

Simplify and save with automatic payments

Enjoy convenient billing and earn credit toward your electric bill

In today's fast-paced world, convenience is key. Slope Electric Cooperative understands the value of simplifying your life and maximizing your savings. That's why Slope Electric introduced a hassle-free payment option that not only streamlines your billing process, but also rewards you for your participation.

By signing up for automatic payments, members can unlock a host of benefits and enjoy a seamless experience with Slope Electric.



Streamlined payments and financial perks

With automatic payments, your monthly bill will be automatically deducted from your bank account, ensuring a timely payment each month. This convenient option eliminates the stress of remembering due dates.

Through automatic payments, Slope Electric offers members the opportunity to save even more. For members who choose paperless statements and enroll in automatic payments, Slope Electric rewards a \$1 credit for each month enrolled. These savings accumulate throughout the year and are reflected on your August billing statement.

Discover the benefits of SmartHub

To take advantage of automatic payments and the accompanying benefits, Slope Electric utilizes SmartHub, a user-friendly online platform that gives you full control over your account. Through SmartHub, you can effortlessly manage your billing preferences, monitor your usage and access valuable resources to help you make informed decisions about your energy consumption.

How to get started

Signing up for automatic payments is quick and easy. Simply visit www.slopeelectric.coop/ways-pay to learn more about the benefits of SmartHub and the enrollment process. Take the first step toward simplifying your billing experience and start earning credits on your electric bill.

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

116 E. 12th St. • New England, ND 58647 | 701-579-4191 • www.slopeelectric.coop

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- Manager's message
- Power supplier reports
- Ensure communication

Manager's message:

We're ready for storm season. Are you?

Now that summer is in full swing, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather, like many of you. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities, like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.



Travis Kupper

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Slope Electric Cooperative crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the following items as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials, such as diapers and toiletries.
- Confirm you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions

are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. Do leave one light on, so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Slope Electric's Facebook page or website for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advanced planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. Slope Electric recommends you act today, because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer. ■



Basin Electric Power Cooperative report

BY BOARD PRESIDENT WAYNE PELTIER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL MANAGER TODD TELESZ



Basin Electric Power Cooperative's story in 2022 is one of incredible financial performance and the opportunity as stewards of our members' assets to create an even more stable and sustainable foundation for success.

Basin Electric enjoyed margins far beyond what was budgeted, largely the result of the cooperation between our marketing and operations teams. The marketing team's insights and strategies created value by optimizing our members' assets – generation, transmission and DC ties. This was coupled with our all-of-the-above generation fleet, which performed extremely well in 2022, particularly during times of high market stress.

These factors were amplified by a series of record-setting demand levels from our membership. Despite high inflation and volatile markets, our cooperative was able to remain steady, forecasting stable rates for the next decade, a testament to our operational excellence and disciplined risk management practices.

Dakota Gasification Company, our for-profit subsidiary, benefited from high commodity prices and strong operational performance at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, where systems operated at near-record capacity levels. This meant Dakota Gas was able to repay more than \$250 million to Basin Electric on a revolver the subsidiary had used to fund operating expenses over the last several years.

We know it will be difficult to replicate, sustain or scale this financial success going forward.

As we plan for future years, we are focusing our time, energy and efforts on key strategic initiatives that will provide us the leverage to deliver incremental value and absorb more risk for our membership.

The Basin Electric board of directors and management plans to allocate our member capital through investing in assets and people, de-risking Basin Electric, and returning value to the membership.

The good fortune of 2022, in part, was returned to our members through patronage and bill credits, and the board authorized a one mill rate decrease that took effect in 2023. To protect members from rate volatility, Basin Electric also further built up our rate stabilization fund, which serves as a shock-absorber for market disruptions that have become increasingly more commonplace. Also, Basin Electric has accelerated the depreciation of our oldest coal generation units to ensure the member at the end of the line will not be forced to pay for the same kilowatt-hour twice.

Regarding investment, nearly \$1.5 billion in construction projects has been authorized by our board to add more generation to our fleet and miles to our high-voltage transmission lines. As rural America grows and the criticality of reliable electricity is on the minds of many, the Basin Electric membership is building assets to ensure demand is met and reliability is maintained.

This year was remarkable for all the reasons we mention above, but we know our work never ends. As we strive every day to provide reliable, affordable and responsible electricity for our members produced safely by our employees, we recognize the importance of electric cooperatives to the communities and people of our service territory.

Access to reliable and affordable electricity creates immense opportunities. We are proud of the work we do and know the good fortune we realized over the last year must be deployed and invested with steady shoulders.

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Deliberative conversations and an adherence to decisionmaking driven by data, rigorous analytics and collaborative debate will enable us to make the best decisions for our membership.

Above all, we will keep a laser focus on our members at the end of the line to remember why and how what we do matters for success in rural America. ■

Upper Missouri Power Cooperative report

BY JEREMY MAHOWALD, GENERAL MANAGER



Jeremy Mahowald

In rural America, the most important things you expect from your electric cooperatives are long-term stability, affordability and reliability. Our main mission is to ensure we deliver on those promises, by keeping your power stable and keeping it flowing efficiently, affordably and reliably. We have

continuous challenges to do this, whether it be the economic inflationary and supply chain pressures facing all Americans or meeting world demands for a lower carbon power supply. We also have local needs in our Upper Missouri region in meeting our growth challenges in transmission and generation, while continuing to serve our predominant industries of agriculture and energy.

As member-owners of Slope Electric Cooperative, you are also an owner of Upper Missouri Power Cooperative in Sidney, Mont. We are a generation and transmission (G&T) power cooperative supplying your power to Slope Electric from sources at Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). We are owned by Slope Electric and 10 other cooperatives in western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Upper Missouri, in turn, is one of the G&T district owners of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which is a "super" G&T.

We are in many respects a behind-the-scenes organization. We are just four employees, though we have several ways to benefit you, the members of Slope Electric. One of the most important ways we do this is with our regional representation of your local needs. You have an elected board member at the seat of the

Upper Missouri table, Anthony Larson from Slope Electric, who diligently represents our collective regional needs and interests, while bringing forward your interests close to home. From Upper Missouri, we have representation at the Basin Electric table, with an Upper Missouri board member, Allen Thiessen, from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, also dedicated to this. And I do this as well by closely collaborating with the distribution board members and managers, directly with the staff of Basin Electric and WAPA, and through several other affiliated national and statewide organizations.

Another way we do this is with a rate model that allows Slope Electric to get its Basin Electric, WAPA and Upper Missouri charges separately. This allows you to get the WAPA allocation each cooperative is intended to get. To the best of our ability, your cooperative only pays for expenses related to its respective entities. You do not pay for Upper Missouri's Grenora substation, for example, or other facilities or services that do not serve or impact your cooperatives. Upper Missouri is also large enough now to cause us to be federally rate-regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which also means rates must also be deemed just and reasonable by it.

As part of your cooperative network, we are committed to your long-term success. An initiative we're taking up now is investigating our cost-of-service rates, which were developed 20 years ago. Over time, many conditions changed, and we want to ensure we are still treating all eleven of our members equitably and fairly. We're also assessing some of our business components where we use outside contractors versus in-house resources. Here also, we'd like to ensure we balance the overall costs with the

overall risks.

One of our biggest regional challenges is keeping up with growth. Though over the last many years, we've had major growth due to gas and oil, we're seeing a new phase of interest in large industrial growth now that our infrastructure is developed. This includes potential biofuel refineries, a gas-to-liquids plant, biodegradable plastics, rail expansion, pipeline expansions, gas compression additions, saltwater cleanup, a large greenhouse and several yet to be disclosed very large loads. We're also seeing

much interest in cryptocurrency development. This all adds up to significant load challenges we've been working on with our members and power suppliers to ensure we have adequate transmission and generation resources and appropriate rate structures to fairly manage the risks.

I encourage you to contact Slope Electric to help us actively stand for the needs of our region and to let us know how we can better serve you. We wish all the best to the members of Slope Electric. ■

Building bridges to a clean energy future

BY LLOYD LINKE, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND UPPER GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MANAGER



Lloyd
Linke

As we enter the second quarter of 2023, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is looking ahead to a sustainable energy future. In its 45th year, WAPA has developed a new strategic plan, Power Forward 2030, to light the way. The plan outlines three overarching strategic goals: to safeguard a sustainable energy future, modernize the grid and

invest in its employees.

WAPA engaged with employees, customers and other stakeholders throughout the planning process, incorporating their feedback into the final plan. The focus for 2023 is on collaboration – with each other, customers, the U.S. Department of Energy, generating agencies and other stakeholders – to create opportunities through partnerships that strengthen the resilience of our energy infrastructure and improve our operational readiness by working on common issues with customers. In that spirit, our theme this year is “Building Bridges.”

The decisions and actions we take today will help define where we will arrive in our future, long after most of us have retired. As we implement this plan, we remain committed to supporting a clean energy future for future generations.

One of the most significant challenges we face

in achieving a sustainable energy future is the ongoing drought in the western states, including the Upper Great Plains region. Enduring drought is straining power rates at the same time as replacement power costs are increasing. We understand the challenges this brings to our communities and know that you are concerned about the pressure on rates and want to see WAPA create solutions to preserve the value and longevity of hydropower.

WAPA continues to build connections with customers and generating agencies to address drought and other operational challenges, such as cybersecurity and markets. Both the Upper Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions are implementing drought adders to help keep drought deficits from escalating as quickly, lower interest expenses due to drought deficits, demonstrate responsible deficit management and provide prompt drought deficit repayments.

WAPA recognizes the importance of investing in our energy infrastructure to withstand challenges like the ongoing drought. In addition to collaborating with customers, WAPA is also investing in research and development to modernize the grid and strengthen its resilience.

In November 2022, WAPA installed a neutral blocking device (NBD) at White Substation in South Dakota. The NBD, developed to block geomagnetically induced currents (GICs) during solar storms, uses three paths to ensure

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the transformer neutral maintains its ground connection, providing an effectively grounded system in all operating modes. The NBD is the first commercially developed device installed in the United States, and the second device of its type to become operational. It serves as a national pilot program to install, test and evaluate technology designed to mitigate the effects of GICs in transformers. GICs resulting from severe geomagnetic disturbances can saturate transformers and cause negative impacts, including reactive power absorption, voltage drops, electrical harmonics injected into the power system and overheated transformers.

The NBD, installed at strategic locations in the power system, may reduce and eliminate these negative effects. Following a GIC mitigation pilot program report from the Electric Power Research Institute, WAPA experts performed two system studies to identify and analyze preferred locations for the NBD within the organization's transmission system. The NBD was installed at the White Substation, which is well positioned to serve numerous customers and sites and was chosen because it connects to three or more adjacent substations with large, bulk electric system transformers. In late February, a moderate, double-coronal mass ejection accompanied by solar flares erupted from the

sun, pointing at the Earth's orbital position, giving rise to a strong geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) event. The NBD functioned well during this first major test.

WAPA is also investing in its employees to build a strong and resilient workforce. As part of the Power Forward 2030 strategic plan, WAPA is focused on attracting, retaining and developing top talent to ensure we have the skills and expertise necessary to meet future challenges. This includes investing in employee development programs, mentoring and coaching programs, and other initiatives to support employee growth and development.

Finally, WAPA is committed to working with stakeholders in the energy industry to achieve a clean energy future. This includes collaborating with utilities, generating agencies, policymakers and other stakeholders to promote the adoption of renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions and improve the reliability and resilience of the grid.

Looking to the future, WAPA is well positioned to continue its leadership role in the energy industry. With a clear strategic plan, a commitment to collaboration and innovation, and a talented and dedicated workforce, WAPA remains focused on delivering reliable, affordable and sustainable power to our customers. ■

Board meeting highlights

Slope Electric board of directors met May 25 at Slope's New England office.

- The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 27 meeting.
- Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz presented the co-general managers' report.
- An April report was presented to the board from WDUS and 3C Construction.
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative provided a report to the board.
- Alex Craigmile, CFO, presented a summary of the financial report.
- Dean Volk, operations director, and Brooke Waltner, member relations, provided the board with an update.
- Jennifer Grosz, attorney, updated the board on the status of projects.
- Reviewed board member reports.

Safety Starts with ME: Protecting yourself from utility scams

In today's digital age, where technology connects us in more ways than ever before, it's crucial to remain vigilant and protect ourselves from scams.

Utility scams come in various forms, but they typically involve impostors posing as utility company representatives seeking payment or personal information.

"These scammers may use threatening language, urgency or even offer special discounts to deceive unsuspecting individuals," said Brooke Waltner, manager of member relations. "It's important to remember that Slope Electric will never demand immediate payment or personal information over the phone or email."

To protect yourself from utility scams, follow these essential tips:

- **Be cautious.** Maintain a healthy skepticism when receiving unexpected calls or emails. Verify the caller's identity by asking for their name, department and contact information.
- **Never share personal information.** Avoid providing sensitive information, such as social security numbers, credit card details or account numbers, to unsolicited callers or suspicious emails.
- **Hang up, don't engage.** If a caller becomes aggressive, threatening or insists on immediate payment, hang up immediately. Legitimate utility companies will provide options for secure payment and will not pressure you into immediate action.
- **Verify before paying.** If you receive a payment request, independently verify its authenticity by contacting the utility company directly



through their official customer service channels. Do not use the contact information provided by the suspicious caller or email.

- **Report suspicious activities.** If you suspect you have encountered a utility scam, report it to your local cooperative. By reporting these incidents, you help protect others in your community.

"At Slope Electric, your safety is paramount," Waltner said. "By familiarizing yourself with the signs of utility scams and implementing preventative measures, you can protect yourself from falling victim to fraudulent activities."

Remember, safety starts with each individual. Stay informed, be cautious and report any suspicious activities. ■

Ensure seamless communication and optimize your experience

In our ever-evolving world, staying connected is vital, and Slope Electric Cooperative is committed to providing you with exceptional service. To serve you better and keep you informed about important updates, we kindly request all members to take a moment to review and update their contact information. By keeping your details current, you ensure a seamless and efficient communication channel between you and your cooperative.

At Slope Electric, we understand that accurate contact information is key to delivering timely notifications, outage updates and other vital communications. By updating

your contact information, you allow us to reach you through your preferred means of communication, whether it's phone calls, text messages or email.

To update your contact information, simply log in to your SmartHub account on our website or contact our friendly member services team who will be more than happy to assist you. Remember, by providing us with the most up-to-date information, you're enabling us to serve you better, tailor our communications to your preferences, and ensure that you receive the vital information you need when you need it. ■



Happy Independence Day!

In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, Slope Electric Cooperative will be closed on Tuesday, July 4.

Line technicians will be available in case of an emergency outage.



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Anthony Larson, Vice President
Angela Carlson, Secretary
Henry "Chip" Fischer, Treasurer
Jerome Caron, Director
Dale Hande, Director
Lauren Klewin, Director
Charlotte Meier, Director

MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz
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