



*Together*

we make a powerful difference.

**2020**  
ANNUAL REPORT



# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual membership meeting of Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held:

**Thursday, June 3, 2021**

**Community Center, Reeder, N.D. | Parking Lot, 2 p.m. MT**

The meeting will be broadcast live on FM radio; the station will be provided on-site. Portions of the meeting will also be available online at [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop) at a later date.

**DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC,  
AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD OUTDOORS.**

The annual meeting will be a business meeting only. Unless there is a nomination from the floor, there are no contested board elections. Amended Bylaws have been proposed, and will be voted on. They are included in their entirety in this packet.

There will be a sealed snack given to members who attend. To ensure your safety, Slope Electric will follow safety requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and North Dakota Department of Health in effect at the time of the meeting.

### PROGRAM

**1:30 p.m. MT Registration**

**2 p.m. MT Call to Order**

**Establish Quorum**

**Nominating Committee Report**

**Reading Notice of Meeting, Proof of Mailing & Previous Minutes**

**Co-General Managers/CEOs Report**

**Financial Report**

**Election of Directors**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**1.** Bylaw Amendments (a full copy of the Amended Bylaws with the changes tracked are included with this Notice, and incorporated herein)

**2.** Other new business

**Adjournment**

*Anthony Larson*  
Secretary of the Cooperative

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 annual meeting was not held. As such, the candidates put forth by the 2020 Nominating Committee were not voted on by the membership. These candidates were incumbent Board members, and they have been serving on an interim basis until an election of the membership can occur. These candidates are Angela Carlson and Charlotte Meier of Hettinger County, and Steve Wegner of Adams County. The directors whose tenure of office expires in 2021 are Lauren Klewin and Dale Hande of Slope County.

The following members have been nominated by the Nominating Committee:

Steve Wegner ..... Reeder.....Adams County  
(2020 vacancy)

Angela Carlson.....Regent..... Hettinger County  
(2020 vacancy)

Charlotte Meier.....Regent..... Hettinger County  
(2020 vacancy)

Lauren Klewin..... Amidon.....Slope County  
(2021 vacancy)

Dale Hande..... Rhame.....Slope County  
(2021 vacancy)

**– PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING –**

# CONDENSED MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2019, ANNUAL MEETING

**NOTE: These minutes were published in the 2019 Annual Report, to be voted upon at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Because that meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic, members will be asked to vote and approve these minutes at this year's Annual Meeting.**

The 74th annual meeting of Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held in New England on June 6, 2019.

At 6:14 p.m. President Lauren Klewin called the meeting to order.

Klewin announced Roberts Rules of Order would be followed.

Secretary Anthony Larson confirmed the proof of mailing, and moved the waiver of reading of official notice and condensed minutes of the last annual meeting as it is printed in the annual report.

Co-General Managers/CEOs Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report.

Alex Craigmile, Alliance Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2018 Slope Electric financial report. The financial report was accepted.

Kent Maershbecker, spokesperson for the Nominating/Resolutions Committee, was introduced and submitted the following nominations: Adams County – Anthony Larson; Bowman County – Jerome Caron and Chip Fischer; and Hettinger County – Amber Grist. Ms. Grist asked that her name be removed from consideration. No nominations were received by petition. Nominations were asked from the floor. A nomination was made for Jill Kerzman for Hettinger County. A second nomination from the floor was made for Charlotte Meier for Hettinger County. Each candidate was invited to address the assembly. A motion was made to suspend the rules and cast a unanimous ballot for the following positions: Anthony Larson – Adams County, Chip Fischer – Bowman County, Jerome Caron – Bowman County.

Marie Johnson from the Election Committee gave the results of the director election for Hettinger County. Charlotte Meier was declared the winner of the election for director for Hettinger County.

Karen Gerbig gave the Operation Round Up report.

Angela Carlson and Dale Hande presented the \$1,000 Basin Electric scholarship award to Beau Jeffers of Rhame. They then presented \$500 scholarships to recipients from each of the schools

within Slope's service territory: Bowman County – Maureen Burke; Hettinger Public School – Brynn Honeyman; Lemmon Public School – Max Dietz; Mott-Regent High School – Breanna Friedt; New England Public School – Robert Caydon Petri; Scranton Public School – Jaxon Mellmer. Next they announced the Luck of the Draw scholarship winners: Robert Caydon Petri and Brynn Honeyman.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

*Anthony Larson*  
Secretary

## VOTING CREDENTIALS

Voting regulations are part of the bylaws of Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc. The spouse of a member automatically holds a proxy if the member is not present. No paperwork is required for spouses who wish to vote in place of the absent member.

## Bylaws Article III, Section 5

Each member shall be entitled to only one vote. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation, or these bylaws. Corporations, cooperatives, firms and bodies politic shall have the right to cast one (1) vote on any issue the same as other members, provided that a duly elected and acting officer executes a proper certification or other qualifying instrument as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, prescribe.

## Bylaws Article III, Section 7

Voting by proxy shall not be allowed except that the spouse of a member who is not present and registered shall be considered to hold a proxy of that member and shall be entitled to vote.

“ Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does. ”

– William James

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND CO-GENERAL MANAGERS/CEOS

### 'Thank you for your partnership and support'



**Lauren Klewin**  
Board President

Dear members,

As we write this message, calves are being born. Students are preparing for graduation. People are getting outside again and enjoying an early spring. Despite the various challenges we faced over the past year due to the pandemic, life goes on. Like many, we feel a strong sense of renewal and hope for the year ahead.



**Don Franklund**  
Co-General  
Manager

We have all experienced our share of challenges, and by working together as a community, we have all made a difference. One thing that remained steady in a challenging world was Slope Electric Cooperative's unwavering commitment to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. This year's annual meeting theme, "Together we make a powerful difference," reflects our year of resiliency, thanks in large part to support from you, our member-owners.



**Travis Kupper**  
Co-General  
Manager

Last year was certainly a time of change for you and your family, our cooperative family, and Main Street businesses that help sustain the small towns that make up southwest North Dakota. Here at Slope Electric, we found different ways to offer the same level of service to support to you.

We've said it before and we'll say it again: Slope Electric Cooperative is an advocate of working safely. It is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others before, during and after work.

Never has it been more evident than during a pandemic. After we implemented safety measures and procedures to protect you, our employees and communities, it didn't take long for us to transition to a new way of serving you.

Our goal was to take care of you and meet your needs, and we hope we did just that. Some members still wanted to meet with us in-person, and we scheduled visits by appointment in a way that kept you and our employees safe.

Many of you took advantage of SmartHub and started paying your bills online. Once you became familiar with the Slope Electric app, you discovered you could do more:

- Schedule auto payments;
- Update your information and contact us;
- Print monthly statements for your tax records;
- Requests texts and emails to receive important updates related to your account; and
- Compare your electric bills from month-to-month or year-to-year.

SmartHub is a handy tool for you to take more control over your electric account. For information or to sign up, visit [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop) and click SmartHub, or call the office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191.

Our operations department adapted quickly in the field, too. While the pandemic suspended some of our capital projects, our line technicians completed maintenance and upgrades that benefit you. In addition to doing annual line patrol, pole testing and change-outs, we upgraded sectionalizing equipment in some of our substations. We also implemented Outage Management System (OMS), a service provided by cooperative partner NISC in Mandan. Once a member logs a power outage with dispatch, that record is uploaded to OMS. The system helps us determine the extent of the outage, and our line technicians can access the information in the field using iPads. The software allows you to get updates on the outage, and helps us reduce outage times and gain efficiencies that save you money.

Members, your safety and service is behind every decision made in the boardroom and during our daily routines. It has been our privilege to serve you during this interesting and challenging time, in which we've seen a tremendous amount of goodwill and willingness to adapt across our service area.

Many of you stepped out of your comfort zones and embraced technology to communicate and conduct business. We saw neighbor helping neighbor. Parents and teachers becoming superheroes. Residents supporting local businesses. First-responders powering local communities. And we, at Slope Electric Cooperative, had the good fortune of keeping the lights on for you through it all.

Together, we made a powerful difference, and we thank you for your partnership and support.

This year's annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 3, at the Community Center in Reeder. Without knowing the future and putting safety first, we plan to meet in the parking lot. For now, know we've missed you, we thank you, and please continue to stay safe.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Lauren Klewin**  
President



**Steve Wegner**  
Vice President



**Anthony Larson**  
Secretary



**Jerome Caron**  
Treasurer



**Angela Carlson**  
Director



**Dale Hande**  
Director



**Chip Fischer**  
Director



**Charlotte Meier**  
Director

## 2021 SERVICE AWARDS



**Jeff Boynton**  
Outpost Foreman  
15 years



**Andrew Sonsalla**  
Senior Staking Technician  
15 years



**Dean Volk**  
Operations Manager  
30 years



**Angela Carlson**  
Director  
5 years

# Congratulations

on your years of service and hard work!

“ Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. ”

– Henry Ford

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## BALANCE SHEET Dec. 31, 2020 & 2019

ASSETS	2020	2019
<b>Utility Plant:</b>		
Lines, Buildings and Equipment	\$79,466,229	\$78,364,273
Accumulated Depreciation	21,060,832	19,814,392
<b>Present Value of Plant</b>	<b>\$58,405,397</b>	<b>\$58,549,881</b>
<b>Investments:</b>		
Investments in Subsidiary Companies	\$1,774,135	\$1,674,480
Investment in Associated Organizations	2,150,600	3,133,154
Other Long-Term Investments	20,934,928	20,630,955
Special Funds	10,408,165	9,784,328
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$35,267,828</b>	<b>\$35,222,917</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash in Operating Funds	\$3,356,079	\$2,914,762
Temporary Cash Investments	19,467,019	13,967,753
Accounts Receivable	2,150,728	2,433,977
Materials and Supplies	2,093,725	2,248,736
Prepayments - Insurance	62,739	158,454
Interest and Rents Receivable	43,959	86,230
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$27,174,249</b>	<b>\$21,809,912</b>
<b>Deferred Debits</b>	<b>\$132,062</b>	<b>\$205,339</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$120,979,536</b>	<b>\$115,788,049</b>
<b>EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Equities:</b>		
Patronage Capital	\$67,854,895	\$65,986,542
Other Equities	5,207,882	5,444,195
<b>Total Equities</b>	<b>\$73,062,777</b>	<b>\$71,430,737</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Long-Term Debt - RUS	\$21,157,151	\$15,640,844
Long-Term Debt - Other	8,047,545	8,494,284
Accounts Payable	2,263,633	2,396,677
Member Deposits	57,095	46,300
Other Current Liabilities	2,744,258	2,146,761
Regulatory Liabilities	10,398,442	12,503,800
Deferred Credits	3,248,635	3,128,646
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$47,916,759</b>	<b>\$44,357,312</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$120,979,536</b>	<b>\$115,788,049</b>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES For Years Ending Dec. 31, 2020 & 2019

<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Farm	\$3,716,776	\$3,845,739
Seasonal	1,774,987	1,557,403
Irrigation Sales	12,171	10,040
Small Commercial	2,679,566	2,807,755
Large Commercial & Industrial	19,814,295	25,093,869
Public Authority, Public Street, Highway Lights & Wheeling	173,828	668,299
Other Electric Revenue	2,093,677	12,023
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$30,265,300</b>	<b>\$33,995,128</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Purchased Power	\$20,463,340	\$25,066,746
Transmission Expense	65,804	159,819
Distribution Expense - Operations	2,466,921	1,538,421
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	416,913	473,287
Consumer Account Expense	237,529	214,645
Customer Service and Information Expense	291,411	289,119
Sales Expense	30	0
Administration and General Expense	1,457,367	1,500,843
Depreciation	1,889,633	1,884,476
Tax Expense - Property & Gross Receipts	298,866	361,947
Interest on Long-Term Debt	833,865	803,822
Other Deductions	23,515	77,392
<b>TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE</b>	<b>\$28,445,194</b>	<b>\$32,370,517</b>
Operating Margins	\$1,820,106	\$1,624,611
Non-Operating Margins	357,445	663,815
Generation & Transmission Capital Credits	931,220	918,428
Other Capital Credits & Patronage	90,276	80,524
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$3,199,047</b>	<b>\$3,287,378</b>

“ What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

– Nelson Mandela

## 2021 RESOLUTIONS

The following six resolutions were adopted by the Nominating/Resolutions Committee at their meeting on March 22, 2021. Committee members are: Lynn Homelvig, Kevan Stafne, Craig Silkman, Michael Schneider, William Gion, Trevor Steeke, William Freymiller and Robert Martin.

### RESOLUTION NO. 1

#### North Dakota Electric Industry Legislative Issues

##### Territorial Integrity Act

We believe the North Dakota Territorial Integrity Act serves the best interest of both rural and urban consumers and electric power suppliers. The Territorial Integrity Act is needed to ensure orderly development of the state's electric infrastructure to deliver electricity without wasteful duplication. The Act is fair and it has worked well since it was passed in 1965. It has minimized disputes over service areas. Slope Electric will strongly oppose any legislative, regulatory or other effort to abolish or weaken the provisions of the Territorial Integrity Act.

##### Rural Electric Cooperative Board Regulation

As consumer-owned organizations, we oppose any attempts to place North Dakota's rural electric cooperatives under rate and service jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC). North Dakota's rural electric cooperatives are directed by a member-elected board of directors who are responsible for rate and management decisions based on the best interest of the members. We believe the PSC should still be the watchdog for consumers who get their power from for-profit stock companies or other sources in which the consumer is not a member/owner.

### RESOLUTION NO. 2

#### Rural Utilities Services Program – Electric

Slope Electric Cooperative calls upon the Congress and the administration to continue a commitment to a balanced approach to long-term financing for the nation's electric cooperatives, including hardship loans (for those systems meeting strict eligibility requirements), municipal rate loans and Federal Financing Bank and Treasury rate loan guarantees.

While some in this country argue it's time for the Rural Development utilities lending programs to be eliminated, or that the lending programs be based only on guarantees, Slope Electric opposes such proposals. The need for capital to build new facilities and/or renew existing plant continues at a level that clearly justifies a well-funded loan program. The guarantee program should not become the

sole solution to electric cooperative capital needs. While it's enticing to seek guarantees during times of low interest rates, the nation's electric co-ops remember many years when capital costs reached double-digit interest rates. Interest rates change with the market, but the primary focus for electric co-ops serving the high-cost, low-consumer-density areas of this country remains largely unchanged. Nationally, electric cooperatives still serve only about 7.4 customers per mile of line, compared to about 34 customers for the investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and about 48 customers for municipal power systems. In North Dakota, cooperatives average 1.96 customers per mile. Slope Electric Cooperative serves 1.25 meters per mile of line.

We would further oppose any effort to eliminate the 7 percent cap on Rural Development utilities municipal rate loans, and would not support the inclusion of any general funds policy that limits a rural electric system's ability to access Rural Development utilities loan programs.

We also oppose any means testing or move from the once-rural-always-rural test for borrower eligibility.

We wholeheartedly support the current, balanced Rural Development utilities loan program and urge Congress to fund the program sufficiently.

### RESOLUTION NO. 3

#### Hydropower Policy

##### Preference Clause

Hydropower is an integral part of the rural electric cooperative power supply. Preference power allocations, power marketing agencies, cost-based rates and other Pick-Sloan users are part of hydropower concerns, and regulations in these areas affect rural electric cooperatives and their reliance on hydropower.

We believe that the rightful allocation continues to remain with these existing qualified preference customers. As the capacity of federal resources is limited, we believe that careful consideration must be given when providing allocations to otherwise qualified new customers at the expense of existing preference customers. We further believe that non-contributing private interests, who would use the benefits of the resource for profit, should not be at all entitled to this resource.

Our energy future largely depends on our ability and willingness to use this nation's hydropower resource efficiently. We, therefore, continue

to encourage and support full development of the Missouri River for its traditional preference customers.

The principles establishing the preference clause for the disposition of federal hydropower are as sound today as they were when initiated. We oppose any effort to change it.

### **Power Marketing Administrations**

We believe power marketing administrations (PMAs) should not be sold. Selling federal assets is not sound fiscal policy. Likewise, we oppose the privatization of power marketing administration maintenance contracts for federal dams. We believe the federal government is best suited to provide the maintenance for the dams it operates and can provide the maintenance for a lower cost than private contractors.

The partnership that exists between the federal government and rural electrics regarding PMAs is an example of how the federal government can work to benefit its citizens. We believe that partnership should continue to benefit the rural, sparsely populated states like ours.

The power we receive from PMAs remains a vital component in continuing to ensure universal electric service at the lowest price possible.

### **Hydropower Rates**

We do not believe hydropower rates should be increased beyond cost-based pricing. We strongly oppose any violation of the long-standing covenants between the government and its citizens, which clearly provide hydropower to be sold at the lowest possible cost, consistent with sound business principles. Straight-line amortization, surcharges, increased interest rates and other changes for accelerated repayment by power marketing agencies have been proposed by the Office of Management and Budget under various agencies, as well as by members of Congress. Similarly, the budget proposal to increase PMA rates to "market levels" is nothing more than a discriminatory tax that would fall inequitably upon millions of rural Americans. We urge Congress to reject this proposal and others who abandon the fair, reasonable and equitable principles that have guided the pricing of federal power for nearly a century.

### **Pick-Sloan Benefits**

We recognize the water development benefits promised to Upper Missouri Basin states to compensate for Missouri River bottom land flooded to provide downstream flood control as part of the Pick-Sloan Plan.

Any changes from the original authorization for these federal projects should not jeopardize this region's hydroelectric users. We oppose changing preference clause provisions or raising hydroelectric rates to pay the debt obligation of the dams presently assigned to irrigation. We urge the Congress to strongly resist any attempts to provide for repayment assistance to municipal and industrial water systems in hydropower rates contrary to the reclamation law. We oppose any attempt to alter the benefits to preference customers that would increase hydropower rates to subsidize an investment which is not the responsibility of hydroelectric consumers.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 4**

### **Environmental**

#### **Nature**

As a rural state and region, we are concerned about the interrelation of man and nature. Issues such as conservation, global climate change and carbon sequestration affect our land, and we believe that stewardship of our natural resources and concern for the environment are primary to all our members. We support continued study and greater scientific knowledge of the changes and issues that affect our environment here and in our nation and world.

#### **Clean Coal**

Electric cooperatives operating coal-based generating facilities in North Dakota have invested heavily in clean coal technology. We support their efforts and encourage even more research and funding for clean coal technology to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, mercury and nitrous oxide to ensure that the region's rural electric consumers can continue to benefit from the use of our state's plentiful lignite coal resources.

#### **Environmental Protection Agency**

The use of "sue-and-settle" lawsuits has become a loophole used by non-governmental organizations to advance their environmental agenda over the years. This tactic has resulted in major changes in laws, rules and policies under federal environmental acts, without providing for meaningful participation by the public, by state agencies whose primacy over environmental programs are being commandeered, and by stakeholders whose jobs and businesses are being impacted.

This tactic has been the genesis for a number of the changes in environmental laws, rules and policies that have negatively impacted the members of Slope Electric, including the efforts to override the state of North Dakota concerning regional haze, the limiting of Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funding for coal-fired power plants, the setting of CO<sub>2</sub> standards

for new coal-fired power plants that cannot be supported with current technology, the effort to reclassify coal ash as hazardous waste, and many other aspects associated with the Clean Air Act.

Slope Electric Cooperative supports legislation to close this loophole and allow meaningful participation by the public, states and stakeholders before such cases can be settled, and to require that policymaking be done through the legislative and rulemaking processes, along with Appropriate Congressional Oversight and procedures that are essential to sound public policy, democratic government and the rule of law.

### **North Dakota Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Proposal**

Slope Electric Cooperative opposes proposals to redesignate a portion of the Little Missouri National Grasslands or other lands across the state as National Wilderness Areas, or to designate portions of the Little Missouri River, the Pembina River or other rivers running through the state as wild and scenic rivers or otherwise unduly interfere with private property rights or the orderly development of coal and other energy reserves when adequate protections already exist to protect the beauty of these areas and rivers.

### **Clean Water Restoration Act**

We oppose removing the word “navigable” from the Clean Water Act’s definition of waters under federal jurisdiction.

Whereas immediate consequences would usurp the states’ power to regulate streams, ponds and other permanent “wetlands.” It would also create federal regulation over isolated waters, drainage ditches, ponds, prairie potholes, etc.

### **Accidental Wildlife Electrocution**

Recent interpretations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) have asserted that accidental electrocution of raptors and migratory bird species is a deliberate “taking” of wildlife by electric utilities. In addition, the MBTA is a “strict liability” law, which means that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) only has to show that the birds were killed by the activities of an individual or business.

Severe penalties have been assessed and proposed against utilities whose systems have experienced avian contacts with their facilities. USFWS is advocating that rural electric cooperatives enter into memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to eliminate migratory bird mortality due to electrocution on transmission/distribution lines and associated equipment.

Rural electric cooperatives support the goal of reducing avian electrocutions, and they have installed equipment on lines and created attractive perches away from dangerous locations to prevent avian deaths. It is impractical, however, to convert all aerial equipment to underground or to retrofit all existing equipment to eliminate all impact to avian species.

We urge balance in the federal government’s approach to establishing the MOUs for rural electric cooperatives. We urge Congress to act by changing two provisions of the MBTA by (1) modifying and tempering the language that treats in-flight electrocutions or contacts by avian species as an intentional “taking” of protected avian species, and (2) a re-evaluation of the “strict liability” standard for utilities that have implemented avian protection measures.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 5**

### **Support For Family Farmers**

North Dakota’s rural electric cooperatives have invested more than \$1 billion in electric distribution facilities, and another \$5 billion in generation and high-voltage transmission facilities, to provide dependable electric power to the state’s largest industry — agriculture. This investment was made by rural electric leaders based on a vision of a widely dispersed network of prosperous family farms that would in turn support rural communities.

In this time of relative uncertainty in agriculture, it is important to maintain a strong public partnership with the federal government to help family farm agriculture compete in a global economy. This can be achieved by maintaining a strong farm program that includes an adequate safety net for farmers, countercyclical payments in times of depressed market conditions, improved crop insurance, and a permanent disaster relief program of emergency assistance.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 6**

### **Global Climate Change**

Concern about global climate change has accelerated, leading to strong efforts to enact federal and state policies to reduce man-made emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide from burning coal. Because the electric industry in general and electric cooperatives in particular rely heavily on coal for base load electric generation, poorly designed policies would cause substantial harm to electric consumers without measurable benefits in stabilizing or reducing global warming. We must assess the costs of current proposed global climate change legislation that have the potential

to double wholesale coal-based electricity rates. To address climate change responsibly, we strongly endorse the following principles to guide climate change policy:

Emission reduction requirements must be directed to all sectors of the economy.

Emission reduction plans must be based on international understandings and agreements that ensure other nations, including both developed and developing nations, participate.

The emission reduction targets must be achievable and timed with the advancement and commercialization of technologies.

Emission reduction proposals, such as cap-and-trade plans, must include an economic safety valve,

to avoid excessive financial hardships, market manipulation or large price swings.

Fuel diversity should be encouraged to avoid reliance on a few sources of electricity, which will limit competition and create higher prices. This means nuclear energy and coal with carbon capture and storage, must be part of our nation's energy future, together with hydropower and other renewable energy, such as wind and solar power.

Early adopters should receive credit for efforts made in CO<sub>2</sub> captured and sequestered before climate change policy is enacted.

New laws and regulations should be prospective rather than retroactive in application.

## EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS IN 2020

The following employees retired from Slope Electric in 2020, after giving a collective 130 years of time and talents to our member-owners. We thank them for all they've done for you, our members, and wish them well as their journeys continue.



**Rod Benz**  
10 years of service



**Darlene Herberholz**  
11 years of service



**Daniela Howie**  
21 years of service



**Lynn Klein**  
35 years of service



**Lyle Kovar**  
29 years of service



**LaWanna Wilhelm**  
24 years of service



**Chris Backhaus**  
14 years of service

### Salute!

In October, Slope Electric said goodbye to Line Technician Chris Backhaus, who has worked out of New England headquarters since 2006. He and his wife had an opportunity to move their family closer to "home." Chris now works as a service technician for Montana-Dakota Utilities in Linton. Thank you, Chris, and best wishes!

## MORE CONVENIENCE, MORE SERVICE!

Visit Slope Electric Cooperative's website at [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop) and learn more about your cooperative and community! On Slope's website:

- Learn about payment options including SmartHub (see ad below!)
- Visit our safety corner to learn more about grain bins, generators, locating, wiring and much more!

- Learn about the Operation Round Up program, loan options, and youth opportunities including the scholarship program and Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.
- Read the electronic version of the *North Dakota Living* magazine and community pages.

If you haven't visited Slope Electric's website recently, log on and see what's new!

Home Your Account Your Community Your Cooperative Your Partners Your Energy Your Power in Membership Your Safety

# WE NEVER STOP.

Not everyone starts or ends their day at the same time, or in the same way. We are your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, and we will always be here to help you power every moment of it.

Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



## Stay connected with SmartHub

Paying your electric bill doesn't have to be complicated. With Slope Electric's SmartHub web and mobile app, viewing and paying your bill, monitoring electric usage, reporting service issues and receiving important updates is easy!



Smart  
PAYMENTS



Smart  
COMMUNICATION



Smart  
ENVIRONMENT



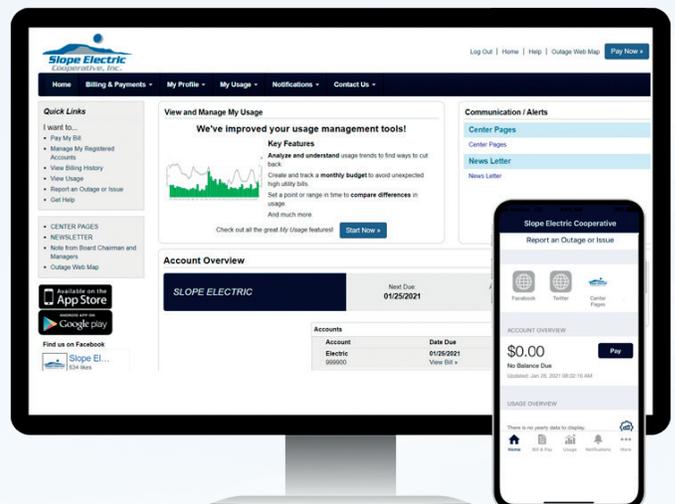
Smart  
USAGE

### What can SmartHub do for you?

SmartHub is Slope Electric's app that offers features to make managing your account easy using the web, smartphone or tablet. First, download the app in the app store, sign up at [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop) and log into SmartHub. Next, view your billing history and make a payment. You can see your current and previous bills, contact customer service, report a service issue and get the latest news.

The first time you make a payment, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a few clicks.

Once you have an account, you will be able to see important notices. Simply select how you want to be notified, including email and text messaging.



To learn more about SmartHub or to sign up for an account, visit [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop) or call us at 800-559-4191. We will walk you through it!

**SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.**