

BASIN TODAY

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

| WINTER 2023



**THE SUN NEVER SETS
ON RELIABILITY**



Chris Olson, staking supervisor and safety administrator for Crow Wing Power, gave a presentation on electrical safety to fourth graders at the Nisswa (Minnesota) Elementary School. Crow Wing Power is a Basin Electric Class A member headquartered in Brainerd, Minnesota.

CONTENTS

VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 4

ON THE COVER

The Neset-to-Northshore 230-kilovolt transmission project was energized on Jan. 18. It consists of 27 miles of transmission line and a new substation south of Ross, North Dakota, and is the first project where Basin Electric used a carbon fiber core conductor for a transmission line. The project helps serve increasing load growth in the region. The photo was taken by Basin Electric North Dakota Field Services Coordinator Darrell Slavick.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2 CEO and general manager column: Todd Telesz
- 4 In brief
- 14 How we serve
- 17 Employee highlights

FEATURE STORIES

- 6 Basin Electric protects members from volatility
- 8 Ongoing initiative helps ensure reliability
- 10 From rookie to retiree: The 'transmission' of Tom Christensen
- 12 Basin Electric to add MEGAwatts at Pioneer Generation Station

CONTRIBUTORS

- Editor: Angela Magstadt (amagstadt@bepc.com)
- Graphic designer: Janene Pudwill
- Photographers: Michael Hardy, Joy Schnabel, Greg Wheeler
- Writers: Tracie Bettenhausen, Lindsey Chumley, Jenifer Gray, Caitlyn Inman



Use your smartphone barcode scanner to view stories online.



TODD TELESZ

ELECTRIC CO-OPS SAVE LIVES

I recently had a brief conversation with Jena Gullo, executive director of the Missouri Slope Areawide United Way in Bismarck, as we hosted their board meeting at Basin Electric Headquarters.

She thanked Basin Electric and our members for the donation we gave in December to enable their emergency shelter to be open 24 hours a day. We were facing the life-threatening winter weather the Upper Great Plains is known so well for, with 20 degrees below zero temperatures and deadly wind chills. Jena said something that stuck with me: “Your gift is literally saving lives.”

The \$75,000 Basin Electric donated is saving lives and helping our less fortunate neighbors feel more secure in a warm, dry shelter, and supporting these programs is one way we can live up to the cooperative principle of Concern for Community. Every employee and member can be proud of the work we do in our communities from a charitable standpoint. Since its inception in 2001, our

Charitable Giving Program has donated over \$20 million across our nine-state service area.

But as I think about that conversation, my mind shifts to the criticality of the reliable electricity we provide every day and how the very core of our business saves lives all year round.

At the same time we were facing those bitterly cold temperatures, our regional transmission operators, Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), declared energy emergency alerts. This time, the emergency alerts did not elevate to the highest levels of emergency as they did in 2021 during Winter Storm Uri leading to power disruptions; however, the alerts did demonstrate the vital nature our dispatchable generation plays in keeping the electricity on for our consumer-owners and others across SPP and MISO. The Basin Electric plant operators and marketing teams understood we needed to do everything

we could to keep our generating resources online for the duration of the alert time period.

Our membership depends on and expects to receive reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity from Basin Electric, and in the winter months electricity that meets those criteria saves lives. Our members serve about 80% of the persistent poverty counties within the nine states of our service area, and our focus on affordable rates is with the intent of not exacerbating the economic burdens of lower-income consumers.

In addition to persistent poverty, we serve an area that would not have access to affordable, reliable, and responsible electricity without our generation and transmission facilities. Rural electric cooperatives, from the very beginning of their existence, serve areas of low population density that investor-owned utilities did not deem profitable enough to serve. The people who needed the electricity built the very electric cooperatives that drive quality of life in rural America and bring light, heat, and more to homes, businesses, and farms today.

We know our all-of-the-above energy portfolio is critical to keeping our electricity reliable, affordable, and responsible. We depend on our dispatchable generation such as coal and natural gas-based electricity for reliability while we have non-dispatchable generation such as wind and soon solar to utilize when available.

This issue of Basin Today is focused on reliability. You will find a story about how we protect our members from volatility and how the market purchases and commodity

hedges we execute, along with our all-of-the-above energy portfolio and combined with our financial strength and agility, work together to mitigate the power market's ups and downs for our membership. You will meet members of our Civil Engineering team who are working on the major transmission buildout we are undertaking to keep the transmission grid reliable, and there is an update on the largest single-site generation project in our system since the 1980s. In addition, our Transmission System Maintenance team is working through a several-years-long effort to address our aging infrastructure and ensure the transmission we have counted on for years will continue bringing electricity reliably to our members for years to come.

Basin Electric delivers on critical needs in our communities – it is the very mission of a cooperative to do so. From the reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity we provide to the community services we support through our Charitable Giving Program, this cooperative's focus is on the well-being of the people we serve. And we thank all of you, from our membership to our employees, for supporting this engine that drives quality of life and economic opportunity for consumer-owners and industries across rural America.



Todd E. Telesz, CEO and general manager



Basin Electric Annual Meeting moved to August

At its January meeting, Basin Electric's board of directors voted to move the cooperative's Annual Meeting of the Membership from November to August beginning in 2023 and moving forward. This year's meeting will be held Aug. 16 at the Bismarck Event Center in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The decision was made to ensure safety of our members and employees after freezing rain and blizzard conditions caused travel difficulties for attendees during the 2022 Annual Meeting.

"Our members' and employees' safety is very important to our board of directors and management team. We felt that following this past year's annual meeting and receiving feedback from the membership, it was the appropriate time to make this change," said Chris Baumgartner, Basin Electric senior vice president of Member and External Relations.

 <https://bit.ly/AnnualMeetingMoved>



The final span of fiber being pulled at the Neset substation.

Neset-to-Northshore transmission project energized

The Neset-to-Northshore 230-kV transmission project was energized on Jan. 18.

The 27-mile transmission line begins at the existing Neset Substation east of Tioga, North Dakota, and ends at the new Northshore substation south of Ross, North Dakota.

This is the first project where Basin Electric used a carbon fiber core conductor in the construction of a transmission line. "Carbon fiber does not expand under heat, which reduces the sag under higher loading conditions. With this conductor material, we were able to reduce the number of structures needed for the project while still meeting the capacity goals," said Bobby Nasset, Basin Electric supervisor of Civil Engineering.

While winter weather caused a slight delay, the project came in under budget. Basin Electric staff supported the right-of-way, permitting, design, material procurement, and construction management for the project.

 <https://bit.ly/Neset-Northshore-energized>

Basin Electric's membership sets new all-time-high peak in December

Basin Electric set a new all-time-high member billing peak in December due to colder-than-average temperatures and new loads coming online.

Jen Feigtsch, Basin Electric member revenue specialist III, said final billing determinants completed for December 2022 show Basin Electric hit a new all-time-high member billing peak of 4,679 megawatts (MW).

Feigtsch said Basin Electric's December 2022 member peak sale level surpassed the all-time-high member sale level by 304 MW, set in August 2022 at 4,375 MW.

Basin Electric's service area saw colder-than-average temperatures in December resulting in more electricity use, according to Becky Kern, Basin Electric vice president of Resource Planning and Rates. But there were other drivers as well. "We had a new large load come online last summer in western North Dakota," Kern said. "In addition to that, we have incremental new sales to members in Minnesota associated with an adjustment in some member contracts."

 <https://bit.ly/Dec-2022-peak>

Great Plains Synfuels Plant produces record tons of anhydrous ammonia

The Great Plains Synfuels Plant near Beulah, North Dakota, saw the highest annual anhydrous ammonia production on record in 2022. The last record production occurred in 2020.

Improvements made in the facility over several years have improved the capacity and availability of the unit, said Aaron Marquardt, Dakota Gas fertilizer section manager.

“Especially since the addition of the urea plant in 2018, fertilizer demand and pricing has made the ammonia plant a critical part of the overall plant economics, providing an opportunity to make investments in that unit to improve reliability,” Dale Johnson, Basin Electric senior vice president and Synfuels Plant manager, said.



<https://bit.ly/RecordAmmonia2022>

Training opportunities provided by Basin Electric and its members

Several training opportunities are being offered for members in 2023, including:

Touchstone Energy Member Engagement Workshops

Join Scott Bialick and other members of the Touchstone Energy team for an interactive day of content and networking with your co-op peers. The member engagement workshop will provide you with practical takeaways from proven research, marketing best practices, and more.



Trainer Erick Rheam will conduct a Key Accounts Master Course in July in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Available dates

May 23 - Basin Electric Headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota

May 25 - East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, South Dakota

Key Accounts Master Course by Erick Rheam

Join trainer Erick Rheam for an in-depth and engaging exercise-driven course into the world of key accounts. This course helps hone the skills of key accounts professionals, whether they are seasoned, new to key accounts, or just trying to gain a better understanding of how to successfully serve key accounts.

July 11-13 - West River Electric Association, Rapid City, South Dakota

Regional Communicator’s Advisory Group (RCAG)

The RCAG meeting will be moved to August to coincide with the Basin Electric Annual Meeting for 2023. Final meeting details and location in Bismarck/Mandan, North Dakota, are to be determined.

Tuesday, Aug. 15: RCAG meeting (all day)



<https://bit.ly/2023BEPCtraining>

FIND US ON THE WEB



BasinElectric.com

DakotaGas.com



Read Basin Today online @ basinelectric.com/BasinToday

Read Basin Electric news online @ basinelectric.com/NewsBriefs

CONNECT WITH US



[/basinelectric](https://www.facebook.com/basinelectric)



[@basin_electric](https://twitter.com/basin_electric)



[/basinelectric](https://www.youtube.com/basinelectric)



[basin_electric](https://www.instagram.com/basin_electric)



[/company/basin-electric-power-cooperative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/basin-electric-power-cooperative)



basinelectric.com/news-center

VALUE DURING VOLATILITY

PROTECTING THE MEMBERSHIP IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

By Lindsey Chumley

In recent years, the energy industry has been challenged by market price volatility. Power markets, natural gas markets, and commodity markets have all seen their ups and downs. There are several primary causes for this volatility, including more renewable generation, an increase in natural gas prices, and more coal generation retirements.

Because Basin Electric is dedicated to providing reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity to its members, there are several ways the cooperative is working to protect its members from this volatility.

All-of-the-above energy strategy

The cooperative's all-of-the-above energy portfolio, which includes several different types of generation sources, including coal, natural gas, wind, waste heat, and others, is one of the most effective strategies.

Valerie Weigel, Basin Electric vice president of Asset Management and Commodity Strategy, says the various types of resources Basin Electric utilizes have different physical parameters associated with them.

"We have resources that when they run, they need to run for a long period of time, and we also have resources that we can start up very quickly," Weigel says. "All of these resources work together very well to protect our membership from price volatility in the market."

Market purchases

Being a part of a regional transmission organization (RTO) also allows Basin Electric to continue serving its load reliably and affordably. Basin Electric is a member of two RTOs: Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). Basin Electric also participates in SPP's Western Energy Imbalance Service (WEIS).

"Once you become a market participant in an RTO, all of your resources become pooled with other market participants' resources. The RTO can look at the market demand and determine the most economic and reliable way for all the available resources and transmission to serve the load," Weigel says.

Basin Electric's membership is spread across a nine-state service territory, giving it the opportunity to participate in four primary market areas.

"These primary market areas all typically have different weather conditions, different wind conditions, and different resource bases, all of which provide a different price opportunity to serve our member loads day in and day out," Weigel says. "Because of that wide, diverse membership, we are afforded many different opportunities to serve our load at the lowest cost and most reliable way possible on any given day."

Hedging

When it comes to power markets, higher natural gas prices in the market means higher prices for electricity. Another strategy to protect Basin Electric members from this volatility is through energy prices being hedged in the forward markets, meaning the cooperative buys electricity in advance at a fixed price.

A longer term or higher dollar value hedge proposal must go through an internal vetting process with Basin Electric's Risk Management Steering Committee for appropriate review and approval and then to the chief executive officer. When the size of the transaction reaches the threshold of \$50 million or greater, it requires board authorization.

Kerry Kaseman, Basin Electric manager of Commodity Risk, says his team reviews the agreements, ensuring the risk to Basin Electric is minimized.

“With each trade comes a level of counterparty credit risk. Our team is responsible for reviewing the counterparties to make sure they have the long-term wherewithal to fully deliver on their obligations of the agreement,” Kaseman says. “We also take part in reviewing the agreement to make sure they reflect the terms that were agreed to.”

Financial strength

Basin Electric’s financial strength and stability has carried the cooperative and its members through a global pandemic, historic winter weather events, and now record market prices.

Over the next 10 years, Basin Electric’s membership load is forecasted to grow at an incredible pace, and the capital needed to fund the assets necessary to meet those growth projections is significant.

The cooperative’s management team and the board are working to develop a margin philosophy that will enable Basin Electric to add the generation and transmission resources needed to reliably, affordably, and responsibly serve the growing needs of the membership and to maintain financial strength and flexibility.

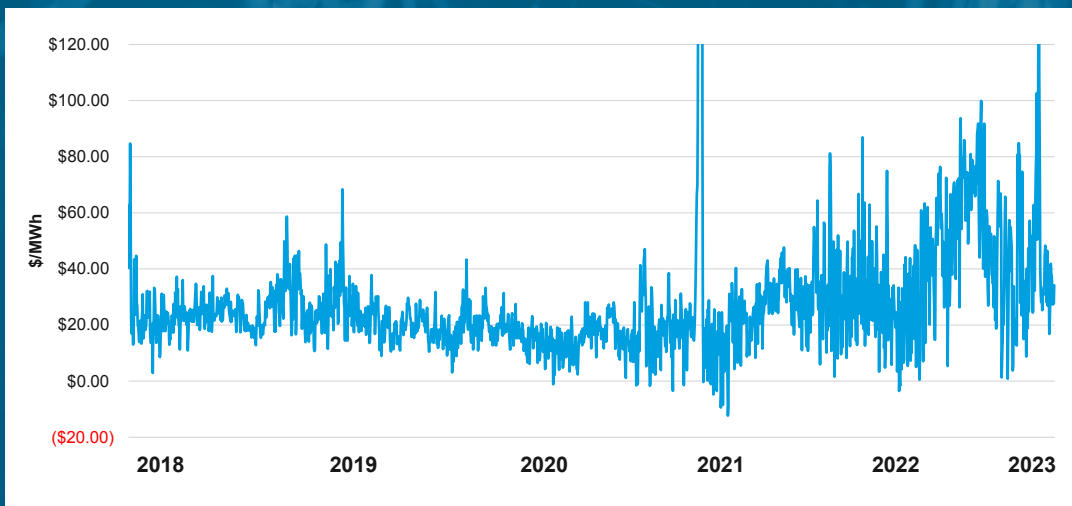
Cooperative family

As the cooperative looks to the future, there are sure to be impacts that will continue to change the markets. Like any utility, Basin Electric is not immune to risks. Through strategic decisions made by the cooperative and using these strategies, Basin Electric is in a strong position to mitigate risk for its membership.

Weigel says being a part of the cooperative family is key to stability.

“We have experienced team members who operate and maintain our facilities, a strong financial position that we can lean into, a great team that identifies marketplace opportunities, strong relationships with counterparties, and a very engaged membership who continue to support us,” Weigel says.

SPP POWER PRICE VOLATILITY



Natural gas prices are experiencing record volatility, which is driving high electricity prices. This graphic depicts how the power markets have been impacted, increasing by 250% the past couple of years. The market is seeing more dispatchable energy being replaced by more intermittent resources, creating more timeframes of high or volatile market prices.

The Broadland substation near Huron, South Dakota, was updated as part of the Aging Substation Infrastructure Replacement Initiative. Adam Malsom, Basin Electric lead substation electrician, and the crew at the Huron Transmission System Maintenance outpost spent months making the substation almost like new. It went live on July 27, 2021.



ENSURING RELIABILITY

AGING SUBSTATION INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT INITIATIVE CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS

By Jenifer Gray

Everything is subject to the effects of aging, even substation infrastructure. Having been installed in the 1970s and 80s, some of Basin Electric's infrastructure is over 50 years old, and like most things, parts wear out and things break down. As new technology emerges it's critical to the lifespan of a substation to upgrade equipment before there's a problem. Without upgrades, aging infrastructure will begin to fail, which could affect reliability.

To prevent this from happening, Basin Electric implemented the Aging Substation Infrastructure Replacement Initiative in 2018 as the cooperative's approach to strengthen and modernize its infrastructure and help ensure reliability for the cooperative's members. The cooperative is on track to complete upgrades to several substations by 2025.

"In general, a good portion of our substation infrastructure has a life expectancy of 40 years or more. Some of the communications and relaying systems require replacement more often," says Derik Johnson, Basin Electric manager of Transmission System Maintenance. "Every spring, we evaluate our 10-year capital replacement plan called the long-range engineering plan. During this process we work with Basin Electric's Engineering and Transmission teams to identify schedule changes or new projects."

These teams work hard to be proactive in replacing aging infrastructure before the equipment fails since an unscheduled replacement generally costs more and doesn't fit well with an overall planned replacement.

In support of the initiative, with the Engineering team leading the coordination efforts, a cross-functional

team was developed to create a ranking system to help identify infrastructure most in need of equipment replacement. Ranking was based on age, test data, and the availability of manufacturers that could support aging substation equipment.

“As equipment ages, spare parts often become unavailable or difficult to locate, which may result in longer outages for repairs. Thus, upgrading equipment and components helps to improve transmission system reliability by decreasing the chances of equipment failures, mis-operations, and extended outages due to a lack of spare parts,” says Chad Kuntz, Basin electric supervisor of Electrical Engineering. A timeline was created and projects were spaced far enough apart to ensure available resources.

Still, global supply chain issues have impacted the lead times and availability of material and equipment. “There are many examples of equipment lead times doubling, which can add 6-18 months to project timelines depending on equipment needed,” Kuntz says. “This has caused Engineering to reevaluate the initiative’s project schedules, as well as work with Procurement to coordinate purchases to support project timelines.”

Since the start of the initiative, several projects have been completed or are nearly complete including:

- Rapid City (South Dakota) DC Tie control system
- Pahoja substation in Iowa
- Antelope Valley Station-to-Broadland 345-kilovolt (kV) terminal at Antelope Valley Station 345-kV substation in North Dakota
- Broadland 345-kV substation in South Dakota
- Laramie River Station 230-kV substation in Wyoming

In the works is the Stegall 230-kV substation upgrade, which is being completed in a couple of phases. The relaying for the Stegall 230-to-Stegall 345-kV substation and the Stegall-230-to-Laramie River Station 230-kV line relaying has been replaced. The outdoor equipment at the substation was on hold pending a large Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) project at the substation, but is now restarting.

Originally scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2023, the upgrade to Leland Olds Station 345-kV substation has seen a shift to its timeline due to a few factors. The main factor is a generator interconnect and the new 345-kV line going around the east side of Lake Sakakawea called “Leland Olds Station-to-Tande.” After many internal discussions, the decision was made to rebuild the Leland Olds Station 345-kV substation to accommodate these new connections. The old Leland Olds Station 345-kV substation will be decommissioned as part of the project.

Parts of the Watertown 345-kV substation project have been completed. “This location is a little different since WAPA maintains this equipment on Basin Electric’s behalf, so they are managing the project which is funded by us,” Johnson says.

While there have been no major hiccups there have certainly been challenges. “Many of these facilities were originally built 40-plus years ago, and interfacing new equipment with existing infrastructure requires creative thinking and attention to detail,” Kuntz says. Through the experience and skill of the teams, these challenges have been overcome.

Additionally, Engineering has learned there are tools that can help the teams with these challenges. One of those tools has been working with Civil Engineering and its Surveying division to create 3D scans of existing equipment that provide accurate dimensions. They can then be used in the design phase to properly interface new equipment with existing equipment.

The current timeline has the final Aging Infrastructure project being taken to the board of directors for consideration in 2025 with an anticipated completion date in 2027.

With each new year comes new challenges and opportunities for growth as infrastructure nears the end of its lifespan. The Aging Substation Infrastructure Replacement Initiative brings new life to these substations and ensures that Basin Electric is providing reliability for its members far into the future, one project at a time.



FROM ROOKIE TO RETIREE THE 'TRANSMISSION' OF TOM CHRISTENSEN

By Angela Magstadt

Like the transmission lines that carry electricity from one place to another, Tom Christensen has spent his career working to ensure that vital resource is carried from Basin Electric's power plants to the homes, farms, and businesses that need it to power their daily lives.

On Dec. 30, Christensen, Basin Electric senior vice president of Transmission, Engineering, and Construction, retired after nearly 40 years of service to the cooperative and its members, leaving behind years of experience, the respect of countless colleagues, and strong relationships with members and others he worked alongside throughout his career.

Christensen began his career at Basin Electric in 1983 shortly after graduating from North Dakota State University with a degree in electrical engineering with an emphasis in power systems. Except for a two-year stint with Iowa Power and Light, he has spent his entire career at the cooperative.

Christensen's first position was in Resource Planning where he worked for two years before beginning his career in Transmission. As one of his first projects in Transmission Planning, he evaluated transmission systems in northeastern Wyoming, the present Basin Electric Class A member Powder River Energy Corporation system. "In 1987, we actually did some of the original evaluations of our Rapid City DC tie as part of those studies, although the DC tie didn't get built until over 15 years later," he says.

After spending two years in Iowa doing transmission and distribution planning for another company, Christensen moved back to Bismarck, North Dakota, and began working on Basin Electric's Marketing and Power Supply team. While there, he served as Basin Electric's project manager when Corn Belt Power Cooperative (now a Basin Electric Class A member) built Wisdom Generation Station Unit 2, a unit that is co-owned by Basin Electric and Corn Belt Power.

Then, with some of the transmission tariffs beginning, Mike Risan, former senior vice president of Transmission, hired Christensen and he joined the Transmission department where he focused on projects involving tariffs, substations, and some jointly owned lines that helped serve the Bakken region in western North Dakota.

The skills he gained during those projects were very helpful when Basin Electric joined the regional transmission organization (RTO) Southwest Power Pool (SPP) in 2015 and he had to help get cost recovery under the SPP tariffs, which he says was a challenging process.

When Risan retired in 2018, Christensen was promoted to fill his position as senior vice president of Transmission, Engineering, and Construction. "And thank God for Gavin (McCollam, former Basin Electric vice president of Engineering and current chief operating officer), Pius (Fischer, recently retired vice president of Transmission), and all their employees, as well as the TSM (Transmission System Maintenance) employees who keep the lines and substations operating and in service," Christensen says. "Together, they are the backbone that get this machine we call 'the grid' correctly designed, built, and kept in service."

Throughout his career, Christensen says the concept of cooperation and coordination with other entities has been a central theme. "We have leveraged relationships with so many other organizations that have benefited our membership," he says. Some examples include contracting with Western Area Power Administration to serve as Basin Electric's transmission operator and working with investor-owned utilities such as Montana Dakota Utilities to help us serve member load in areas where the federal transmission system didn't reach. More recently, Basin Electric has worked with SPP on cost recovery of the 345-kV system. "Working with outside entities on challenging projects was not always easy but it has often saved us money and benefitted the membership, which is why it's so important to do it," he says.

Through all the roles he's had at Basin Electric, Christensen says some of his favorite duties included "the analytical stuff," and he always liked the analysis associated with resource planning and transmission studies. As time went on, he says he also enjoyed being able to think strategically about the direction of the co-op. "The Dakotas and the areas we serve have

a practical nature," he says. "We're sitting on some of the best coal resources ever, we've got some of the best natural gas resources ever, and we've got some of the best wind resources. When you throw all that together, we're in a pretty favorable situation from both a natural resource perspective and a regulatory perspective. One of the other strengths we have is our geographic location and its impact on our workforce. We have persevered, accomplished, and prospered not in spite of the climate, but to a large extent because of it. We have employees who operate our plants and run our transmission system that are from this area and they are, for lack of a better word, tough. I think that goes a long way."

"Tom's long and successful career at Basin Electric demonstrates the commitment he has to our members and the passion he has for getting reliable electricity to the member at the end of the line," says Todd Telesz, Basin Electric CEO and general manager. "His leadership at SPP has been critical in helping Basin Electric and its members transition to being part of an RTO, and he has been instrumental in our efforts to evaluate a new RTO in the west. Tom's legacy of leadership is reflected in the strong team of employees he has attracted and built. This team will carry forward the key strategic initiatives he has helped develop. He has truly been a major asset to our cooperative family and we wish him the best in his retirement."

Christensen says his career with Basin Electric has been very satisfying. "It's been an honor to be associated with Basin Electric and co-ops in general. Some of the conversations with the membership weren't always easy, but they were always valuable," he says.



Christensen early in his career when he worked in Basin Electric's Planning and Marketing department. He is pictured, left, with LaWayne Buelow, a former Basin Electric electrical engineer.

BASIN ELECTRIC TO ADD MEGAWATTS AT PIONEER GENERATION STATION

By Tracie Bettenhausen

Electricity is increasingly the power of choice. It's quick, easy, and clean when you plug in a cord or turn on a switch. We charge our tablets and our cars, and store data on computers using electricity. We use electricity to make highly volatile money (cryptocurrency), and electricity may soon be powering our natural gas and carbon dioxide sequestration pipelines.

All this shows in our load forecast. According to the 2023 Basin Electric Member Load Forecast, 92% of Basin Electric's distribution cooperative members are growing.

But even before the latest forecast was released in January, the cooperative saw that building new generation to keep electricity reliable for our membership was a necessity.

Therefore, Basin Electric is pursuing its largest single-site electric generation project since the 1980s. The cooperative plans to construct about 600 megawatts (MW) of natural gas generation near the existing Pioneer Generation Station northwest of Williston, North Dakota.

The project will be referred to as Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV (PGSIV). Preliminary estimates place the budget at approximately \$780 million, which includes both generation and transmission assets.

Jim Lund, Basin Electric senior mechanical engineer and project coordinator, says PGSIV will address near-term load growth and long-term grid stability in the Bakken region.

"The first phase of the project includes one simple-cycle combustion turbine, which will produce up to 250 MW, a series of reciprocating engines totaling about 110 MW, and 15 miles of 345-kilovolt transmission, all to be in service in 2025," Lund says. "The second phase

includes an additional simple-cycle combustion turbine to produce up to 250 MW to be in service in 2026."

Gavin McCollam, Basin Electric senior vice president and chief operating officer, says having the units online by 2025 and 2026 is a quick timeline helped out by work completed a few years back. "In 2019 and 2020, we assembled a team to work on a generation facility that was planned but never ultimately built. We were able to take employees who were on that team and roll them into this work on PGSIV today," McCollam says. "They were able to get their feet back underneath them and get to work quickly."

In Basin Electric's Procurement division, risks are being managed in a number of ways. Lindsay Kostelecky, Basin Electric senior contract administrator, says the cooperative negotiated logistics terms in which the equipment manufacturer has taken on the risk of delivery. "The equipment manufacturer is responsible for delivering the assets to the Pioneer Generation Station site, and they are taking on the risk of delivery over ocean, on rail, and to site, and then taking liquidated damages to those delivery dates as well," Kostelecky says.

Troy Tweeten, Basin Electric senior vice president of Operations, says the new generation will need about 15 additional employees for operation and maintenance, and the new team members will be added in phases. "During the first half of 2023, we'll bring on seven new employees who can be a resource to the design and construction teams as they learn the design and operation details of the new equipment, and then another three or four new employees before the end of the year," Tweeten says. "In 2024, we would add the remaining five or six employees as we approach the commissioning and start-up of the project. With the addition of the new turbines and engines, the Pioneer Generation Station will



Artist rendering

become a facility that has employees on-site 24-hours a day rather than strictly day shifts.”

PGSIV was approved by the Basin Electric board of directors at their September 2022 meeting. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) held a public hearing on Jan. 5 to consider awarding a Certificate of Site Compatibility Permit for the new generation facility. The hearing provided an opportunity for the public to voice support or concerns regarding the project. Representatives from Basin Electric Class A member Upper Missouri Power Cooperative, Basin Electric Class C member Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, and a local labor union testified in support of the project. No one spoke in opposition. Both Upper Missouri Power and

Mountrail-Williams Electric are Basin Electric member cooperatives that serve the Bakken region. On Feb. 8, the NDPSC approved the Certificate of Site Compatibility for PGSIV.

The project will include a new switchyard, 15-mile transmission line, and operations and maintenance buildings on site. Additional permits for the transmission aspects of the project will be required before construction can begin.

The last time Basin Electric constructed a project of this size was Antelope Valley Station near Beulah, North Dakota, when the 450-MW first unit began commercial operation in 1984.



Basin Electric's GIS team: Bobby Nasset, supervisor of Civil Engineering; Jason Brekke, senior GIS analyst; Brady Spooner, GIS technician I; Andrew Guess, enterprise application architect I; Andrew Milas, enterprise application architect III; Shannon Vaira, GIS analyst; and James Scheitel, enterprise database administrator III.



HOW WE SERVE... WITH THE GIS TEAM

By Jenifer Gray

Think back to a time before technology made finding the nearest gas station a snap. Many of us planned road trips with the help of a paper map, drawing lines and circling destinations along the route. For most, those days are long gone because of technological advances with geographic information systems (GIS). At Basin Electric, the team of GIS specialists makes sure we're heading in the right direction to provide members with reliable electricity.

Basin Electric is on track to energize nearly 350 miles of high-voltage transmission line in western North Dakota by the end of 2026. This extensive transmission buildout prompted various teams across the cooperative to

collaborate on routing, permitting, and design. The GIS team was charged with organizing project information which allows users to manage the course of a project in a more efficient way.

One might wonder what GIS specialists do and why they are such an important part of a project. GIS plays a critical role in siting new generation and transmission and many other areas of the cooperative. A GIS specialist uses computer programming to store, integrate, analyze, edit, and display geographical locations on an interactive map and is responsible for communicating the information to end-users. Communication can be done through web mapping applications, mobile applications,

or hard-copy maps. An easy way to define GIS is that it is an information system with a geographic component, which allows a GIS specialist to display and analyze data modeled in the real world to solve problems or answer questions.

For transmission specifically, GIS is a system that allows the team to compile many different layers of geospatial information while also enabling end-users to interactively engage with relevant layers pertaining to their specific function.

Jason Brekke, Basin Electric senior GIS analyst, found his way into the GIS field during a time when there weren't many GIS programs out there. Having declared a major in geography, Brekke decided to also take courses in remote sensing. He landed a cooperative education experience at the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium where he was introduced to satellite imagery. "This was my first introduction to real-world application of the software, and I was intrigued by it," Brekke says. "At that point I knew this was something I would like to make a career out of."

As a senior analyst, Brekke must ensure that all tasks the team receives for GIS services get completed accurately and on time. He spends time researching new workflows and implementing them in Basin Electric's Enterprise GIS. He works closely with GIS team members within Information Services and Telecommunications (IS&T), who make sure Enterprise GIS is secure and reliable. "As a GIS professional, you have to dedicate time to keeping up on the technology. We work closely with our GIS IS&T staff to ensure we are optimizing the value of the software Basin Electric is paying for," Brekke says.

There are few departments within the cooperative that the GIS team has not had the opportunity to work

with and they are always looking for new customers and applications of the technology. "For example, we work with the tax group each year to review existing transmission lines and the most recent tax districts the counties provide in a GIS format," Brekke says. A GIS study is completed to break down the amount of transmission mileage (by voltage) that intersects each tax district, and that number determines how many tax dollars are allocated to each district.

Transmission projects typically include multi-year planning efforts involving many different disciplines, including landowner feedback, public agencies, and other utilities and companies. Additionally, Basin Electric utilizes internal and external specialists in services such as right-of-way acquisition, geotechnical studies, archaeological and biological surveys, wetland delineation, construction, and reclamation. "GIS serves as a central repository for all of the geospatial layers produced by Basin Electric and external entities," Brekke says. "The layers are displayed so decision makers have the best information available, and more importantly, in a visualized geographical context." GIS also organizes all the information needed for transmission line permitting.

"The custom applications and advancements with the GIS enterprise system have changed the way we approach and manage projects," says Bobby Nasset, Basin Electric Civil Engineering supervisor. "We have built a project management dashboard that dynamically updates as the project progresses through each stage." When routing a transmission line, the engineering team can add new route alternatives and structure locations that are immediately available to the project team. Easement acquisition and survey permission status are updated in real time, which creates efficiencies for iterations required for project decisions.

“ The custom applications and advancements with the GIS enterprise system have changed the way we approach and manage projects. ”
Jason Brekke, Basin Electric senior GIS analyst



This GIS dashboard shows gauges on the left side displaying the progress of transmission structures in a sequential order from designed, field staked, delivered, framed, and erected, as well as one for foundations which are only used at angle points and dead-end structures. The gauges on the right of the screen display the stringing progress of the conductor and overhead ground wires. The contractors are required to update these statuses daily as they are completed, and the dashboard then reflects the progress in real-time. The gauges on the right of the screen display the stringing progress of the conductor and overhead ground wires. The contractors are required to update these statuses daily as they are completed, and the dashboard then reflects the progress in real-time.

“We also upload existing requirements from landowners or other utilities to the GIS so they are available to contractors and the project team at all times,” Nasset says. “For example, a contractor can see where pipeline crossings are, and open our crossing agreement with the pipeline company at the location to double check all requirements for the crossing. During construction, the GIS dashboard is updated by our field coordinators so we have real-time progress updates to track project costs and schedule.”

Communication is at the forefront of any project and is especially important when it comes to building new transmission infrastructure. Weekly project meetings keep everyone on task. Additionally, the GIS team hosts quarterly meetings for their end users. The meetings allow customers within Basin Electric to share how they are using the technology with other areas of the cooperative and allow the GIS team an opportunity to share what it is working on and provide updates on what’s new.

GIS recently helped complete work on the Neset-to-Northshore project, which consisted of 27 miles of 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and a new substation. Currently, the GIS team is doing its part in the completion of several up-and-coming transmission line projects including the Roundup-to-Kummer Ridge 345-kV transmission line, the Leland Olds Station-to-Tande 345-kV transmission line, and two new 230-kV circuits from the Wheelock and Tande substations to the Canadian border.

Brekke says the best part about his job is that anytime a new project is being considered, the GIS team will get requests for GIS services. “I learn something new every day, and it keeps me in the loop on what may be on the horizon for Basin Electric. I’ve said many times to coworkers that project work is my favorite. I like the fast pace of project work and the daily challenges it can present, and I enjoy collaborating with GIS team members who work in different departments of the cooperative.”

PILOTS, PLANES, AND PRESENTS: EMPLOYEE HELPS BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO CHILDREN

By Jenifer Gray



Basin Electric pilot Steven Schaffner, right, joined Santa and Mrs. Claus to provide gifts to children in the hospital or others who otherwise may not have received presents this Christmas.

A Basin Electric employee helped bring the magic of Christmas to children who had to spend the holiday in the hospital.

As a part of the Pilots for Kids program, Basin Electric pilot Steven Schaffner helped Santa and Mrs. Claus trade in their sleigh and reindeer for a helicopter ride to bring gifts to kids at Bismarck, North Dakota, hospitals on Dec. 20.

The Pilots for Kids program is an international, nonprofit organization started in 1983 by a group of airline crewmembers to help address the needs of hospitalized children. Its primary activity is to visit and distribute toys to children in hospitals, shelters, orphanages, and other facilities that serve disadvantaged children. Crewmembers raise donations, and 100% of those funds go directly to the children. In addition to toys, wheelchairs, hospital beds, and other special equipment has been purchased as part of the program.

Schaffner heard about the program in 2018 when he was a pilot for Delta Connection. Each year, Pilots for Kids holds an event where Delta provides an aircraft and crew to transport 100 children on a “North Pole” flight from one part of the terminal to the other. When he learned about the program, he felt Bismarck needed a location, so he helped establish the Bismarck chapter and serves as its coordinator.

In December 2019, after establishing a relationship with Bismarck’s hospitals and Sanford Airmed, Schaffner

and his team delivered the first round of presents to the hospitals, which usually amounts to 25-30 children. “We are fortunate to receive support from Sanford Airmed and the use of its helicopter to deliver presents directly to the hospitals. We are the only location that has an aircraft and a Santa Claus to deliver presents to the children,” Schaffner says.

In 2021, the program received an outpouring of gifts from a local mom who organized her own toy drive, which allowed crewmembers to expand their services across the entire state. Every hospitalized child in Minot, Grand Forks, Fargo, and Bismarck received a present, including a first-time visit to schools in Fort Yates who otherwise would likely not have seen Santa during Christmas.

Schaffner says the most challenging part of his role is funding the purchase of the presents. Each location is entirely self-supported through volunteers and their own funding. “Our funding comes from the yearly dues paid by each pilot. With Bismarck being one of the smallest locations in the network, we don’t have many pilots to help contribute to that aspect of the program,” he says.

That’s where Basin Electric stepped in to help. Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principles, and each year Basin Electric’s Charitable Giving Committee disperses funds to charities in its nine-state service area. In 2022, a donation was made to the Pilots for Kids program. Schaffner says without that donation, it would have become a personal expense to ensure every hospitalized child received a gift.

Schaffner says despite planning the event during his military deployment, the program was able to reach over 400 children, which was more than most of the major cities in the Pilots for Kids network.

Schaffner says what sets this group apart is visiting the children and personally handing out presents to each one. “Getting to spend a few moments talking to each child and their family is part of the human connection and that’s important,” he says.

Retirees



Al Beckler, shift maintenance worker at Dakota Gas, retired on Nov. 5, 2022. Beckler began his career at Dakota Gas in coal handling before starting shift maintenance in 1989. The Hazen, North Dakota, native worked for the cooperative for over 39 years.

"Al was hardworking and energetic. He never backed away from a hard job," says Bo Klindworth, shift maintenance supervisor. "Al was always going 100 miles an hour. Most people had a hard time keeping up with him; he kept busy and that's a great quality to possess."

In retirement, Beckler plans to camp, fish, travel, and spend more time with family and friends.



Greg Berger, operator at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 30, 2022, after more than 39 years with the cooperative.

"Greg was a great problem solver. He worked well with his coworkers and was able to adapt to any role given him," says Corey Kerzmann, utilities shift supervisor. "He will be greatly missed for his knowledge and for being a good mentor for the younger techs; he was always willing to teach and share his knowledge with those around him. Greg had a positive attitude and was a joy to work around; he will be missed."

"I feel very lucky to have worked for almost 40 years at Dakota Gas," Berger says. "It was an exciting time learning how to start up the plant and keep it going. I will miss the area and the employees I have worked with over the years."

After retirement, Berger is taking a cruise through the Panama Canal, camping in Montana and Alaska, and working on home renovation projects.



Byron Borlaug, mechanic at Leland Olds Station, retired on Jan. 10, 2023, after 16 years with the cooperative.

"LOS was a great place to work," Borlaug says.

In retirement, he plans to take his grandkids hunting and fishing.



Dennis Candrian, senior electrical instrument (E&I) control systems engineer at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 30, 2022, after 21 years with the cooperative.

"The biggest project I participated in was the urea/DEF (diesel exhaust fluid) project," Candrian says. "It has been a fun, challenging, and rewarding career."

In retirement, he and his wife plan to spend more time with their children and granddaughter in Boise, Idaho. He also plans to hunt and fish more often, while still helping on the farm.



Robert Degenstein, instrument technician at Leland Olds Station, retired on Dec. 16, 2022. Degenstein began his career with the cooperative in 2001 working at Dakota Gas as an E&I technician. In 2008,

he transferred to Leland Olds Station and into his current role. Degenstein, a Bergen, North Dakota, native worked for the cooperative for 21 years.



Delonce Eberle, warehouse supervisor at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Dec. 30, 2022, after 40 years with the cooperative. He worked as an operator for 22 years before transferring to the

warehouse in 2004. In 2014, he took on his role as warehouse supervisor.

"Delonce was a pleasure to work with. He was easygoing, knowledgeable, and dependable," says Greg Zahn, maintenance planner supervisor. "He would go out of his way to help, and I will miss being able to call him with questions. I will also miss our friendly conversations and the times when he would stop by my office to see how things were going."

In retirement, he plans to spend more time with his kids and grandkids. He also plans to spend time at his lake cabin, do some hunting and fishing, and finish some projects around the house.



Chad Edwards, plant manager at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Dec. 30, 2022, after 32 years with the cooperative. Edwards held many roles at Antelope Valley Station, from project engineer to performance engineer, to operations superintendent, and then plant manager.

"I worked numerous outages and night shifts, and I enjoyed the challenges my job had to offer," Edwards says. "I appreciate all the support I received."

In retirement, he plans on enjoying life, seeing his family, visiting friends, and watching lots of sunrises and sunsets.



John Erickson, mechanical maintenance supervisor at Leland Olds Station, retired on Jan. 5, 2023, after 34 years with the cooperative.

"I've had the honor of working with a great bunch of people," Erickson says.

In retirement, he plans to do some traveling with his wife and spend more time with family.



Duane Flemmer, yard operator at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Dec. 29, 2022, after 18 years with the cooperative.



Ivar Frantsen, operations supervisor at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 30, 2022, after nearly 38 years with the cooperative.

"Ivar is a very outgoing, positive person and liked to have fun at work. I knew early on that I couldn't match his quick wit," says Steve Pouliot, operations section manager. "He encouraged teamwork, was quick to give praise, and was a joy to be around. Ivar will be missed for his knowledge and his ability to light up a room. He kept everyone's spirits high even in the most challenging times."

"I have a lot of great memories and friends," Frantsen says. "I am grateful to Dakota Gas for the career and life they allowed me to have, and am very proud of all that we have done throughout the years."

In retirement, he plans to camp, travel, go out on his pontoon, and watch his grandkids.



Brian Gehring, coal yard supervisor at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Dec. 1, 2022, after 35 years with the cooperative. Gehring started as a laborer in 1987 and then became a coalman in 1992. In 2007, he became the lead yard operator before moving into his recent position in 2014.

"Brian was an excellent employee," says Chad Edwards, plant manager. "He was always willing to help out as needed and was very well-respected by his coworkers. I'm thankful for his dedication to Basin Electric and wish him all the best in retirement."

In retirement, he plans to do some fishing and hunting.



Leon Grosz, senior enterprise system administrator at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 30, 2022, after 33 years with the cooperative.

In retirement, Grosz plans to hunt, fish, and ride his motorcycle.



Steven Haider, control room operator at Leland Olds Station, retired on Dec. 29, 2022, after 33 years with the cooperative.

In retirement, Haider plans to hunt, fish, and do a bit of traveling. He'll also be working at Haider Ranch raising registered quarter horses.

Retirees



Lou Hansana, planner at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 28, 2022, after 25 years with the cooperative. Hansana started out in field maintenance before moving to the planning department in 2015.

In retirement, he plans to play a lot of golf, follow his grandkids' activities, coach volleyball in Hazen, North Dakota, and spend time with family.



Kelly Hausauer, operations field technician at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 26, 2022, after 37 years with the cooperative.

"Kelly had an excellent work ethic. He was very knowledgeable and was a great troubleshooter," says Tim McEvers, utilities supervisor. "His knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed."

"Working at Dakota Gas has been truly an experience," says Hausauer.

In retirement, he plans to travel, fish, hunt, relax, and take it easy.



Gary Heidelberg, senior environmental specialist at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 30, 2022, after 22 years with the cooperative.

In retirement, he plans to do some kayaking and canoeing, and ride his motorcycle with the Christian Motorcycle Association.



Warren Herman, senior safety coordinator at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 29, 2022, after more than 34 years with the cooperative.

"Warren was one of those people who always pitched in to help get the job done no matter what you asked him to do," says Jeff Graney, compliance, safety, and industrial hygiene superintendent. "I'll miss his semi-accurate fishing reports, professionalism, and attention to detail. He will be missed by the Dakota Gas family, and I wish him a wonderful retirement."

"Looking back over my career of nearly 35 years, I often marvel at the opportunities offered me that led to my success," Herman says. "I am grateful to Dakota Gas administration, both past and present, for those opportunities."



Kevin Herrmann, control room operator at Antelope Valley Station, retired on Dec. 30, 2022, after 38 years with the cooperative.

"Kevin was a very dependable employee. He made sure everyone knew what was going on and took time to explain things," says Anthony Kalvoda, operations shift supervisor. "His extensive knowledge will be missed. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him the best in his retirement."



Mary Hruby, records coordinator at Basin Electric Headquarters, retired on Dec. 1, 2022, after more than 23 years with the cooperative. Hruby started out working in the cafeteria before moving into her role in Records Management in 2009.

"Mary was one of the hardest working employees I've ever known. She was always willing to learn new tasks and take on new projects. If someone needed anything, she stepped right in to help," says Jennifer Krogstad, manager of Records Management. "Mary was the mom of our group. She was level-headed and always had the best advice about motherhood. We'll miss her baking; she could make the best cherry almond bread around!"

"I have enjoyed working with many different people and have a lot of good memories," Hruby says. In retirement, she plans to spend time at her cabin in South Dakota and attend her grandkids' sporting events.



Kevin Irwin, maintenance field technician at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 29, 2022. Irwin worked for the cooperative for over 38 years.

"Kevin was a one-man army. He knew how to get the job done correctly and efficiently. His knowledge and experience will be missed," says Seth Nehl, weld, pump, and machinist shop supervisor.

In retirement, Irwin hopes to enjoy more time with his family, especially his grandkids, and do some home improvement projects.



Myron Jorgenson, mechanic at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 29, 2022, after 21 years with the cooperative.

Jorgenson was in charge of the main tool room where he repaired and inspected tools and sent out torqueing equipment to be recalibrated and certified.

In retirement, he plans to fish, hunt, and take care of his in-laws.



Brent Kautzman, instrument technician at Leland Olds Station, retired on Dec. 16, 2022, after 20 years with the cooperative. He is a native of Richardton, North Dakota.



Lyle Knell, mechanic at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 28, 2022, after 18 years with the cooperative.

In retirement, he hopes to finish some projects around the house, work in the garage, and maybe do some gardening and traveling.



Tim McEvers, utilities supervisor at Dakota Gas, retired on Dec. 26, 2022, after 38 years with the cooperative.

McEvers started out as an operator in the satellite area in 1984. He worked as an operator in the gasification, boiler house, and oxygen plant areas until 2013 when he began his role as utilities supervisor.

“Tim was respected as a hard-working and knowledgeable technician,” says Steve Pouliot, operations section manager. “People listened to him because he had a great memory and could always give advice based on his experiences over the years. He will be missed for his knowledge and his willingness to train others to help them succeed.”

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



Johnny Mote, mechanic/welder at Laramie River Station, retired on Dec. 16, 2022, after 11 years with the cooperative.

“Johnny’s positive attitude and willingness to work on any project thrown his way is a characteristic every employee should have,” says Robert Jairell, mechanical supervisor. “Johnny spent most of his career at LRS working on systems throughout the main plant and was also in charge of our tool crib. There was never a day that a mechanic would ask for a tool without having to listen to a joke or two from Johnny. His dedication, skillset, knowledge and personality will be sorely missed by everyone at LRS. Congratulations Johnny!”

In retirement he plans to travel, visit family, hunt, and fish.



Roy Mote, mechanic/welder at Laramie River Station, retired on Nov. 11, 2022. A native of East Texas, Mote worked for the cooperative for over 14 years.

“Roy was a valued employee. He was very dependable and a very good mechanic,” says Greg Petroski, mechanics supervisor. “Roy had a strong work ethic and followed the rules; he would tell it like it was without sugar coating anything.”

“One thing I’ll remember about Roy is that he loved soup! Soup was the only thing I ever saw him eat for lunch. He would warm up his soup, eat, and read a book over his lunch break,” says Petroski. “Roy was famous for his saying ‘Everything and all like that.’”

“I experienced new things every day at LRS,” says Mote.

In retirement, he plans to hunt and fish.

New employees



Allison Halvorsen began working at Laramie River Station on Oct. 3 as an administrative assistant. Originally from Washington, she was previously employed by Anderson Dental PC in Wheatland, Wyoming, as an accounts manager.



Nicholas Graf began working at Antelope Valley Station on Oct. 24 as an electrician. Originally from Burlington, North Dakota, he previously worked for IBEW Local 741 as a journeyman electrician in Minot, North Dakota.



Sonny Schulz began working at Headquarters on Oct. 3 as a purchasing agent. From Bismarck, North Dakota, she was previously employed by Doosan Bobcat as a material planner.



Shana Gerving, senior administrative assistant, began working at Headquarters on Oct. 24. Originally from Hebron, North Dakota, she previously worked as an office manager at a McDonald's office in Bismarck, North Dakota.



Shane Bengson, from Williston, North Dakota, began working at Pioneer Generation Station on Oct. 10 as an operator/technician. He was previously employed by Watco Companies as a utility operator in Tioga, North Dakota.



Corey Helm, employment coordinator, began working at Headquarters on Oct. 24. Originally from Bismarck, North Dakota, he was previously employed by Helm Excavating as secretary/treasurer.



Samantha Kamphuis, began working at Headquarters an alarm monitor/service dispatcher on Oct. 10. Originally from Bismarck and Garrison, North Dakota, she previously worked for the Minot Police Department as a 911 dispatcher in Minot, North Dakota.



Julian Jankowski, from Beulah, North Dakota, began working at Leland Olds Station on Oct. 24 as a laborer. He was previously employed by Blue Top Steering Gears as a steering gear technician in Stanton, North Dakota.



Joseph Kingery started working as a power supply engineer at Headquarters on Oct. 10. Originally from northeastern North Dakota and Bemidji, Minnesota, he was previously employed by BAE Systems Inc., as a mechanical engineer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering as well as a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.



Dylan Kuyper began working at Williston (North Dakota) Transmission System Maintenance as an apprentice system protection technician on Oct. 24. Originally from Spearfish, South Dakota, he previously worked at Addison Construction as an electrician/laborer in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He received an associate's degree in electrical construction and maintenance, as well as an associate's degree in electrical utilities and substation technologies from the Mitchell (South Dakota) Technical Institute.



Jake Nuss, a Bismarck, North Dakota, native, began working at Leland Olds Station as a laborer on Oct. 22. He previously worked for American Crystal Sugar Company in Drayton, North Dakota, as a boiler fireman. He received an associate's degree in process plant technology from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.



Angila Lawhorn, originally from Washington, began working at Headquarters as a service dispatcher on Oct. 24. She was previously employed by Missouri Slope as an enrichment assistant in Mandan, North Dakota. She has also worked at Sanford Health and Miller Pointe Senior Living.



Michael Schaffner, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working at Antelope Valley Station on Oct. 24 as an electrician. He was previously employed by IBEW Local 714 as a journeyman electrician in Bismarck.



Garrett Stepp began working at Headquarters as an alarm monitor/service dispatcher on Oct. 24. A native of Mandan, North Dakota, he was previously employed by the Mandan Police Department as a patrol officer.



Candice Amburn started working at Laramie River Station as a safety administrative assistant on Nov. 7. A native of Wheatland, Wyoming, Amburn was previously employed by Platte County Redi-Mix as a secretary in Wheatland.



Jarom Bundy from Elko, Nevada, began working at Dry Fork Station as a utility operator on Nov. 7. He was previously employed by the City of Gillette, Wyoming, as a fleet technician. Bundy has also been a plant operator for Tessenderlo Kerley in Elko.



Victoria Christensen, a chemistry lab technician, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Nov. 7. She is originally from Courtenay, North Dakota. She recently received her bachelor's degree in science after pursuing a triple major in biology, chemistry, and health sciences from Valley City (North Dakota) State University.



Sarah Elder began working at Headquarters as an event coordinator on Nov. 7. Originally from Bismarck, North Dakota, she was previously employed by Odney where she worked as a senior account executive. She received her bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Mary in Bismarck.



Mitchell Haabala began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a process operations field technician on Nov. 7. Originally from Minnesota, he was previously employed by Boilermakers Union.



Cody Haugen from Mandan, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a process operations field technician on Nov. 7. He previously worked as a process operator at Tharaldson Ethanol in Casselton, North Dakota. He received his associate's degree in power plant technology from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College.



Lance Hockenbary from Valentine, Nebraska, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a process operations field technician on Nov. 7. He previously worked for Ringneck Energy in Onida, South Dakota, as an operator.



Dan Senger began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a process operations field technician on Nov. 7. Originally from Mandan, North Dakota, he was previously employed by United Association Local 300 in Mandan.



Justin Taylor began working at Dry Fork Station as an electrical and instrumentation technician on Nov. 7. Originally from Gillette, Wyoming, he previously worked for Pacificorp in Glenrock, Wyoming as a control and electrical technician.



Cory Walcker began working at Headquarters as a desktop applications architect on Nov. 7. A native of Bismarck, North Dakota, Walcker previously worked at the North Dakota State Auditor's Office as an IT systems auditor. He received a bachelor's degree in management information systems from Minot (North Dakota) State University.

New employees



Susan Muehler from Hazelton, North Dakota, began working at Headquarters as a records coordinator on Nov. 17. She was previously employed by Zuger Kirmis & Smith as a legal assistant in Bismarck, North Dakota. She also worked at Missouri Slope and St. Vincent's Care Center in Bismarck, North Dakota.



Taun Murphy, from Townsend, Montana, began working at Lonesome Creek Station on Nov. 21. He previously worked as a foreman for 3 Forks Services in Williston, North Dakota. He is a police training graduate of Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, North Dakota, a graduate of Carrol College in Helena, Montana, and has EMT and fire certifications.



Rhonda Starck began working at Headquarters on Nov. 21 as a delivery service analyst. Originally from Mandan, North Dakota, she was previously employed by Dakota Community Bank & Trust as a loan processor in Bismarck, North Dakota.



Jason Evans began working at Laramie River Station as a safety coordinator on Dec. 5. A native of Wheatland, Wyoming, he was previously the owner of One Stop Safety in Wheatland.



Ryan Koch began working at Dry Fork Station as a lead lab technician on Dec. 5. Originally from Newcastle, Wyoming, he previously worked at Wyoming Refining Company in Newcastle as a lead lab technician.



Austin Montgomery, from Torrington, Wyoming, began working at Laramie River Station on Dec. 5 as a laborer. He previously worked in maintenance at Dinklage Feed Yards in Torrington. He also worked for BNSF Railway in Guernsey, Wyoming.



Cody Redding began working as a laborer at Laramie River Station on Dec. 5. A native of Wheatland, Wyoming, he previously worked for Peabody Energy as a dragline operator.



Ace Thurston, from Lance Creek, Wyoming, began working as a laborer at Laramie River Station on Dec. 5. He was previously employed by Peabody Energy as a production technician.



Blake Vaughn began working as a laborer at Laramie River Station on Dec. 5. Originally from Chugwater, Wyoming, he was previously employed by the Wyoming Department of Transportation as a maintenance technician.



Kayla Hieb, from Lewistown, Montana, began working at Headquarters on Dec. 12 as vice president of Human Resources. She was previously employed by Bobcat in Bismarck, North Dakota, as the director of Human Resources. She received a master's degree in industrial/organizational psychology from St. Cloud (Minnesota) State University, as well as a bachelor's degree in psychology from Minot (North Dakota) State University.



Patrick Frohlich began working at Headquarters as a property and right-of-way specialist on Dec. 19. Originally from Mandan, North Dakota, he previously worked for RDO Equipment in Washburn, North Dakota. He has multiple degrees from Bismarck (North Dakota) State College, Range Technical College in Minnesota, and Dickinson (North Dakota) State College. He also served in the U.S. Army as a Cavalry Scout and is a Golf War veteran.



Alex Hoffman, from Bismarck, North Dakota, began working at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant as a chemical lab technician on Dec. 19. He previously worked for Terracon Consultants as an assistant scientist in Fargo, North Dakota. He received his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Service awards



Shannon Kelley
30 years
Control room operator
Laramie River Station



Shawn Bornemann
25 years
Process operations
field technician
Dakota Gasification Company



Mark Degenstein
25 years
Inspection supervisor
Dakota Gasification Company



Will Erker
25 years
Mechanic
Antelope Valley Station



Joe Everett
25 years
E&I maintenance supervisor
Dakota Gasification Company



Troy Johnson
25 years
Shift superintendent
Dakota Gasification Company



Robyn Miller
25 years
Designer
Dakota Gasification Company



Matt Parisien
25 years
Maintenance field technician
Dakota Gasification Company



Eric Pressnall
25 years
Shift maintenance supervisor
Dakota Gasification Company



Paul Remmick
25 years
Utilities shift supervisor
Dakota Gasification Company



Jesse Sabot
25 years
Maintenance planner
specialist
Menoken TSM



Mike Seefeld
20 years
Senior contract administrator
Headquarters

WE'RE HIRING

YOUR ENERGY STARTS HERE

jobs.basinelectric.com

OPENINGS IN:

Operations
Maintenance
Security


Procurement
Engineering
Administration

Finance
Information Technology
Student Interns





**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1717 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58503-0564
701-223-0441

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BISMARCK, ND
PERMIT 224

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



BASIN ELECTRIC



RELIABILITY

**POWER YOU CAN
ALWAYS DEPEND ON**

At Basin Electric, we understand that life doesn't stop when the going gets tough. No matter the season or storm our members face, reliable and affordable electricity for our members' homes, schools, and businesses is our mission. We'll do everything we can to keep fans running, the lights on, and the coffee brewing.



**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Reliable Energy for **Our Way of Life.**