

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2021

Linemen Appreciation Day: April 12, 2021 NRECA Board Resolution (2015)

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first-responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."

What's inside:

- **Ensuring reliability as power supply tightens**
- **Annual Meeting save the date: June 2 in Dickinson**
- **Considering serving your cooperative as a director**
- **Trimming trees improves system reliability**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more**



PHOTO COURTESY BASIN ELECTRIC

Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Antelope Valley Station, located northwest of Beulah in Roughrider's service area, can provide up to 900 megawatts of baseload generation daily. One of Roughrider's power suppliers, Basin Electric has a diverse resource portfolio that provides affordable, reliable generation to meet our members' needs. Coal baseload generation makes up 44 percent of Basin Electric's resource portfolio, while natural gas provides about 20 percent, wind provides about 20 percent, and other sources like recovered energy, oil, diesel and jet fuel, as well as market purchases, make up the remainder of the resources. Basin Electric believes in an all-of-the-above energy strategy, as it requires using all the resources to fill in the gaps and provide reliable energy delivery.

A message from Roughrider Electric Cooperative ...

Ensuring reliability as power supply tightens

A complex network of electricity generators and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure that enough electricity is available on the coldest winter morning and during the dog days of summer.

What happens when the demand for power overwhelms the ability to provide it? That's a particularly vexing question, given the transition taking place in how electricity is produced and shared across this network.

The key to meeting the energy needs essential to your quality of life is balancing electricity supply with demand. There is a complex web of facilities and organizations that work together to make it happen each day.

Regional transmission organizations coordinate, control and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. Think of them as energy traffic managers on an interstate highway system, regulating the number of cars – in this case, electricity – and their destination.

Even so, on some days there is an imbalance in that system that leads to rolling power interruptions or blackouts – so-called “max-gen” events. In those

cases, supply simply can't keep up with demand. In the Midcontinent region comprised of 15 states, there were six max-gen events from 2006 to 2016. Since 2016, there have been 15, including three last July and August alone.

That's because power plants that generate electricity are being closed faster than new producers are coming online. In most cases, traditional large-scale power suppliers such as coal and nuclear plants are being closed and replaced by alternatives on a much smaller scale. This gap is closing more quickly despite the development of new natural gas-fueled power plants.

As more electric utilities pursue zero- or low-carbon initiatives by 2035 and beyond, this challenge will grow more complex. So, what's the answer?

Electric cooperatives and others in the energy sector will continue to develop renewable options and pursue new technologies. But absent new, large-scale alternatives and advances in energy storage, the stalwarts of today's energy fleet — coal and nuclear energy facilities — must continue to operate in many regions. In some, they remain the most cost-effective options for producing electricity. ■

Save the date

Roughrider Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting June 2, 2021 Dickinson

Be an active and involved co-op member. Vote to fill three positions on the board of directors. Learn cooperative updates and industry issues – and how they affect your electric service.

Look for more information in the Annual Report that will be mailed approximately the first part of May.

**EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE.
MAKE SURE YOURS IS HEARD.**



As an electric co-op member, you have a say in how the co-op is run and the decisions that are made. Learn more about your electric cooperative at www.roughriderelectric.com.

Vote by mail 2021 Annual Meeting

In 2009, Roughrider Electric Cooperative's board of directors decided to offer the members the option of voting by mail. Ballots and instructions will be mailed prior to the annual meeting. Under the bylaws, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. A qualified member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election by being nominated by the Nominating Committee or by a petition submitted not less than 60 days before the meeting.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to all members, along with the Annual Report that will be mailed out approximately the first week of May.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

The landscape of reliability

Trimming trees keeps power flowing safely

Trees seem harmless on a normal North Dakota day. Add the wind gusts that frequently blow and top it with a strong spring storm — and those towering pillars can threaten your home’s power supply.

“Trees are a nuisance. They cause blinks and outages, and all kinds of problems,” says Roughrider Electric Cooperative Operations Manager Jason Bentz.

Regular trimming of trees and brush along power lines helps cut down on the number of outages and blinks.

Electricity interruptions can occur when branches break and fall across power lines, or when trees tumble onto power lines. When strong winds blow, limbs growing too close to power lines may sway and touch the wires, causing “blinks” in power.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service, and our tree-trimming program is one way we fulfill that mission. When time allows, Roughrider’s linemen clear growth away from power lines to improve system reliability, and protect the public from downed lines that could still be energized and dangerous. During the busy construction season, Roughrider may hire contractor trimmers as needed.

If a tree is growing underneath or near a power line, it should be cut down completely, Bentz advises.

“We prefer to cut trees all the way down, because we don’t have time to keep coming back every four or five years to keep trimming a tree that’s under a power line,” he says.

On line patrol, crews look for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches, leaning trees or other dangers that could pull a power line down under certain conditions.

Follow this rule of thumb when planting trees:

- 0 to 20 feet on each side of a power line: no trees or shrubs whatsoever;
- 20 to 60 feet on each side of a power line: no trees or shrubs that exceed 18 feet in height when full grown;
- 60 feet or more from a power line: no restriction.

If trees in your area are growing into power lines, please call Roughrider Electric at 800-748-5533 or email safety@roughriderelectric.com.

Thank you, members! We appreciate you working with us to keep the public safe and improve the reliability of the power system. ■

When danger looms

Sprawling tree limbs look beautiful when covered with leaves, but what's hiding among those branches? If it's a power line, call Roughrider Electric or another professional to trim that tree before it causes a hazard or leaves you without power.

When a tree touches an overhead power line, danger looms. Children climbing that tree can get shocked or killed. When trees and brush come into contact with an energized power line, it can also cause a fire.

Remember ... when power lines are involved, leave the trimming to the professionals. ■

Learning from history

Courtesy of Basin Electric Power Cooperative

California's deadliest and most destructive fire in history was the result of a utility's failure to keep power lines clear of trees or vegetation. The 2018 Camp Fire ravaged Northern California, killing at least 85 people, destroying nearly 19,000 buildings, and charring an area the size of Chicago. Total damage is estimated at \$16.5 billion.

Closer to home – in Basin Electric's service area – South Dakota's 2017 Legion Lake fire started in the Black Hills when a 35-foot tree fell across a power line owned by a non-cooperative utility. The fast-spreading fire burned 84-square miles before its containment.

All of these incidents demonstrate the importance of keeping the area around power lines clear. ■

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org.

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

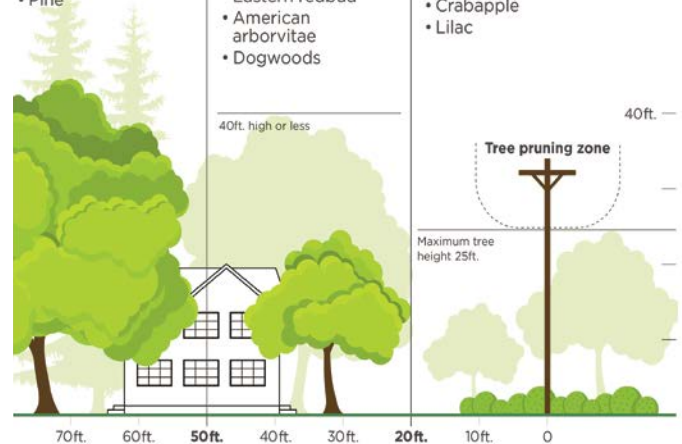
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!

Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **FEB. 19, 2021**

When, where and who: A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Roughrider) was held in Hazen Feb. 19.

Agenda: The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Jan. 29, 2021, meeting.

Consent Agenda: The Board reviewed, discussed and approved the Consent Agenda, including proposed membership applications, service connects and assignments, proposed cancellations of membership, and requests for retirement of capital credit accounts.

Co-General Managers' report: Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the Managers' report. Mr. Kupper provided the Board with an update on the Southwest Power Pool rolling blackouts that occurred throughout the Midwest.

Two weeks ago, KEM Electric Cooperative, Inc. and some of its neighboring cooperatives to the east experienced issues with frost on the lines that turned into ice and then resulted in

outages. Roughrider provided crews and supplies to help restore power to these members. KEM Electric lost approximately 20 poles, but the most substantial damage was to the lines themselves. KEM Electric sends its appreciation to Roughrider for sending crews to assist during this emergency.

Chief Financial Officer report: Mr. Craigmile provided the Board with a summary of his written report.

Legal report: Ms. Grosz provided the Board with an update on the status of projects addressed in her written report. Ms. Grosz reported on some easement issues.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. CT on March 26, 2021, at Roughrider's office in Hazen, North Dakota.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■



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5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2-3

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.

4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on the laws), consider moving your project location.



THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Today — and every day
— is Earth Day.

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST 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 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson..... 483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah..... 873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley..... 948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley..... 983-4222
William Retterath; Center..... 794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson..... 483-8207
Dan Price; Henster..... 794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center..... 548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England..... 290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund..... Co-GM/CEO
Travis Kupper..... Co-GM/CEO

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