

Cooperative Connections

Deep freeze challenges power grid

Pages 8-9

The latest on EVs in SD

Pages 12-13

Co-ops respond as extreme winter weather brings up concerns over power supply and demand



In it For the Long Haul



Jordan Lamb

jlamb@oaheelectric.com

I remember as a child growing up hearing the stories from family and friends regarding how Hughes and Sully counties first were homesteaded. The railroad extended out into the eastern portion of our service territory, and around the 1920s-1930s, ended in Blunt, S.D., Oahe Electric Cooperative's current headquarters. Many families were born and raised in dirt and sod dugouts underground or in poorly insulated homes with no running water or plumbing, my elder relatives included, and still own parts of their historic original homesteads to this day.

Around the 1930s through the 1940s, electricity was becoming widely available in homes and commercial buildings in urban areas. One area that was not addressed or cost effective were rural communities and homesteads where the cost to build line far exceeded the revenues that would be obtained from servicing one or two customers at the end of a minimum maintenance road. In 1946, Oahe Electric Cooperative was formed by rural residents in Hughes and Sully counties, our member-owners, who went on to form East River Electric Power Cooperative (our Intermediate Voltage Transmission Cooperative) headquartered in Madison, S.D., and Basin Electric Power Cooperative

(our High Voltage Transmission and Generation Cooperative) headquartered in Bismarck, N.D.

At the time these tiers were formed, generation and transmission had to be purchased and built. Since these assets had life expectancies of 50-75 years, cooperative members agreed to sign long-term contracts with each other to be able to afford the infrastructure and provide even the most common person in the middle of a rural area the same opportunity and electricity that someone downtown Chicago received. These contracts continue to be re-visited and extended long-term as new generation, transmission and distribution is needed.

As our member-owners, each individual member owns a portion of Oahe Electric Cooperative's distribution, a portion of East River Electric Cooperative's transmission and Basin Electric Cooperative's transmission and generation. As of recent, bitter cold temperatures and generation shortfall have created 'rolling blackouts' in our areas all the way extended into Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Customers buying power 'off the market' saw prices exceed the \$3 per kWh price range and faced electric bills exceeding thousands of dollars for a single month of usage. By engaging in owning and attaining our own generation, transmission and distribution assets, you as our members have locked in long term affordable prices that do not fluctuate with day-to-day markets, effectively shielding us from volatility.

Someone once said, "Rome was not built in one day." While this is true, we must not forget that every hour in Rome, bricks were still being laid. As Oahe Electric Cooperative's infrastructure, East River Electric Cooperative's infrastructure and Basin Electric Cooperative's infrastructure continues to age, we continuously evaluate generation resources, transmission and distribution routing, construction class, voltage class and attaining our own generation and transmission while rebuilding older facilities to provide our new and existing members with affordable and reliable electricity. Here at Oahe Electric Cooperative, we continue to lay bricks, rain or shine, during summer or bitter cold winter, day or night, on behalf of our member-owners.

WE'RE TURNING 75 AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Come help Oahe Electric celebrate on Monday, April 26, 2021. 75 years ago was the signing of the Articles of Incorporation that brought our cooperative into existence. We will be having a member appreciation lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oahe Electric's headquarters in Blunt. Enjoy and a grilled hamburger or hotdog, chips and cookie while socially distancing or take it to-go!



OAHE ELECTRIC

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 019-042)

Editors

Russ Hohn and Sam Irvine

General Manager

Jordan Lamb

Oahe Electric Board of Directors

President

James Feller, 605-962-6207

Treasurer

Blaine Livermont, 605-945-2910

Vice President

Kirk Yackley, 605-258-2412

Secretary

Ross Sperry, 605-962-6141

Assistant Secretary

Ryan Noyes, 605-280-3500

Attorney

David Larson

Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, 102 S. Canford, Blunt, SD 57522, for its members. Families subscribe to Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to Oahe Electric Cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living. Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Blunt, SD 57522 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522-0216; telephone (605) 962-6243; fax (605) 962-6306; e-mail oahe@oaheelectric.com; www.oaheelectric.com

Our Mission

Oahe Electric delivers high quality, low-cost electric service to our local member-owners. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we are committed to meeting the highest standards of customer satisfaction. We do business with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. As an electric co-op, we are part of America's most trusted network of high quality energy providers.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: mail - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Small Change That Changes Lives

Several years ago, Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. implemented a program called Operation Round Up®. Operation Round Up® is just what the name implies. Each month, Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. simply "rounds up" the electric bills of voluntarily participating consumers to the next highest dollar. The funds collected are then used to address charitable community needs, whether it is disaster relief for an individual, or an organization funding a special project. Since the program's first disbursement in 2009, the program has distributed over \$100,000. All Operation Round Up® donations are placed in a trust and are administered by an independent board of trustees. The board is made up of community leaders who serve on a voluntary basis. The board evaluates all requests for funds, determines who will receive funding and how all Operation Round Up® money will

be distributed. The region served by the Trust is primarily the electrical area served by Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., including Hughes and Sully counties. The most gratifying thing about Operation Round Up® is that it is an extension of the concept of neighbor helping neighbor that built our electric cooperative. The easy-to-complete applications for funding are currently available and can be requested by phone at 605-962-6243. Applications can also be found on our website at www.oaheelectric.com. All applications are due by April 30, 2021. Completed applications may be mailed to: Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522, faxed to: 605/962-6306, or emailed to: oahe@oaheelectric.com. After the deadline, the board of trustees will meet and allocate the funds to those they feel are in the most need.

Stop Scams!

Several Oahe Electric Cooperative members have received calls from people pretending to be Oahe Electric Cooperative employees stating a bill was past due and required immediate action by the member to avoid disconnection. Oahe Electric Cooperative will only send bills and disconnect notices through traditional mail or through email for members that have signed up for paperless billing. Oahe Electric will never request a member to purchase prepaid cards or state that you overpaid your bill and request bank account information from you over the phone to deposit the amounts. All payments back to members will come in the form of an Oahe Electric Cooperative Check to your primary address. Watch out for scams, if you feel there is an issue with your account and would like to talk, please call Oahe Electric Cooperative immediately!

Home Improvements Don't Have to be Expensive

You don't have to replace your air conditioner with a high-efficiency system or make other major improvements to reduce energy consumption. There are low-cost efficiencies anyone can implement to help reduce energy bills.

- **Mind the thermostat.** You might be able to trim your energy bill by carefully managing the temperature in your home. Consider setting your thermostat to 78 degrees when you're running the air conditioner. If that's not cool enough, use fans to help circulate the air to help you feel cooler.
- **Go programmable.** If you don't always remember to adjust your thermostat manually, you could benefit from a programmable model. In the right situation and set correctly, programmable thermostats can save your household \$150 a year. Some models can be managed from your smartphone or other devices.
- **Stop air leaks.** Small gaps around windows, doors, wiring and plumbing penetrations can be major sources of energy loss. This problem can be alleviated with a little weatherstripping and caulk. A \$10 door draft stopper (also known as a "door snake") is a simple way to block gaps underneath exterior doors. Sealing air leaks around your home could shave up to one-fifth off your heating and cooling bills.
- **Manage your windows and window coverings.** Your windows may be letting heat out during the winter and letting heat in during the summer. Window coverings like medium or heavyweight curtains and thermal blinds can help. During the summer, keep window coverings closed to block the sun and keep it from heating conditioned indoor air. On cooler spring days, turn off your air conditioner, open the windows and enjoy the breeze - and lower electricity bills.
- **Look for energy wasters.** There are small steps you can take every day to reduce your energy use. Water heaters should be kept at the warm setting (120 degrees). Wash dishes and clothes on the most economical settings that will do the job, and always wash full loads. Use the microwave instead of the oven when possible. And unplug phone chargers, electronics and small appliances when not in use.

A Note of Appreciation for the Service Co-ops Provide

By Mark Peacock, Dupree

Most of us wake up each day with an agenda and a schedule that ensures we do things in pretty much the same way from the moment we open our eyes to the moment we arrive at wherever it is we spend our day working.

But on those rare occasions when I walk through our warm home and turn on the bathroom light, which in our home has an overhead radiant heat lamp, and start the shower, which releases hot water from the water heater nestled in the basement, I sometimes take a brief pause in my routine.

I pause to feel the heat of the water wash over me...if only for a minute or so, to enjoy and appreciate what a wonderful experience having a hot shower in a well-warmed, well-lit bathroom in a very comfortable home represents. It means I live in a country and in a state and in a county that has invested in the infrastructure and made a commitment to allowing normal, everyday Americans the opportunity to enjoy such a treat in the middle of a South Dakota winter.

And I smile, because we may not get all we want in life, but we may, for a brief moment, feel all the warmth it takes to start off the day in a positive way. Thank you and your energy partners for making my day and the days of thousands of others begin just a little better, a little bit warmer, a little bit brighter, and a whole lot more optimistic.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



Stay Indoors During a Storm

Celeste Meyer, 6 years old

Celeste is the daughter of Brice and Sarah Meyer. She is a resident of Trent and a member of Sioux Valley Electric.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.



Slushes, Punches, Lattes

Fruit Slush

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 6-oz. can orange juice concentrate | 1/3 cup halved maraschino cherries with juice |
| 1 6-oz. can lemonade concentrate | 2 firm bananas, sliced |
| 3 or 4 juice cans water | 2 10-oz. boxes frozen strawberries, thawed |
| 2 20-oz. cans crushed pineapple with juice | |

Stir all ingredients together and freeze in 9 x 13 inch pan or ice cream bucket. Remove from freezer a few minutes before serving. To serve, put scoop of slush in glass and fill glass with 7-Up or Squirt.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

Banana Slush Punch

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 7-8 bananas | concentrate |
| 2 12-oz. cans of orange juice concentrate | 1 46-oz. can of pineapple juice |
| 1 12-oz. can of lemonade | |

Blend bananas with all ingredients above. Bring to boil 6 cups water and 3 cups sugar. Cool. Combine banana mixture with sugar water. Freeze. At the time of serving, mixture should be slushy. Add two 2-liter bottles of Sprite or Fresca to the banana/water mixture and serve.

Julie Hummel, Hawarden, IA

Seasonal Punch

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12-oz. can frozen orange juice | 4 quarts water |
| 12-oz. can Frozen Lemonade | 3-3/4 cups sugar |
| 4 pkgs. Koolade, any flavor | 2 Liters 7-Up (or Diet 7-Up) |

Mix orange juice, lemonade, Koolade, water and sugar, store in fridge to keep cold. Also refrigerate the 2 liters of 7-Up. Prior to serving - pour in the 2 liter of 7-Up and gently stir to mix. You can use any color Koolade, maybe green for Easter, red for 4th of July, Labor Day and Christmas, and orange for Halloween. Refreshing punch goes well with meals or anytime of day.

Pam Conn, Sioux Falls

Spiced Cocoa Mix

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup cocoa | 1/2 cup nondairy powdered creamer |
| 1 cup powdered sugar | 3/4 tsp. cinnamon |
| 2 cups nonfat dry milk powder | 1/2 tsp. nutmeg |

Sift powdered sugar and cocoa together. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well. For each serving, use 1/3 cup mix and 3/4 cup boiling water. Stir. May add a teaspoon of coffee crystals, a dollop of whipped cream, or a teaspoon of liquid flavored coffee creamer.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis

Creamy Hot Chocolate

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1/2 cup dry baking cocoa | 7-1/2 cups water |
| 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk | 1-1/2 tsp vanilla |
| 1/8 tsp salt | |

Mix cocoa, milk, salt into a crock pot. Add water gradually, stirring into smooth. Cover and cook on high 2 hours, or low 4 hours. Stir in vanilla before serving.

Melissa Roerig, Sioux Falls

Chocolate Latte

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1/2 cup hot brewed coffee or 2 shots espresso | 2 teaspoons cocoa nibs |
| 1 Premier Protein 30g High Protein Chocolate Shake | |

In large 14-16-oz. mug, prepare espresso or coffee. Pour chocolate shake on top to combine. Top with cocoa nibs.

www.premierprotein.com

Please send your favorite casserole recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. Outstanding Capital Credit Checks

Please notify Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Blunt, S.D., at 1-800-640-6243 if your name is on this list and you did not receive or have misplaced your check. If you know someone on this list, or their personal representative, please have them contact Oahe Electric. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Please refer to SDCL 47-16-54 through SDCL 47-16-57 for unclaimed capital credit forfeiture procedures.

Ahadi, M R	Christopherson, Troy And Christine	Garcia, Javier	Keeney, Ronna
Agneau, Winston	Clark, Zack	Garrett, Carlin Estate	Keith, David
Ahrens, Roger And Deb	Claussen, Shawn	Garrett, Ronald J	Kelley Family Inc
Anderson, John And Meghan	Clinch, Michael J	Gerlach, W W Bunk Estate C/O	Kenworthy, Shawn
Anderson, Nancy	Connecticut Mutual Life	Mary Alleman	Kessler, Bruce V And Kami Marts
Anton, John And Betty	Insurance Co.	Gibson, Glenn	Kessler, Robert J
Arbach, Norbert And Mary Joan	Connell, Evan And Sarah	Giedt, Kenneth R And Andrea H	Killingsworth, Earl E. And Debbie
Ashley, Mary	Trebesch	Gillaspie, Jeffrey W And Deetta J	King, Thomas
Auch, James And Robin	Cowan, Chad And Jessica	Gillette Dairy	Klein, Mathias And Kate
Autumn Enterprises Inc C/O	Cressy, Christopher	Gomez, Frank And Lisa Pfeiffer	Krull, Kotton And Devan
Marty Vandeneysel	Crosby, Ashley	Goosen-Goertz, Bonnie J	Kuhl, Jack And Sue
Bahe, Cindy L	Curry, Monte And Kitty L	Graf, Karl L And Glen E	Kuhrt, Bernell F And Doris
Beck, Brittany	Dakota Feeding Company LLC	Grant, Ryan	Kuipers, Rosemarie
Beckman, Mervin And James E	C/O Rick Jenson Or Scott	Grenz, John And Theresa	Lamb Family Ltd Partnership
Duffek	Mathisen	Hahn, Beth	And Robert H Lamb
Bennett, Merlin O And Susan	Dakota Emergency Medical	Hall, Cody And Jacque	Lambie, Darrell Estate
Berry, Mavis L	Services Inc C/O Robert	Hall, Tyrel	Larson, Donley W Estate And
Bieber, Brooke	Hardwick	Hanish, Denise	Elizabeth Estate
Big Eagle, Jennifer M	Darling, Ryan And Karla Engle	Hanson, Jason W	Lebeau, Michael
Big Eagle, Latony	Dean, Terry	Hapney, Susan	Lee, Paul Estate
Big Eagle, Wayne	Dennis, Paul Estate	Harkins, Julia	Lewis, Larua A
Bixler, Walter E	Demers, Lance	Hart, Richard And Lois	Libby, Patrick
Bollweg, Mike	Deyong, Jana L	Hartl, Monte R And Dawn	Linn, John J Estate
Bowen, Matthew R	Dimmitt, Billy And Polly G	Harvey, Shane And Sharon	Linn Real Estate C/O Meredith Lee
Bowers, Kurt J	DM&E Railroad Corporation	Hepper, Tova	Living Waters Fellowship
Boyd, Shane Estate	Doerr, Noel Estate	Herald, Joddie	Lucero, Isaac And Keely Vincent
Boyles, Charles A Estate	Downes, Harold Estate C/O	Herbert, Morgan	Lovell, Blanche Estate
Boys & Girls Club Of Three	John Downes	Herrlein, Mike And Tammie	Macleod, Barry
Districts C/O Ronda Hawk	Dusty Acres Ranch C/O Don	Hilgemann, Rick	Mahowald, Doug
Brewer, Robert W	Neuharth	Hoerner, Paul And Brandi	Mallo, Richard L And Denise K
Brookings, James E Sr Estate	Dvorak, Jordan And Allison	Holzwarth, Jim	Manning, Scott And Mindy Allum
Buhler, Clayton H	Edwards, Charles And Marilyn	Huber, Kim Estate	Manz, Paul And Margaret
Bump, Craig	Ekrem, Susan L	Hughes, Douglas Q	Manz, Robert P Estate
Bunn, Carey	Elton Eller Inc	Hunsley, Nancy	Marsh, William And Jamie
Burgher, Chandra And Bret	Epp, Jose And Rebekah	Integrated Tower Networks Inc	Martell, Dan And Becky
Burke & Associates	Erickson, Albert Estate	C/O Dan Korus	Martin, Lorraine Estate C/O Glen Ellis
Burke RE LLC C/O Bob Burke	Erickson, Jack And Anita	ITT Corporation	Martin, Sam
Burki, Roger And Jacqueline	Evans, Ernest R And Genevieve M	Iversen, Heather And Francis	Massie, Ginger Estate
Burnham, Harold	Fagerhaug, Joel And Stephanie	Jacobs, Valerie G	Mccarty, Christopher
Byrum, Mark	Fallis, Amy	Jensen, Stephen And Tena Derzab	Mccomsey, Gary A And Rhonda
Campbell, Steven And Amanda	Fallis, Loren (Rocky) Estate	JES Farms	Mefferd, Andrew
Sarvis-Campbell	Farm And Ranch Solutions C/O	Johnson, Gail	Mehrer, David And Jean
Carpenter, James M	Lucas Solberg	Johnson, Joel	Merrill, Keith B Estate
Carpenter, Sheila	Fawcett, Jeremiah And Jessica Tyler	Jones, Charles H And Michele M	
Carlton, Michael	Fette, Joseph	Jost, Marti	
Carr, Elesha	Fire Cloud, Travis	JPD LLC C/O Jayme Deis	
Carr, Timothy	Franke Harvesting C/O Charlie	JQJ Marital Trust C/O Brian And	
Christopherson, David	Frankie	Holly Johnson	

Continued on next page

Meyer, Steven J
 Middleton, Bradley J
 Midwest Feeders Inc
 Millard, Alvin D Estate
 Miller, Allen D And Xu Zou Chen
 Miller, Duane R
 Miller, Glenn R
 Miller, John E
 Miiller, Lindee
 Mitchell, Bob And Emily Townsend Hill
 Moore, Clint And Rebecca
 Morgan, David F
 Morgan, Vicki H
 Moulton, Lois
 Munyon, Perry L And April J
 Nagel, Dawn
 Naughton, David
 Nauman, Patti
 Nelson, James D And Jeanine E
 Nelson Legacy Farms Llc
 Newling, Benjamin And Skye Sharkey
 Nolte Construction And Steve Nolte
 Novak, Betty
 NPP LLC
 Oahe Plains System Corp
 Olson, Charles J
 Olson, Ryan
 Olson Hyde Farms C/O Peggy Hyde
 Park Apts - Agar
 Parsons, Sarah
 Paulsen, Brad
 Paulsen, Kevin
 Pease, Michael D Estate
 Performance Agriculture
 Peterson, Lowell And Linda
 Pierre Concrete C/O Don Christiansen
 Pitlick, Mark And Shannon
 Pokorny, Ryan And Mariah
 Porter, Stephen W And Katherin P Hieb
 Prater, Dallas
 Preiser, Sheila
 Qualm, Jenita
 Quick, Christopher
 Ramsey, Dan And David
 Rapp, Nicole
 Red Water, Mary Jo
 Redden, Oliver
 Ripley, Ralph Estate
 Rivenes, Marvin G Estate
 River Bluff Custom Homes Attn:
 Jerry Vogeler
 River View Farms C/O Colin Nachtigal
 Roberts, Jo Ann
 Robinson, Bill
 Roddewig & Son C/O Cj Or Curtis
 Roddewig
 Roede, Randy R And Terrie L Estates
 C/O Amber Unrau
 Roth, Lonnie And Cindy
 Roth, Loui Estate And Leann Way
 Russell, Shannon Estate
 Sand Livestock Assoc 1986-1 And
 Chuck Sand Estate
 Schaefer, Gerald
 Schmidt, Clifford
 Schmitz, Marc And Amy
 Schroer, John Estate C/O James Schroer
 Schroer, June Estate C/O James Schroer
 Schroyer, Gerald Estate And Artalee
 Estate C/O John Schroyer
 Schultz, Clark A
 Schumacher, Ervin And Gertrude
 Seals, Rodney
 Sheets, Maxwell J
 Shultz, Eleanor Estate
 Simons, Virgil Estate
 Slama, Randy And Dawn
 Smith, Richard N
 Smith Plumbing C/O Daniel Smith
 Sommer, Sue Estate
 Sowards, Paul
 Spring Creek Ventures LLC David Or
 Angela Healan
 Sportsman's C/O Jim Or Sandra Gerlach
 Spring Creek Mobile Estates C/O
 Chris Hesla
 Stanley, Mike And Kayla
 Stewart Farms C/O Van Stewart
 Stickney, Robert W
 Tays, Matthew J
 Tchida, Brenda
 Tchida, Josh And Jerusha
 Telford, Loretta J Estate
 Telkamp, Tyrel And Ashton
 Thompson, Barry
 Thompson, Katie And Kempton Olney
 Tilth Unlimited Llc
 United Suppliers Inc
 Van Houten, Roger And Jeanine
 Van Houte, Myra
 Vanderlinden, Mark And Rita
 Vanderplaats, Brian Estate And Robin Estate
 Vilhauer, David Estate
 Vollmer, Jeff
 Votava, Jeanie
 Wegner, Danny And Margaret
 West, Lowell D Estate And Catherine Estate
 White Mountain, Hoksila And
 Memorie Traversie
 Woods, Gordon And Dawn
 Yellow, Robe Erin
 Zackery, Kandi M And Cory Burtman

Supporting Our Schools

In February, Oahe Electric, along with cooperatives throughout the state, submitted the report to the South Dakota Department of Revenue reflecting their Kilowatt Hour Tax Liability.

At the beginning of June, payments will be made to each county's treasurer's office, which will then be forwarded directly on to the school districts. ABO Schools, Pierre School District and the Highmore-Harrold School will receive over \$452,000 in tax revenue from Oahe Electric and their power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and East River Electric Power Cooperative.

Commitment to Community – just another important aspect that sets your electric cooperative apart.

National Lineman Appreciation Day

Monday, April 12 is National Lineman Appreciation Day! Hurricanes, ice storms and other devastating natural disasters certainly put the spotlight on the nation's power lineworkers. We're grateful to the courageous, hardworking men and women who work tirelessly to restore service following these difficult events, as well as their daily work to keep power flowing. Oahe Electric is proud to recognize the dedication and commitment of our linemen! #ThankALineman

Like Us!

You can now keep in touch with your cooperative on Facebook!

We will share with you the latest news, events, power outage updates, energy efficiency tips, money-saving rebates, load management information, legislative alerts, safety tips and much more!

We hope you "like" Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. on Facebook!



A peek inside the Southwest Power Pool control room shows system operators working to make sure power supply always matches demand across 14 states on the grid. Photo provided by SPP.

AN ENERGY EMERGENCY

Why Did February Outages Happen and Could They Happen Again?

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The national power grid has been hailed as one of the greatest and most complex engineering feats ever achieved. Every second of every day it works to keep electricity flowing freely to homes, schools, farms, hospitals and businesses in every region of the country.

But while it stands as one of mankind's most marvelous inventions, sometimes it's simply no match for Mother Nature.

This electric superhighway was put to the test in mid-February when a bone-chilling air mass swept through large swaths of the country and caused a spike in the demand for power. As the temperatures dropped, millions of Americans attempted to stave off the frigid air by reaching for electric blankets, plugging in space heaters and nudging their thermostats up a few notches. With so many people clamoring to stay warm, the sudden spike in demand for power caused the gatekeepers of the grid to reach their option of last resort: ordering temporary disruptions in service to maintain the delicate balance between demand and supply that's required to keep the network from completely melting down.

The result was several waves of controlled and coordinated rolling blackouts often spanning one hour and isolated incidents of up to three hours for some consumers. The service interruptions impacted nearly one-third of the nation. Industry officials explain that this response to skyrocketing demand was necessary to keep the grid from sustaining extensive damage and causing a repeat of the historic event that occurred in the summer of 2003. The Northeast Blackout extended across the eastern seaboard, through parts of the Midwest and into southern Canada and left approximately 50 million in the dark.

"Controlled outages are necessary to prevent widespread damage to the grid, which could cause a cascade of outages that could potentially be far more devastating," explained Barbara Sugg, CEO of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). "There's no doubt this would have been a much more significant event if our individual customers and businesses and industries had not all pulled together to reduce the load."

Air Traffic Controllers for the Grid

Sugg describes her organization as an "air traffic controller" for the grid. In fact, the SPP is what's known in the electric utility industry as a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO). It's one of the four quasi-government entities responsible for maintaining the critical balance between supply and demand along the nation's power grid. While RTOs don't create or generate power, they are charged under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with the task of making sure the power produced by other utilities flows smoothly across the grid and gets to the places where consumers need it, when they need it.

SPP is the power transmission overseer for 14 states - including South Dakota - and more than 17 million people in the midsection of the U.S. from North Dakota to the Texas Panhandle. Electric co-ops in South Dakota are also part of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), a federal agency that markets power produced from hydroelectric dams in the Upper Midwest. It operates the larger bulk transmission facilities in 15 central and western states in its geographical footprint.

Most of the time the high-voltage transmission process operates without a hitch, and electric generation can be moved across the grid when there is high demand in one area and excess generation in another. But when foul weather comes into the picture grid operators focus on activating their emergency response plans. Those plans typically include communicating with generators to coordinate arrangements for assuring that an ample supply of power will be available to meet projected demand when the inclement weather strikes.

Lanny Nickell, operations manager for SPP, points out that while arrangements were in place to face the February cold snap, the winter blast turned out to be an unprecedented event for the organization. As the temperatures dropped, SPP initiated the process of contacting power generators and transmitters to warn that the looming storm may cause the system to be severely strained. Six days later, SPP officials went

through a series of three Energy Emergency Alert levels and eventually declared a Level 3 emergency, which required “controlled interruptions of service,” or rolling blackouts. It was the first time in the SPP’s 80 years that a Level 3 emergency was declared.

“Despite our plans, the severe weather coupled with a limited fuel supply hampered our ability to balance our supply with the demand from end-use consumers,” Nickell said. “So, first we had to go out and ask for a voluntary reduction in energy use. Then, we held off as long as we could to make the call to interrupt service in a controlled fashion, but it was necessary to prevent overloading the system and causing an even bigger problem and much longer outages.”

Nickell explained that without an affordable and viable means of storing high-voltage electricity for future use, power is created in one location and consumed in another location in real time. The balance must be maintained even though both supply and consumption change on a second-by-second basis.

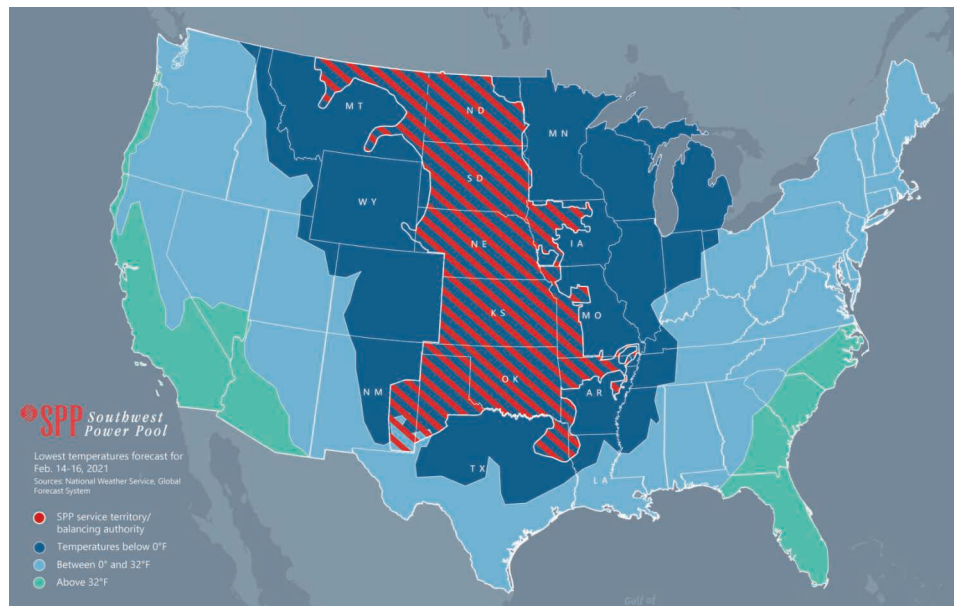
“Once we observe an imbalance, we have to react within seconds to reduce the demand,” Nickell said. “This is why it’s very difficult for us to announce well beforehand when these things will happen because they happen at the speed of light.”

A Smorgasbord of Fuel Sources

Interruptions in service are more than minor inconveniences for many co-op members, especially when severe weather conditions are in play. The February storm and the ensuing service outages triggered wide-ranging discussions about the push toward renewable resources to generate electricity.

Supporters of fossil fuels point out that decades-long efforts to curb coal and natural gas played a part in restricting the kinds of available resources that could have prevented widespread outages. Coal has long been a reliable source of “baseload power” requirements, or the amount of power necessary to provide an adequate supply to meet basic needs without interruption. It’s utilized largely because it can be more easily controlled compared to intermittent sources. Advocates emphasize that wind turbines were frozen in place and solar panels were buried in snow and limited by scarce sunlight during this event.

Renewable fuel source proponents echoed SPP officials in noting that the February storm was an historic occurrence. They contend that renewable power promotes a cleaner environment, decreases energy reliance on other countries, adds jobs to the economy and that innovations in the emerging industry



could be effective in responding to any future storms. Presently, roughly 25 percent of South Dakota’s overall energy supply comes from wind turbines. For electric co-ops, that figure is closer to 20 percent. Proponents of wind also point to issues with natural gas delivery and the inability of some fossil fuel plants to produce electricity through the storm. A combination of high demand, lower-than-normal wind resources and natural gas delivery problems all met at the same time to contribute to the energy emergency.

As for those members of RTOs who receive the call to actually implement controlled outages - particularly transmission and distribution cooperatives - there are very few options available when demand begins to significantly outpace supply on the grid.

Chris Studer is chief member and public relations officer for East River Electric, a co-op that provides transmission and substation services for distribution entities in South Dakota and Minnesota. He said the cooperative’s hands are essentially tied when SPP reaches the point of calling for rolling outages.

“The utilities involved in the SPP are required to carry a surplus of generation resources throughout the year over and above their historic peak demand so they are prepared for extreme circumstances. However, when wind resources and other generation are constrained, there is a limited amount of other generation available to serve the region’s recent record demand for electricity,” he said.

Distribution co-ops find they have even less control when RTOs and power marketing agencies restrict the flow of power, but they still find ways to mitigate the situation. Officials at West River Electric based in Wall, implemented

“Once we observe an imbalance, we have to react within seconds to reduce the demand. This is why it’s very difficult for us to announce well beforehand when these things will happen because they happen at the speed of light.”

- Lanny Nickell, SPP

the co-op’s load management program after receiving the request for reduced demand hoping it would be enough. But it was not, and some of the co-op’s members were subject to a 50-minute unplanned blackout. CEO Dick Johnson said he had never experienced a similar event in his 27 years in the industry. He added that he hopes the emergency situation prompts discussions centered around policy proposals that will prevent future emergencies.

“I think we should have a national conversation that includes large new baseload generation, whether that be hydroelectric, nuclear or carbon capture on coal plants. We must also have a conversation about building necessary electric and gas transmission infrastructure to allow us to get electricity and gas to the places where it is needed when times like this happen. If not, I am afraid it will happen again in the future, only more frequently.”

Know What's Below: Steps for Safe Digging



Matt Eldridge

Operations Manager
meldridge@oaheelectric.com

Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects – especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want – trust us! Oahe Electric reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State. Here's how the process works:

After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

Member Services: Attention Irrigators! AgSense Makes Sense



Russ Hohn

Member Services Advisor
rhohn@oaheelectric.com

Hoping the below zero temperatures are far behind us, we look forward to the start of farming season. Oahe Electric service territory has a large irrigation footprint and power requirements for this electric load is very large. Oahe Electric strives to maintain the lowest electric rate possible to our members and a very important tool for doing so is referred to as load management system.

There are several ways to shut off an irrigation system, but the two most popular methods are a standard load control receiver or an AgSense unit.

The standard unit is what our irrigation members are familiar with. Basic operation of the unit is to “shed” power to the irrigation pump during “high peak” times of energy use. These units have been used for over 30 years and have done a great job at shaving high peak demands for your cooperative.

In 2019, Oahe Electric Cooperative and East River Electric Power Cooperative began to search for other load control systems. A device that could provide load control BUT also offer our members more information. The product is called AgSense! AgSense equipment is used for load control but offers lots more information to the farmer. Water pressure, voltage, amperage, and the list goes on.

When an irrigation member purchases AgSense, they own the load management equipment, and they operate the equipment. Before, Oahe Electric and East River Electric owned the equipment and operated the equipment. The farmer now has total control of his system and if they decide to “shut off” or “allow” load control, they choose so by using a smart device. Desktop, laptop or cell phone can be used to communicate with the numerous AgSense units they may have. Because of AgSense, Oahe Electric does not install the standard load management units and offers a \$750 rebate to the farmer for each AgSense unit that provides load control. As I mentioned earlier, this system provides lots of information to the grower that can be used as another tool in their operation.

Oahe Electric has a small portion of irrigators that purchased this equipment since 2019. I have visited with all of them numerous times and their response has been positive. We have two AgSense dealers in our service territory: Morris Equipment located in Ft. Pierre, S.D., 605-223-2585 and Nystrom Electric located in Pierre, S.D., 605-280-8750. AgSense is located in Huron, S.D., 605-352-8350.

I strongly encourage you to find out more about AgSense units. You are always welcome to call me as well. Remember the \$750 rebate for each AgSense unit installed which provides load control. This is a great product, and your cooperative is happy to educate our members and support our local dealers.

Thank you and God bless!

Rj

Sign up for Auto Pay and Win \$50

Auto Pay

Are you interested in making your life easier and maybe putting some extra cash in your pocket? Sounds like a dream, right? Make this dream a reality by signing up for auto pay for your electric bill and you will be entered into a drawing to receive \$50!

With the automatic bill payment plan, you won't have to spend time writing or mailing checks. Plus, your bill will be paid on time, even when you're on vacation. Actually, paying your utility bill won't take any time at all! Each month, the amount due for your electric bill will be paid automatically from your checking/savings account or credit/debit card. The payment will be listed on your monthly account statement and on your next bill from Oahe Electric.

Members who have already discovered how easy auto pay is have already been entered into a separate drawing for a chance to win \$50!

No additional work required! This is just our way of saying thank you for participating in the program.

SmartHub and Online Bill Pay

You can also view and pay your bill online the day they are generated. Subscribers are able to sign up to receive an e-statement and access our account management tool by going to our web site at www.oaheelectric.com, clicking on the Payment Options box and then on the SmartHub link. Once you have registered as a new user, you can easily access your account. The SmartHub option offers features such as viewing previous month's bills, downloading billing data, payment history and paying your bill via credit card.

You can also sign up for automatic payments on SmartHub. You will still receive a paper statement unless you request otherwise. When the new

bills are calculated for the month (around the 10th) you will receive notification via e-mail that your new account information is available online.

Budget Billing

Discover the convenience of having 12 equal monthly payments for your electric bill. The sign-up months for budget billing are May and June. If you would like more information, would like to sign up, or if you would like to have your budget bill amount calculated, please call the office at 1-800-640-6243. Auto Pay, SmartHub/Online Bill Pay and Budget Billing are just a few ways to make bill paying more convenient - use them together or separately.

Just fill out the form below and return it to Oahe Electric, PO Box 216, Blunt SD 57522 by May 21, 2021, to have your electric bill deducted from your checking or savings account and for your chance to win \$50!

(please print)

Since your electric bill will vary in amount, Oahe Electric will send you a statement showing the amount to be deducted from your account. The deduction will occur on the 20th of each month or the closest business day if the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday. Automatic bill payments will commence the month following receipt of this form.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Daytime Phone _____
 Member Account Number(s) _____
 (List all account numbers you want paid automatically)

Please deduct my Automatic Bill Payment from my:

Checking Account (or) Savings Account (or) Credit/Debit Card

Bank Account Number _____
 Bank Name _____
 Bank Address _____
 Bank Phone Number _____
 Bank Routing Number _____

OR

Type of Card Used for Payment: Mastercard (or) Visa (or) Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

I hereby authorize Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. to deduct my utility payment(s) from the checking/ savings account or Credit/Debit card listed above. I understand if at any time I wish to discontinue this service, I will notify Oahe Electric.

Signature _____

Date _____

Oahe Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Be sure to include a
 voided check with
 this form.**



This electric vehicle owned by Sioux Valley Energy is used as a fleet vehicle for the cooperative but also serves to educate members about EV technology and performance.

Electric Vehicles in SD

Electric Co-ops Working to Build Fast Charging Stations

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

General Motors turned a lot of heads earlier this year when the auto industry titan announced its intention to phase out all gas and diesel engines by 2035. GM made sure its message was loud and clear by running ads during the Super Bowl.

Not to be outdone, Ford CEO Jim Farley soon followed suit by announcing the company's plans to invest \$29 billion in the development of autonomous vehicles (AVs) and electric vehicles (EVs) by 2025. And against a backdrop of companies like Tesla and Workhorse seeing triple-digit stock gains, President Joe Biden rolled out plans to turn the entire 650,000-vehicle federal government fleet to all electric.

With a solid upward trend in support of E-mobility and electric vehicles sweeping the globe, electric cooperatives throughout the region are doing their part to provide the power those vehicles will need to carry their passengers from Point A to Point B.

According to Ben Pierson, manager of beneficial electrification at Sioux Valley

Energy, the state's electric cooperatives are facing a chicken-and-egg proposition in deciding whether - and how much - to invest in an industry that's still in its early stages. Pierson has been involved in rallying support for the formation of a DC fast charging network that will make it easy for EV drivers to navigate across and throughout the state. The stations will be placed 75-100 miles apart but will have to be constructed before the demand is fully materialized. He has received interest from groups representing tourism, economic development, transportation and state government.

Pierson has been working with municipal and investor-owned utilities to build out the infrastructure, with an emphasis on making sure there are enough charging stations along I-90 to get travelers from one side of the state to the other with confidence. Stations will also be installed along the I-29 corridor in Brookings and Watertown in Phase 1, with plans to include a station in Vermillion as part of Phase 2. Pierson points out that "range anxiety" is a major obstacle for consumers and early adopters who are considering the purchase of an EV. Presently, EVs

make up less than 1 percent of the total U.S. vehicle fleet while 10 percent of the vehicles sold in Europe last December were pure electric.

A recent study by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago indicated that EVs are driven about half the distance - an average of 5,300 miles a year - compared to conventional internal combustion engine vehicles. One conclusion taken from the study is that EV owners see those vehicles as complements to their transportation needs instead of a replacement for their conventional cars.

"When industry giants like Ford and GM are making a commitment to electric vehicles, that's a huge indicator that EVs are more than just a passing fad and are something we should invest in," Pierson said. "But like any industry transformation, it can be a frightening proposition for people to experience a paradigm shift like this. With our members in mind, we're committed to staying out ahead of the wave and doing what we can to make sure the power delivery infrastructure is in place when the other pieces and parts of the total picture emerge."

DC Fast Charging Infrastructure Plan



Utilities are in the process of conducting siting plans and ordering equipment needed to install the network of charging stations. In the state Legislature, lawmakers favored a \$50 annual fee on electric vehicles which don't contribute the gas tax revenue that goes toward construction and maintenance of road and highway infrastructure. Presently, there are roughly 400 EVs on South Dakota roadways.

"We're just tremendously excited to be a part of this project," Pierson said. "Our goal is to help our members in any way we can and we want to be there on the ground floor as the industry continues to expand."

Collaborating with Pierson is Robert Raker, manager of public relations at West River Electric. They are working with utilities throughout South Dakota

and Minnesota to build out the DC fast charging infrastructure. The plan is to initially focus on major highways and interstates and then branch out from there.

The way Raker sees it, getting involved in constructing a charging station network is a sound investment in the economic growth and development of cooperative communities. He said cooperatives are leading the way by purchasing EVs of their own as demonstration models for their members and also as part of the cooperative's fleet. West River Electric's Nissan Leaf is used for business purposes throughout the day and is quite the attraction at community events on the weekends. He noted that co-ops have a long history of innovation and progress.

"Many co-ops are formulating plans to

migrate their light-duty service vehicles to EV," Raker said. "Co-ops have always been at the tip of the innovation spear. We were the first to bring power to rural South Dakota and we made sure people had access to power in order to run their farms, homes and appliances...things that would make their lives easier while allowing their communities to prosper."

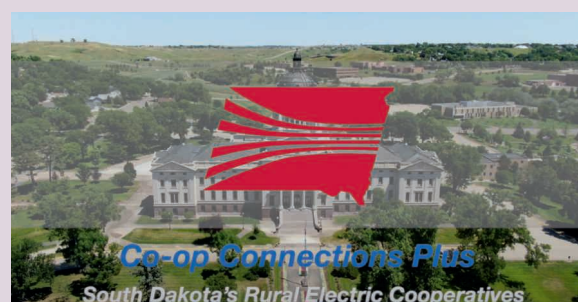
Part of West River's overall EV strategy, Raker said, is to address the issue of whether the escalating number of EVs will increase stress on the electric power grid.

"EVs make the perfect load for co-ops," he said. "They can be charged during off-peak hours so they are not detrimental to the grid. Like it or not, EVs are coming. We can't change the wind so we'll have to adjust our sails."

Visit Co-op Connections Plus

Take a moment to visit our new online companion to *Cooperative Connections*. Co-op Connections Plus is a YouTube channel that features a more in-depth treatment of stories appearing in this publication as well as other subjects of interest to rural South Dakotans.

Search for "Co-op Connections Plus" and you'll find videos on human trafficking, support programs for veterans, grain bin safety, the Co-ops Vote campaign and more. Be sure to "like" and "subscribe."



Bright Futures Virtual Career Fair Showcases Rural, Agri-Business Job Opportunities

Shayla Ebsen

Grow a rewarding and challenging career right here at home. That was the overarching theme of the Bright Futures virtual career fair that was hosted on Feb. 24 by the region's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. South Dakota and western Minnesota high school and post-secondary students, educational advisers, teachers, and parents from across the region attended the free virtual career event that highlighted rural-based careers and explored industries like finance, precision ag and agricultural trades.

"Our cooperative family is committed to enhancing the communities we serve," said Jennifer Gross, education and outreach coordinator at East River Electric Power Cooperative, one of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives that hosted the event.

Attendees were able to connect with each other, respond to survey questions, post their own comments and photos, and participate in real-time Q&A sessions with presenters.

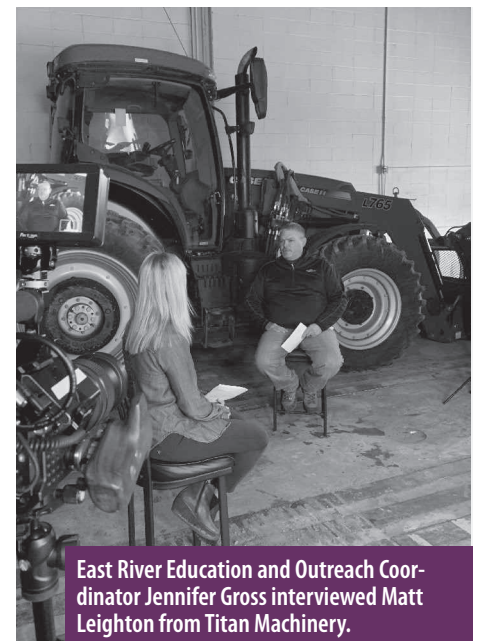
"We hosted this unique event to inspire our youth with local stories emphasizing job opportunities, career development, personal fulfillment and financial advancement. There are hidden career gems throughout South Dakota and Minnesota. This event shined a light on all the ways our rural areas offer a bright future!"



The five-hour virtual event featured a blend of keynote speakers and breakout sessions. Attendees were able to connect with each other, respond to survey questions, post their own comments and photos, and participate in real-time Q&A sessions with presenters.

South Dakota Representative Dusty Johnson opened the event with a timely discussion about politics, agriculture and our region's future. Johnson also discussed how decisions made in Washington, D.C., have a big impact on what happens in our region and why it's important for citizens to remain engaged. A few of the many companies featured during the career fair included Farm Credit Services of America, C&B Operations, Raven Industries, Midwest Vet Services, Salem Vet Clinic and Pipestone System. A panel discussion led by East River Electric Business Development Director Mike Jaspers explored opportunities that are on the horizon for the next generation of farmers, ranchers and rural social media influencers. South Dakota Ag and Rural Leadership Foundation CEO Don Norton provided the event's closing remarks.

"The nature of work in rural America is changing. Growing industries such as precision agriculture, livestock development, food processing, manufacturing, energy, communications and more require



East River Education and Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Gross interviewed Matt Leighton from Titan Machinery.

different skills, as well as an entrepreneurial spirit," said Gross. "This is truly a great time to be starting your career in our region and our goal was to highlight those awesome opportunities for our next generation of leaders."

Recorded videos from the event will be available free for viewing at yourcoop-power.com/futures. Additionally, the webpage will include information on internships and job opportunities at many of the employers that were featured in the event.

Power Grid Glossary

Learn More About the Power Grid by Knowing These Terms

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Power grids are essential in moving electricity from its source to the places where it's needed, but they are often overlooked and rarely mentioned - that is until a major storm strikes and the juice ceases to flow. Here is a glossary of terms that will help cooperative consumers learn more about how power moves across long distances to their homes and businesses.

BASELOAD POWER PLANT - A large, efficient generating station, typically with a capacity factor of at least 65 percent, that provides dependable power year-round at a low cost. Coal-fired, nuclear, hydro and large natural gas-fired power plants make up most baseload generation, although smaller-scale biomass facilities and geothermal power systems, if properly operated, can also produce baseload power in much smaller quantities.

FOSSIL FUELS - Hydrocarbon-based material such as coal, oil, or natural gas found within the top layer of Earth's crust and used

to produce heat or power; also called conventional fuels. These materials were formed in the ground hundreds of millions of years ago from plant and animal remains.

GRID - A network of interconnected high-voltage transmission lines and power generating facilities that allows utilities and other suppliers to share resources on a regional basis. The North American Electric Reliability Corp. oversees reliability of the electric grid covering the U.S. and most of Canada.

REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION - A power transmission system operator that coordinates, controls, and monitors a multi-state electric grid. The transfer of electricity between states is considered interstate commerce, and electric grids spanning multiple states are therefore regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

PEAK DEMAND - The industry's equivalent of rush-hour traffic, when power costs run the highest. It's the greatest demand placed on an electric system, measured in kilowatts or megawatts; also, the time of day or season of the year when that demand occurs.

PEAK LOAD - The amount of power required by a consumer or utility system during times when electric consumption reaches its highest point; measured in kilowatts or megawatts.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATION - A federal agency within the DOE responsible for marketing hydropower, primarily from multiple-purpose water projects operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the International Boundary and Water Commission.

RENEWABLES - Sources of energy generation that are naturally replenishable, including wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydro, and hydrokinetic (ocean wave and tidal) power.

ROLLING BLACKOUTS - Controlled power outages designed to lessen the threat of a major cascading outage, caused by short supply and high demand for power affecting major transmission systems. Rolling blackouts are scheduled for predetermined sectors of the transmission grid at timed intervals.

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL - An entity that manages the electric grid and wholesale power market for the central U.S. As a regional transmission organization, the non-profit corporation is mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure and competitive wholesale electricity prices.

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION - Markets and delivers hydroelectric power and related services within a 15-state region of the central and western U.S. One of four power marketing administrations within the U.S. DOE having the role to market and transmit electricity from multi-use water projects to retail power distribution companies and public authorities.

Sensible Solutions for Our Energy Future



South Dakota's electric cooperatives support reasonable strategies for our energy future that make sense for our members:

- Renewable energy solutions that are both productive and practical
- Rate structures that take affordability into account
- Balanced strategies centered on the best interests of co-op consumers
- Technology-based policies that promote economic development

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

March 19-20

Sioux Empire Arts & Crafts Show, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building, Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-6000

March 23-24 CANCELED

Shen Yun, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Fine Arts Theatre, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

March 25

A Lakota View of the Dead Hills, Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center, Deadwood, SD
605-722-4800

March 27

Hill City Community Easter Egg Hunt, Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce, Hill City, SD
605-574-2368

March 27

Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt, City Park, Groton, SD
605-846-7607

March 27

SD State High School All-State Band Concert, Mitchell Fine Arts Center, Mitchell, SD

April 1-3

ACL Regional #6 Cornhole Tournament, Corn Palace, Mitchell, SD
605-996-5567

April 3

Spring Fling Fun & Glow Egg Hunt, Rush Mountain Adventure Park, Keystone, SD
605-255-4384



April 8

The Wildest Banquet Auction in the Midwest, Sioux Falls Arena/Virtual, Sioux Falls, SD
605-339-1203

April 9-10

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Main Street, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

April 9-18

Four Weddings & An Elvis, Mitchell Area Community Theatre, Mitchell, SD
605-996-9137

April 17

Winefest Renaissance, Boys and Girls Club of Aberdeen Area, Aberdeen, SD
605-225-8714

April 20

All-State Chorus & Orchestra Concert, Denny Sanford PREMIER Center, Sioux Falls, SD

April 22-May 2

Beauty and the Beast, Sioux Empire Community Theatre, Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-6000

April 23-24

Junkin' Market Days, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building, Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

April 30-May 2

Radium Girls, Pierre Players Community Theatre, Pierre, SD
605-224-7826

May 8

Davis Flea Market & Artisan Fair, Main Street, Davis, SD
605-940-0069

May 15

Red Dirt Music Festival featuring Casey Donahew, Ian Munsick and Randy Burghardt Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, SD
605-559-0386

May 21-23

Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Downtown, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

May 21-23

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, All State Parks and Recreation Areas, SD
605-773-3391

May 22

Frühlingsfest & Spring Market, Main Street, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

June 5-6

18th Annual Wessington Springs Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs Rodeo Grounds, Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-5720

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.