



Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

NOVEMBER 2014 VOL. 15 NO. 7



GREAT PLACES

Pg 8

Slam the Scam

Avoid Becoming a Victim of Utility Scammers



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

utilities are joining forces to fight back against scams. In an effort to shut down scammers, the utility coalition, which includes Sioux Valley Energy, launched “Slam the Scam,” an awareness campaign aimed at warning consumers and preventing scams. The coalition is encouraging consumers who think they are being targeted by a scammer to simply end the conversation – “slam” down the phone.

These scammers target all classes of consumers, but particularly small businesses such as restaurants. In most cases, a scammer calls during busy hours of operation and threatens to disconnect their utility service unless the customer makes a payment immediately.

Scammers are using various tactics to con people into providing payment. Posing as utility employees, scammers have been known to:

- Tell intended victims their accounts are past due and threaten to disconnect their utility service if they do not make payments immediately.
- Require victims to pay using a pre-paid debit card.
- Manipulate caller ID to display a fake number, which may actually be your utility's number. This is called “spoofing.”

Unfortunately there are individuals in this world that make a living off preying on others. They lie, cheat and steal their way through life. These scam artists are now even targeting electric cooperative members. We've only had a few isolated incidences of scammers trying to take advantage of our members but some utilities have seen a huge increase in attempted scams. That's why a group of

- Email consumers phony utility bills that appear to be from an energy provider with an account number, amount due, due date and a link to make the payment.

If you are actually behind on your bill, you will first receive a written notice before service disconnection. If you have not received a disconnect notice in the mail—don't engage anyone on the phone or by email demanding to take payment. Instead, hang up and contact Sioux Valley Energy at 1-800-234-1960 to verify your account status and report the attempted scam. If you believe you have been the target of a scam, report the incident to local law enforcement. Here are a few tips to avoid being victimized:

- Never give out personal information or credit card numbers or wire money as a result of an unexpected or unsolicited call or email if you cannot validate the authenticity.
- Be suspicious if the caller is insisting on the use of a pre-paid debit card or an immediate payment. Sioux Valley provides many options for payment.
- Sioux Valley will always notify you first by U.S. mail about past due bills. You will be sent a disconnection notice in writing before your service is turned off.
- If it just doesn't feel right, “slam the scam” and end the conversation.
- Sioux Valley will always welcome a call to verify your account status. So give us a call if you think a scammer might be targeting you.

Protecting personal and financial member data is a top priority for Sioux Valley Energy. We will continue to work together as an industry to provide solutions to protect our members from scams.



SIOUX VALLEY
ENERGY

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy's headquarters, Colman, S.D.

Co-op Connections® Card



SIOUX VALLEY
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Co-op Connections Corner

"I saved \$121 on glasses at the Brookings Vision Center and Dr. Clayton Twitero." - SVE Member, Peggy Vostad

"I saved over \$600 on my hearing aids by using my Co-op Connections Card at Audiology Specialty Clinic in Sioux Falls!"

- Sioux Valley Energy Member



SNAP THE SAVINGS. We want your stories and pictures! Snap a quick photo or email us with your Co-op Connections Card savings.

If we use your story or picture, we will send you a small gift to thank-you for your testimonial!

Email your photos and stories to: sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com or mail to: Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman SD 57017

The Co-op Connections Card discounts include over 200 local businesses throughout the SVE service territory. Find savings at restaurants, assisted living facilities, movie theatres, chiropractic centers and hair salons... the list of discounted services is nearly endless! Find the list of local businesses on our website at www.connections.coop/co-ops/sioux-valley-energy.



Halloween Safety

A few safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission can protect children who plan to go trick-or-treating this Halloween.

Treats: Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has carefully examined them for evidence of tampering.

Flame Resistant Costumes: When purchasing a costume, masks, beards and wigs, look for the label Flame Resistant. Although this label does not mean these items won't catch fire, it does indicate the items will resist burning and should extinguish quickly once removed from the ignition source. To minimize the risk of contact with candles or other sources of ignition, avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts.

Costume Designs: Purchase or make costumes that are light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists.

- For greater visibility during dusk and darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. Bags or sacks should also be light colored or decorated with reflective tape. Reflective tape is usually available in hardware, bicycle, and sporting goods stores.
- To easily see and be seen, children should also carry flashlights.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
- Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes. Mother's high heels are not a good idea for safe walking.
- Hats and scarfs should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes.
- Apply a natural mask of cosmetics rather than have a child wear a loose-fitting mask that might restrict breathing or obscure vision. If a mask is used, however, make sure it fits securely and has eyeholes large enough to allow full vision.
- Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be of soft and flexible material.

Pedestrian Safety: Young children should always be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible child. All children should WALK, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk if available, rather than walk in the street. Children should be cautioned against running out from between parked cars, or across lawns and yards where ornaments, furniture, or clotheslines present dangers.

Choosing Safe Houses: Children should go only to homes where the residents are known and have outside lights on as a sign of welcome.

- Children should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- People expecting trick-or-treaters should remove anything that could be an obstacle from lawns, steps and porches. Candlelit jack-o'-lanterns should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame. Indoor jack-o'-lanterns should be kept away from curtains, decorations, and other furnishings that could be ignited.

Source: cpsc.gov

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Don't leave bare wires laying around."



Hannah Leana Bartscher, 10 years old

Hannah 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.

Our families can't afford higher energy costs.

**MAKE YOUR
VOICE
HEARD!**





Wild Game Recipes

Roast Raccoon

3 to 4 raccoons, 4 to 6 lbs. each	8 medium onions
5 T. salt	12 small bay leaves
2 tsp. pepper	Rice
2 cups flour	Sherry cooking wine, optional
1 cup shortening	

Skin, drain and clean raccoons. Remove without breaking the brown bean-shaped kernels from under fore legs and each thigh. Cut into pieces. Reserve meaty back and legs for baking. Cook bony pieces in water to make broth for gravy and stuffing. Add small amount of seasoning. Simmer until meat is tender; strain and use only the broth. Sprinkle back and leg pieces with salt and pepper. Dredge in flour. Heat shortening in heavy skillet. Add meat, browning on all sides. Transfer pieces to roaster. Add onions and bay leaves; cover. Bake at 350°F. for 2 hours or until tender. Make gravy by adding flour to pan drippings. Use 2 to 3 T. flour for each cup of broth. Add sherry if desired. Prepare rice according to package directions. Spoon rice onto platter. Cover with meat and gravy.

Sharon Hennies, Rapid City

Apricot Honey-Glazed Duck

1 duck	Onions
Garlic	Apples
Sage	Oranges

Preheat oven to 400°F. Rub duck inside and out with garlic and sage. Stuff with quartered onions, apples and oranges, to be removed before serving. Place duck on rack in roasting pan; place pan in oven. Reduce oven to 350°F. Cook until tender, about 20 minutes per pound. Remove from oven; coat duck with following glaze:

1 cup apricot preserves	1 T. Cointreau or any orange liqueur
1/2 cup honey	
1 T. brandy	

Return to oven for 10 to 15 minutes until glaze caramelizes.

Lois Sears Ahrendt, Sioux Falls

Storing Game

Refrigerate game meat as soon as possible after the kill. Blood may be removed from meat by allowing the meat to soak in salted water overnight. Then rinse, dry well and prepare or freeze for later use. To freeze meat, use an airtight, moisture-proof container or wrap in freezer-safe plastic wrap with an overlay of aluminum foil. Be sure to label the contents. Game meat can be safely stored in the same way as domestic meat.

Impossible Meat Pie

1 lb. rabbit meat, cooked, in pieces	1/2 cup 1% cottage cheese
1/2 cup part-skim mozzarella cheese, shredded	2/3 cup biscuit mix
1 (6 oz.) can tomato paste	2 eggs
1 tsp. oregano, dried	1 cup skim milk
1/2 teaspoon basil, dried	1/2 tsp. pepper
	1 tsp. salt

Combine meat, cheese, tomato paste, oregano and basil in a small bowl. Combine biscuit mix, eggs, milk, pepper and salt in a small bowl. Spread cottage cheese into a 9-inch deep-dish pie pan. Spread meat mixture over cottage cheese. Spread biscuit mix mixture over meat. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until brown and knife comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before slicing.

Nutritional information (1/4 slice): 290 calories, 39g protein, 15g carbohydrate, 8g fat.

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

South Dakota Pheasant Supreme

2 boned pheasant breasts (4 pieces)	1 cup chicken broth
4 T. butter, divided	1 or 2 T. fresh lemon juice
Flour	Fresh mushrooms, whole or sliced

Pound pheasant breasts to about 1/4- to 1/2-inch thickness. Melt 3 T. butter in fry pan over medium heat. Flour breasts and sauté in butter for about 4 minutes per side, until a light golden brown. Remove pheasant from pan and place on separate plates in warm oven. Add chicken broth, 1 T. butter and lemon juice to leftovers in fry pan. Stir mixture with wooden spoon, scraping browned bits off bottom of skillet. Simmer 5 minutes; add mushrooms. Spoon sauce over individual breasts. Serve hot with toasted French bread that can be dipped in the sauce. Variations: A dry, white wine can be added to the sauce.

Larry Simpson, Isabel

Venison Stew

1-1/2 lbs. venison, cut into bite-size pieces	1/2 tsp. garlic powder
Flour	3 T. honey
2 large green peppers, diced	3/4 tsp. salt
1 medium onion, sliced	1/2 tsp. ginger
2 medium carrots, sliced	1 T. cornstarch
1-1/2 cups diced celery	1 T. soy sauce
2 T. lemon juice	1-1/2 cups water

Dredge meat in flour; sear in cooking oil. Add peppers, onion, carrots and celery. Combine remaining ingredients; pour over meat. Continue cooking until meat is tender, approximately 1 hour.

Linda Goulet, Tea

Please send your favorite holiday favorites, 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 2014. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

'Harvesting' a Culture of Safety

by Sheila Gross

The Cooperative is 'Harvesting' a Culture of Safety with the general public as it promoted Farm Safety Week (September 21st – 28th). The harvest season has begun and farmers only have a short window of time to get their crops out of the field. Larger harvest equipment and fatigue from farmers working long days can contribute to farm accidents. One of the biggest hazards that can be easily overlooked is power lines.

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Sioux Valley Energy urges farmers to:

- Make sure everyone who operates equipment has the appropriate training and is physically able to operate it safely.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Look up for overhead lines and be aware of lines over field approaches and bin sites.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines in all directions.
- Take a few extra minutes and use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.

- Use care when raising and lowering augers or grain truck beds and always remember to lower them before moving.
- Never attempt to raise a power line.
- Contact Sioux Valley Energy if you have lines that are sagging or low or do not have the appropriate clearance for the size of your equipment.
- Stay on the equipment if you contact a power line, unless you need to exit due to fire. Warn others to stay away and contact your utility provider immediately. If you have to exit, jump off with your feet together without touching the equipment.



Sioux Valley Energy will continue its safety awareness campaign and the message of electrical dangers during the harvest season by serving doughnuts to farmers at local elevators in October.

This picture shows the dangers of equipment contacting power lines. Damage occurred to the tractor and sprayer equipment when the sprayer touched an overhead line on Sioux Valley Energy's facilities. Thankfully, the farmer was not injured.

NOTICE TO SMALL POWER PRODUCERS, CO-GENERATORS IN MINNESOTA

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules Relating to Co-Generation and Small Power Production Chapter 7835, Sioux Valley Energy is required to interconnect with and purchase

electricity from co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility. SVE has available and will provide free information to all interested customers regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the Cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For further information contact SVE at: P.O. Box 216 Colman, SD 57017 or call 1-800-234-1960.



EmPOWER Youth Leadership

by Tracie Bettenhausen

A group of high schoolers is standing together. As the teens met other peers from around the area, you could hear lots of excited chatter and bursts of laughter out of some and quiet awkwardness around others. It's a scene that could take place at any high school basketball game or after prom party. But this was a scene straight from Sioux Valley Energy's 75th Annual Meeting that was held in June as the students waited to be recognized for joining the EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program.

It's just what electric co-ops have been talking about for years, the idea of getting young people to come to an annual meeting and involved in the cooperative. How did Sioux Valley Energy accomplish this?

The idea for the new EmPOWER Youth Leadership program came out of a board strategic planning session. "We were asking those questions most cooperatives are asking themselves these days," says Carrie Law, Sioux Valley Energy Director of Communications and Government Relations. "If our members could choose their power provider, would they choose us over another electric utility? Will the future generation of our members appreciate and understand what the co-op business model is all about? Do they care if they are served by a cooperative?"

Law said the strategic planning session also led to questions about who would one day work for the cooperative or serve on the Board of Directors. "Will we have CEOs and other key personnel available as they retire? Do we have strong and passionate leaders to fill those roles in the future?"

The board and staff decided, in very broad terms, to start a youth leadership program. Law approached Jennie Patrick, Sioux Valley Energy Marketing Specialist, to take lead in developing the youth program. Patrick went into research mode. Among other things, she gained valuable insight from attending the Co-op Yes! Youth Leadership Conference in Eau Claire, WI, where over 150 students from cooperatives in Wisconsin and Minnesota attended to learn about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative business. Patrick also visited area schools to encourage their administration to partner with Sioux Valley Energy in developing a successful program. She talked to school counselors to get topic ideas and went into classrooms to talk to students. Patrick commented,

"If you don't have the backing from the schools, where is your program going to go?"

Patrick persuaded the high school students with the promise of a program that would help them network with other students and business leaders, explore career opportunities, develop leadership skills, enhance their college applications and resumes, and gain access to monetary leadership awards, scholarships and all-expense paid travels.

And so the EmPOWER program begins, with 32 students in its first year. Each year, the students will first meet at Sioux Valley Energy's annual meeting, and the year will end there as well. In between, there will be four full-day EmPOWER sessions and opportunities for travel and involvement in cooperative activities. Seventeen participants took advantage of the first travel adventure and attended a three-day youth excursion in July to tour the generation facilities in North Dakota. At the end of each year, the students will develop a junior Membership Advisory Council (MAC) to plan the next year's EmPOWER sessions.

When Justin Nielson, a junior from Brookings High School was asked what influenced his decision to apply, he said, "I chose the EmPOWER program because both my parents are engineers, and I'm interested in engineering. I thought this would be a good way to explore career options. ... Leadership is a thing where you have to learn how to do it." Matthew Eigenberg, a Brandon Valley High School sophomore said, "I applied for the leadership program because I thought it would be a good

opportunity to meet new people around our community and learn the valuable aspects of being a leader, to help me whether it's sports or in the real world."

Law says commitment to community is also an important part of the EmPOWER program. "We want these kids to see they have made a mark on the world. Being part of a cooperative makes you unique. It's a different business model and it's something they can actually impact in the future."

Once Sioux Valley Energy has gained experience and completed a year or two of the EmPOWER program, the goal is to share the developed curriculum and materials to other cooperatives to create their own program.

Currently there are 32 students enrolled in the program and there is still room for 10 more. Patrick says the first EmPOWER session will be held on Tuesday, November 11 in Brandon. For more information about the youth leadership program go to www.empoweryouthleadership.com or call Jennie Patrick at 800-234-1960.



Geography and Geology Make Great Places

By
**Elizabeth
Mayrose**

SOUTH DAKOTA IS OFTEN KNOWN FOR MOUNT Rushmore, the Corn Palace and how there are more cattle than people. What people often don't know is that South Dakota is a treasure chest of geological wonders. Nestled in the middle of North America, South Dakota has only been a state for 125 years but has been shaped and formed by millions of years of oceans, glaciers and tectonic plate shift. Thanks to the work put in by Mother Nature millenniums ago, there are now many geographical attractions spread across the state.

Lemmon's Petrified Wood Forest: Lemmon, S.D.

Located on the border separating North Dakota and South Dakota, Lemmon's Petrified Wood Forest is both an ode to some of Earth's geological creations, as well as man-made artistry. Boosting a 300-ton castle and more than 100 sculptures and spires, the one-block park is made up of petrified wood, which is the name given to a rock-like remain of what was once a tree or a tree-like plant. Touted as a

"never to be forgotten experience" (tripadvisor.com), the Petrified Wood Forest is a must-see for all visitors. Since its creation in 1932, Lemmon has maintained the park as a living testament to some of Earth's most impressive tribute to early vegetation.



Spirit Mound: Vermillion, S.D.

The seemingly never-ending prairie of eastern South Dakota is famous for its overall rather flat appearance. However, in the far southeastern corner is a location that is note-worthy not only because of what it is, but for who visited. Known geographi-



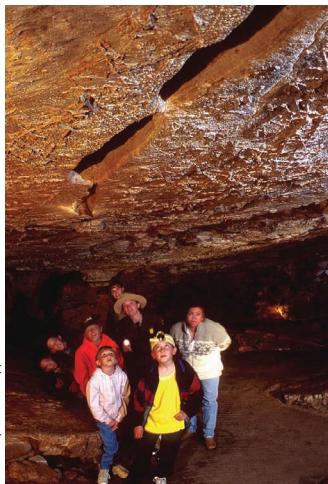


cally as a “bedrock knob,” Spirit Mound is a gently sloping hill that stands out sharply against its level surroundings. While the rest of the surrounding prairie was eroded away by a glacier, this one particular rock formation stood the test and maintained integrity. However, its geological makeup isn’t the only thing unique about it. In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, staying with a local tribe nearby, sent 10 men, including both Lewis and Clark, to explore the location. Thought by Native American tribes to be populated by “Little People,” miniature devils carrying arrows, the small expedition explored the area for said beings. Despite not finding any people occupying the hill, Lewis and Clark left behind a legacy in that locality as it is now one of the few precise whereabouts that they are known to have visited.

Badlands National Park, S.D.

The eroded walls of Badlands National Park create an ever-changing kaleidoscope of hues as sun and season cycle through, illuminating the rugged landscape. Located in southwestern South Dakota, the park consists of 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires surrounded by a mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. The National Park Service notes that the mixed-grass prairie is a transitional zone between the tall-grass prairie to the east and the short-grass prairie to the west.

The Badlands were formed by the geologic forces of deposition and erosion. Deposition of sediments began 69 million years ago when an ancient sea stretched across what is now the Great Plains. After the sea retreated, successive land environments, including rivers and flood plains, continued to deposit sediments. Although the major period of deposition ended 28 million years ago, significant erosion of the Badlands did not begin until a mere half a million years ago. Erosion continues to carve the Badland’s buttes today.



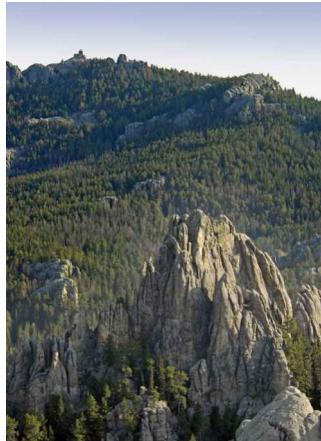
Wind Cave National Park: Hot Springs, S.D.

Above ground the bison roam and prairie flowers bloom, below ground is another world. Wind Cave National Park is not only home to some of South Dakota’s most beloved wildlife, but also plays host to an underground cave with a network of passages and box work mineral formations. Named for how the cave was discovered, in 1881 two men heard an unmistakable whistling noise that lead them to investigate, and eventually find, the opening to an underground cavern. Its eventual establishment as a national park in 1903 was culminated by the more than 130 explored miles of passages, cementing a position early on as one of the world’s longest caves. Formed when rainwater absorbs carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and becomes acid, then seeps into cracks of rocks comprising the ground, caves often require more than 100,000 years of seepage and erosion to form in their entirety. Along with the sheer size of this particular cave was the uniqueness of the calcium formations found within its natural chambers. Instead of the expected dripping stalactites growths that most caves share, Wind Cave boasts a unique box work décor – often referred to as honey-comb-like formations covering the ceilings. This unique formation is thought to happen when calcite fills the “veins” of rock sheets and then the original rock wears away, leaving behind a lacy reminder of what used to be. Wind Cave is considered to be a world marvel and a must see for visitors and natives alike.

To the Lakota, this place is known as Bear Mountain or “Mato Paha.” The Cheyenne people know it by the name “Noahvose.” Today, it is widely known as Bear Butte and is regarded still as both a spiritual place and a geological spectacle. Rising 4,422 feet, the best way to describe what Bear Butte is comprised of is by saying it was almost a volcano. Formed when magma underground pushed upwards, there was enough pressure to cause a shift among plates of the Earth’s crust, but not enough force to cause an eruption. While the Black Hills is known for large rising hills, Bear Butte stands out as being a region unique to its surroundings.

Bear Butte: Sturgis, S.D.

Rising 4,422 feet, the best way to describe what Bear Butte is comprised of is by saying it was almost a volcano. Formed when magma underground pushed upwards, there was enough pressure to cause a shift among plates of the Earth’s crust, but not enough force to cause an eruption. While the Black Hills is known for large rising hills, Bear Butte stands out as being a region unique to its surroundings.



Harney Peak: Pennington County, S.D.

Looking out soundlessly over the sprawling Black Hills, Harney Peak rises high above the neighboring hills. At 7,242 feet tall, the elevation of this mountain puts it as the highest point in the Black Hills and therefore the state. Used as a fire lookout from 1911-1967, Harney Peak has served as a silent servant to the area in which it was formed.

James River Valley, S.D.

As the James River flows more than 470 miles from its start in North Dakota to its joining with the Missouri River near Yankton, it has the distinction of having one of the lowest gradients of any river of similar length on the continent. From roughly the North Dakota border to Huron, the river drops about one inch every half mile; from Huron to Yankton, the river drops less than five inches over .62 miles.

Kahler Appointed to SVE Board; Fills District 4 Seat



Mark Kahler has been appointed by the Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors to fulfill the unexpired term in District #4 that was left vacant in July due to the resignation of Curtiss Nelson. Mr. Kahler lives on the east end of Lake Madison and owns the Kahler Funeral Home in Dell Rapids. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree

in Business from the University of South Dakota and attended

the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in Dallas, Texas. He has been a funeral director for 30 years.

Mr. Kahler and his wife, Jenifer, have four children (Megan, Thomas, Benjamin and Gregory). He is active in the local community serving on many community and church boards.

"A committee of directors interviewed 14 Sioux Valley members who expressed interest in serving on the Board of Directors. Mr. Kahler rose to the top as someone who is dedicated to the best interests of the membership. We are pleased he is willing to serve the Cooperative by stepping in to finish out Curtiss Nelson's unexpired term," Board President, Mark Rogen, said.

Kahler will begin his duties as District #4 Director on October 28th at the Cooperative's board meeting. He said he is looking forward to it.

"I want to give back to the community by serving on the SVE Board of Directors. I believe my business background will be helpful in that role. I also hope to learn more about the electric cooperative business model which has provided exceptional service to me for years," Kahler said.

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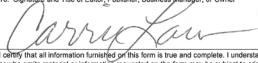
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(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	17,724
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS® (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 150 (1), (2), (3), and (4))	17,724
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 150 (1), (2), (3) and (4))	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 150 and 150e)	17,724
g. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	50
h. Total (Sum of 150 and g)	17,774
i. Percent Paid (150 divided by 150 times 100)	100

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 18 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		
16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Last Month Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	962	950
b. Total Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	17,724	17,624
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	17,724	17,624
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	100	100

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed
in the November, 2014 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Date
Sept. 22, 2014

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 3 of 4)

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Phoenix Stilwell, Mark
Scottsdale Dolge, Thomas K & Mary
Scottsdale Eppard, Lovina

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Hardwick Casazza, Christine
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Holland Goddeyne, John
Jasper Johnson, Don
Long Prairie Thornberg, Melvin
Luverne Crowe, Brenda S
Luverne Peterson, Ricky L
Luverne Reiff, James & Debra
Luverne Schoeneman, Wm
Luverne Staefller, Kelly
Luverne VanWettering, Ardell
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Magnolia DeGroot, Todd
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Brookings Beninga, Merlin

Building Block No. 1

Increasing Coal Plant Efficiency

By Brenda Kleinjan

MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FIRST OF four building blocks that create the foundation of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan rule could lead to the shuttering of the state's only coal power plant.

"We believe the application of Building Block 1 to South Dakota is technically infeasible," said Jeff Endrizzi, Big Stone Plant Manager, at the South Dakota 111(d) Forum hosted by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in July.

Building Block 1 calls for physical and operational changes at coal-based power plants to improve heat-rate efficiency.

The Big Stone Plant, located near Milbank, S.D., is co-owned by three regional investor-owned

utilities: Otter Tail Power Company, NorthWestern Energy and Montana-Dakota Utilities. The region's electric cooperatives are not a partner with the plant, nor do they receive power from it. However, the plight of the plant may impact co-ops as states begin writing their plans to comply with the proposed EPA rule.

(In September, the EPA extended its public comment period on its proposed "Clean Power Plan" rule under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act that will require CO₂ emissions reductions from existing power plants in 49 states [Vermont and the District of Columbia are not covered because they have no fossil-fuel based generation.] The rule was announced June 2, 2014. The EPA intends to issue

South Dakota's only coal-based power plant is the Big Stone Plant, located near Milbank, S.D. It is co-owned by three regional investor-owned utilities: Otter Tail Power Company, NorthWestern Energy and Montana-Dakota Utilities.

Photo by Otter Tail Power Company



a final rule in June of 2015, and states will then have one year to develop implementation plans, or if they collaborate on multi-state or regional plans, they are allowed two years to develop their plan. Case by case, states can seek a one-year extension from the EPA. Therefore, in some states it may take until June of 2018 to fully understand what compliance with this proposal will mean.)

"Big Stone Plant is the one coal-fired generating unit in South Dakota," Endrizzi told those gathered at the PUC meeting. "It has already performed, or in the process of performing all the major projects identified in the report."

The Big Stone Plant is in the midst of a nearly \$400 million project to make improvements at the plants. While the improvements will help the plant meet EPA Regional Haze rules, the improvements will actually make it harder for the plant to meet the proposed new heat rate. Heat rate is the measure of efficiency of a power plant – energy in versus energy out.

The plant has already performed the large heat rate improvement projects available (and which, in part the EPA used in calculating its numbers for South Dakota).

Endrizzi explained that before the investment, the plant consumed about 20 MW as its in-house load.

"That equipment is going to add a significant amount. The investments increase the plant's power needs by another 8 MW. That in itself make us less efficient," said Endrizzi.

The scenario encountered by Big Stone Plant is not isolated. Cooperatives, through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, have a list of concerns with the EPA's proposed rules.

First, the EPA has overestimated the potential for heat rate improvements. Co-op power plants are well maintained and most of the efficiency improvements – such as the ones currently being implemented at Big Stone – have already been done in co-op facilities. NRECA estimates that only a 1 percent or 2 percent gain is all that is left.

Second, co-ops are uncertain how – and if – improvements made prior to 2012 factor in to the EPA's proposals.

Finally, making improvements to existing plants to meet the proposed rules could trigger New Source Review and add significant hidden costs to the EPA proposal.

NRECA maintains that the proposed EPA rules are complex with unintended consequences and that the EPA is overreaching its legal authority.

For co-op members, the additional costs hit member-owners hardest. The not-for-profit co-op business model forces any costs from upgrades or shuttered power plants to be borne directly by co-op members.

According to the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, the EPA's proposed rule – encompassing its four building blocks – could have annual costs of \$13 billion to \$17 billion. ACCCE further estimates that the plan would force the retirement of 30,000 megawatts to 80,000 megawatts of coal-based generation and could cause more than 200,000 jobs to be lost in 2020.

The projected global climate benefits are a less than 1 percent reduction in CO₂ concentrations, a reduction in global average temperature of 0.016 degree and a reduction in sea level rise of 1/100th of an inch.

Electric cooperatives, through the Cooperative Action Network, are in the midst of gathering public comments to submit to the EPA during the agency's comment period on the proposed rule. Go to www.action.coop to learn more and send your message.

Editor's Note: This is the second of a five-part series that will explore each of the EPA's Building Blocks. The four building blocks are: (1) making coal plants more efficient; (2) displacing existing coal with existing natural gas plants; (3) increasing the use of nuclear and renewable energy; and (4) decreasing electricity consumption by increasing end-user energy efficiency.

EPA's "Building Blocks"

COAL PLANT EFFICIENCY

Make physical and operational changes at existing coal-based power plants to improve heat-rate efficiency by 6 percent, which reduces the amount of coal needed per MWh of generation, thereby reducing CO₂ emissions.



NATURAL GAS

Existing natural gas combined cycle plants are used more or less frequently, depending upon a variety of factors. EPA's CO₂ reduction goals are based on dispatching those natural gas plants more frequently (up to 70 percent capacity factor) while closing or curtailing existing coal-based generation sources.



RENEWABLE AND NUCLEAR POWER

Nuclear power and renewable resources like hydro, wind, and solar power do not have direct CO₂ emissions. EPA's goals are based on keeping some existing nuclear power plants (that are at risk of closing operating, ensuring that new nuclear plants under construction get finalized, and that more sources of renewable energy are developed.



CONSUMER ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Improving energy efficiency by consumers reduces the need for power generation. EPA's CO₂ reduction goals envision all states increasing energy efficiency programs to result in the avoidance of 1.5 percent of energy demand per year.

STATE CARBON INTENSITY GOAL

State	2012 Emissions Rate (lbs/MWh)	Final Goal (2030 & After)	Final Reduction	Final Percent Reduction
Iowa	1,552	1,301	-251	-16.2%
Minnesota	1,470	873	-597	-40.6%
Montana	2,246	1,771	-475	-21.1%
Nebraska	2,009	1,479	-530	-26.4%
N. Dakota	1,994	1,783	-211	-10.6%
S. Dakota	1,135	741	-394	-34.7%
Wyoming	2,115	1,714	-401	-19.0%

Can You Help Us Locate These People?

South Dakota Continued from Page 11

Brookings	Buck, Scott & Amy	Dell Rapids	Bettles, Tim & Phyllis	Oldham	Beaner, Joseph & Patricia
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Bryant	Jackson, Deborah A	Madison	Blair, David & Victoria A	Sioux Falls	Galbavy, Donald
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Colton	Visser, Winnie	Mitchell	Huls, Alan	Sioux Falls	Jarrott, Paul
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Spencer	Lange, James
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Valley Springs	Renner, Tim
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	Riedel, Alan D & Doncilla
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Texas	
San Antonio	Neff, Frances
Vermont	
Lincoln	Hovde, Bendick
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Wisconsin	
Madison	Melby, Richard & Elsa
Wyoming	
Buffalo Center	Lundstra Keith & Lisa

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Gun Show, Mitchell, SD
605-268-0254
www.dtgca.net

November 7

Jon Crane Show
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-336-9737
www.rehfeldsonline.com

November 7

38 Special in Concert
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188
deadwoodmountaingrand.com

November 7-8

Holiday Studio Tours and
Holiday Open House
Visit local art studios and
businesses for your holiday
shopping! Hundreds of new
gift ideas, demonstrations
holiday treats, in-store
discounts, holiday drawings
Luverne, MN, Check the
website for locations and
hours: luvernechamber.com

November 7-8

Pheasant Fiesta
Watertown, SD, 605-758-8743
glaciallakesguideservice.com

November 7-8

Culturefest, Aberdeen, SD
605-626-3011

November 9

28th Annual Wall Community
Center Craft Show
Wall, SD, 605-279-2665

November 15

Fall Buffalo Auction
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515
www.gfp.sd.gov

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE HORST, FEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION



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.

November 15

Holiday Open House
Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD
605-698-7425

November 25-December 27

Christmas at the Capitol
Pierre, SD, 605-773-4010
www.sd.gov/christmas2014

November 15

Women's Escape Expo
Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814

November 29

Greater Madison Chamber
Show and Sell, Madison, SD
605-256-2454
www.chamberofmadisonsd.com

November 21

Victorian Christmas Ornament
Class, 3 or 7 p.m., South
Dakota Agricultural Heritage
Museum, Brookings SD
605-688-6226
www.agmuseum.com

November 29-January 2, 2015

East River Snowmobile
Trails Season, Pierre, SD
605-773-3391, www.gfp.sd.gov

December 5-6

18th Annual Winterfest
Friday: The Hegg Brothers
presents HolidayJam
7:30 p.m., Historic Palace
Theatre, **Saturday:** Winterfest
Arts and Craft Show, Luverne
Public Schools, 9 a.m. to 3
p.m., D-Light Full 5K Run Race
begins at 6 p.m., D-Light-Full
Dance with live band "Six to
Midnight," 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
www.agmuseum.com

Events of Special Note

November 7-8

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Pheasant Hunt, Platte, SD
605-337-2170
www.plattesd.org

December 12-13

Sharpshooter Classic
Winner, SD, 605-842-1533

Blue Mound Banquet Center
Luverne, MN, 507-283-4061
Full schedule of events at
www.luvernechamber.com

December 6

Kid Craft: Snow Globes
10:30 a.m., South Dakota
Agricultural Heritage Museum
Brookings SD, 605-688-6226
Kids, come make a small snow
globe and have your own
winter wonderland. Materials
will be provided. \$3/museum
member, \$5/non-member
Class size is limited to 20
Appropriate for kids from 8 to
12. Kids younger than 8 must
be accompanied by an adult
Registration and payment
are due by Nov. 28
www.agmuseum.com

December 15-March 31, 2015

Black Hills Snowmobile
Trails Season, Lead, SD
605-584-3896
www.gfp.sd.gov