



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

AUGUST 2026

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Roughrider Electric serves Medora projects

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The rugged Badlands terrain is part of where the project took place.

POWERING TOMORROW: **Roughrider Electric serves Medora projects**

North Dakotans have strong roots that run deep throughout communities across the state. This summer, southwestern North Dakota proudly showcased its character, highlighting both historic landmarks and new development, while visitors traveled to Medora for the unveiling of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative played a key role in supporting the progress of this growing and dynamic region. The cooperative ensured reliable electric service for new construction and lodging facilities, while also enhancing the dependability of service for existing members throughout the area.

Laying the groundwork

Roughrider Electric was made aware of the potential projects in early 2023. During the following months, Roughrider Electric's operations and engineering personnel gathered to review data and discuss details of the project to ensure a well-thought plan long before the equipment hit the dirt.

"When a new load comes onto our system, we have to ensure that we can serve it with the reliability that

our members have come to expect from Roughrider Electric," says Shawn Olson, operations manager. "For this project, planning started in late fall 2023."

Due to the increased electric services needed to serve the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, new lodging and campground, Roughrider Electric planned to ensure its system could consistently support the increased load.

To plan for the growth, Roughrider Electric conducted system upgrades on the Knutson Substation, which is co-owned with Goldenwest Electric Cooperative. Much of the work included upgrades to aging equipment and materials, such as substation equipment and replacing underground cable. Olson notes much of the underground cable installed from the Knutson Substation to Medora was installed in the early 1980s and was due for an upgrade.

During this time, the cooperative also began making construction plans and ordering materials. Materials were ordered in the spring of 2024 to allow ample production and delivery time, since material lead time is about 52 weeks. An essential part of the planning process was working with members and

landowners to secure easements.

"We had great responses from everyone we worked with in the area," Olson says. "From the contractors to federal services and our landowners, everyone was excellent to work with."

Breaking ground

Theodore Roosevelt once described Medora's landscape this way: "The Badlands grade all the way from those that are almost rolling in character to those that are so fantastically broken in form and so bizarre in color as to seem hardly properly to belong to this earth."

Roughrider Electric crews had to work through much of this rough-and-rugged terrain.

"One of my first thoughts was the challenge of the tough terrain," Olson says.

The challenge is not new to Roughrider Electric and didn't stop crews from moving forward. Mother Nature was also on the cooperative's side, and the mild winter and spring allowed crews to begin the project earlier than normal.

Groundbreaking for the project began on March 18, 2024, and was completed on April 24, 2024. Roughrider Electric crews, along with the contractors from 3C Construction and Precision Underground, coordinated with each other to finish the project.

"We had two plow crews going, which was a key part in getting this project completed ahead of schedule," Olson says.

Strengthening the system

When planning the project, it was crucial to Roughrider Electric to provide reliability to all its members and projects throughout the area, not just for now, but also to meet any expected load growth in Medora for the foreseeable future. Olson looked forward to seeing the upgrades in this area.

"I was excited to see us to be able to replace the old underground that was starting to fail and install all new larger conductors," Olson says. "The equipment now has more capacity to provide reliable service to all of Medora."

Safety of employees and its membership is a top priority at Roughrider Electric, so when the opportunity came to retire aged overhead power lines, Olson welcomed the idea.

"We were able to retire old overhead line, which reduces the risk of potentially starting fires in the national grasslands," Olson says.

The cooperative difference

Olson reiterated Roughrider Electric is committed to providing safe and reliable service, and supporting load growth in the Medora area is a key part of that responsibility, both now and over the long term.

"Roughrider is proud to be a part of the growing Medora community. This project and all of its updates will help provide safe, reliable power into the future," Olson says. ■



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Understanding your electric cooperative rates



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/
CEO

As your electric cooperative, our mission is simple: Serve our members, not outside shareholders, while balancing reliability, affordability and long-term sustainability.

One of the most important topics we evaluate is rates and how they affect our members. We are committed to keeping rates as low as possible while continuing to deliver safe, dependable service. This year, our cooperative experienced a rate increase driven primarily

by rising wholesale power costs. We anticipate an additional wholesale rate increase in 2027 that is expected to put further pressure on our rates, likely necessitating another rate adjustment.

Several key factors are contributing to these higher costs.

- **New generation and transmission:** Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of our wholesale providers, is investing more than \$10 billion over the next 10 years to expand and maintain generation and transmission infrastructure. Given that large loads in our service area must develop and finance their own generation, these investments that are needed expand beyond those possibilities to support traditional growing demand and ensure long-term reliability. Additionally, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is investing billions to modernize aging hydroelectric generation and transmission systems. While these upgrades come at a cost, they are essential to maintaining safe and reliable service for the future.
- **Inflationary pressures:** Like many industries, we face increased costs for labor, materials, contracted

services and maintenance. Higher interest rates have also raised the cost of borrowing, adding to overall expenses.

- **Market volatility:** Power markets have become more unpredictable, with prices influenced by fluctuating natural gas markets, increased intermittent generation and rising electricity demand. Managing this volatility requires additional resources and planning.

We are also seeing impacts from new regional requirements to maintain higher reserve capacity margins, essentially a reliability "insurance policy" to help ensure power is available during unexpected outages or peak demand.

Despite these challenges, we are focused on controlling costs wherever possible. We partner with other cooperatives for bulk purchasing, share services through Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative and utilize specialized contractors and maintenance providers to improve efficiency and control expenses.

Strong financial management allows us to continue investing in infrastructure and managing risk while working to stabilize rates. Looking ahead, our management team and board of directors will carefully evaluate potential rate adjustments for 2027. Our recent cost-of-service study provides valuable guidance as we plan for the future.

We know these changes matter and we remain committed to transparency, thoughtful planning and responsible decision-making. Thank you for your continued support of your cooperative as we work together to provide reliable, affordable power for years to come. ■



FACTORS THAT IMPACT YOUR ELECTRIC BILL



Wholesale Electric Provider | Changes in rates charged by wholesale providers directly impact our costs.

Market Conditions | Fluctuations in the market influence wholesale rates and, consequently, member rates.

Contractual Agreements | Long-term contracts with providers shape rate stability or volatility.

Inflation | Inflation impacts the costs of materials, labor, and equipment needed for infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.

Weather | Extreme weather conditions can affect energy demand and supply, impacting rates.

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Guiding hands-on experience



Shawn Olson

*Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager*

Rooted in the cooperative principle of education and training, electric cooperatives offer seasonal apprentice lineworkers opportunities to help them build skills and advance their knowledge.

This year, Bennett McHugh and Roper Foerderer joined the Roughrider Electric Cooperative crews as seasonal apprentice lineworkers in May. This is an opportunity for apprentice lineworkers to gain 1,000 hours of field work while also achieving journeyman

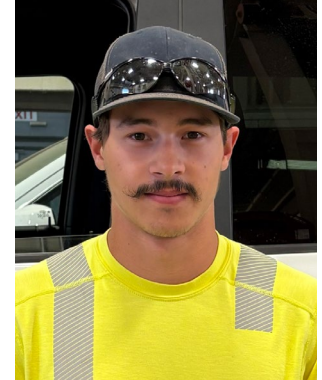
status. By working alongside experienced crews, apprentices gain valuable field hours, learn essential safety practices and develop skills critical to the trade.

This experience helps recent lineworker graduates gain valuable skills in maintenance, troubleshooting and safety, which can't be replicated in a classroom. This hands-on exposure allows apprentices to build confidence and proficiency, reinforcing technical knowledge while exposing them to on-the-job expectations and responsibilities.

While working at the cooperative, apprentices experience a variety of tasks, which can include construction of new services, retiring aging infrastructure, working alongside contractors and answering member requests.



Bennett McHugh



Roper Foerderer

Roughrider Electric line crews work around the service area every day, which means they visit with our members frequently. By joining the crew, apprentices are not only learning about the technical side of the cooperative, but also about the cooperative principles.

Fostering mentorship and skill development of apprentice lineworkers helps ensure knowledge is strengthened. Apprentices not only gain the hours required for advancement, but also insight into the membership and cooperative model and other values that make a successful lineworker. Through these efforts, Roughrider Electric continues to invest in education while maintaining the level of reliability members rely upon every day. ■



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: **Summer energy efficiency**



Larissa Eslinger

Manager of
Member Services

Throughout the year, members can take various steps to help increase energy efficiency throughout your home. Being more energy efficient can reduce energy use, which can offer financial benefits to members. For the summer months, here are a few simple energy efficiency tips that can be implemented today and save you money now and in the long run.

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts

for a significant portion of home energy use. Simple habit changes can include reducing dryer time by tossing a clean, dry towel with a damp load to absorb excess water and shorten the drying time. Reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Small changes add up when it comes to energy-saving tips, from switching when you run your large appliances to changing your filters.

Summer heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it an ideal time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow and forces your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. This extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use, raise utility bills and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment.

To maintain strong airflow and boost efficiency, inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy use and replace it as needed, especially if factors like pets or allergies are present, as a clean filter not only supports efficient operation, but can also enhance indoor air quality and extend the life of your unit.

Track energy usage

You can track energy usage on your smartphone by using SmartHub. SmartHub offers valuable insights into your energy usage. With detailed reports, you can understand when and how you consume electricity, empowering you to make informed decisions that optimize your energy efficiency.

The SmartHub app is available on both iOS and Android, allowing you to access your account and energy data whenever you need it. If you prefer

not to use the app, you can easily log in through our website.

Implementing these energy tips can help reduce energy usage and give control over to members who are looking to save money. Follow our social media channels for monthly energy efficiency tips and give our office a call with any questions or concerns. ■

6 WAYS TO USE ELECTRICITY THAT COST LESS THAN A TO-GO COFFEE



Fully charge a cell phone



Use the oven for 4 hours



Watch 2 hours of TV



Power a laptop for 8 hours

Dry a load of laundry



Run the fridge for 24 hours

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

Importance of harvest safety



Tyler Schlosser

*Staking/Meter
Technician*

Across the fields of our service territory, harvest is underway. Whether crops are being trucked to the farm for storage or heading to the elevator, this is a busy time in the field and on the roadways. We know this is a crucial time in every producer's operation, but safety cannot take a backseat.

Throughout the year, we get reports of outages related to animals, farm equipment and vehicles. We know accidents happen and it is important to

report any damage to Roughrider Electric as soon as possible, so crews can repair the issue and ensure further damage does not occur.

At Roughrider Electric, safety is a top priority for employees, members and everyone in the community. Before crew members hop in the vehicle every day, they do a 360-degree safety check. The 360-degree safety check is a complete walk around the vehicle to check for hazards or anything misplaced. Due to farm equipment's large size and additional extension, this is something that could benefit producers. No matter how familiar you are with a piece of equipment or area, it is important to identify clearance and know where power lines, utility poles, transformers and other cooperative equipment are located in the farmyard or fields.

Here are additional electrical safety tips to keep in mind this harvest season:

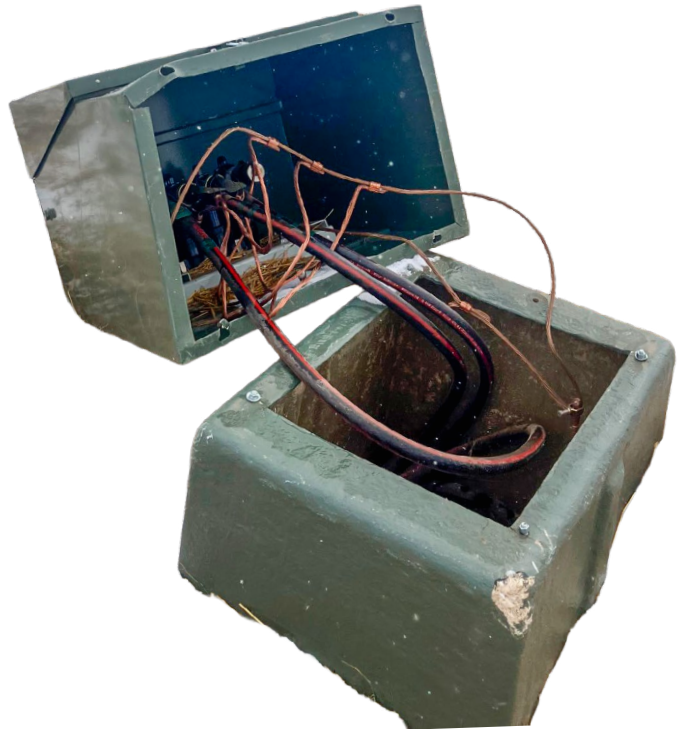
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment and materials at least 10 feet from power lines, at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment, such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks, around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

Keep in mind if your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to terminate power. If you must exit the cab, such as in the case of a fire, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Slowing down and taking a few extra minutes to survey your equipment and surroundings can help ensure everyone can go home safely at the end of the day.

If you see cooperative electrical equipment that needs attention, please call the office at 800-748-5533.

From all of us at Roughrider Electric, we hope you have a safe and bountiful harvest season. ■



Accidents happen but it is important to report any damage to Roughrider Electric as soon as possible.

Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights May 29

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on May 29 at Roughrider Electric's Dickinson office. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. MT. A quorum was present. Also attending were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Business Manager Michaela Perbix, and Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as proposed.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on area projects, the wildfire mitigation plan, North Dakota managers meeting, an Upper Missouri Power Cooperative meeting and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Rally. Several additional Basin Electric reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report that included a review of the financials, highlighting items in the executive summary. Olson provided a written operations

report, outlining the construction updates, pole testing and safety practices. Perbix presented Larissa Eslinger's manager of member services report, which included annual meeting details and information about a recent training. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report. Grosz provided an update on legal matters and annual meeting details.

Action items: The board appointed a Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) and NCSC annual meeting delegate, and discussed the RTC Networks and West River Telecommunications Cooperative ballot.

Discussion: The board discussed the CFC Integrity Fund and other items.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session during the meeting.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 10 a.m. CT Aug. 28 in Dickinson. ■



roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7 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 Fourth 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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