ROUGHRIDER
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JULY 2025

## In this issue



*A Roughrider Electric substation which was recently constructed.*

VIEW FROM OPERATIONS:

# Building a new substation

Roughrider Electric Cooperative covers a vast area of central and western North Dakota. From residential lot expansion and agriculture infrastructure to the oil industry, this area has seen tremendous growth over the past few years, with no plans to slow down. Roughrider Electric has diligently planned and installed new substations to accommodate the electrical load growth within its system.

Roughrider Electric and its team are quick to adapt and pivot when expansion is needed. System growth ultimately determines when Roughrider Electric builds a new substation. Once load growth is identified, the operations department works with Innovative Energy Alliance (IEA) Cooperative's engineering department to model the future function of the electrical system and research strategic locations for a substation. IEA is a cooperative which is member-owned by four North Dakota distribution electric cooperatives, including Roughrider Electric.

Some logistics the operations and engineering group consider when determining a substation location are available existing transmission lines. Transmission lines feed electricity to a substation and may reduce the build time and costs of a new substation by not having to install a new transmission line to Roughrider Electric's system.

Once a location is identified for a new substation, Roughrider Electric begins to contact area landowners for easements. For a new substation, Roughrider Electric usually requests 5 to 10 acres of land. If a new transmission line is needed for the substation construction, the cooperative also begins visiting landowners to obtain smaller easements for building a new transmission line.

As Roughrider Electric obtains easements, IEA engineers design the substation. A drawing package is created defining the layout of the substation, along with protection and control of the equipment. Once the drawing package is finalized, IEA engineers build specifications for the required equipment and assist in ordering material.

Currently, some materials, such as substation transformers and power circuit breakers, take up

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Crews work diligently to ensure the substation is safely constructed.

A 115 Kv power circuit breaker which isolates the transformer from the power system during a fault.

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to two years to receive. The turnaround time of material is a challenge Roughrider Electric takes into consideration.

Roughrider Electric works with many partners to plan and build substations. Two of these partnerships include 3C Construction and Maintenance Solutions Cooperative (MSC). 3C Construction is an electrical construction contractor owned by four North Dakota distribution cooperatives, including Roughrider Electric. MSC is a cooperative owned by four North Dakota distribution cooperatives, including Roughrider Electric.

3C Construction utilizes the IEA engineering drawing package and its specialized equipment for building a substation in a safe and efficient manner. Once the materials arrive and 3C Construction crews are onsite, it takes about four months to complete a substation installation.

From there, MSC, whose specialization includes building and maintaining metering, protection and control systems within substations with the assistance of IEA engineers, ensures these critical components operate smoothly and efficiently. Once 3C Construction and MSC complete their work, Roughrider Electric line crews begin to energize members connected to the new substation.

Additionally, Roughrider Electric works with IEA's supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) administrator, information technology department and engineering department to analyze additional technology installed in the new substation. This technology can vary from security to SCADA, which allows Roughrider Electric to remotely control certain technology within a substation. This helps assist operations personnel in determining issues remotely before sending line crews to further evaluate and resolve an issue.

Building a substation can take up to two years to complete when accounting for each carefully planned and executed step of the process. Roughrider Electric is fortunate to have dedicated partners to help ensure a swift and efficient planning process. As we continue to see growth in every part of our service area, we remain committed to delivering safe, reliable electric services to members. ■

# MANAGER'S MESSAGE:
# How power gets to you

***Travis Kupper***

*Co-General Manager/ CEO*

Every time we flip a switch, we often take for granted the complex journey electricity travels – from generation to transmission – before it lights our homes and powers our lives. Have you ever wondered how the electricity that powers your home travels from generation plants to your outlets? Understanding this journey can deepen your appreciation for the reliable service we strive to provide. Here's a more detailed look at how power reaches you:

## Generation

Electricity is produced at power plants using various resources, including coal, natural gas, nuclear and renewable sources, such as wind, solar and hydro. Each source plays a vital role in creating a balanced energy mix that meets our communities' needs, while keeping a reliable source of energy for our membership.

## Transmission

After generation, electricity enters the high-voltage transmission system. These large towers carry electricity over long distances to minimize energy loss. Our regional grid connects multiple power plants and allows for a reliable flow of electricity, helping to balance supply and demand.

## Substation transformation

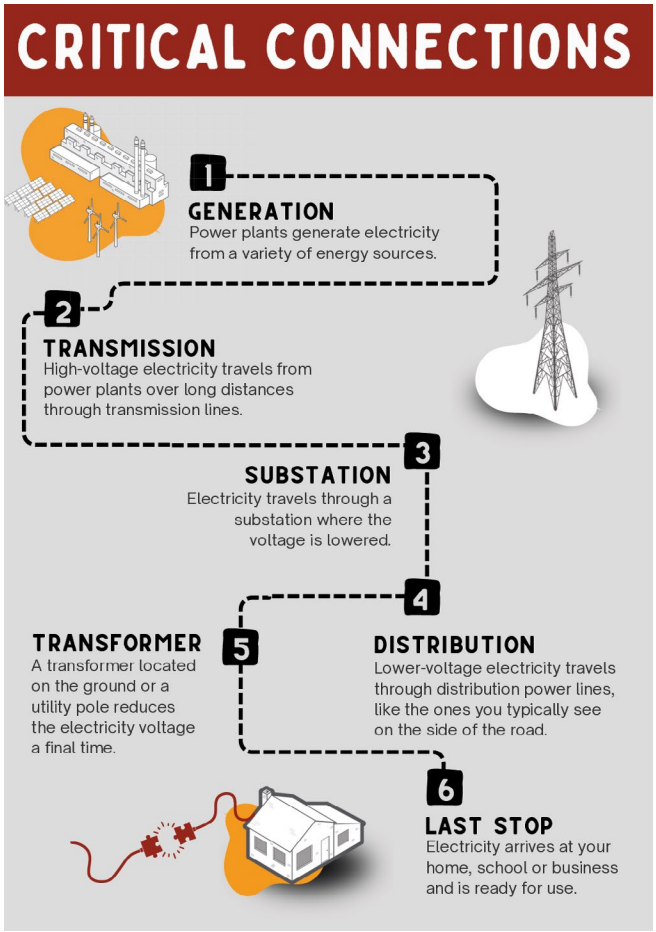
Once the electricity arrives at substations, it undergoes a transformation. Here, the high-voltage electricity is stepped down to a lower voltage suitable for distribution. Our substations are equipped with advanced technology that monitors the flow of electricity and ensures it meets safety standards. Additionally, this technology allows efficiency during outages by allowing access from remote sites to help restore power.

## Distribution network

From substations, electricity travels through a network of distribution lines. This system is designed to deliver power directly to homes and businesses in our service area. Our dedicated teams regularly inspect and maintain these lines, ensuring they remain safe and efficient.

Employees at Roughrider Electric Cooperative are committed to providing you with reliable service. In the event of outages, they work diligently to assess the situation and restore power quickly. We use technology to pinpoint issues and prioritize repairs, focusing first on critical services and areas with the most members affected.

Understanding how power is delivered allows you to appreciate the complexities of our system and the importance of maintaining it. We encourage you to ask questions, share concerns and participate in our in-person events. ■



# A MESSAGE FROM BASIN ELECTRIC:
# A year of growth, innovation and resilience

BY BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER TODD BRICKHOUSE AND BOARD PRESIDENT WAYNE PELTIER

Basin Electric Power Cooperative continues to adapt to challenges, while ensuring reliability and affordability for its members. In 2024, growth continued across Basin Electric's service territory, with the 2025-34 financial forecast showing the cooperative's projected load growth over the next 10 years is expected to reach 3% – significantly higher than the national average of less than 1%.

To meet this demand, Basin Electric's 2025-34 financial forecast is showing significant infrastructure investments of nearly $8 billion in projected capital expenditures over the next decade, nearly doubling its balance sheet. This figure is anticipated to increase with future iterations of the financial forecasts.

*President **Wayne Peltier**, left, and CEO and General Manager **Todd Brickhouse** held lead Basin Electric Power Cooperative.*

## Strategic investments

With rapid growth, Basin Electric has taken proactive steps to expand its generation and transmission capacity. In 2024, the cooperative continued making significant investments through major capital projects and additional strategic investments across its system. These investments support long-term system resilience, enhance grid reliability and accommodate increasing energy demand. Several notable projects and developments include:

- **Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) Technology:** Installed DLR technology to enhance grid reliability and optimize transmission capacity in northwestern North Dakota.
- **Leland Olds Station Substation:** A new 345-kilovolt (kV) substation, one of Basin Electric's largest, is under construction near Stanton, with completion expected by this summer.
- **Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV:** Progressing toward an additional 580 megawatts (MW) of capacity by 2025 to support load growth and grid stability in the Bakken region.
- **Roundup to Kummer Ridge transmission line:** A 33-mile, 345-kV transmission line was energized in December 2024, five months ahead of schedule, enhancing grid reliability and reducing congestion.
- **Bison Generation Station:** Basin Electric spent 2024 planning its next major baseload generation facility, the Bison Generation Station, which was approved by the board of directors in January. This $4 billion, 1,470-MW natural gas facility near Epping will be Basin Electric's largest solely owned power plant. It is expected to begin operations in 2030.

## Carbon capture and environmental stewardship

Basin Electric continues to lead the nation in $CO_2$ capture and storage. In February 2024, the Great Plains $CO_2$ Sequestration Project went into service, with Dakota Gasification Company capturing and sequestering additional $CO_2$ via permanent geologic storage reservoirs adjacent to the plant. The facility reached a milestone in August 2024 by sequestering over 1 million metric tons of $CO_2$.

In November 2024, Basin Electric updated its sustainability report, showcasing the cooperative's commitment to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy, environmental stewardship and member-focused governance.

## Regulatory challenges and advocacy

Basin Electric remains committed to defending its all-of-the-above energy strategy, ensuring reliable, affordable power for members by prioritizing dispatchable resources, such as coal and natural gas

alongside wind and solar.

The Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory overreach continued to threaten reliability, making it critical to advocate for policies that support dispatchable resources.

In 2024, Basin Electric strengthened partnerships with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, other generation and transmission entities and industry allies to challenge regulatory threats, while continuing to serve reliable power to its members.

## Looking ahead

Basin Electric remains focused on providing reliable, affordable and sustainable power for its members. Through strategic investments, thoughtful decisions and regulatory advocacy, the cooperative will continue to adapt, innovate and invest to ensure long-term success. ■

***Basin Electric's mission:*** *Basin Electric is a safe, environmentally responsible cooperative that provides reliable, affordable power, products and services to sustain the quality of life for its member-owners across rural America.*

***Editor's note:*** *Basin Electric Power Cooperative supplies much of the power distributed to Roughrider Electric Cooperative members throughout the service area. We asked Todd Brickhouse and Wayne Peltier to update our members on what is happening at Basin Electric.*

# SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:
# Tips to reduce wildfire risks

While much needed rainfall has brought relief to many of our drought-impacted areas and reduced the immediate risk of wildfires, our electric cooperative remains committed to fire mitigation. Weather conditions can change quickly, and we prioritize taking precautions to ensure safety for our employees, members and communities.

"As we work across the service territory, we are equipped with fire mitigation equipment," says Tanner Goetz, general foreman. "This equipment includes a water tank and fire extinguisher on each co-op vehicle."

Cooperative employees are also briefed with the fire mitigation plan to ensure they can respond accurately to an emergency while working in the field. Through regular vegetation management, grid maintenance and hardening practices, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is proactively working to reduce risks and improve the reliability of our local system.

As a member of Roughrider Electric, there are steps you can take to prevent wildfires as well.

- **Follow local fire regulations.** Always check for burn bans or restrictions in your area before burning anything or using open flames outdoors.
- **Don't burn on windy days.** Avoid outdoor burning when it's windy or dry, as embers can easily spread and ignite surrounding areas.
- **Use equipment safely.** Tools like lawnmowers or chainsaws can spark fires. Use them during cooler times of the day and keep them in good working condition.
- **Clear vegetation and debris.** Maintain a defensible space around your home by removing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable materials.
- **Properly extinguish campfires.** Always douse your campfire with water, stir the ashes and ensure everything is cool to the touch before leaving the area.


Let's all work together to make this summer memorable and do what we can to ensure safety across our service area. ■

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES:

# Members gather for annual meeting

Roughrider Electric Cooperative members gathered in Dickinson at the Astoria Hotel and Event Center for Roughrider Electric's 2025 Annual Meeting on June 4. Upon registration, members received an appreciation gift for attending the meeting and visited the safety booth.

Roughrider Electric Board President Greg Steckler welcomed and thanked members and guests for attending the Annual Meeting. The membership voted to fill the board positions held by Callen Schoch, representing the Western District, Bruce Darcy, representing the Central District, and Jesse Flath, representing the Eastern District. All three incumbents were unanimously reelected to retain their seats on the board.

Members listened to cooperative updates from Co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz and Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile. Chief of Staff/Operations Manager Shawn Olson and Manager of Member Services Brad Quenette also provided updates to the membership.

Leonard Hibl, director of member services and key accounts, highlighted the Operation Round Up program and recognized high school scholarship and Youth Tour recipients. Luck-of-the-draw scholarships were awarded to Ella Sickler from Gladstone, Macee Smith from Hazen and Mason Kessel from Belfield.

After the business meeting, members enjoyed a complimentary meal served by Astoria Hotel and Event Center and names were drawn for door prizes. Additionally, members were encouraged to visit with Roughrider Electric staff and other members.

The board of directors, CEOs and staff at Roughrider Electric thank our members for participating in the annual meeting of the membership and look forward to meeting your needs in the future. ■


*Working Foreman **Brock Swensrud** visits with a member at the operations table.*

*Safety first! Members were welcome to choose an appreciation gift like safety glasses for attending the meeting.*

*Accounting Manager **Michaela Perbix** awards members their prizes.*


*Members and guests had the opportunity to visit at the Annual Meeting.*

# Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights: **April 25**

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held April 25 at the cooperative's Hazen office. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. CT. A quorum was present. Also attending were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Operations Manager Shawn Olson, Director of Key Accounts and Member Services Leonard Hibl, Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz and Board Liaison Connie Hill. Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Manager Jeremy Mahowald attended as a guest.

**Consent agenda:** The agenda was approved as amended.

**Strategic items:** Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on federal issues, the North Dakota managers group and others. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative board documents were available for review.

**Department reports:** Craigmile provided a financial report and discussed projects on which the department is working. Olson provided an operations report, which included an update on projects and other items. Hibl provided a report, which included annual meeting information and other activities. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a report. Grosz provided an update on the status of projects.

**Action items:** The board reviewed and resolved various items, including equipment contracts.

**Discussion/general information:** The board received an update from Mahowald on Upper Missouri plans and projects. They also discussed several other updates and items.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment. Secretary Troy Sailer certified the accuracy of the minutes.

**Next meeting date:** The next meeting is 1 p.m. MT (2 p.m. CT) July 21 in Medora. ■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**www.roughriderelectric.com**

**HAZEN OFFICE**
**701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533**
**800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545**
**7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CT Monday-Friday**

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

**DICKINSON OFFICE**
**701-483-5111 or 800-748-5533**
**P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.**
**Dickinson, ND 58602**
**7 a.m. – 4 p.m. MT Monday-Friday**

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Greg Steckler, President, Dunn Center | 548-8122 |
| Roger Kudrna, Vice President, Dickinson | 483-8377 |
| Troy Sailer, Secretary, Golden Valley | 948-2427 |
| Bruce Darcy, Treasurer, Golden Valley | 983-4222 |
| Jesse Flath, Hazen | 880-0386 |
| Darell Herman, Beulah | 873-4371 |
| Arnold Kainz, Dickinson | 483-8207 |
| Dan Price, Hensler | 794-3779 |
| Callen Schoch, New England | 290-3836 |

**MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| Travis Kupper | Co-GM/CEO |
| Jason Bentz | Co-GM/CEO |

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