



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC

JUNE 2026 VOL. 27 NO. 2

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



CAPACITY
290 TONS
NET WT. 20-TON

River Power Renewed

Fort Randall Renovations

Pages 8-9

Pick, Sloan & the Missouri

Pages 12-13

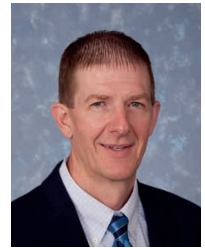
The Fort Randall Dam is retrofitted with new generating units.
Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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SEC & UNION COUNTY ELECTRIC ANNOUNCE SHARED MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The Boards of Directors of Union County Electric Cooperative and Southeastern Electric Cooperative are pleased to announce they have entered into a shared management agreement effective April 24, 2026. Under this agreement, both cooperatives will remain separate cooperatives but will share a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Both Boards agreed to hold joint Board meetings periodically to explore if there are further member benefits to consider in the future.

Chad Kinsley, current CEO of Southeastern Electric, will assume management responsibilities for both cooperatives. This strategic partnership follows the departure of Union County's General Manager, Matt Klein, who recently accepted a new position at Atlantic Municipal Utilities in Atlantic, Iowa. We thank Matt for his service and wish him and his family continued success in his new role.



Chad Kinsley
CEO

“This shared management agreement reflects the cooperative principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives—two separate cooperatives working together to keep members first, support our employee teams, and deliver outstanding service with reliability, safety, and value at the center of every decision,” said Kinsley.

About Southeastern Electric: Southeastern Electric Cooperative is headquartered in Lennox and serves over 24,000 members in five counties in southeast South Dakota.

About Union County Electric Cooperative: Union County Electric Cooperative is headquartered in Elk Point, serving almost 1,700 members in Union County.

WOLLMANN Earns Director Gold Certification

Bob Wollman recently received his Director Gold Credential after completing the Director Gold Program. The Director Gold Credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificate and who desire a tangible credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. We appreciate his hard work, dedication, and commitment to learning and are proud to recognize his accomplishment. Congratulations, Bob!



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS
SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC

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APRIL BOARD SUMMARY

The Board of Directors of Southeastern Electric Cooperative met in Sioux Falls on Thursday, April 24, 2026, with all directors present. Also present were CEO Chad Kinsley, Attorney Mike Nadolski, and staff members Audri Carlson, John Euchner, Erica Fitzhugh, Todd Nelson, and Jon Wunder.

CFO Jon Wunder reviewed his written report, including the preliminary financial report, cost of service study, capital credit allocations, hiring and staffing, and employee committee meetings.

VP of Operations and Engineering John Euchner reviewed his written report, close calls, safety meetings, open positions, recent CDL requirement changes, projects, large loads, East River 115kV conversion projects, and facilities.

VP of Technology Todd Nelson reviewed his written report, load control receiver update, technology roadmap update, solar interconnection, cybersecurity, and other IT projects.

VP of Member Services Audri Carlson reviewed her written report, telephone upgrades, payment platform issues, accounts receivable, disconnects, past due accounts, call volumes, and other projects.

Communications Manager Erica Fitzhugh reviewed her written report, member communications, advertising, recent and upcoming events, annual meeting planning, internal communications, social media, the "Who Powers You" contest, and the member survey.

CEO Kinsley reviewed his report and commented on the following topics: Basin financials, East River financials, SPP West, NCSC Director election, service territory exception,

large load inquiries, and office field visits.

Attorney Nadolski generally discussed co-op related legal matters.

THE BOARD ACTED ON THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS:

- A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to come out of executive session. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to amend the furniture budget for the Lennox facility. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the following amended policies: 502 Hazard Communication and 908 IT and Cyber Security. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to authorize Heeren to attend the CFC Forum. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to set the July board meeting for Thursday, July 30, 2026 beginning at 8:30 AM. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to authorize Attorney Nadolski to attend the SDREA and NRECA Legal Seminars. Motion carried.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Sioux Falls office.

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH: PLUG INTO WHAT MATTERS

Safety is a word that shows up in mission statements, meetings and job sites across every industry. At its best, it reflects preparation, awareness and responsibility.

That's where the difference shows.

Electricity doesn't leave room for shortcuts. It demands attention, consistency and respect every day. For your local cooperative, that responsibility is built into the work.

The job goes beyond delivering power. It protects the people who build and maintain the system and the communities who rely on it. Reliable and affordable electricity matters, and so does making sure every crew member goes home at the end of the day.

That outcome takes focus, repetition and a culture where doing things right matters more than doing them fast.

Built on the Right Habits

Linework is demanding and, at times, dangerous. It's also highly structured. Crews follow national standards designed for utility work. Protective equipment isn't optional. Procedures aren't suggestions.

Before a job begins, it's planned. Crews walk through the work, identify risks and make sure everyone is aligned. Communication stays constant.

What happens after the job matters just as much. Near-misses are tracked, reviewed and discussed to understand what happened and prevent it from happening again. Over time, those lessons build a stronger, more prepared workforce.

Everyone is expected to look out for each other. If something doesn't look right, it gets said. That accountability turns policies into habits.

Contractors working alongside cooperative crews are held to those same expectations.

Extending Beyond the Jobsite

The work doesn't stop at the edge of a right-of-way. Because crews live in the communities they serve, that responsibility carries beyond the job.

Your local cooperative shares electrical safety information through schools, events and outreach. It's simple advice that helps prevent accidents.

June is National Safety Month. Most electrical injuries are preventable, and small decisions matter.

Leave electrical work to qualified professionals. Don't overload outlets. Stay clear of downed power lines and report them. If something looks off, whether it's a damaged transformer or an open substation, say something.

Take the Extra Moment

Electricity is easy to take for granted. But the systems behind it, and the people maintaining them, depend on careful decisions.

When a task involves electricity, take a moment. Look twice. Think it through.

That pause can make all the difference.



"Be safe, lineman!"

Renn Ronning, age 8

Renn urges the line crew to stay safe on the job. Thank you for sharing your picture, Renn! Renn's parents are Justin and Katrina Ronning from Elk Point, 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.

Easy & Delicious FAMILY MEALS

TACO SOUP

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. hamburger, cooked and drained
- 1 28 oz. can red or kidney beans
- 1 28 oz. can petite diced tomatoes
- 1 14 oz. can corn
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning

Method

Put all ingredients into bean pot. Microwave for 20 minutes. Serve with shredded cheese and corn chips. Do not drain liquids.

Marla Gilbert
Southeastern Electric

QUICK PORK CHOP DINNER

Ingredients:

- 4 pork chops
- 2 tps. prepared mustard
- 2 tbsps. flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt or Mrs. Dash
- Dash of pepper
- 2 tbsps. fat or oil
- 1 10 oz. can of chicken rice soup or chicken broth
- 1/2 cup water
- Add onion, potatoes, carrots, garlic powder to taste

Method

Spread mustard over pork chops and sprinkle with flour, salt and pepper. Brown thoroughly in fat or oil in pressure cooker. Add chicken soup and water. Add vegetables and cover. Set control at 10 and cook 12 minutes or 35 minutes if you add vegetables. Cool pan for 5 minutes, then reduce pressure.

Ruth Konechne
Central Electric

CARAMELIZED HAM & SWISS SLIDERS

Ingredients:

- 12 Hawaiian dinner rolls, split
 - 1/4 cup horseradish sauce, optional
 - 12 slices deli ham (or 24 if it's thinly sliced)
 - 6 slices Swiss cheese, cut in fourths (so you have 24 squares of cheese)
- Sauce**
- 1/2 cup butter
 - 1/4 tsp. onion powder
 - 2 tbsps. brown sugar
 - 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
 - 2 tps. poppy seeds
 - 1-1/2 tps. Worcestershire sauce
 - 1/4 tsp. garlic powder

Method

Spray a 9x9 or 9x13 glass dish with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside. Preheat oven to 325°. Spread roll bottoms with horseradish sauce (if using). Fold up pieces of ham to fit the rolls and place them on the bottom halves of the roll. Next, place 2 squares of cheese, replace roll tops and place in a single layer in the prepared pan.

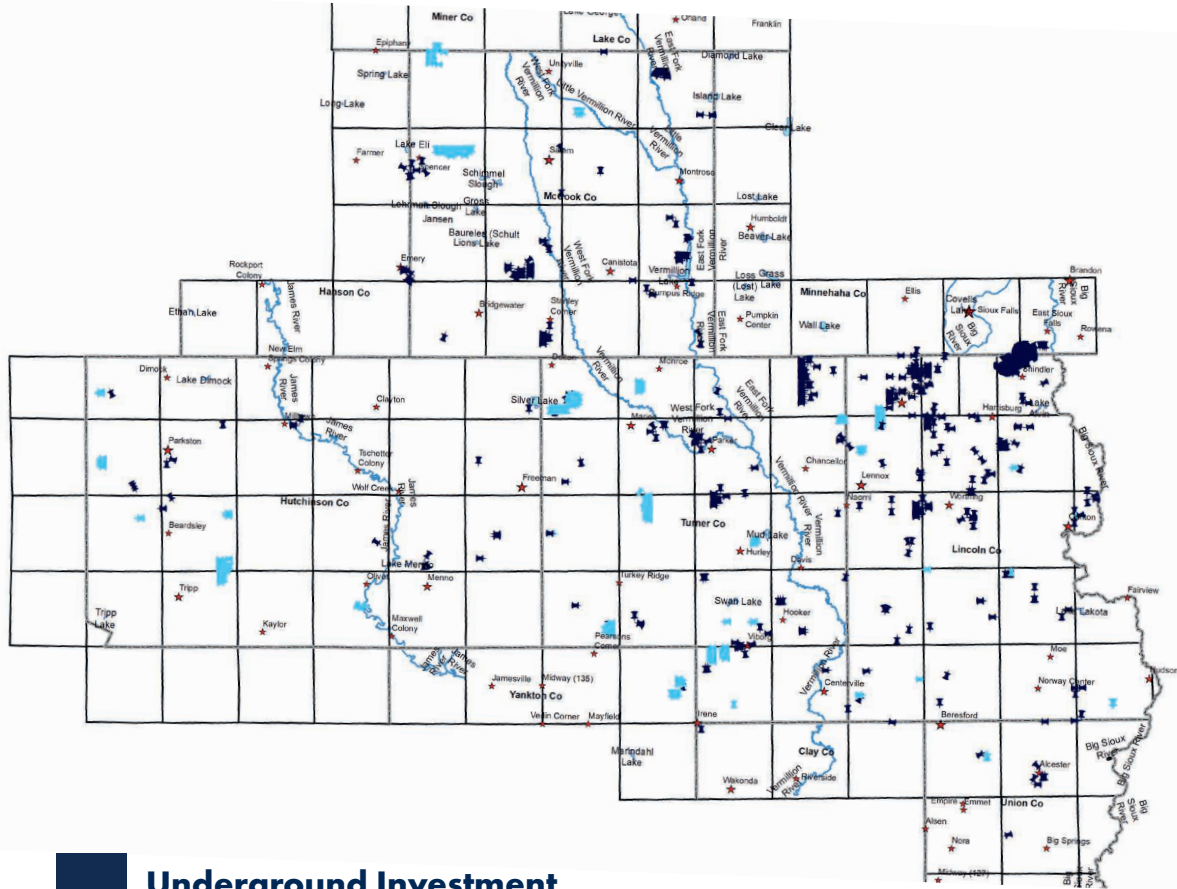
In a small skillet, heat butter over medium-high heat. Stir in remaining ingredients. Pour over rolls. Cover with foil and bake covered for 20 minutes. Remove foil and bake 5 more minutes. *These can also be made ahead of time. Just cover with foil and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Bake as instructed.

Jerald and Virginia Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

Please send your favorite 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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Picture by Shutterstock.

2025 System Investments



-  **Underground Investment**
-  **Overhead investment**



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. OF LENNOX, SOUTH DAKOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the annual meeting of the members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Lennox, South Dakota, shall be held, pursuant to call by the Board of Directors in accordance with its bylaws, on Thursday, June 4, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at the Lennox High School, 1201 S Main St., Lennox, South Dakota.

The purpose of the meeting shall be as follows:

- a) To hold the regular annual meeting of the Cooperative, as required by the bylaws.
- b) To elect directors of the Cooperative, as required by the bylaws, and to pass upon reports and other business.
- c) To transact any and all business which may be necessary, convenient, or desirable in connection with any of the foregoing, or which may properly be brought before the meeting or at any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

By order of the Board of Directors, dated this 22nd day of January 2026, at Lennox, South Dakota, at a regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative.

Johnathan Wildeboer, Secretary

Sample Ballot

This is a sample ballot for the Election of Directors at the Annual Membership Meeting of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. of Lennox, South Dakota, held at the Lennox High School, 1201 S. Main St., Lennox, SD 57039, on June 4, 2026. All nominations were submitted by incumbent directors.

EXPLANATION: A total of three directors are to be elected, one from each of the below-named districts within the service area of the Cooperative, each for a three (3) year term. Every member may vote for a candidate in each district, by marking a cross (“X”) in the square opposite the name of the candidate he or she desires to vote for. Ballot shall be marked by the member, if an individual, or if a corporation by its authorized representative. A joint membership shall be entitled to one vote. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes shall be considered elected as a director.

Vote for one candidate in each district. Districts 1, 4 and 7 are each 3-year terms.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District No. 1 (3-year term)
Carlos Hofer of Sioux Falls, SD | <input type="checkbox"/> District No. 4 (3-year term)
Chris Hofer of Tea, SD | <input type="checkbox"/> District No. 7 (3-year term)
Donovan Kost of Sioux Falls, SD |
|---|--|---|

Dedication

Lynell Hofer of Freeman served as a director for Turner-Hutchinson and then Southeastern Electric for over 30 years, 12 of them as board president. He passed away on June 6, 2025.

Larry Ortman, from the Marion area, was the office manager of Turner-Hutchinson during the 1970's. He went on to work at two other electric cooperatives. Larry passed away on October 28, 2025.

Leslie (Les) Hanson of Viborg served as a director for Turner-Hutchinson and then Southeastern Electric for four years. He passed away July 4, 2025.

We are thankful to these individuals for their dedication and commitment to Turner-Hutchinson Electric and Southeastern Electric Cooperative!



The rotor is lifted out of the generator unit using two cranes. This component of the generator will be reused once other parts are replaced.
Photo Submitted by USACE

RENEWING RIVER POWER

Fort Randall Dam Undergoes Multiyear Renovation

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

A 72-year old hydropower dam in southeast South Dakota is the first of the state's four mainstream Missouri River dams to undergo a substantial retrofit to improve the facility's efficiency and reliability.

Fort Randall Dam, which began operating in 1954, was built near Pickstown, South Dakota, through the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program. The program was included in the Flood Control Act of 1944 by Congress to dam the Missouri River at multiple points to improve the region's water management, irrigation, flood control and navigation while also generating much-needed hydropower. (See Pages 12-13 for more on how the program came to be.) A marvel at the time of its construction, the two-mile-long rolled-earth dam holds back 5.4 million acre-feet of water in Lake Francis Case. The dam's eight turbine generators have a maximum generating capacity of 320 megawatts – enough electricity to power about 245,000 homes.

Now, more than seven decades later, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is looking to boost those numbers and revitalize the aging dam with state-of-the-art, 21st-century technology to ensure the facility keeps up with the region's modern energy demands.

Overseeing the multi-year project is Maintenance and Operations Manager Michael Schenkel, who's spent the last 14 years at the Fort Randall Project overseeing the facility's maintenance, operation and planning. Schenkel says while the dam's eight original 72-year-old generators and turbines have served reliably, a renewal will improve the project's operation.

"Like many aging public assets, it's time for reinvestment," Schenkel said. "The turbine-generator units were installed in the

1950s and are beyond their expected service life. We're replacing them to ensure long-term energy and infrastructure resilience."

He pointed out that the USACE got its money's worth with the original generators, saying how rare it is for a generator to last over 70 years without needing a rewind – referring to the process of replacing the stators, or the copper windings and insulation that help convert the turbine's rotation into electricity. Over time, heat, vibration and age can weaken that insulation and increase the risk of failure. Schenkel noted that Fort Randall is the only Missouri River dam in South Dakota that has retained its original stators up to this point.

The scale of the units pose a significant challenge – each unit is 40 feet tall and weighs more than 400 tons, necessitating piece-by-piece transport, assembly and installation. Voith Hydro North America, the company awarded the contract to manufacture and install the new turbine runners and generator stators, began the decommissioning and replacement of the first generator in July of 2025. USACE expects that generator to be offline until November 2026 after installation is complete and engineers can inspect it for any issues. Once the first unit is back online and clears inspection, engineers will give the contractor the green light to proceed. To keep up with hydropower demand and allow adequate flow downstream, USACE's goal is to keep six units operating and two units offline for renovation at a time until the project is wrapped up in 2031.

Schenkel explained how the upgrade solves two problems at once: it replaces aging components in the dam and provides the opportunity to install new, highly efficient generators and turbines to produce more power with the same amount of water.

Fort Randall's original turbines generate hydropower most efficiently with 103 feet of head – the vertical distance between the water levels above and below the dam, determining the pressure at which water moves through the turbine. At 103 feet of head, each generator will produce about 31 megawatts of electricity.

However, due to the region's fluctuating power demands, water

management and other factors, operating in the efficient middle ground isn't always ideal. Schenkel says USACE often operates Fort Randall at 40 megawatts and 119 feet of head – about 4% below peak efficiency.

To solve this problem of lost efficiency, the new turbines being installed are highly-efficient, rated for 52 megawatts at 119 feet of head. This change raises the facility's total generating capacity from 320 megawatts to about 400 megawatts – enough electricity to power more than 300,000 homes.

“We expect to recover roughly 10% more energy output from the same water volume,” Schenkel said. “Essentially free power beyond the capital investment once the upgrade is complete.”

As part of the renovation, USACE also completed as-needed updates to the switch yard, which is the infrastructure that routes power to transmission lines for transport across the region.

Electricity generated at the Fort Randall Dam is managed, transported and sold by the Western Area Power Administration under the U.S. Department of Energy.

As a co-op member, part of your utility's energy mix is hydropower from the Missouri River dams, including Fort Randall, “so this work directly affects co-op members,” Schenkel added.

Looking at the dam's age and efficiency profile – and also being the only dam in South Dakota possessing its original stator windings – Schenkel said Fort Randall was the clear priority. The USACE has begun planning a similar renovation project for the Oahe Dam.

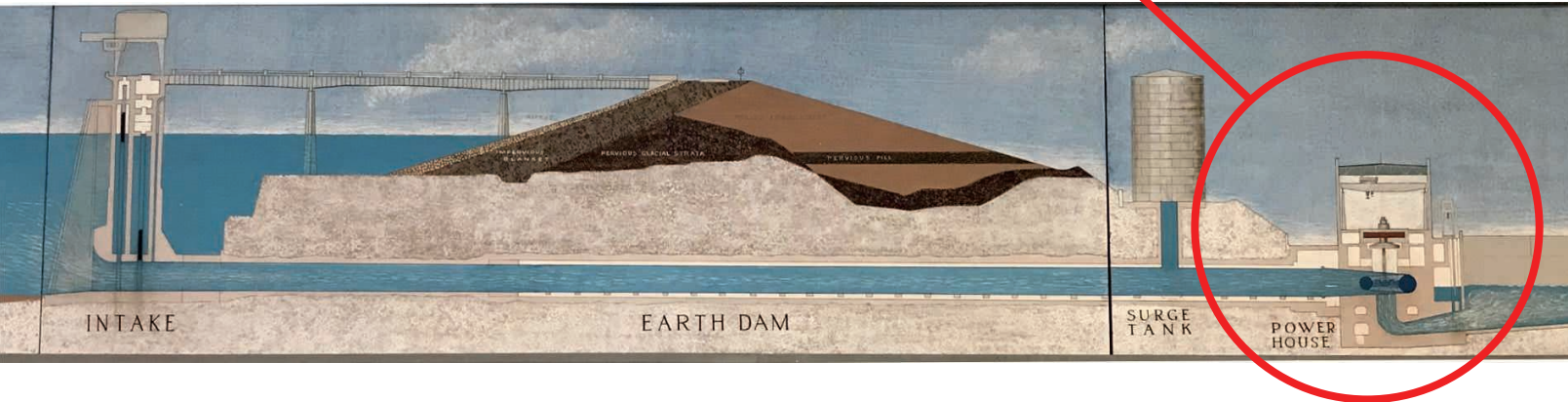
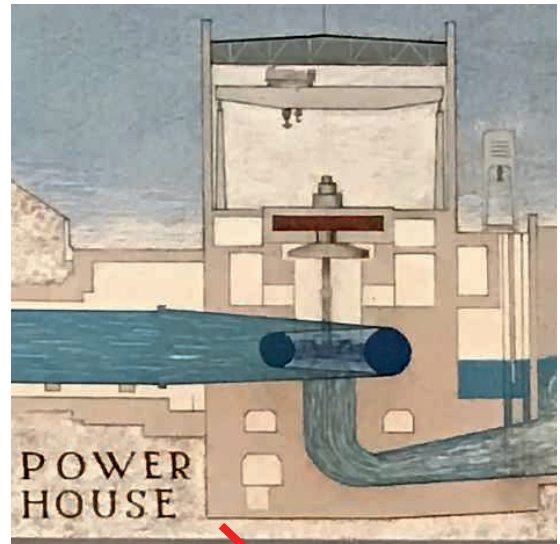
Work at the Fort Randall Project is scheduled to wrap up in 2031 once all eight generating units are replaced.



Above: The Fort Randall Dam is equipped with eight turbines. Unit 6 turbine is shown being removed for the first time since it went online in 1955.

Below & Right: A visual of Fort Randall Dam. Water flows into the powerhouse via the intake tunnel. As the water passes through, it spins the turbine. The rotor, connected to the turbine, spins inside the stator. As the rotor spins inside the stator, its magnetic field passes through copper windings and produces electricity.

Photos Submitted by USACE



East River celebrated its 75th anniversary this past year. When Individual distribution cooperatives across our region joined together to form their own generation and transmission cooperative, they did so with the knowledge that, through collaboration and joint effort, they could accomplish much more together than each individual cooperative could accomplish alone. And as we celebrate the milestone, we also celebrate our continued focus on providing value and working for our member systems into the future.

East River and our member systems work together in partnership to plan, execute, and build for tomorrow. We continue to do so in an electric industry that is rapidly evolving and experiencing unprecedented change and growth. And, we are growing with that change, as it provides us with unique and continued opportunities to deliver affordable, reliable power for the future.

Through our collective efforts, we continue to supply the region with a diversified, all-of-the-above generation mix, navigate an ever-changing political and regulatory climate, and provide cybersecurity resources and innovative technologies as cyber threats and advances in artificial intelligence rapidly change the technological landscape. We continue to advocate for safe use of electricity, cooperative education and workforce development, help out our neighbors, and plan for, upgrade and build out the grid of the future. The foundation of our cooperative has always been collaboration, and our future will continue to be shaped by a shared commitment to advocating for and serving members.

With growing demand, electric cooperatives are facing challenges. We continue to manage rising power supply and infrastructure costs while maintaining the reliable power that

members depend on. Costs are going up, and these pressures are being felt across the electric industry, requiring thoughtful operational planning, responsible financial stewardship, and long-term strategies that can be tailored to current needs. There's been a lot of talk about large new electric loads, including data centers and what that could mean for folks' rates and reliability. These are legitimate questions that we're asking too and that we have some answers to. In the co-op world, we typically consider a large load to be over two MWs. Some of these data centers are closer to 250, 500 MWs. Compare that to an ethanol plant at 5-10 MWs or a mid-sized city of 10-20 MWs; it's a magnitude that is well above what were used to serving.

Each decision we make about large loads for the future is evaluated by asking ourselves if a project fosters greater reliability and long-term affordability for our member cooperatives and the communities they serve and protecting our existing members remains our number one priority. We have an established large load process in place, and any new significant load, where it's a data center or another major facility is required to pay its fair share of the infrastructure and generation needed to serve it so that members at the end of the line don't have to pay for those costs. That includes appropriate rate structures in coordination with our power supply partners to ensure those costs are not shifted onto legacy members.

General operational and construction costs are rising across every industry. That's the reality of building and maintaining the infrastructure required to serve growing energy needs. What's important is that as a cooperative we exist for our member-owners, and that sets us apart. We remain focused on strategies

to maintain competitive wholesale rates, like thoughtful planning and responsible spending. Our membership in our regional transmission organization, the Southwest Power Pool, continues to generate revenue, helping to offset power supply expenses and we continue to look for new revenue opportunities through our participation in the RTO.

In 2025, East River set in motion its largest construction work plan in the cooperative's history and continued work on our ten-year transmission system upgrade plan that was launched in 2019. With millions of dollars in planned investment, including contributions in aid of construction for a range of large projects underway, the work reflected not just growth, but the reality of delivering reliable service across a system that is changing in scale, reliability requirements, and complexity. Over the last year, we completed several key projects designed to strengthen our system's backbone and marked an important milestone in our upgrade plan by completing the first fully networked segment of East River's system under the SPP Integrated Transmission Plan. The project, the first of more to come, hardens our system and better integrates it into the regional grid, strengthening reliability, resiliency, and positioning us for the future.

East River and our power supply partners continue to take an all-of-the-above approach to power generation, focused on reliability, competitive rates, and long-term stability for our members. Our generation includes a balanced mix of dispatchable generation, low-cost hydropower from the Missouri River dams, and renewables like wind and solar. With our wholesale power provider, Basin Electric, continuing to add resources to meet future demand across the region, including new renewable generation coming

online, as well as plans for the Bison Generation Station, a nearly 1,500 MW, natural gas-fueled facility that will provide dependable, on-demand energy to support the system.

We remain actively engaged on behalf of our members in the political and regulatory process to ensure we stay ahead of policies impacting our industry and help shape a path that aligns with our mission. Issues like permitting timelines and the ability to develop needed infrastructure are front and center. Our focus is on making sure the voice of our members is represented as political policies and decisions are made.

Along with the investments we are making in the grid, we continue to focus on investing in people. Safety remains at the center of everything we do. We continue to partner with our member systems through our Co-ops in the Classroom Program, regional electric safety communications campaign, and ongoing

training to promote electrical safety across our communities and within our team.

We continue to invest in our future workforce by partnering with higher-education facilities to invest in education and training programs that will ensure we have a qualified, highly skilled employment pipeline. When our neighbors at Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative needed help in the aftermath of a severe storm that caused significant damage to their region's infrastructure, we organized a team of linemen and specialized equipment to support their restoration efforts. In our hour of need, we know they'll be there for us.

The Rural Electric Economic Development, or REED, Fund, founded in 1996, continues to support communities. It has now provided more than \$144 million in economic investments to businesses and community ventures

to aid in our region's development since its founding. Governed by 27 cooperatives in South Dakota and Minnesota, including your co-op, REED highlights the strength of our membership's commitment to our communities.

And as always, we also worked closely with our members to live out the cooperative principle of commitment to community by giving back to those we serve through charitable giving, events, youth outreach programs, education, and scholarships.

As a not-for-profit wholesale power supplier, we exist to enhance the value of our member systems. Our 75-year history has shown us that, as cooperatives working together, we not only rise from adversity but also flourish. We adapt, we're resilient, and we're committed to each other's success and the principles that make cooperatives different than any other type of organization.

SDREA Annual Report

Delivering Safe, Affordable and Dependable Electricity



Steve Barnett
SDREA General Manager

The power lines stretching across South Dakota continue to tell a story built on reliability. These lines represent more than just infrastructure; they are a cooperative network that has adapted through decades of change while remaining focused on delivering safe, affordable and dependable electricity.

Over the past year, that network has faced an evolving landscape shaped by new technologies and increasing energy demand. From the rise of large-scale energy users such as data centers to growing concerns surrounding wildfire liability and disaster

recovery, the challenges facing electric cooperatives are becoming more complex. These developments require thoughtful planning, strong advocacy and a unified voice to ensure that rural communities remain protected and well-served.

That voice remains one of the cooperative network's greatest strengths. Representing more than 133,000 members across 28 distribution cooperatives and three generation and transmission cooperatives, South Dakota's electric cooperatives continue to engage their membership through consistent communication and outreach. Through our Cooperative Connections magazine and other communication efforts, members are informed not only about their electric service but also about the broader issues shaping the future of energy.

Advocacy has been a central focus throughout the year. At the state level, South Dakota Rural Electric Association has successfully advocated for new wildfire mitigation legislation aimed at reducing financial risk to cooperatives and the communities they serve. At the same time, discussions surrounding data center development have highlighted the importance of ensuring that large energy users contribute fairly to the system they rely on. These conversations are critical to maintaining both affordability and reliability for cooperative members.

At home, SDREA continues to be a resource for its member cooperatives. Through training programs, communications services, legislative engagement, loss control services and member support, the association remains focused on strengthening the cooperative network across South Dakota.

This year also marks a transition within SDREA's loss control program, as Josh Risty joins the team as manager of loss control services, following the retirement of Mark Patterson after nearly 17 years of dedicated service. Risty brings experience as a journeyman lineman. His addition continues SDREA's commitment to strong safety practices and supports the ongoing effort to build a culture where safety is not just a program but a shared responsibility across the cooperative network.

As the association looks ahead, it remains focused on meeting the challenges and opportunities that come next. By staying grounded in the cooperative principles that have guided the network for generations, South Dakota's electric cooperatives remain well-positioned to serve their members for years to come.

THE PICK-SLOAN PLAN

Taming North America's Longest Waterway

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyok@sdrea.coop

In the 1930s, both the upper Missouri River and its home in rural America looked notably different than they do today.

That was a period in which electricity was still a luxury enjoyed by townsfolk lucky enough to have a municipal or investor-owned utility serving the community. As rural neighbors founded electric cooperatives to serve their homes, the once-primitive prairie quickly began to light up. And with that step into the modern age came the growing need for more electricity.

At this same time, the 2,300-mile-long Missouri River passing through seven states in the region was proving to be an untamable, destructive force for the communities and agriculture producers on its banks.

The floods would wreak havoc on riverside cities like Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Mississippi River communities like Memphis and New Orleans during swells, disrupting economic activity and trade. During low-flow years and toward the end of summer, the low water levels made navigation extremely difficult for barge traffic.

These problems had been ongoing. All the way back in 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal constructed the Fort Peck Dam near Glasgow, Mont. There, the nearly 4-mile-



long and 250-foot high rolled-earth dam created Fort Peck Lake, stretching 134 miles across eastern Montana and generating up to 185 MW of electricity. Even so, the federal government understood more work was needed to fully rein in the power of the Missouri.

Competing Visions: Pick vs. Sloan

Lewis A. Pick, an officer with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and William G. Sloan, an official with the Bureau of Reclamation, each had a vision for the future of the Missouri River Basin.

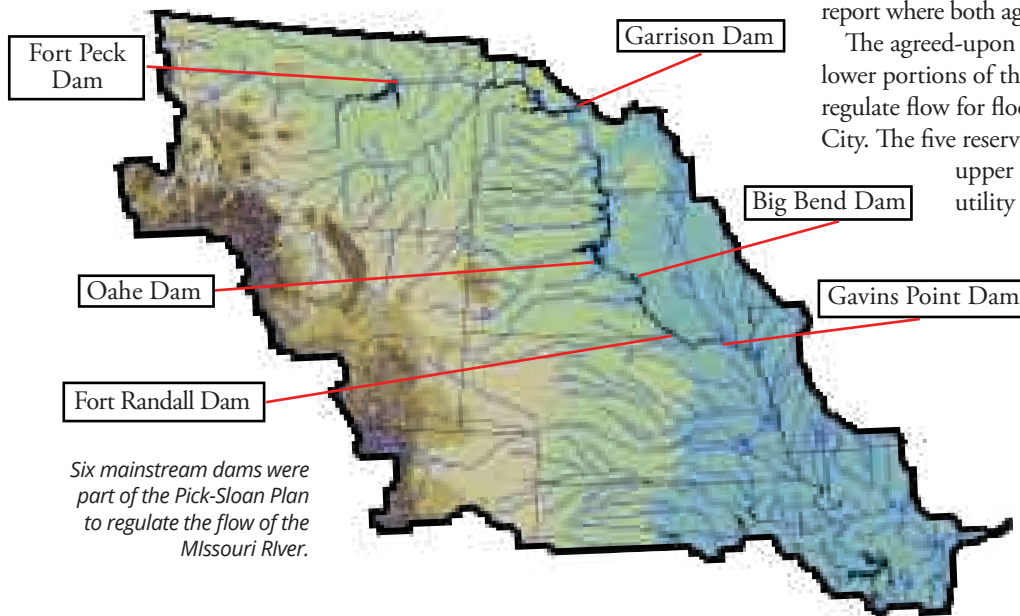
Pick envisioned large dams on the main channel of the Missouri River with a focus on flood control and navigation downstream in the lower Missouri River basin. His plan included five main-channel dams with levees from Sioux City, Iowa, to the river's confluence with the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sloan, on the other hand, wanted the projects to benefit the upper Missouri River basin, with a focus on water storage for irrigation and agricultural development. Sloan recommended dozens of smaller dams with hydro-electric power plants.

The battle between the USACE and DOR was contentious, but it became clear that no side could garner enough support on its own to pass a project with price tags of about \$1 billion each.

Finally, in 1944, USACE and DOR released a joint engineering report where both agencies' goals for the basin were represented.

The agreed-upon plan would benefit both the upper and lower portions of the basin, with five hydro-power dams to regulate flow for flood control and navigation past Sioux City. The five reservoirs would store water for uses in the upper basin, including irrigation, recreation, utility systems and hydropower generation.



Oahe Dam during construction in 1958. Photo Courtesy of S.D. State Historical Society

Fort Randall Dam (1946-1954)

Location: Pickstown, S.D.

Length: 10,700 feet long – over 2 miles!

Height: 165 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 8 hydroelectric generating unites producing up to 320 MW. (See pp. 8-9)

Completed in the 1950s, Fort Randall was the first of South Dakota's mainstream Missouri River dams to come online, generating hydropower for the region and changing the river from a threat into a resource. The Fort Randall Dam creates Lake Francis Case, named for South Dakota's US Senator and Pick-Sloan advocate Francis Higbee Case. The reservoir can store about 5.3 million acre-feet of water (enough water to flood 5.3 million acres at a depth of 1 foot).

Garrison Dam (1947-1955)

Location: Riverdale, N.D.

Length: 11,300 feet long – over 2 miles!

Height: 210 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 5 hydroelectric generating unites producing up to 583 MW.

Garrison Dam creates lake Sakakawea, which stretches across western and central North Dakota. The reservoir is the largest on the Missouri River, holding more than 23.5 million acre-feet of water. The dam is named after the nearby town, Garrison. Controversially, the lake flooded the homes of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribal nations.

Oahe Dam (1948-1963)

Location: Pierre/Fort Pierre, S.D.

Length: 9,360 feet long – about 1.8 miles!

Height: 245 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 7 hydroelectric generating units producing up to 786 MW.

Oahe Dam sits north of Pierre and Fort Pierre, forming Lake Oahe. The reservoir can hold about 23 million acre-feet of water. Oahe Dam has the highest generation capacity, producing enough electricity to power about 600,000 homes.

The dam and lake's name came from the Oahe Indian Mission established more than 70 years before. The mission's site, as well as other communities and tribal lands, were submerged beneath the reservoir.

Gavin's Point Dam (1952-1957)

Location: Yankton, S.D.

Length: 8,700 feet long – about 1.6 miles.

Height: 74 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 3 hydroelectric generating unites producing up to 132 MW.

The farthest downriver dam on the Missouri, Gavin's Point is a dam essential for controlling the water levels for downstream barge traffic starting at Sioux City on the Missouri River and all the way down to New Orleans on the Mississippi River. The dam creates Lewis and Clark Lake on the South Dakota-Nebraska border, with a storage capacity of 492,000 acre-feet of water.

Big Bend Dam (1959-1966)

Location: Fort Thompson, S.D.

Length: 10,570 feet long – about 2 miles.

Height: 95 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 8 hydroelectric generating unites producing up to 439 MW.

The final mainstream Pick-Sloan dam to be completed on the Missouri River, Big Bend Dam creates Lake Sharpe, holding about 1.7 million acre-feet of water.

The Good and the Bad

A lot of good came from the Pick-Sloan Plan: affordable hydropower for communities throughout the region and water storage to mitigate drought and reduce flooding.

However, a project of such magnitude will also naturally have downsides. University of South Dakota Professor David Swanson says the disruption of

natural patterns has affected ecology for riverside habitats.

Cottonwood seedlings need wet, sandy soil to germinate – without spring floods, it's hard for new trees to establish. Today, there are fewer young cottonwoods growing.

In addition, birds like the least tern that nest on sand bars struggle to find suitable ground, affecting populations.

The reservoirs also flooded more than 1 million acres of land along the Missouri River, some held by private landowners and tribes, and displaced about 6,000 people from land where their families had lived for generations.

In South Dakota, several former communities lay beneath Lake Oahe, including parts of Polluck and Forest City.

Between Chamberlain and Oacoma, American Island was once a statewide destination for boy scouts, with its miles of forest, camp with cabins and bathhouse, racetrack. Today, it sits below dozens of feet of water in Lake Francis Case.



American Island's locally-famous animal statues were moved before Lake Francis Case flooded the island. Photo Courtesy of the Cozard Memorial Library



Tribal leader George Gillette wipes tears as land is seized for the Garrison Dam. Photo Courtesy of National Archives

Unapproved minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting

The 2025 Annual Membership Meeting of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, the 5th day of June 2025 at the Freeman High School in Freeman, South Dakota pursuant to the annexed “Notice of Meeting”.

Board President Steve Holmberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Pastor Brian Mosemann offered the invocation followed by the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. Freeman Mayor Michael Walter welcomed the attendees to the City of Freeman.

Johnathan Wildeboer advised that there were 337 members registered, a quorum was present, and the members were in legal session to transact official business of the Cooperative. A list of the registered members is attached to and made part of these proceedings.

A motion was duly made, seconded and adopted by voice vote to dispense with the reading of the proof of Notice of the Meeting and approve the notice as mailed. A motion was duly made, seconded and adopted by voice vote to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting and approve the minutes as mailed.

President Holmberg then called on attorney Nadolski to conduct the election of directors for Districts #2, #5, and #8. Attorney Nadolski noted that three nominating petitions had been filed by qualifying members and introduced the candidates, which were Bob Wollmann (District #2), John Ostraat (District #5), and

Steve Holmberg (District #8). As there were no contested Director elections, attorney Nadolski advised the members in attendance that the bylaws allow for the option of a voice vote. He then called for a motion and second from the floor to accept the Director nominations as presented. Upon taking a voice vote from the floor, attorney Nadolski declared Bob Wollmann (District #2), John Ostraat (District #5), and Steve Holmberg (District #8) unanimously elected to serve a three-year term representing the members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

Attorney Nadolski then called on President Holmberg to present the President’s Report. Steve Holmberg reflected on the theme for the meeting “Partners in Progress” stating that our members are more than just energy consumers – you are our partners in progress. President Holmberg then introduced and thanked the Board of Directors for their commitment to serving and advocating for Southeastern. President Holmberg’s report also covered: reliability, capital investments, advanced metering infrastructure, load management, member growth, and member engagement and satisfaction.

President Holmberg then called on Chad Kinsley for his CEO Report. Chad Kinsley started by introducing the employee team. CEO Kinsley’s report included strategic priorities surrounding talent management and staffing and rate strategy. He provided

a summary of Basin and their recent investments in Basin Pioneer Generating Station IV and Bison Station. In addition to Basin’s investments, he shared East River’s significant investments including key projects impacting Southeastern’s service territory. CEO Kinsley finished his report talking about community partnership and giving back. CEO Kinsley thanked the members for their cooperation and support of the Southeastern team.

Treasurer Daryl Terveen highlighted some of the financial information included in the Annual Report issued to all members. Treasurer Terveen provided the following financial highlights: member growth and composition, energy sales, asset growth, equity management, financing options, cost of service and capital credit retirements. In summary, Southeastern continues to be in sound financial condition for our members. The Treasurer’s Report was then approved upon a motion duly made, seconded and adopted by voice vote.

Chairman Holmberg declared the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. officially adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM upon a motion duly made, seconded and approved. Membership prizes and drawings were coordinated by staff to finish out the 87th annual meeting for all members present.

DEAN KUETER

Named as Southeastern Electric Finalist in Who Powers You Contest



Dean Kueter was recently recognized as a Southeastern Electric Co-op finalist in the 5th annual regional Who Powers You? Contest.

“When you want to get something accomplished in a small town, you have key individuals who lead, organize, and get things done. Dean Kueter is one of those individuals,” wrote Tara Miller, a former

Montrose Area Foundation Advisory Council Member, who nominated Kueter for the contest.

Who Powers You is an exciting contest being hosted by the region’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to highlight local figures and organizations who are making a difference in their communities.

Kueter has been involved with the Montrose Area Foundation since its inception in 2008. The Foundation provides financial support to charitable and nonprofit organizations in the Montrose area.

“Our Foundation has assisted with funding projects for the volunteer fire department, American Legion, school projects, all school reunion, parks and recreation program, youth summer sports, the local swimming pool, and several other organizations,” shared Kueter.

“I am inspired to help in our community because I can see the need. People are willing to help, but to be successful, projects need

organization and direction. I am happy to be able to assist in that way.”

One organization Kueter is especially proud to volunteer with is the local American Legion Post. “It truly is a community hub and community center for everyone. It honors our veterans as well as being a place for celebrations such as birthday parties or graduations,” said Kueter.

“I’m surrounded by great people who work hard to improve our community, but I am the one holding the microphone today to share our community impact,” shared Kueter. “It takes a lot of people working together to have successful projects, I am just glad to be a part of the team doing this positive work in our community!”

Kueter’s story was featured on Keloland Living on Thur., April 2. A recap of the segment is available at WhoPowersYouContest.com.

 An advertisement for a "Parkston Member Appreciation Event". It features three polaroid-style photos: one showing a safety demonstration with a banner that says "Safety Demonstration Touchstone Energy Cooperatives", another showing a worker in a hard hat and safety vest, and a third showing a worker in a hard hat and safety vest next to a white utility vehicle. The background is green.

Parkston Member Appreciation Event

Stop by and see us on Thursday, June 18 at the AmphiThursday event in Parkston!

Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



JUNE 19-20
77th Annual Tabor
Czech Days
 Food, Dancing, Parade
 Tabor, SD
taborczechdays.com

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.

JUNE 5
Northern Bull Riding Tour
 Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

JUNE 6
Bulls 'n' Pulls
Antique Tractor Pull
 Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

JUNE 6, AUG. 1, SEPT. 5
Indoor-Outdoor Flea Market
 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
 Vendors Welcome
 Davis, SD
 605-351-3074

JUNE 10
BFest Concert Series & Farmers Market
 Landree Wilson Performing
 Museum Park
 Bruce, SD
 605-627-5671

JUNE 12-14
South Shore 125th Anniversary Celebration
 South Shore, SD
 605-756-4130
www.southshore-sd.com

JUNE 13
Journey Into Uncovering Historic Pickstown
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Pickstown, SD
 605-487-7299

JUNE 13
Luce Pioneer Day
 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Rope & Candle Making, Butter Churning, Dutch Oven Cooking
 Lake Herman State Park
 Madison, SD
 605-880-5077

JUNE 18-21
Hartford Jamboree Days
 City Park
 Hartford, SD
www.hartfordjamboreedays.com

JUNE 19-20
Estelline Rodeo Days
 5:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin'
 6 p.m. Rodeo (Both Days)
 Estelline, SD
www.estellinerodeo.com

JUNE 20
Grace's Gas Guzzlers
 Car Show & Vendor Fair
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Watertown, SD
 605-237-8005

JUNE 24-26
Bruce Honey Days
 Bruce, SD
 605-627-5671

JUNE 24-27
Crystal Springs Rodeo
 Clear Lake, SD
 605-874-2996

JUNE 26-27
Buckhorn Rodeo
 Britton, SD
 605-880-5077

JULY 2-4
USA 250th Celebration at Mount Rushmore
 Rapid City, SD
www.nps.gov

JULY 8
Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour
 2-7:30 p.m.
 Rain Date: July 9
 Tracy, MN
 507-629-3252
tracy.area.garden.quilts@gmail.com

JULY 11
40th Annual Spearfish Canyon Half Marathon & 5K
 Start: 7 a.m., Savoy, SD
 End: City Park, Spearfish, SD
 Register: www.nhcasa.org

JULY 11
Tractor Tour
 Granite Threshermen's Association
 Granite City, IA
 605-261-9720

JULY 17
Antique Tractor Pull
 Granite Threshermen's Association
 Granite City, IA
 605-261-9720

JULY 31-AUG. 2
Sioux River Folk Festival
 Newton Hills State Park
 Canton, SD
www.siouxriverfolkfest.com
info@sdfotm.org

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.