

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2024

PICTURE YOUR REASON

A touchpoint between loved ones and on-the-job safety



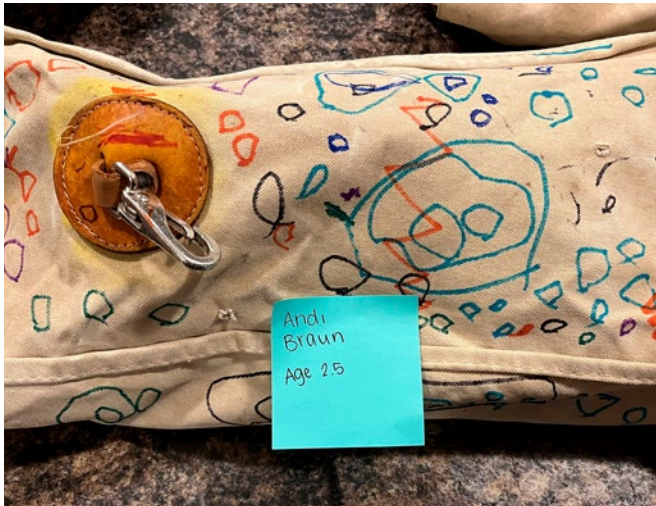
What's inside:

- Beginner's guide to the grid
- Safety Starts with ME
- Planning to upgrade?

PICTURE YOUR REASON

A touchpoint between loved ones and on-the-job safety

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS



A creative new safety initiative at Roughrider Electric Cooperative embodies the spirit and gratitude of family, while including important safety reminders. The project was designed to strengthen the sense of community, promote safety and create lasting memories for all employees.

“Picture Your Reason” invited Roughrider Electric employees to involve their loved ones in a meaningful way. Lineworkers were welcomed to take their glove/sleeve bags home and invite their family or friends to draw on their bags, with the goal of reminding lineworkers to always wear their protective gear. Office personnel were also encouraged to join the camaraderie by encouraging their loved ones to complete a poster.

“Safety is my number one priority for my staff. At the end of every day, I want everyone to be able to go home to their loved ones,” says Shawn Olson, chief of staff/line superintendent at Roughrider Electric.

The project showcased the strong bond between employees and their families, fostering a sense of community and sharing responsibility of safety.

“Every time I grab my rubber gloves and sleeves and I see the bags, it now makes me think of my family and how important it is to be wearing my personal protective equipment,” notes Tyler Phelps, general

foreman at Roughrider Electric.

Phelps's personalized canvas glove bags were embellished with the unique marks of his sons, Weston and Korbin, and his wife, Jordyn. Each day, as he reaches for his work equipment, Phelps sees the heartfelt reminder of the family eagerly waiting for him to come home each night.

As chief of staff, Olson assumes a pivotal role overseeing the entire staff of Roughrider Electric, whether they operate from an office setting or work in the field. With an unwavering commitment to safety, Olson ensures safety stands as the primary concern in every aspect of Roughrider Electric's operations. Olson's personalized glove bag designed by his wife, Beth, resides on his office wall as a daily reminder of his wife, kids and grandkids, who he goes home to after every shift.

A lineworker is in the field daily, working in high-intensity situations and is always reminded to take extra time to make sure a job is done right, and safely. Jordan Braun, a journeyman lineworker at Roughrider Electric, now has three additional safety reminders on his gear to remind him of the loved ones waiting for him.

“Safety is the most important aspect of my job,” Braun says. “Any little reminder, like seeing drawings from my kids before I do the most dangerous part of my job, is a good reminder to focus on what I'm doing and to be as safe as possible.”

Braun understands the importance of safety extends beyond the workplace, as reflected on his personalized glove and sleeve bags embellished with unique drawings from his three kids, Rori, Andi and Briggs, serving as a constant reminder of the profound responsibility he bears not only for himself, but for the well-being of his family.

Safety has been and will always be the number one priority for electric cooperatives, whether your office is in a building or the field. Roughrider Electric is excited to be an instrumental part of the new safety initiative, “Picture Your Reason,” and looks forward to the continuation of the program and helping employees work safely for their loved ones, co-workers, community and selves. ■

Safety Starts with ME: Stay away from downed power lines



North Dakota winds can be mighty and coupled with winter storms, they can damage Roughrider Electric Cooperative's infrastructure, including power lines. Slope Electric is continuously working through snow or shine to ensure safe, reliable electricity for our members, but sometimes environmental factors cause a bump in the road.

Roughrider Electric wants to remind members to stay clear of downed power lines.

"Downed power lines can look relatively harmless, but don't be fooled. They likely carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or possibly death," says Mitch Krebs, a journeyman lineworker at Roughrider Electric.

Krebs shares some safety tips to serve as reminders around downed power lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it. The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle with small steps, always keeping your feet together and on the ground.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even normally nonconductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and electrocute you.
- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- Do not drive over downed lines. If you are in a vehicle in contact with a downed line, stay in the vehicle. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle. If you must leave your vehicle, jump out with both feet together and avoid touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

Help us help you. For Roughrider Electric to ensure safe, reliable electricity, our team needs to be able to assess and plan power restoration without any added obstacles. We work to make sure electric infrastructure is secure to mitigate these incidents, but in the case of downed power lines remember these tips. ■



**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU.**

Your voice, your impact! Participate in our member satisfaction survey and play a vital role in shaping the future of our services. Scan the QR code below with your phone for more information and to complete the survey.



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Beginner's guide to the electric grid



Jason Bentz

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life. It powers our homes, farms, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer, charge our phones and binge watch our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system delivering your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as

the electric grid. We would like to take this opportunity to give our members a "beginner's guide" to the electric grid.

What makes it so complex?

We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings, when we're starting our day, and in the evenings, when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity, so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. To make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure spanning the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently, but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities, known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs), monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey begins at power plants

Power plants are like factories making electricity by using various energy sources, like coal, natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy. Across the United States, more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative receives power from our generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives, Upper Missouri Power Cooperative (Upper Missouri), Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). We work closely with Upper Missouri, Basin Electric and WAPA to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community.


To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system. High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

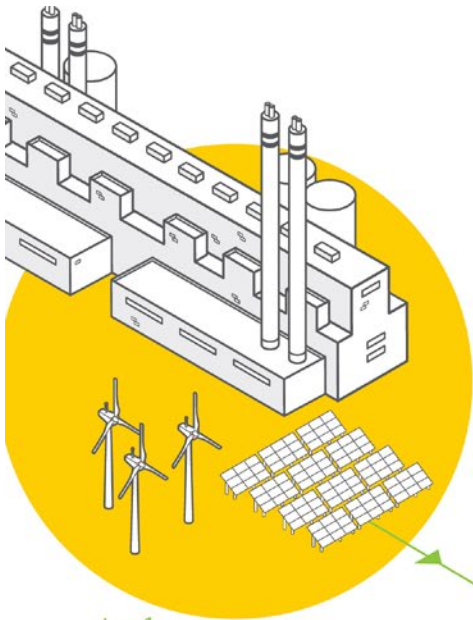
Substations are like pitstops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you to power everyday life.

We're proud to be your local, trusted electric service provider. From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine – and one of our nation's greatest achievements. ■





step 1
GENERATION

Power plants generate electricity using a variety of energy sources, like solar, natural gas, nuclear and wind energy.

CRITICAL CONNECTIONS: HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU

The electric grid is considered one of the most complex machines in the world, delivering the electricity we need for everyday life.

step 2
**STEP-UP
TRANSFORMER**

A step-up transformer increases the voltage to push the electricity over long distances.

step 3
TRANSMISSION LINES

High-voltage electricity travels over long distances through these lines.

step 5
DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION

These substations lower the voltage again so the electricity is ready to travel on distribution lines.

step 6
DISTRIBUTION LINES

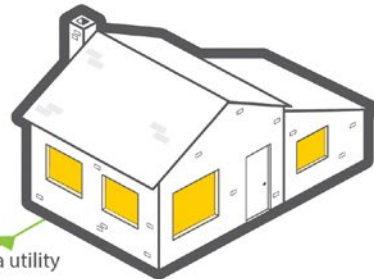
Lower-voltage electricity travels through distribution lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road.

step 4
**TRANSMISSION
SUBSTATION**

Voltage is lowered at a transmission substation so electricity can travel across the local distribution system.

step 7
FINAL STOP

A transformer located on the ground or a utility pole reduces the voltage a final time, then electricity is sent inside your home, school or business.



SAVE THE DATE

Roughrider Electric Annual Meeting June 5

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will hold its 2024 annual meeting June 5 in Hazen. More information about the event will be available in the coming months.



Roughrider Electric Nominating Committee

The Roughrider Electric board of directors appointed a Nominating Committee at its Dec. 15, 2023, board meeting. The Nominating Committee consists of Eugene Kinzel, Dickinson; Ivo Schoch, New England; Alan Kadrmas, Dickinson; Don Buck, Zap; David Twist, Manning; Robert Fitterer, Golden Valley; Randy Becker, Beulah; Ryan Wolf, Hazen; and Robert Schmidt, Hensler. The committee met for the first time Jan.

19 in Dickinson and the final meeting will be Feb. 23 at the Hazen office.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for a position, contact the Nominating Committee or the Roughrider Electric office. Nominations are due to the Nominating Committee prior to the Feb 23 meeting. ■

Nominating process

To comply with Rural Utilities Service requirements, we must provide each member with a summary of the bylaws on the nomination process prior to the nomination of candidates for board positions. Following is the bylaw section on nominations:

SECTION 4. Nominations.

a) A Nominating Committee shall be selected by the Board of Directors in time for its first meeting to be held before the annual meeting of members in 2009 and for each annual meeting of members thereafter. The Nominating Committee shall consist of an equal number of members from each of the Cooperative's districts and a minimum of two members from each district shall be selected. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on the Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors shall establish rules for the conduct of and arrange for the meeting of the Nominating Committee. The Secretary shall notify the members of the Nominating Committee in the manner provided by Article II, Section 4.3 delivered at least fifteen days before the date set for the Committee meeting. From and after 2009, the Nominating Committee shall meet at least sixty days before the annual meeting of members to nominate at least one qualified candidate for each directorship for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the Nominating Committee shall cause a list of nominees for Directors to be posted at the principle office of the Cooperative.

b) By petition, any fifteen or more members of the same district acting together may make other nominations for each directorship in that district for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members, provided that the petition is filed with the Secretary not less than ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting of members. The Secretary shall cause to be posted such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

c) The Secretary shall cause to be mailed, with the notice of the annual meeting of members, or separately but at least fifteen days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the Nominating Committee and also the nominations made by petition, if any.

d) Unless voting by mail or remote electronic means for directorships has been approved, the President, acting as Chairman of the meeting, shall invite additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until a reasonable time has passed during which no additional nominations have been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate at any single annual meeting of members. If extenuating circumstances exist, nominations from the floor may be accepted even though voting by mail or electronic means has occurred. ■



Planning to build or upgrade?

Whether you are looking to build a new structure or make changes to an existing structure, it is important to contact Roughrider Electric Cooperative in the early planning stages.

“Each year, we help our members with their construction upgrades and new builds,” says Shawn Olson, line superintendent at Roughrider Electric.

“Projects can range from pasture wells to grain storage, new outbuildings, houses and businesses,” Olson says. “For projects of all sizes, it is important to contact your local cooperative.”

By doing so, you will be able to confirm the viability of your project.

“Our engineering department can verify whether we can serve additional load in your area and the availability and cost of equipment and materials,” Olson says.

Information you will need to share with the cooperative includes the type of upgrade or new build, location, timeline and power requirements.

“If you are unsure of this information, work with an electrician that can contact us,” Olson adds.

Roughrider Electric wants to ensure your building project or upgrade goes as smoothly as possible, and that is why it is important to call in the early stages of planning.

Planning to build?

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- Location matters. If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

Upgrading an existing building?

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak. In warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect to reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2-degree temperature increase for every foot increase in ceiling height. ■

Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights: Nov. 17, 2023

The November meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on Nov. 17, 2023, at Roughrider Electric's Dickinson office. President Greg Steckler called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Roughrider Electric's General Counsel Jennifer Grosz was designated as the meeting recorder. A board quorum was met. Also present were Co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar, Chief of Staff/ Line Superintendent Shawn Olson, Director of Key Accounts Leonard Hibl and Board Liaison Connie Hill. The meeting commenced with the board reviewing Roughrider Electric's mission statement.

Consent agenda: There were no proposed amendments to the consent agenda. The board reviewed, discussed and approved the consent agenda, including proposed membership applications, service connects and assignments and proposed retirement of capital credit accounts.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates from the Western Area Power Administration, Rural Utilities Service, Converge Strategies funding, a North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives storm debriefing

meeting and a standing committee meeting. Bentz and Kupper also reviewed updates from the Basin Electric Power Cooperative CEO, 3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services with the board.

Action items: Craigmile reviewed the proposed 2024 budget with the board. The budget was approved as presented. The board appointed voting delegates for the Innovative Energy Alliance annual meeting and directors for expiring terms in the Innovative Energy Alliance/Maintenance Solutions Cooperative boards.

Discussion/general information: Kyle Smith presented donation opportunities for the Dickinson State University Heritage Foundation.

Administration/upcoming meetings: Upcoming meetings and events were shared.

Department reports: Olson provided a report, which included project updates. Hibl presented a report, which included an update on accounts. Dunbar reported on updates to the co-op's servers. Grosz provided a report on projects for the co-op.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting date was set for Dec. 15, 2023, at Roughrider Electric's office in Hazen. ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

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

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

DICKINSON OFFICE

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

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

MANAGEMENT

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



Become a fan of Roughrider Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!

facebook.com/RoughriderElectric

