which would likely lead to huge costs to the membership and put reliability into question.”

Working together

Looking ahead, Norrell says he expects to see some regulatory changes coming about this year, perhaps targeted at carbon-based generation, such as reducing red tape on coal and gas generation.

Norrell said this in advance of April 8, when Trump signed another series of executive orders aimed at boosting the coal industry. In his address to the nation, in which Brickhouse was present at the White House, Trump directed federal agencies to identify coal resources on federal lands, remove barriers to coal mining, and signed a proclamation offering coal-fired power plants a two-year exemption from certain Biden-era federal environmental regulations on coal power plants.

Through all the uncertainties with new and changing federal policies and regulations, the team at Basin Electric has found its groove working together. The cooperative tries to be as proactive as possible.

“We work through what we can,” Norrell says. “We also play the listening game, reaching out to contacts in Washington or different member states to ask what they’re hearing. There is advocacy with federal agencies on some programs, as we try to get our line of sight on things. We try to have ideas that we can bring to any administration, if they’re open to ideas.”

He also says the environmental and legal teams at Basin Electric are top-notch, an assessment with which Dukart agrees, also giving a nod to the Government Relations team. This synergy among teams’ communication helps navigate any uncertainties that stem from new policies and regulations.

“When we’re looking at new resources,” Dukart says, “there’s usually cross-departmental teams.” That teamwork helps Basin Electric stay focused on what is best for the cooperative in these times of change.



The Medora Musical celebrates its 60th season in 2025. Performances are held every night except Mondays, from June to mid-September.

MEDORA: A BRIGHTER FUTURE POWERED BY PARTNERSHIP

Photo courtesy of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation

By Erin Becker

When visiting Medora, it's easy to forget it's part of North Dakota. The endless skyline and prairie fields are replaced with buttes, gullies, and a picturesque backdrop of the Badlands. With an official population of just over 100, Medora remains the state's number one tourist destination, visited by people from around the globe.

Medora has a rich history, most famously known for capturing the heart of President Theodore Roosevelt. He first traveled to the area in 1883 to hunt bison and fell in love with the rugged Badlands. He continued to visit year after year, eventually investing in two cattle ranches: The Maltese Cross Ranch and The Elkhorn Ranch located south and north of Medora, respectively. President Roosevelt said, "I never would have been President had it not been for my experiences in North Dakota."

Medora's journey into a beloved travel destination started in 1962 with a dream by Harold Schafer—well known for founding Mr. Bubble, Glass Wax, and other nationally known household products—who felt it necessary to preserve the history and beauty of this quaint small town for future generations. Today, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF), formed

in 1986 by Schafer and his family, exists to bring this dream to life.

Sixty-three years later, there truly is something for everyone in Medora. Visitors can play a round of golf at Bully Pulpit, hike through the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, relax and eat at the historic Rough Riders Hotel & Dining, and delight in the musical talents of the infamous Medora Musical performed at the outdoor Burning Hills Amphitheater.

"Medora has a fantastic way of bringing people together, helping them slow down a little bit and take a break from the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives," says Clarence Sitter, chief executive officer for TRMF.

Behind the scenes, a great deal goes into creating a memorable, safe, and comfortable experience for every visitor. Microphones, lights, sound, and effects help create the magic of the musical; brightly lit lampposts aid in navigating the parking lots and walkways at night; and air conditioners keep restaurants and hotels cool and inviting for guests. A common thread connecting all of these is the reliable electricity provided by Roughrider

Electric Cooperative—Basin Electric’s Class C member, headquartered in Hazen and Dickinson, North Dakota.

“Our history with Medora stems back to the 1940s when the first rural electric cooperatives began,” says Leonard Hibel, director of key accounts, marketing, and member services at Roughrider Electric. “We have a great partnership with the city of Medora and TRMF, and have worked closely with both on various projects.”

TRMF’s recent projects include the installation of a high-capacity elevator at the Amphitheatre, a 32-unit apartment building, a new retail store by Point-to-Point Park, and a new bathroom/concession building at the Bully Pulpit golf course.

“We have an unbelievable partnership with Roughrider Electric Cooperative,” says Sitter. “Not only have they been part of sponsoring the Medora Musical since 2005, but they have also been a financial supporter since 1990. They have been a true partner that helps power everything we do. Without them, we could not operate any of our facilities (hotels, restaurants, theatres, shops, golf course, offices, etc.)”

Like any strong relationship, clear and consistent communication has been essential to its success.

“We do our best to communicate with the team at Roughrider Electric Cooperative to keep them informed on upcoming projects, infrastructure changes, what we know about outages, and working with the field crews. Similarly, Roughrider Electric Cooperative has always been great about keeping us informed about things they are working on, estimated lengths for power outages, or other project work,” says Sitter.

A notable project well underway in Medora is the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library (The Library), which is slated to open in 2026. According to The Library’s website: “Medora was chosen as the ideal location within the state to develop the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum due to the strong association with Theodore Roosevelt. It was in the Badlands that Roosevelt grieved and healed as he pursued the ‘strenuous life,’ transforming himself from a frail and underweight city dweller into a larger-than-life character, as he is popularly remembered today.”

TRMF generously gifted 2.5 acres to The Library, which will be used for shared parking, walking and hiking pathways, and a redesigned passage to both the Burning Hills Amphitheater and The Library.

“We are working closely with The Library team on many aspects to prepare for its grand opening in 2026,” says Sitter. “This covers everything from infrastructure to parking to operational possibilities. We are very excited about what that project will do for Medora, the region, and our state.”

Roughrider Electric is preparing for increased tourism loads and is expanding its capacity to strengthen reliability.

“Upgrades made because of these projects and improvements will benefit the surrounding area for years to come,” says Hibel.

As Medora continues to grow and welcomes a new wave of visitors, Basin Electric and Roughrider Electric are ready to grow with the community, providing reliable electricity now and in the future.



A rendering gives a glimpse at the design of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, which is anticipated to open in 2026.

Photo courtesy of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library

Chas Hertz, journeyman communication technician at Menoken TSM.



HOW WE SERVE...

WITH THE COMMUNICATION TECHNICIAN TEAM

By Kalli Senske

In a world that runs on constant connection, the communication technicians at Transmission Systems Maintenance (TSM) play a fundamental role in keeping Basin Electric's telecom networks strong. Skilled at installing, maintaining, and repairing Basin Electric's communication systems, they ensure our members continue to have the reliable power they count on to serve their members at the end of the line.

Chas Hertz, journeyman communication technician at Menoken TSM, is one of 11 people at Basin Electric who jointly maintains 224 different substation and tower communication sites.

Hertz and the team are responsible for maintaining several systems at the substation and tower sites, such as a bulk fiber system, microwave system, charging systems, back-up systems, and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. To put it simply, they ensure all critical communication systems remain operational, providing reliable support for the infrastructure they help maintain.

Hertz and his teammates work 8- to 10-hour shifts, but if something happens overnight that requires immediate attention, one of them could get called in.

"We could get called in because we could lose a tower site from a storm, or there's lost power at a site and the back-up generator fails," Hertz says. "Or an ice storm could take down transmission lines and we could lose fiber on that link."

One of the biggest issues Hertz and his team try to avoid is a tower going dark, meaning it has lost power or is no longer communicating.

"If we lose power, we have a back-up battery bank at the site that's made up of eight big batteries. If the back-up generator was to fail, the batteries would kick on. They're like a back-up to a back-up. But if they both fail, the tower would go dark, which could lead to communication problems," Hertz says.

The back-up battery banks can last roughly eight hours, so time is of the essence to quickly get to a site to get power restored.

“One night, I got called out because a thunderstorm went through. I had to go there in the pitch dark because all the city lights were gone,” Hertz says. “But I was happy to do my part to get power back to everyone who relies on it.”

To avoid equipment failure, preventative maintenance is the best defense.

With critical systems to monitor like SCADA, microwave networks, and fiber-optic links connecting substations and field crews, even a minor disruption can lead to delayed responses, service interruptions, or safety hazards. By routinely inspecting, testing, and servicing equipment, Hertz and his fellow communication technicians can catch small issues—like degrading cables, failing batteries, or signal interference—before they escalate into major outages.

“Without communication technicians maintaining these systems, our substations couldn’t communicate with each other, so Basin Electric would have more disruptions and run into issues maintaining reliability,” Hertz says.

Sometimes issues are unavoidable, and it takes a larger team to find a solution. That’s when Hertz relies on other teammates, like IT employees, system protection technicians, substation electricians, telecom engineers, lineworkers, or other communication technicians, to partner with him to find a solution.

As one may guess, Hertz’s team often works closely with lineworkers. During a storm last year that took down transmission lines, Hertz says lineworkers rehung the cables while the communication technicians spliced the fiber. The fiber is made of tiny pieces of glass, and Hertz’s team has equipment to shoot a laser through it, which then transmits the data through the line.

“If there’s a transmission line that’s 25 miles long, there’s a splice in there,” Hertz says. “We’ll splice that and get it up on the structure, then go down another five or seven miles and add another splice and then another until the line is operational again.”

Equipped with technical expertise and a passion for problem solving, Hertz says one of the best aspects of the job is working with a teammate on a project.

“The most fun I have is when I can help other technicians, whether it’s remotely on the computer or phone or hopping in the truck to help them out for a week,” he says. “Last week I was up in Williston, and next week I’ll be in Gillette. Another set of hands or eyeballs is always nice on a project, and it’s a chance to learn from each other.”

Because the communication technicians work on multiple sites and cover for each other when necessary, Basin Electric has invested in systems that can support the cooperative’s needs now and into the future.

“Technology is always progressing, but at some point, it can’t excel too fast because you have to be able to maintain what you have. We have to be able to step onto a site and know how to troubleshoot any issues. So, if I install a piece of equipment at one site, it’s going to look the exact same at another site,” Hertz says. “A lot of what we know is hands-on. We get together and discuss what could or should happen and learn from each other. That way everyone is doing things the same way.”

The work of a communications technician isn’t without risk. A lot of the work Hertz does is on high-voltage power lines and high-current equipment at substations, so extra caution is taken to avoid electrocution or arc flashes.

An added challenge is working outside during cold and severe weather. “We are working with small parts so we often can’t work with gloves on, and it can be hard,” Hertz says.

Icy conditions make accessing equipment especially hazardous because there’s an increased risk of slipping or falling while working at heights. Falling ice is another danger, where large chunks of ice can break off transmission structures and strike a worker.

“Sometimes there’s a massive ice build-up on the towers and I have to weigh how close I want to get,” Hertz says.

Despite the challenges, Hertz says he loves what he does because he’s able to serve his community and Basin Electric’s members.

“It means a lot to play a part in supplying power to friends and family throughout the region,” Hertz says. “They may not know it, but I know I’m helping out and doing work that is important.”



Dale Johnson retired from Dakota Gas in March 2025 after spending four decades with the company.

A FULFILLING CAREER AFTER FOUR DECADES, DALE JOHNSON SAYS GOODBYE TO DAKOTA GAS

By Andrew Weeks

After 40 years with Dakota Gasification Company (Dakota Gas), a subsidiary of Basin Electric, Dale Johnson is now enjoying the next phase of his life: retirement.

“It’s time to try something different, to figure out what’s next,” he says.

This new phase means no more getting up at 4:30 in the morning to go to work – he now sleeps in until 7; more time spent with family and friends; and making trips to places he’s never been.

It’s a different routine, but one he says he is excited about. Even so, Johnson says he’ll miss the many people he’s worked with at Dakota Gas. Thankfully, he’s just a phone call away if anyone from his old stomping grounds wants to tap his institutional knowledge.

Johnson retired from Dakota Gas on March 3. Before his big day arrived, he shared some thoughts about the company, his career, and what some of his plans are going forward.

Career days

Johnson began his career in July 1985 after graduating in chemical engineering from Montana State University in Bozeman and remembers when he first started with Dakota Gas. It was three years before Basin Electric acquired the gasification company.

“I’m one of not many active employees left who started before Basin Electric bought it,” he says. He saw the plant go from its original partner-owners to the Department of Energy to, in 1988, Basin Electric, and over that time he worked in process engineering and supervisory

capacities, as operations manager, and eventually as plant manager. The latter is a position he held from 2013 until his retirement; he describes it as “one of those jobs that is a little bit of everything.”

His career has been an eventful one, filled with many experiences that have helped hone the person he is today. “I’ve spent the majority of my life working at the Synfuels Plant, and it has become a big part of who I am now,” he says. “To think that I’m going to shut that off, turn on a new light switch, so to speak, that gets a little overwhelming.”

Johnson says some of his best memories at Dakota Gas – picked from a treasure trove of experiences – is the time he visited an expansive gasification plant in South Africa, about seven times larger than Dakota Gas; and when he helped move equipment from an ammonia plant in Iowa to North Dakota and then brought it back to life. What seemed like a herculean task at the time was accomplished, he says, “piece by piece.”

And then there are the people. He has held roles that allowed him to impact others and be impacted by them. “The things you remember most are all the people you’ve worked with over the years, all the different personalities,” he says. “That’s a huge part of the job. You spend a lot of hours, a lot of days at work. Being with the people really is the best part of the job.”

Reflecting on the past four decades, Johnson has few regrets.

“I am very proud of what I’ve helped our amazing staff accomplish over the course of my career and have been really blessed by the things I’ve been involved with,” he says. “I so appreciate all the people I’ve worked with over the years and the things they’ve done to help me learn and grow and get things accomplished.”

Retirement living

As for retirement – so far, so good. In this new chapter of his life, Johnson plans to spend more time with family, including fossil hunting with his grandson, and taking more trips with his wife, Caroleen, to places they’ve never been.

“My job has been pretty intense, and so I haven’t taken a lot of time to get out and travel,” he says. “We are really looking forward to having extra time to enjoy new adventures.”

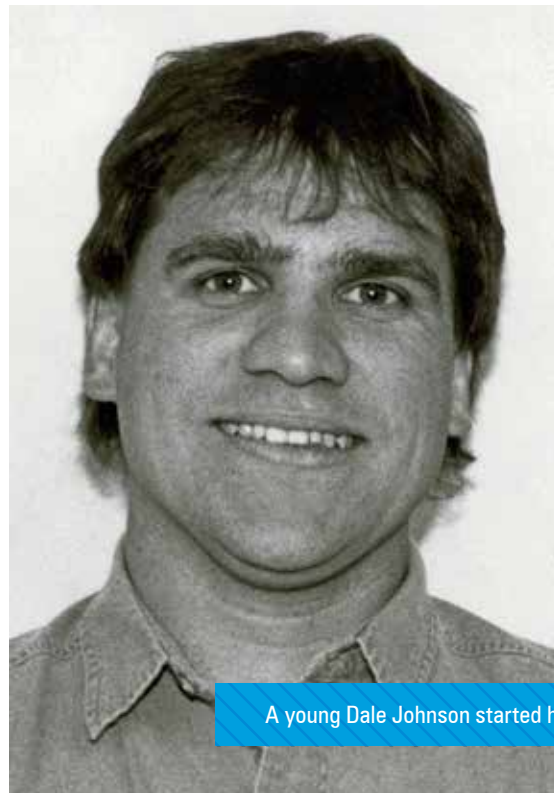
Looking ahead

Johnson says he is confident that Dakota Gas will remain in good hands and that it has a bright future. Trinity Turnbow, who has been with Dakota Gas since 2008, has taken over as plant manager.

Over the years, Turnbow has served in several capacities, including operations manager and assistant plant manager. In 2023 he was promoted to vice president and transitioned into his current role as plant manager over the past few months while Johnson exited the position.

Turnbow praises Johnson for the legacy he’s left at the gasification company and with Basin Electric. “After 40 years of dedicated service, Dale leaves behind an incredible legacy of leadership and achievement,” he says. “His contributions have been vital in shaping the success of this plant. Having stepped into this role a few months ago, I’m proud to build on the strong foundation he’s established.”

Turnbow also says he is excited about his new role at Dakota Gas. “I’m excited to continue working with our talented team to drive continuous improvement and innovation as we deliver on our investment improvement plans and build upon the success of the carbon dioxide sequestration project.”



A young Dale Johnson started his career at Dakota Gas in 1985.



Pictured left to right: Cory Wrolstad, development manager of BSC Foundation; Mitch McCoy, assistant dean of Automation, Energy, and Advanced Technology (AEAT); Justin Feil, Basin Electric training coordinator at Antelope Valley Station and Leland Olds Station; Alicia Uhde, dean of AEAT; Kari Knudson, BSC vice president of College Advancement and executive director of the BSC Foundation; and Howell Flowers, associate professor AEAT.

POWERING EDUCATION: DONATION SPARKS OPPORTUNITY AT BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

By Jenifer Gray

The energy industry plays an important role in the economy by providing thousands of jobs across Basin Electric's nine-state service territory. As the energy landscape evolves and electricity demands rise nationwide, the need for skilled professionals remains critical.

At the Bismarck State College (BSC) National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE), located in Bismarck, North Dakota, students get the education and training necessary to meet the needs of this ever-growing industry both in North Dakota and across the country.

The NECE at BSC offers a wide range of in-demand, hands-on energy programs including everything from Power Generation Technology to a Lineworker program.

Basin Electric understands the importance of these programs and works hard to foster relationships and provide support for them, which is why Professor Howell Flowers, associate professor of Automation, Energy, and Advanced Technologies, was thrilled to find out Basin Electric was donating a breaker to the college.

Flowers, who worked for Antelope Valley Station and Leland Olds Station for nearly 36 years in the operations department before leaving in 2013, took his class to Antelope Valley Station about a year ago. "Justin Feil was kind enough to bring my class into a training room and run them through a 30-minute training on a breaker," Flowers says.

Afterwards, Flowers says he gave Feil, Basin Electric training coordinator at Antelope Valley Station and Leland Olds Station, a call to see if it would be possible for him to put something similar together for his students.

"I checked Antelope Valley Station and Leland Olds Station to see if we had a spare breaker," Feil says. "Cory Bryngelson, plant manager at Antelope Valley Station and Leland Olds Station, said we could make it work and thought it sounded like a great idea."

Arnie Kraft, electrician I at Leland Olds Station, and Nick Graf, electrician II at Leland Olds Station, gained access to an unusable and rusted breaker sitting in a dark corner of the shop. They cleaned off the dirt and cobwebs, took it all apart, and cleaned and greased it until it looked brand new. From there, they built a cart for the breaker to sit on, which helped with transportation and storage. On March 6, Feil delivered the breaker to BSC.

When Flowers' students heard about the donation, they were excited. "We like to get students into the labs as much as possible," Flowers says. "This allows for hands-on training and gets them introduced to the actual equipment they will operate once they get into a facility."

Flowers says the breaker will be used across several programs including Safety, Electrical Fundamentals, and Generator Technology. Having worked on a similar breaker during his years at Leland Olds Station, he says he's planning to put together a training module specific to the breaker. "I'll refamiliarize myself with the breaker and how it works and get started on a training module right away," he says.



Justin Feil, Basin Electric training coordinator at Antelope Valley Station and Leland Olds Station, provides an inside look at the breaker.

Donations like this help to strengthen the relationship between Basin Electric and BSC, and ensure students are getting hands-on learning relevant to what they'll be doing after they graduate. Flowers says this relationship is critical when it comes to workforce development. "Basin Electric is a great partner and sits on our industry advisory committee," he says. "We meet 2-3 times a year and share ideas on what we can put together for our classrooms so when students graduate, they're ready to start working."

"Basin Electric is a key partner in the success of BSC's programs," Alicia Uhde, dean of Automation, Energy, and Advanced Technologies, says. "Their support—through donations, scholarships, job shadowing, internships, and employment opportunities—has been invaluable."



A closer look at careers in energy

Teams across Basin Electric participated in "Explore Basin Day" — a career day tailored for high school students showcasing job opportunities at Basin Electric and its subsidiaries. Informational booths were set up to highlight Communications, Energy Markets, Engineering, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal, Maintenance, Operations, Resource Planning and Rates, and Transmission Systems Maintenance. Approximately 600 students from Bismarck Public Schools were in attendance.

This event reflects Basin Electric's ongoing commitment to investing in the next generation of energy industry professionals and helping students explore meaningful career paths close to home.



Wild Springs Solar, Basin Electric's first major solar project, became operational in 2024 in Pennington County, South Dakota.

A NEW CHAPTER IN BASIN ELECTRIC'S ENERGY MIX

By Alison Kirsch

Did you know?

- Solar energy is the most abundant resource on Earth. Every hour, the sun radiates 173,000 terawatts of energy onto the Earth – more than 10,000 times the world's total energy use.
- The International Space Station runs on solar power. The station's solar array wingspan (356 feet) is longer than the world's largest passenger aircraft, the Airbus (262 feet).
- More solar energy reaches the Earth in one hour than the world uses all year.

As solar adoption increases across the country, Basin Electric is participating in the all-of-the-above energy landscape through its involvement in a significant solar initiative: The Wild Springs Solar Project (Wild Springs Solar).

One of Basin Electric's recent power purchase agreements is Wild Springs Solar, located in Pennington County, South Dakota. This 128-megawatt (MW) project became operational in 2024, making it the largest solar project in South Dakota's history.

Basin Electric has committed to purchasing 114 MW of the energy it produces. "At 114 MW, Wild Springs Solar was Basin Electric's first significant solar power purchase and, at the time of its completion, one of the largest solar

projects in the Southwest Power Pool," Ben Hertz, Basin Electric manager of Power Supply Planning, said.

This agreement marks the first time in Basin Electric's history that the cooperative has purchased large-scale solar generation to serve its members. This step demonstrates Basin Electric's commitment to diversifying its energy portfolio. It's also a win for the local community, as the project is located in the service area of West River Electric Association, a Class C member of Basin Electric based in Wall, South Dakota.

Wild Springs Solar represents more than just a new source of power—it's a strategic step in Basin Electric's ongoing effort to provide reliable, affordable electricity to its members. As part of an all-of-the-above energy approach, solar adds value by complementing the cooperative's existing resources. With careful planning and a focus on meeting member needs, Basin Electric is building a power supply that's ready for whatever comes next.

An all-of-the-above energy solution

An all-of-the-above energy solution is essential for ensuring a reliable, resilient, and affordable energy supply, and by combining renewables with dispatchable generation, such as natural gas and coal, Basin Electric is taking advantage of each source's strengths to maintain energy security without sacrificing reliability.

TURN UP THE VOLUME AND THE HAIR WITH THE BIG HAIR SHOW

By Jenifer Gray

In a world where radio has evolved beyond the traditional airwaves, Chris Kurle, Basin Electric manager of Purchasing, is making waves with her own show, bringing passion, personality, and a unique voice to the industry.

In 2020, Kurle was approached by friends DJ Paulie and Lou Lorenzani to appear on their podcast, *Back in Time Brothers*. “I thought it was a one and done thing and figured that would be the end of it,” Kurle says. That didn’t turn out to be the case. “In 2021, Paulie told me that he and Lou were starting their own internet radio station and asked if I wanted my own show. I thought he was crazy.”

Kurle couldn’t imagine who would want to listen to a North Dakota farm girl, but in a moment of weakness and a need for a distraction from the COVID-19 drama, she said yes, and, along with producer Lou Lorenzani, *The Big Hair Show* was born.

Why that name? “In the ‘80s I took on the challenge of having big hair. Let’s just say Aqua Net was my friend,” she says. “So, because I always sported big hair, eventually people started to call me Big Hair instead of Chris, and it stuck. That, along with my love for hair band music, it was a natural fit to call it *The Big Hair Show*.”

Because the show is formatted around ‘80s hair band music, there’s always some type of hair metal mania playing. “I usually feature a Big Hair Artist of the Week where I pick a band or solo artist, talk about how they became popular and then play three of their songs, along



Chris Kurle, manager of Purchasing, recording in her home studio.



IT'S ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN, LETTING LOOSE, AND HAVING AN OUTLET TO GET AWAY FROM THE STRESS OF THE WORLD."

Chris Kurle, Basin Electric manager of Purchasing



with a history segment of things that occurred on that particular day," Kurle says.

Kurle has listeners of all age groups so she also plays rock music from the '60s, '70s, '90s and 2000s, so everyone can relate to something on the show. "I also like doing birthday shouts for friends and family along with fun stories from the past," she says. "Sometimes I share stories of things I did with friends back in the day, and I find that people get a kick out of hearing their names on the radio. It's all about having fun, letting loose, and having an outlet to get away from the stress of the world."

One of her most memorable shows includes an interview she did with Todd Lane, the drummer for the band New Haven. "The interview with Todd was so cool because he told me stories of living on the Sunset Strip and hanging with hair bands like Poison, Skid Row, Slaughter, and

Guns N' Roses, just to name a few," Kurle recalls. "It was a great experience for me to interview a semi-famous rocker who lived the hair band dream, and it was by far one of my favorite shows to record."

Some of Kurle's best advice is to not be afraid to try something new, even if it is outside your comfort zone. "When I started this show, I was very self-conscious of what people would think of the show or critique my skills or lack of skills, but once I decided to have fun with it, from that point forward it has been a blast," she says.

Kurle pre-records her show each week and sends it to Lou to produce. Once the show is complete, Kurle sends it on to URL Radio and they add it to their programming list.

Kurle's show airs on Thursdays each week at 1 p.m. CST on URL Radio.



NEW EMPLOYEES



Jaydon Gullingsrud joined the team at Antelope Valley Station working as an instrument technician II on Dec. 16. Prior to coming to Basin Electric, he worked as an instrument technician for Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative in Wahpeton, North Dakota. Gullingsrud earned a degree in instrumentation and control from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.



Colton Eckroth, a native of Bismarck, North Dakota, began working as a fertilizer field technician at Dakota Gas on Dec. 30. Eckroth was previously employed as an operations intern at Dakota Gas.



Luke Fast began working as a utilities field technician at Dakota Gas on Dec. 30. Fast is originally from Bismarck, North Dakota.



Luke Fischer, from Rhame, North Dakota, began working as a gas production field technician at Dakota Gas on Dec. 30.



Kaden Lee joined the team at Dakota Gas working as a gas production field technician on Dec. 30. He is originally from Maddock, North Dakota.



Keaton Rust began working as a chemical products field technician at Dakota Gas on Dec. 30.



Tony Skinner, a native of Evansville, Indiana, began working as manager of project management at Headquarters on Dec. 30. Skinner previously worked as senior manager of IT & AIS at Seaboard Triumph Foods in Sioux City, Iowa. Skinner earned his master's degree in business administration from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.



Joe Delaloye, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, began working as a senior accounting analyst at Headquarters on Jan. 13. Delaloye previously worked as a senior corporate accountant for Metal Exchange in St. Louis.



Nikki Murschel joined the team at Antelope Valley Station working as an administrative assistant II on Jan. 13. A native of Hazen, North Dakota, Murschel previously worked for Coal Country Community Health Center in Beulah, North Dakota, as a lead medical records specialist.



Galen Thomas, shift/shop maintenance field technician I, began working at Dakota Gas on Jan. 13. Originally from Velva, North Dakota, he previously worked for Archer Daniels Midland.



Preston Zander, from Mandan, North Dakota, began working as a physical security technician I at Headquarters on Jan. 13. He previously worked for the North Dakota Highway Patrol in Bismarck as a Capitol security officer. Zander has also worked as a carpentry and masonry specialist in the U.S. Army Reserves.



Julianne Schutte began working as a facilities technician II at Headquarters on Jan. 27.



Austen Stewart began working as a senior accounting analyst at Headquarters on Jan. 27. A native of Bismarck, North Dakota, he previously worked as an accounting supervisor for Doosan Bobcat in Fargo, North Dakota. Stewart is a certified public accountant and earned a master's degree in accountancy from North Dakota State University in Fargo.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Kris Wofford joined the team at Dry Fork Station on Jan. 27 working as an electrical and instrument technician II. The Gillette, Wyoming, native previously worked for PacifiCorp in Gillette.



Phillip Cade, a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, began working as a diesel exhaust fluid sales manager at Headquarters on Feb. 3. Cade previously worked as a diesel exhaust fluid sales manager for N-7 LLC. He has also worked at Pilot Travel Centers and for J.B. Hunt Transport Services. Cade earned his degree from the University of Tennessee.



Tim Kliewer, from Bradshaw, Nebraska, began working as a rail transportation manager at Headquarters on Feb. 3. Kliewer previously worked for N-7 LLC as a senior logistics coordinator in Omaha, Nebraska. He has also worked for Tyson Global LLC.



Bryan Tharpe, from Knoxville, Tennessee, began working as a diesel exhaust fluid product manager at Headquarters on Feb. 3. He previously worked as a diesel exhaust fluid product manager for N-7 LLC in Sioux City, Iowa.



Michael Brees, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working as a process operations field technician I at Dakota Gas on Feb. 10. Brees previously worked for Marathon Petroleum Corporation as an operator in Dickinson, North Dakota.



Paul Cosato joined the team at Headquarters working as an electrical engineer I on Feb. 10. Originally from Redfield, South Dakota, he previously worked as a manufacturing process engineer for Daktronics in Brookings, South Dakota.



Sam Egger, a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, began working as a process operations field technician I at Dakota Gas on Feb. 10. Egger previously worked as a senior scientist at Sporobio in Hastings, Minnesota. He earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree in chemistry at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.



Jack Gibbs began working as a protection services specialist III at Dakota Gas on Feb. 10. A native of Westby, Montana, Gibbs previously worked as an emergency medical technician for Sheridan Memorial Hospital in Plentywood, Montana. He has also worked as a lead truck driver for Lyle Lovett.



Ben Hertz began working as a contract administrator I at Headquarters on Feb. 10. Hertz previously worked for ESL as a territory manager in his hometown of Mandan, North Dakota. He has also worked for San Juan Generating Station near Farmington, New Mexico, and Marathon Petroleum Corporation in Mandan.



Mandi Talbacka began working as a contract administrator I at Headquarters on Feb. 17. A Bismarck, North Dakota, native, Talbacka earned a bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University in Fargo and a master's degree from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.



Dan Ripley began working as a support center representative I at Headquarters on Feb. 17. Prior to coming to Basin Electric, Ripley worked as a server and bartender at the Paddle Trap in his hometown of Mandan, North Dakota. He holds degrees in cybersecurity and process technology.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Wes Fitterer joined the team at Headquarters on Feb. 24 as a market operations analyst I. A native of Bismarck, North Dakota, Fitterer previously worked as an operations shift supervisor for Harvestone Low Carbon Partners in Underwood, North Dakota. He earned an associate's degree in process plant technology from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College and a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Mary in Bismarck.



Kyle White, from Riverton, Wyoming, began working as an electrical and instrument technician II at Dry Fork Station on Feb. 24. White previously worked as an electrical and instrument field technician for ExxonMobil in Broadus, Montana. He also has experience as a journeyman electrician in Wyoming.



Jesse Erhardt, a native of Mandan, North Dakota, began working as an IT project manager III at Headquarters on March 3. Erhardt previously worked for GeoDigital International Corporation as a project manager. He also has experience as a project manager for NISC in Mandan, North Dakota, and as an engineer for BNSF Railway in Mandan. Erhardt earned a professional certification in project management from the Project Management Institute.



Deon Ewine joined the team at Dakota Gas working as a procurement coordinator on March 10. Originally from Wilton, North Dakota, Ewine worked as a warehouse associate for BNI Coal in Center, North Dakota. Ewine is a U.S. Air Force retiree.



Colby Geile joined the team at Laramie River Station on March 10 working as a storekeeper. A native of Wheatland, Wyoming, Geile previously worked at Ace Hardware in Wheatland as a store manager.



Cole Hanson, from Minot, North Dakota, began working as a market operations analyst II at Headquarters on March 10. Hanson previously worked as a procurement officer for 8th Avenue Food & Provisions in Carrington, North Dakota. Hanson earned a degree in agriculture economics from North Dakota State University in Fargo.



Dylan Hermanson, from Mandan, North Dakota, began working as a maintenance field technician at Dakota Gas on March 10.



Garrett Popkes began working as an apprentice system protection technician at Williston TSM on March 10. A native of Riverton, Wyoming, Popkes previously worked as a coal mine electrician for the Black Thunder Coal Mine in Wright, Wyoming. Popkes earned an associate's degree in industrial electricity from Gillette College in Wyoming.



Alexander Roll joined the team at Pioneer Generation Station working as a mechanical technician on March 10. The Bismarck, North Dakota, native previously worked as a machinist for Great Plains Technical Services in Mandan, North Dakota.



Rob Sipes began working as an enterprise applications administrator III at Headquarters on March 10. Sipes previously worked for the North Dakota State Senator's Office as an information systems audit supervisor in his hometown of Bismarck, North Dakota.



Alexander Sanck began working as a support center representative I at Headquarters on March 10. From Clare, Iowa, Sanck previously worked as a technology support specialist for Light of Christ Catholic Schools in Bismarck, North Dakota.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Ashley Brunson, a native of Mandan, North Dakota, began working as an accounting analyst II at Headquarters on March 24. Brunson previously worked as an accounts payable supervisor at BNC National Bank in Bismarck, North Dakota. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Dickinson (North Dakota) State University.



Tyler Felchle began working as a senior accounting analyst at Headquarters on March 24. The Bismarck, North Dakota, native previously worked as a staff accountant for Frontier Precision Incorporated in Bismarck.



Mike Ehli, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working as a wind technician at PrairieWinds 1 on March 24. Ehli previously worked at US Foods in Bismarck as a fleet and grounds manager.

RETIREES



Lynell Renner, procurement coordinator at Dakota Gas and Antelope Valley Station, retired on Jan. 6 after 19 years with the cooperative.

Chris Kurle, manager of Purchasing, says Renner is the kind of employee a manager envisions to have on a team. "Her attention to detail was top notch, she took pride in her work, and I could always count on Lynell to do her job functions ethically and with integrity. She always had the best interests of Dakota Gas and Basin Electric at the top of her priority list and strived to ensure procurement processes were followed correctly."

Kurle says she will miss having Renner as part of the purchasing team. "Lynell and I were teammates for 12 years, and we witnessed the good and bad that has occurred throughout the years in the supply chain world," she says. "I will miss being able to call Lynell and talk to her about things, but most of all, I will miss her awesome stories regarding her twin granddaughters. When you work with someone for many years, it becomes more than just talking about work together. You become friends and celebrate the victories in life with each other."

"I've been blessed to work in a very supportive department with very dedicated people," Renner said.

In her retirement, Renner plans to spend time with her friends and family – especially her twin granddaughters. She hopes to catch up on the projects that have been set aside for years and is excited to adapt into her own schedule.



Will Erker, mechanic I at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Jan. 17 after 27 years with the cooperative.



Dale Dauenhauer, mechanic I at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Feb. 17 after 23 years with the cooperative.



Karen Plum, income tax administrator at Headquarters, retired on May 5 after 21 years with the cooperative.

"I have worked in the tax division and the financial services department for my entire time at Basin Electric," Plum said.

"Karen exhibited honesty, timeliness, accuracy, and a great deal of integrity in her daily work," says Scott Johnson, Basin Electric tax director. "Karen would

always go the extra mile to ensure that our tax compliance requirements were timely and accurate. She had a wonderful work ethic that she brought to work with her daily. Her knowledge and expertise will be missed."

In her retirement, Plum plans to travel with her husband.

WE WILL REMEMBER



Ronda Walker, 49, passed away on Jan. 15 at her most beloved place, Laramie Peak, surrounded by her family and loved ones. Walker was a plant operator at Laramie River Station and had worked for the cooperative for nine years.

"Ronda will be greatly missed by her crew and all

Laramie River Station employees," Brian Robbins, shift supervisor at Laramie River Station, says. "She was a dedicated plant operator and was always willing to go the extra mile in her role."

Robbins highlights Walker's many years as a dedicated firefighter, leader, and instructor at Laramie Peak Fire Zone, an all-volunteer rural fire department.

EMPLOYEES RECEIVE DEGREES

These Basin Electric employees earned degrees from accredited institutions of higher learning over the past year. We congratulate them on this big achievement.



Daniel Larson, maintenance supervisor at Deer Creek Station, earned a master's degree in business administration. He graduated from the University of South Dakota in December 2024.



Eric Pierce, electrical engineer I at Headquarters, earned a master's degree in electrical engineering. He graduated from the University of North Dakota in May 2024.



Austin Grewatz, ERP system administrator I at Headquarters, earned a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity administration. He graduated from the University to Mary in December 2024.

SERVICE AWARDS



Jay Houx
45 years
Water treatment
plant supervisor
Laramie River Station



Doug Biffert
40 years
Shift/shop maintenance
field technician
Dakota Gas



Dara Hausauer
35 years
Administrative assistant III
Dakota Gas



Dustin Bentz
25 years
Shift supervisor
Dakota Gas



Kelly Borlaug
25 years
Warehouseperson
Antelope Valley Station



Scott Bullinger
25 years
Shift superintendent
Dakota Gas



David Feil
25 years
Superintendent operator
Antelope Valley Station



Pete Grossman
25 years
E&I maintenance field technician
Dakota Gas



Ryan Rask
25 years
Utilities shift supervisor
Dakota Gas



Darrin Rittenbach
25 years
Gas production field technician
Dakota Gas



John Shields
25 years
Water treatment operator
Laramie River Station



Tonya Unruh
25 years
Hardware technician III
Headquarters



Shawn Voigt
25 years
Utilities field technician
Dakota Gas



Rodney Aastrom
25 years
Mechanic/welder I
Laramie River Station



Kevin Brown
20 years
Maintenance planner/scheduler
Laramie River Station



Robert Buchanan
20 years
Mechanic/welder I
Laramie River Station



Alan Burgard
20 years
Senior structural designer
Headquarters



Shawn Carlson
20 years
Senior electrical engineer
Headquarters



Curtis Frink
20 years
Senior electrical engineer
Headquarters



Jeff Hansen
20 years
Senior environmental
compliance administrator
Headquarters



Caryn Hedstrom
20 years
Service dispatcher II
Headquarters



Michele Hellman
20 years
Senior ERP systems
administrator
Headquarters



Brent Meckle
20 years
Energy systems administrator II
Headquarters



DJ McCloud
20 years
Mechanic I
Antelope Valley Station



Kirby Mutschelknaus
20 years
Mechanical maintenance field
technician
Dakota Gas

SERVICE AWARDS



Travis Nelson
20 years
Mechanical maintenance
field technician
Dakota Gas



JD Wolff
20 years
Control room operator
Antelope Valley Station



Dan Ziman
20 years
Maintenance planner/
scheduler
Antelope Valley Station

KUDOS



Scheele selected to co-chair 2026 and 2027 NBAA Leadership Conference.

Mark Scheele, Basin Electric chief pilot, was selected to co-chair the 2026 and 2027 National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Leadership Conference. The NBAA Leadership Conference is the top event for both current and aspiring leaders in the aviation industry. Every year, hundreds of professionals come together to enhance their skills and refine their leadership approaches. As co-chair, Mark will play a key role in developing the conference content, selecting speakers, and serving as the event's emcee. The 2026 NBAA Leadership Conference will be held Feb. 2-4 in San Antonio, Texas.




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