

# South Dakota Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



## Cooperative Connections

NOVEMBER 2015 VOL. 67 NO. 11

A large, weathered bronze statue of a soldier in profile, facing right, is the central focus. In the background, an American flag and a South Dakota state flag fly on tall poles against a clear blue sky. A white fence and some outdoor furniture are visible in the lower right.

**SALUTING  
OUR VETERANS**

Pg-8

# THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID ABOUT STAYING IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD.

## HOUSE

1936.....\$3,925

2013.....\$313,700

INCREASE.....80X

## ELECTRICITY

1936..... 5¢

2013..... 11¢

INCREASE.....2X

BASED ON AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR

WELCOME

Over the past 75 years, the price of a home has increased dramatically. But we've helped to ensure that the price of electricity has barely moved. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



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# South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

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Cam Wal Electric, Selby, S.D.  
Central Electric, Mitchell, S.D.  
Charles Mix Electric, Lake Andes, S.D.  
Cherry-Todd Electric, Mission, S.D.  
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## Editorial

# There Is A Cooperative Difference



**Ed Anderson**  
General Manager, South Dakota  
Rural Electric Association

**In the U.S.,** the vast majority of people receive their electricity from one of three types of utilities; investor-owned, municipal-owned or through their electric cooperative, which is owned and controlled by the people who use it. Let's take a closer look at these three types of ownership models and see why it matters to you.

In the investor-owned model, the corporation is owned by a great number of stockholders who may or may not be real customers of the utility. Investor-owned utilities tend to be very large corporations such as Northwestern Energy, MDU, Black Hills Corporation or Excel. They serve large cities, suburban areas and some rural areas, too.

In most cases, investor-owned utilities (IOUs) have few employees in the communities where they operate. This, combined with the fact that they have outside investors whose sole motive is to make a profit on their investment, generally tends to lead to less personalized service. Consumer surveys confirm that IOUs have the lowest customer satisfaction ratings. About 72 percent of the U.S. population is served by investor-owned utilities.

Municipal electric systems, as the name implies, are government owned. They can serve large cities, like Los Angeles, Austin or Orlando, or smaller areas, like Faith, S.D., or Brookings, S.D. In municipal systems, the city runs the utility with little to no meaningful oversight from the citizens. About 16 percent of the market is served by municipal utilities.

Rural electric cooperatives serve the smallest number of consumers, about 12 percent of the market, which equals 42 million people. There are more than 800 electric co-ops in 45 states in addition to those in South Dakota and western Minnesota. While co-ops serve the fewest number of people, our electric lines cover more than 75 percent of the U.S. landmass. This is because we provide power where others once refused to go because of the low population density. Electric co-ops rank highest in member satisfaction among the three types of utilities. We believe this is because we serve member-owners, not customers.

As the electric utility business continues to evolve, we are committed to being there for you, our member, to provide for your electric energy needs. Unlike large investor-owned utilities, we are rooted right here in South Dakota and western Minnesota. Over the years, we have answered the call to provide additional benefits and services because it is extremely important to us that our community thrives and prospers.

There is a cooperative difference. You own us, and we are here to serve you!

*Portions of this column were written by Adam Schwartz. Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop*

# Generator Safety

**Before use,** learn about the potential dangers associated with portable generators, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless poisonous gas that is called the “silent killer” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms. Follow these tips to generate power AND safety when using a generator

## By The Numbers:

- African Americans accounted for 23 percent of fatalities, which is nearly double their proportion of the U.S. population.
- Storms account for many of the fatalities associated with generator use, with ice/snow storms accounting for 46 percent. Hurricanes accounted for 29 percent.
- 67 percent for the fatalities occurred when a generator was placed in the living area or basement of the home.
- 26 percent of fatalities occurred when a generator was used inside an attached garage or shed.
- Between 1992 and 2012, nearly 80 percent of the 931 CO deaths were associated with generators.
- 50 percent of generator-related deaths occurred during November- February.
- 30 percent occurred during March-April and September-October.

## Tips for the Proper Installation and Use of Generators:

- Never operate a generator inside your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including garages.
- A generator is a temporary power source and should never be used as a permanent solution
- Never connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a transfer switch. This prevents backfeeding, which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.
- Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Use only extension cords that have a three-pronged plug and are rated for the intended load.
- Your home generator should be installed by a qualified electrician and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.
- Install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.

- Do not overload the generator.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home

Source: [esfi.org](http://esfi.org)



# Federal Courts Issue Stays on WOTUS

**The District Court of North Dakota** issued a preliminary injunction in the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) case on Aug. 27 and, in a separate case on Oct. 9, the Sixth District Court of Appeals widened the stay nationwide. South Dakota joined 12 other states on Aug. 11, 2015, in the North Dakota case challenging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The states sought postponement of the impending implementation of the WOTUS Rule while the courts could fully address the states' concerns. On June 29, 13 states filed in federal district court in North Dakota asking the court to vacate the new rule and bar the EPA and the USACE from enforcing the new definition. Several other states have filed in their respective regions. The states contended the new definition of WOTUS violated provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the United States Constitution. Then on July 30, 31 states requested that the EPA and USACE delay the effective date of the new rule defining “Waters of the United States” under the CWA. The rule was set to go into effect on Aug. 28, 2015. The states asked for least nine months in order to give the courts time to review the legal challenges to the rule.

## Kids' Corner Safety Poster

**“Don't leave bare wires laying around.”**



**Hannah Leona Bartscher, 10 years old**

*Hannah was 10 years old when she submitted this safety poster. She is the daughter of Jon and Tanya Bartscher, Mitchell, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell, S.D.*

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

# Crock Creations



## No Peek Beef Tips

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 2 lbs. beef tenderloin tips or stew meat | 1 pkg. brown gravy mix    |
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup             | 1 cup water or ginger ale |
| 1 pkg. dry onion soup mix                | 1 (4 oz.) can mushrooms   |

Place cubed beef into crockpot or 9x13-inch pan. In large bowl, combine soups, gravy mix and water or ginger ale; pour over beef. Add mushrooms; stir to coat. Cook on low in crock-pot for 4 hours or high for 2 hours. If cooking in oven, cover tightly with foil and bake at 300°F. for 3 hours. Serve over rice, mashed potatoes or noodles.

**Mary Jessen, Holabird**

## Cranberry Sweet Potatoes

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 4 T. orange juice      | 1/4 tsp. salt  |
| 2 T. butter            | 2 lbs. sweet potatoes, washed, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces |
| 2 T. vegetable oil     |  |
| 2 T. brown sugar       | 1/2 cup dried cranberries  |
| 1 tsp. ground cinnamon |  |

In a crock-pot, mix together first 6 ingredients. Cover and cook on high while preparing potatoes. Stir potatoes into warm mixture. Cover and cook on high for 3 to 4 hours. Add cranberries during the last hour of cooking.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson**

## Crock-Pot Apple Butter

- |                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Apples, peeled, cored and sliced  | 1/4 tsp. nutmeg              |
| 2 to 3 cups sugar, can substitute | 1/4 tsp. allspice            |
| 1 cup honey for sugar             | 1/4 tsp. salt                |
| 2 tsp. cinnamon                   | 3/4 cup water or apple cider |
| 1/4 tsp. cloves                   |                              |

Fill crock-pot 3/4 full of apples. Add remaining ingredients; stir. Cover and cook on high for 1 hour, stir. Reduce heat to low. Keep covered and cook for 8 hours or overnight – until butter is thick and dark brown. If it is runny, remove lid and cook until thickened. Place in sterile jars or containers. Store in refrigerator up to 6 weeks. Freeze for longer storage.

**Mary Ellen Luikens, Tea**

## Baked Beans

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 lb. maple sausage          | 1 can apple pie filling         |
| 4 slices bacon               | 1/2 cup Old West barbecue sauce |
| 1/2 green pepper, diced      | 1 T. prime rib seasoning        |
| 1 onion, diced               | 1 T. Worcestershire sauce       |
| 1/2 cup brown sugar          | 1 T. yellow mustard             |
| 2 cans Bush's original beans |                                 |

Brown and drain sausage. Fry bacon and cut into small pieces. Saute green pepper and onion in bacon grease; drain. Combine all ingredients in crock-pot. Cook on low for 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

**Donna Glanzer, Carpenter**

## Slow Cooker Fresh Veggie Lasagna

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1-1/2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded | 1 cup low-sodium marinara sauce, plus additional for serving |
| 1/2 cup part-skim ricotta cheese       | 1 medium zucchini, diced                                     |
| 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated        | 4 no-boil lasagna noodles                                    |
| 1 egg, lightly beaten                  | 1 bag baby spinach   |
| 1 tsp. dried oregano                   | 1 cup thinly sliced mushrooms                                |
| 1/4 tsp. garlic powder                 | Fresh basil leaves, optional                                 |

Spray crockery pot of slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray; set aside. In a small bowl, mix together mozzarella, ricotta, Parmesan, egg, oregano and garlic powder. Spread 2 T. of pasta sauce in bottom of pot. Sprinkle 1/2 of zucchini over sauce and top with 1/3 of the cheese mixture. Break 2 noodles into pieces to cover cheese. Spread 2 T. of sauce and then layer 1/2 of the spinach and 1/2 of the mushrooms. Repeat layering, ending with cheese and the remaining sauce. Firmly press ingredients into pot. Cover and cook over low heat for 4 to 5 hours. Allow lasagna to rest 20 minutes before cutting into wedges to serve. Spoon a little extra sauce over each serving and top with a basil leaf, if desired. Makes 6 servings.

*Nutrition information per serving: 240 calories; 10g total fat; 6g saturated fat; 60mg cholesterol; 380mg sodium; 21g carbohydrates; 3g dietary fiber; 16g protein*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Crock-Pot Harvest Soup

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained | 6 beef bouillon cubes       |
| 1 (29 oz.) can Veg-All vegetables      | 1 (28 oz.) can green beans  |
| 1 (28 oz.) can diced tomatoes          | 1 (15 oz.) can corn         |
| 1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce            | 1 (7 oz.) can green chilies |
| 1 to 2 T. chopped jalapenos            | 1 to 2 tsp. chili powder    |

Place ground beef in crock-pot; add remaining ingredients. Do not drain any vegetables. Cook on low for 2 to 3 hours.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City**

## Crock-Pot Cabbage Roll Casserole

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1-1/2 lbs. lean ground beef or pork, or a mixture of both | Salt and pepper to taste                        |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced                                   | 1 tsp. paprika                                  |
| 1 onion, diced  | 1 tsp. thyme                                    |
| 1 (15 oz.) tomato sauce, divided                          | 3/4 cup long grain white rice, uncooked         |
| 1-1/3 cups water, divided                                 | 1 head cabbage                                  |
| 1 can tomato soup, divided                                | 1-1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, optional |
| 1 (28 oz.) can diced tomatoes                             |   |

Brown meat, onion, garlic and seasonings until no longer pink; drain. Over medium heat, add 1 cup tomato sauce, 1 cup water, 1/2 can tomato soup and tomatoes to meat mixture; mix well. Stir in rice. Chop cabbage into 4 wedges; remove core. Chop into chunks. Layer 1/2 meat mixture and 1/2 cabbage in crock-pot. Repeat layers topping with meat mixture or cabbage. Combine remaining sauce, water and soup. Pour over all. Cook on low 4 to 6 hours or until rice is cooked. Once done, turn off cooker, sprinkle with cheese and let set 10 minutes.

**Sandy Egly, Blunt**

*Please send your favorite holiday, soup and bread/ breakfast recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).*

*Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.*



# Improve Air Quality Efficiently



**Jim Dulley**

[www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)

**Dear Jim:** We don't use the AC much during the summer because we prefer fresh air. During the winter, though, we have to close up and run the heat pump. What are some efficient methods to improve our indoor air quality now? – Mike N.

**Dear Mike:** If your family is used to having fresh air in the house, winter months can be a challenge. People often think the filter on their heat pump will take care of indoor air quality. It does help remove particles from the air, but only the ones that stay suspended. Central heating systems with efficient variable-speed blowers, which run slower and longer, will improve air quality.

Particles in the air are only one aspect of good air quality. The humidity level and other odorous and unhealthy chemicals also play a role. Just open the cabinet under your sink where you store cleaners, and you will realize the “soup” of stuff you breathe.

Even though not all particles make it to the heat pump filter, you could try installing a high-quality pleated media filter. It will cost more than the 99 cent fiberglass one, but it is much more effective. This is particularly true for the smallest of particles.

Room-size electronic air cleaners are effective for removing those tiny particles that pop up when you plop down in a chair. They don't use much electricity and are quiet, so using one in a bedroom at night can help improve air quality.

Although it sounds counterintuitive, vacuum cleaning often creates much smaller particle concentrations. If it smells like you just vacuumed when you are done, it's likely the fine particles are leaking out of the vacuum cleaner. Think about installing a central vacuum, which vents outdoors, or buying a new portable vacuum with a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) exhaust filter.

Keep the indoor air properly humidified so you can set your heat pump thermostat lower by a few degrees and still be comfortable. A heat pump-mounted central humidifier works well during cold weather, but it may not run long enough to adequately humidify the air

during milder weather. Using several room humidifiers is effective, and the ultrasonic and evaporative types are energy efficient.

Keep in mind, there is not one ideal humidity level for every home. Typically, 30 percent to 50 percent relative humidity provides comfort and healthy indoor air. To avoid window condensation in cold climates, it will likely have to be set lower as the outdoor temperature drops.

During winter, the best way to reduce indoor chemical pollutants in the air is simply to use less of them. Try using natural cleaners that are vinegar- and citrus-based, and reduce the use of aerosols. Many recipes for natural indoor cleaners are available online.

Bringing fresh air into the house is necessary and not always inefficient. Since the heat content of the air itself is not high, opening several windows on a windy day can exhaust much of the stale, chemical-laden air. It only takes a couple of minutes to freshen the air.

## Bringing fresh air into the house is necessary and not always inefficient.

Another option is to have your HVAC contractor install a damper in the return duct. The damper is ducted through a filter and leads to the outside of your home. When running the bathroom fan or range hood, the negative pressure created will draw fresh air indoors. When there is no negative pressure, the damper stays closed.

The most efficient method to bring in filtered fresh air is a heat recovery ventilation system. The outgoing stale air transfers most of its heat (up to 80 percent) to the incoming cold fresh air, and vice versa during summer. Most models have their own duct system. Window models, similar to a window air conditioner, are effective for a single room, and they can be controlled by a timer or a humidity sensor.

If you have easy access to your attic, push away the attic floor insulation over the return air duct passages. Interior wall stud cavities are usually used for return air. If the attic floor sheathing is not sealed well over them, dirt from the attic can be sucked into the return ducts and energy will be wasted. Remember to seal any gaps with caulking and replace the insulation.

Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, *Cooperative Connections*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com).

## 2016 Resource Conservation Speech Contest

**More than \$2,000** will be awarded to the South Dakota high school students named the winners of the 2016 Resource Conservation Speech Contest.

South Dakota students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete for \$2,300 in higher education scholarships which are provided by the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and South Dakota Rural Electric Association. The theme for the 2016 contest is "Why Manage Water for Conservation?"

Contest entries are due at the student's local conservation district on or before March 26, 2016. Local winners advance to the seven area contests. Top area speakers compete at the state finals in Pierre on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Scholarships are awarded to the top three finalists: first place is \$1,100; second place is \$750; and third place is \$450.

The contest is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA), in cooperation with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Dakota, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

An entry form and complete list of rules can be found online at: <http://sdda.sd.gov/legacydocs/Forestry/educational-information/PDF/2016Speech-BrochureTouchstone.pdf>.

For more information on the Resource Conservation Speech Contest, contact your local conservation district or call Cec Johnson, Natural Resource Specialist for SDDA, at 605.773.3623.

Agriculture is South Dakota's No. 1 industry, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Dry Fork Station Named Location for Integrated Test Center

**Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead** announced in October that the Integrated Test Center (ITC) will be built at Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Dry Fork Station near Gillette, Wyo. The ITC will provide space for researchers to develop commercially viable uses for carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. A construction date has not been set.

"We are making an investment in the future of coal. The research at the ITC will lead to new opportunities in petrochemicals and other commercial uses for carbon dioxide," said Gov. Mead. "We lead the nation in coal production. This facility allows us to provide the same leadership in research and to do all we can to make sure the coal industry can continue to serve Wyoming and the country for many years to come."

In 2014, the Wyoming Legislature approved Gov. Mead's request for \$15 million in state funds to build and operate the ITC provided \$5 million in private matching funds were secured. Those funds have been pledged by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. In addition, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has pledged \$1 million.

"I want to thank our partners at Tri-State Generation, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Basin Electric for their generous support. I also want to thank Rocky Mountain Power and Black Hills Power for their efforts to make this day a reality," continued Governor Mead. "I'm thrilled to announce as well that XPRIZE Foundation will be the first tenants in the ITC. Their recent announcement of the \$20 million NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE is intended to foster a global competition and innovation in carbon technology."

Representatives from Basin Electric, the University of Wyoming School of

Energy Resources and the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority joined the governor in making the announcement.

"We're excited to be part of this project," said Paul Sukut, Basin Electric CEO and general manager. "When we built Dry Fork Station, we built it with the hope and intention of one day having the opportunity to test and potentially help advance coal technologies. That day has arrived, and the foresight our members and staff had in building a coal facility that could be used in this capacity further exemplifies their dedication to innovation and the continued use of coal, a vital part of our nation's energy



infrastructure, well into the future."

"The construction of the ITC demonstrates to the world Wyoming's commitment to coal and the state's leadership in being a part of the technology solution," said Mike Easley, Chairman of the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority. "Virtually every projection shows coal use growing globally and the ITC aims to prove that technology can improve coal's environmental footprint. We have a real opportunity to take the CO2 from coal emissions and transform them from a liability into valuable products."

# A Hill of Honor

## *Family Builds Veterans Memorial East of Eden*

By  
Brenda Kleinjan

**Below:** Framed by a white fence, the Janisch Veteran's Memorial between Eden and Sisseton, S.D., emerged from a hillside over the summer.

A SIMPLE FLAG POLE TO HONOR A VETERAN FATHER has become a veterans memorial along a highway in northeastern South Dakota.

The Janisch Family Veteran's Memorial has emerged from a gently sloping hillside which was once pasture. One can see Buffalo Lake across the highway in a setting surrounded by sloughs and cornfields.

The memorial started in the spring of 2015 when Jim Janisch erected a flag pole to honor his dad, Francis, who was an army paratrooper during the Korean Era.

Once the pole was up, a decision was made.

"The cows had to go," Janisch said of the bovines that once grazed where the memorial now stands. Once the flag pole was in place, Janisch then pondered what else should be added. He researched his options and the memorial began taking shape.

"Not one thing was ever put on a piece of paper," said Janisch.

Round paver stones were painted and stenciled by relatives in Sisseton. The stones spell out the branches of the U.S. armed forces and also the

letters "POW" and "MIA" to honor the nation's prisoners of war and those listed as missing in action. Two angels stand over the POW/MIA area and a smaller soldier statue on bended knee is down the hill a bit.

The memorial evolved from the original illuminated flag pole and a white cross adorned with solar lights. A white fence forming the memorial's backdrop was installed shortly after Memorial Day. Standing as sentinels along the fence are six soldier statues purchased in Alexandria, Minn. A large American eagle looks over the memorial from its perch atop a large rock on the memorial's west side.

By Father's Day, the memorial was officially open to the public. And, by Labor Day, more than 1,000 people had stopped at the little roadside oasis on a county highway between Sisseton and Eden on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation in northeastern South Dakota.

As people stop at the memorial, they share their stories. Among the first to stop while Janisch was in the early stages of creating the memorial was a local Korean War veteran, Roy Cleveland, who lives just







a few miles southeast of the memorial.

Cleveland would come and watch Janisch work. He even accompanied him on trips to pick up statues that help comprise the memorial. Through time spent at the memorial, Cleveland would share memories of a younger brother, James, who was killed in the Vietnam War. (In all 10 men from Roberts County, five from Marshall County and two from Day County were killed during that war.)

Also sharing stories have been members of the Block family who once farmed the land where memorial stands. Six of the eight boys in the family went on to serve in the military in World War II or the Korean era and the husbands of all three girls are veterans. The brother-in-law of one of the daughters was killed in the Vietnam War. Janisch has placed memorial markers next to two of the sentinels for both the Block family relative and the younger Cleveland.

For Janisch it has been a labor of love. "The two weeks spent constructing it is nothing compared to the years – some of them 10 years – these veterans gave to our country.

Janisch knows from experience that the hill fills with snow each winter, so he has plans to lay down the fence and protect other pieces of the memorial, but come spring, the tribute to veterans will once again stand proud overlooking Buffalo Lake.



## Korean War Vets Sought

**Korean War veterans** who served in the Korean Theatre of War from June 25, 1950, through Oct. 25, 1954, may be eligible for the Ambassador Peace Medal.

The Ambassador Peace Medal is for the Korean War Veterans who sacrificed for Korea's democracy and freedom and is aimed at expressing the Korean Government's gratitude and respect to them.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is taking the lead in informing veterans of this medal and is planning on recognizing the recipients in January of 2016.

"Recognizing these heroes one era at a time provides us an opportunity to thank and honor the sacrifices they made," said Larry Zimmerman, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Every veteran has a story to tell and along with that military service comes a variety of medals and awards."

Veterans that served during this time frame are encouraged to contact their local County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer for an application. Veterans will need a copy of their DD214 form as well.

The names of all South Dakota Korean War vets are being sought by an Oct. 29 deadline for a public recognition in January 2016.

Contact the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs at 877-579-0015.



# A Legacy of Leadership and Service

**I**N THE 65 YEARS SINCE A GROUP OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES IN eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota formed East River Electric Power Cooperative, the organization has created a legacy of leadership and service as it worked to fulfill the mission of enhancing the value of its members. East River Electric held its 65th annual meeting Sept. 9, 2015, at the Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls to celebrate the history of electric cooperatives and discuss the future of an ever-evolving industry. The theme of this year's annual meeting was 'Cooperatives: A Legacy of Leadership and Service.' The meeting focused on how electric cooperatives built a strong foundation over the past 65 years and how they continue to build upon past successes by focusing on leadership and service to their member-owners.

"The pioneering spirit of East River's founding members propelled the organization into the future by creating a culture of cooperation to accomplish great things," said Tom Boyko, East River Electric's general manager. "Today, with the leadership and dedication of East River's board of directors and the hard work of its employees, East River continues to build upon its legacy of leadership and service."

The annual meeting included a report on the past year's successes and leaders discussed the challenges electric cooperatives face in keeping electricity costs affordable.

"The electric power industry is going through a rapid transformation and because of our strong history, East River is positioned to respond to changing energy resources and the ever-changing political and regulatory environment," said Jim Ryken, East River's board president. "By adapting to change, taking advantage of opportunity and striving for improvement and efficiency, East River will continue to add value to its member systems."

An issue that concerns electric cooperative leaders is the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently released final

rule regulating existing power plants. The EPA's Clean Power Plan seeks to regulate carbon dioxide emissions at levels that are likely unattainable and will lead to higher electricity bills for consumers across the country.

Commissioner Tony Clark, who sits on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), was the keynote speaker during the East River Electric annual meeting. He discussed the commission's role in maintaining reliability of the country's electric grid as well as the negative impact of the EPA's Clean Power Plan on the electric industry.

Other speakers at the annual meeting included Basin Electric Power Cooperative General Manager and CEO Paul Sukut and the Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) vice president of operations Bruce Rew. An afternoon panel discussion focused on East River's new membership in the Southwest Power Pool as a transmission owner. East River will integrate a portion of its electric transmission assets into SPP, a regional transmission organization, on Oct. 1, 2015.

East River Electric also honored three individuals with the cooperative's Eminent Service Award. They include Sen. Tim Johnson of South Dakota, former Basin Electric general counsel Claire Olson and former Mitchell Technical Institute president Greg Von Wald.

A business meeting and director election was held and the co-op's policy statements were also adopted during the meeting.

*East River Electric Power Cooperative is a wholesale electric power supply cooperative serving 24 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally-owned electric system, which in turn serve more than 113,000 homes and businesses. The company's 42,000 square mile service area covers the rural areas of 41 counties in eastern South Dakota and 22 counties in western Minnesota. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**Below:** East River Electric General Manager Tom Boyko, left, and East River Electric Board President Jim Ryken, present their report.





# ‘The Next Greatest Thing’ Still a Great Co-op Idea

**NRECA President Mel Coleman** said the tradition of innovation that has nurtured the electric cooperative movement’s past also is the key to its future, as long as it is not stymied by ill-considered government red tape.

“Our problems are not going to be solved by some heavy-handed, top-down edict. The solutions are going to come from small groups of motivated people working together to try new ideas,” Coleman said Sept. 16 at the Regions 5 and 6 meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.

Those new ideas include co-op leadership in demand response programs and grid modernization. Three of the top four solar utilities in the U.S. are electric co-ops, while co-op community solar projects have gained attention from the White House, he said.

“We didn’t adapt these technologies because Washington told us to,” Coleman said. “We did it because we figured out what was right for our communities and we developed solutions that best served our members.”

About 750 co-op managers, directors and staffers from six states registered for the meeting, the second of five this fall that will help to define the course for the association in the coming year. The regionals are an important step in the member resolutions process and also provide co-op leaders with briefings on key issues they can take back to their localities.

The theme of the 2015 regionals is “The Next Greatest Thing,” a memorable line uttered by an

early co-op member referring to the dawn of rural electrification that later became a title of a book on co-op history.

“It’s a nod to our past, but it’s also a rallying cry for the future.

It acknowledges the great work we’ve done, but recognizes that we

have a lot of work left to do,” Coleman said at the Hilton Minneapolis Hotel.

The cooperative business model is uniquely tailored to accommodate imaginative thinking and rapidly changing technology, he said.

“Our secret sauce, if you will, is our ability to innovate and experiment in new ways that benefit our members and meet the needs of the communities we serve,” Coleman said. “Never in the history of our movement has this autonomy and independence been more important than it is today.”

**Above:** Voting delegates weigh in on resolutions during the Region VI business meeting. **Below:** Directors David Lindblom of Black Hills Electric, right, and Garry Dearborn of Dakota Energy in Huron, second from right, served on the region’s resolutions committee.



By  
**Steven Johnson**  
*ECT Staff Writer*





# Are You Generating Safely?

By  
Brenda Kleinjan

**Back-up generators can be valuable assets during a storm, if they're installed properly.**

**W**HEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT DUE TO A STORM, ONE of the first things that comes to mind is the need for a backup generator. But the time for getting a generator and planning for its safe operation is before it is needed.

"We get so many phone calls during a storm so they can run a generator," said Chad Felderman, manager of member services at Dakota Energy Cooperative in Huron, S.D. "The better time to think about it is before hand, to be proactive and get the system set up so they're ready for when they need it."

A big concern for cooperatives and other utilities are improperly installed generators.

"A lot of ag producers say they use their welder outlet as a connection point for the generator," said

Felderman.

"They (the producers) say they flip the switch at the meter. But if they don't flip it, they are back-feeding the system. It's not only unsafe and its illegal in that it's against the wiring code," said Felderman.





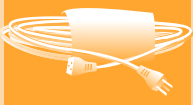




Back-feeding the system is when secondary voltage – electricity produced by the emergency generator – is sent back onto the utility lines. The generator could re-energize downed lines causing dangerous situations for line workers and the public alike.

"That person sticking the generator into their receptacle is putting lot of people at risk," said Felderman.

To avoid the back-feeding, and to follow current



## TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS

	<b>NEVER</b> operate a generator <b>INSIDE</b> your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including <b>GARAGES</b> .		Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter ( <b>GFCI</b> ).		Install battery-operated <b>CO ALARMS</b> or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.
	A generator is a <b>TEMPORARY</b> power source and should <b>NEVER</b> be used as a permanent solution.		Use only extension cords that have a <b>THREE-PRONGED</b> plug and are rated for the intended load.		Do <b>NOT</b> <b>OVERLOAD</b> the generator.
	<b>NEVER</b> connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a <b>TRANSFER SWITCH</b> . This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.		Your home generator should be installed by a <b>QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN</b> and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.		The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least <b>20 FEET</b> from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.

**ESFi** For more information about portable generators and carbon monoxide safety visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

electrical code, a licensed electrician should install a double-pull, double-throw switches in the meter loops.

"Some of the old farmsteads haven't touched their farm wiring in 30 years," said Felderman. "They're just trying to get power back on, not fully understanding the dangerous situations they're causing. Once its explained to them, they're usually willing to spend the money to get their system changed over correctly."

Larger, whole house or whole farm generators often come with their own automatic throw switches.

"We sell the standby Kohler generators which comes with its own automatic switch," said Felderman. "It automatically flips so there's no way it can back-feed."

The generators like those carried by Dakota Energy typically range in size from 5,500 watts to 80,000 watts. At least one other cooperative, Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., carries the same generator line. Other cooperatives have carried tractor-powered generators as well.

Personnel at cooperatives across the state can be a good resource for information for those looking at adding a generator to their home or farm operation.

But, once a generator is installed and wired properly, the work isn't over.

"They say to run them once a month," said Felderman. "The generators we install cycle every two weeks. It helps to ensure the equipment is operating correctly for when you do need it. It's cheap insurance that you hope to never have to use," said Felderman.

In addition to having the generator operate briefly at least once a month, other considerations should be made.

"Don't overload it. It has a nameplate for a reason," said Felderman.

Overloading the generator could affect the quality of electricity, causing fluctuations that could damage appliances and devices hooked up to it.

"Be careful hooking up smart appliances to the smaller generators. It can cause the more sensitive electronics to burn out," said Felderman.

And if operating a portable generator, follow operating instructions.

"Operate the portable generators in a well-ventilated area, NOT in your garage," said Felderman.

Felderman's bottom-line advice for those looking to install a generator?

"Don't do it yourself. Contact a licensed electrician or your utility; it's going to be cheaper in the long run."

# Time for a Tune-up

**H**ERE ARE SOME SMART ENERGY TIPS TO HELP increase your comfort while managing your electric bill:

- Although this may sound like a broken record, I cannot express enough the importance of a periodic heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system tune-up. Manufacturers' suggested timeframes might vary, but it's probably time if you cannot remember your last tune-up. Also, be sure to ask the contractor to inspect the ductwork as well. An HVAC system that operates at optimum performance will provide the comfort you expect, plus you'll be using energy wisely while managing the kilowatts required for operation. As a reminder, our HVAC systems generally make up 50 percent of the total electric bill.

- Perhaps your HVAC unit is on its last leg and you've been contemplating installing a new system. The good news is today's air conditioners and heat pumps are even more energy efficient than their predecessors. If replacement is in your future, be sure to look for a contractor who understands building science and will run a computer-generated load calculation for your home. The software used by HVAC professionals removes any guesswork and accurately sizes the unit required to heat and cool your home. A properly sized system provides optimum comfort while using less energy to operate.

- Now is the time to replace the HVAC system return-air filter. Many homes have more than one, so be sure to change all of them. Clogged filters

inhibit proper airflow and can cause premature wear and tear on your system. I suggest changing them monthly or as needed. Be sure to ask your HVAC professional if you plan to use HEPA or heavy-pleated filters to make sure they will work with your system.

- If you have a fireplace or woodstove, make sure to close the damper. An open damper is similar to having an open window. Speaking of windows, if your home has double-hung (windows that open at both top and bottom) construction, make sure both top and bottom sashes are closed, and locked. If left unlocked, it's not uncommon for the top sash to drop, or open at the top.

- If you have an older home, some insulating products are prone to settle. Have an insulation contractor inspect the insulation level in your attic. If necessary, an additional layer of cellulose insulation applied over the existing insulation will thwart unwanted heat gain in the summer and keep your home warmer in the winter.

- If the inside of your home has an attic entry point like a scuttle-hole, folding staircase or kneewall door, be sure those are insulated and sealed. There are dozens of affordable attic access solutions available in box stores and online, many of which are do-it-yourself projects.

*Bret Curry is the residential energy marketing manager for Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation.*

By Bret Curry





# What to Look for In an HVAC Contractor

By **Madeline Keimig**  
**Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives**

**It's no secret** that replacing your heating and cooling system can be a headache. When's the right time? What kind of system is best? Where can I find a reliable contractor?

Consider these tips before making a selection.

## Ask around

What are the contractor's licensing and qualifications? Is the contractor a member of state and national contractor associations, such as Air Conditioning Contractors of America? Is he or she adequately insured?

"Most people don't realize that almost 50 percent of their energy bill comes from an HVAC [heating, ventilation, and air conditioning] system," explains Alan Shedd, director of residential &

commercial energy programs for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the national branding campaign for electric co-ops. "It's important to have the right person put in and maintain the equipment."

Word of mouth provides a valuable resource, so ask neighbors and friends if they can recommend a good contractor – or if there's someone you should avoid. And remember to check on what a prospective contractor guarantees and whether any follow-up services, such as a maintenance agreement, are offered.

"It's important to have these conversations before work begins," Shedd stresses. "That way, if there are any surprises after installation, you know what to expect."

## Know Your Role

After you ask these questions, a good contractor should start by inspecting your home and old system and then

explaining your options.

Be sure to get the estimated annual operating cost of the proposed HVAC system at different efficiency levels, as recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR program. Air conditioners are measured by Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) and Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER). SEER is calculated by dividing the amount of cooling provided during a normal year by energy used – the higher the SEER, the more efficient the unit. EER helps if you want to know how a system operates at a specific temperature. This will help you to determine the total cost over its lifetime.

Shedd advises asking for three written estimates of the work: what is being done, what equipment is being provided, and when installation will begin and be completed.

## Maintenance Checklist

**Maintain your equipment** to prevent future problems and unwanted costs. Keep your cooling and heating system at peak performance by having a contractor do annual pre-season check-ups. Contractors get busy once summer and winter come, so it's best to check the cooling system in the spring and the heating system in the fall. To remember, you might plan the check-ups around the time changes in the spring and fall.

### A typical maintenance check-up should include the following.

- Check thermostat settings to ensure the cooling and heating system keeps you comfortable when you are home and saves energy while you are away.
- Tighten all electrical connections and measure voltage and current on motors. Faulty electrical connections can cause unsafe operation of your system and reduce the life of major components.
- Lubricate all moving parts. Parts that lack lubrication cause friction in motors and increases the amount of electricity you use.
- Check and inspect the condensate drain in your central air conditioner, furnace and/or heat pump (when in cooling mode). A plugged drain can cause water damage in the house and affect indoor humidity levels.
- Check controls of the system to ensure proper and safe operation. Check the starting cycle of the equipment to assure the system starts, operates, and shuts off properly.

### Cooling Specific

- Clean evaporator and condenser air conditioning coils. Dirty coils reduce the system's ability to cool your home and cause the system to run longer, increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.
- Check your central air conditioner's refrigerant level and adjust if

necessary. Too much or too little refrigerant will make your system less efficient increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.

- Clean and adjust blower components to provide proper system airflow for greater comfort levels. Airflow problems can reduce your system's efficiency by up to 15 percent.

### Heating Specific

If your home is equipped with a heat pump, or you're considering having one installed, use the heat pump maintenance tips below to help keep your system running smoothly.

- Clean or change your filters once a month or as needed.
- Maintain the system according to your system's manual.
- Clean outdoor coils whenever they appear dirty.
- Remove foliage and clutter from around the outdoor unit.
- Clean the supply and return registers in your home and straighten their fins if bent.

Geothermal Systems' Condensate drain. Homeowners should also periodically check the condensate drain. Just as with air conditioning units, condensation can form on the coils of geothermal systems during the warmer months. As the condensation flows away, it can take dirt and dust with it, which, over time, can potentially clog the condensate drain. Check the drain once per season to make sure water flow isn't being impeded.

### Actions To Do Yourself

- Inspect, clean, or change air filters once a month in your central air conditioner, furnace, and/or heat pump. Your contractor can show you how to do this. A dirty filter can increase energy costs and damage your equipment, leading to early failure.

## Regional Dateline

### October 17-January 3

2015 Pheasant Hunting Season  
Opens Statewide, Pierre, SD  
605-223-7660

### October 23-24

Haunted Forest, Storybook  
Land and Wylie Park  
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7015  
prf@aberndeen.sd.us

### October 23-24

Halloween Hike, 5:30 to 8 p.m.  
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

### October 23-25

ZooBoo, 5:30 to 7 p.m.  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

### October 23-25

Autumn Festival, An Arts and  
Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD  
402-331-2889

### October 24

ZOO BOO, 2 to 6 p.m.  
Watertown, SD, 605-882-6269

### October 25

Trick or Treat Trails  
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Pierre, SD, 605-773-2885

### October 30-31

Deadweird, 7 to 9 p.m.  
Main Street, Deadwood, SD  
605-578-1876

### October 31

Scare in the Square  
Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

### November 4

Thunder From Down Under  
8 to 9:30 p.m., Deadwood, SD  
605-559-1188



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEARTLAND COUNTRY CORN MAZE

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

## Events of Special Note

### October 30-31

Haunted Heartland Country  
Corn Maze, 6 to 9:30 p.m.  
Harrisburg, SD  
heartlandcountrycornmaze.com

### November 21

Annual Buffalo Auction  
Buffalo Corrals on Wildlife  
Loop Road, Custer, SD  
605-255-4515

### November 6

Jon Crane Art Show  
Rehfeld's, Sioux Falls, SD  
audra@rehfeldsonline.com

### November 6-7

Northern State University  
Culturefest and Wacipi  
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-3011

### November 7

77th Annual Lutefisk Feed,  
5 to 8 p.m., Community Hall  
Summit, SD, 605-881-4377

### November 7

TobyMac, 7 to 11:45 p.m.  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

### November 7-8

17th Annual Gun Show  
Redfield, SD, 605-472-4550

### November 14

Merchants and Crafters 18th  
Annual Holiday Open House  
Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD  
605-698-7425

### November 14

Hairball, 8 to 9:30 p.m.  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

### November 20

Lighted Parade and Chili  
Cook-Off, 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sisseton, SD, sissetonchamber  
@venturecomm.net

### November 20-January 10

Winter Wonderland, Falls Park  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-275-6060

### November 21-22

37th Annual Winterfest  
Civic Arena, Aberdeen, SD  
605-626-7081

### November 24-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol  
8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Pierre, SD  
605-773-3178

### November 27

Shawn Cable and Erik Apland  
Concert, Redlin Art Center  
Watertown, SD, 605-882-3877

### November 27-28 and December 12, 19, 20 and 23

1880 Train Holiday Express  
Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

### November 28

Greater Madison Area Show  
and Sell, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Madison, SD, 605-256-2454

### November 28

Holiday Celebration and  
Winter Market, 1 to 6 p.m.  
Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

### November 28

Williams and Ree  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

### November 28-29

Holidazed and Confused  
Comedy Show, Mobridge, SD  
605-845-2500

### December 3

Christmas with the Celts  
8 to 9:30 p.m., Deadwood, SD  
605-559-1187