

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Dokken's Dogs

**Training Dogs to
Hunt**

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**Touchstone Energy
Anniversary**

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BOARD REPORT



A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on August 22, 2023, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Eric Odenbach kept the minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe. General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Line Superintendent Rob Vetch, Director of Finance Rhonda Tuscherer, Ryan Holien and Chad Dutenhoffer were present.

Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Sonje Oban.

Changes to the agenda: Add 7) E) Notice of East River Annual Meeting

Changes/Additions to Minutes from July 24, 2023, meeting: none

There was an error noted in the minutes from January 2023-June 2023 for the time of the meeting. It was recorded at 8:30 p.m. and should have been 8:30 a.m. The correction was noted in the official minutes and initialed by President Gary Bachman.

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be

on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Eric Odenbach, seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to acknowledge management and staff reports and accept following Work Order Inventories.

a) WOI 600	\$185,059.24
b) WOI 601	\$8,676.91
c) WOI 602	<u>\$123,595.11</u>
	\$317,331.26

The employee benefits committee joined the board meeting to present recommendations for benefit changes.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to enter executive session 9:57 a.m.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to leave executive session at 11:47 a.m.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve Manager/CEO Performance appraisal along with a lengthy discussion on Board Self- Evaluations.

Policy 407 Holidays, Policy 413

Insurance and Pension Benefits, Policy 419 Maternity Leave and Policy 422 Employee On-Call will be brought back to September board meeting for board approval with changes.

The board acknowledged receiving the July Cyber Security report.

Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to nominate Tom Thorpe as CFC voting Delegate and Eric Odenbach as Alternate Voting Delegate.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to appoint Sonje Oban, Josh Weigel, Logan Gruenstein, Crystal Thorson to the FEM Electric Wellness committee.

FEM directors acknowledged Notice of NISC Membership Meeting.

FEM directors acknowledged Notice of East River Annual Meeting.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to nominate Eric Odenbach as Voting Delegate for RESCO Annual Meeting.

Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Brian Hoffman, Leola, SD, Active Farm, Pasture Pump; Sally & Kevin Davis, Aberdeen, SD, Active Farm; Gary Gisi, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm, Pasture Pump; Frank & Evelyn Kinney, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm

Reconnects: Hoffman Family, LLC, Leola, SD, Active Farm, Pasture Pump; Geralyn

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COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, Asst. Sec./
Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Rob Vetch
Line Superintendent
Rhonda Tuschner
Director of Finance and
Benefits

Editor's e-mail:

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FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451. FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, FEM members devote \$1.00 from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$15 annually. (USPS 189-720) Periodical Postage Paid at Ipswich, SD 57451 and at additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FEM Electric Cooperative Connections, Box 468, Ipswich, SD 57451-0468.

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Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

GREEN, is it a new color or old color? Green is the word that is most likely to get you noticed by the federal government and investors looking to capitalize on federal programs and dollars. Is green good? Depends on if you are on the giving or receiving end of the business deal. Currently we have projects wanting to develop green methanol, green hydrogen, green ammonia, and want to use green energy. Is any of this truly carbon free or green or just defined by governmental policy? Do any of these products work without government subsidies? Is the CO2 captured even measurable? That is probably for everyone to decide for themselves.

There is one thing all these products need, extremely large amounts of energy with the lowest electric rates in the nation. It is called good business on their end but it's FEM Electric's management and board of directors' job to make sure we protect our current and past members' investments. I've always been told if a project is worth doing it

should be able to pay its own way while operating with a good business plan.

Today we have speculators chasing the current American Dream, "Project Green". I do believe some of these products being looked at are worthy causes or products, but they are all going to come at a cost to the American taxpayers through tax credits and federal subsidies with no sunsets. If you are a cattle rancher, you know what your cattle yards sound like in the fall of the year during weaning time. That is what green investors will sound like if we stop federal subsidies.

While driving through South Dakota in August, it truly looks like a green state with all the row crops and grass, but South Dakota has been and is currently a hot bed for investors looking to promote green energy and the next great green project.

I would like South Dakota to concentrate on adding value to products grown here such as yellow corn, tan wheat and soybeans, red beef, pork, and poultry. We do well when we promote and invest in products that we grow and understand. *Notice: if any of these above products turn green, do not use them, you have a problem.*

Within the FEM Electric territory, it looks to be a bountiful harvest. The best part is over the years our area agriculture producers and businesses have upgraded grain handling facilities to

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Statement Mailing Dates

September 28, 2023 for September's energy

October 31, 2023 for October's energy

Regardless of the statement mail out date, payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

October is Fire Safety Month

Is your workplace or home fireproof? Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) celebrates National Fire Safety Month in October. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2016, there were 88 occupational fatalities as a result of workplace fires or explosions. This is down from 2015, in which there were 121. While the statistics show that the number of fatalities due to fires or explosions in the workplace is on a downward slope, any number other than 0 is unacceptable and demands the attention from management, safety professionals and employees in every company. Not only do fires present a severe life safety hazard, they also can be detrimental to business success due to the possible destruction of business equipment and facilities. This campaign serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of fire safety awareness in both the workplace and our home lives.

The safety reminders communicated in the workplace can be easily translated to fire safety in the home. Establish a family emergency action plan, discuss escape routes with family members, and locate fire extinguishers in your home. Additionally, conduct a mock fire drill with your family members to ensure you and your loved ones know how to get out safely. During this drill, outline meeting places that are at a safe distance from the home. Designate a neighbor to contact for help in the event of an emergency. Simple exercises such as the aforementioned could mean the difference maker in your family making it out alive in the event of a fire in your home.

Below are key components to ensuring your workplace and home are fireproof:

- **Eliminate Clutter** – Exercise good housekeeping. Clutter can easily become a fuel source in the event of a fire, allowing a fire to spread quickly. Furthermore, clutter can restrict access to emergency equipment and exit routes.
- **Fire Extinguishers** – Maintain the appropriate type and number of fire extinguishers. Conduct monthly and annual extinguisher inspections to ensure they are in good, working condition. Provide training for employees on the correct use of fire extinguishers.
- **Chemical Safety** – Use and store chemicals safely. Read hazard warning labels and safety data sheets

to determine flammability and other fire hazards. Ensure your chemical storage areas provide adequate ventilation for the storage of chemical or other hazardous substances.

- **Waste Control and Storage** – Limit the accumulation of flammable or combustible materials and residues as to prevent the risk for such materials contributing to a fire emergency.
- **Exits** – Ensure emergency exit route diagrams are posted and accessible in all areas of the facility for all employees to easily view. Additionally, ensure means of egress are well-lit with regulated exit signs and free from debris or clutter.

Remember it is always better to be proactive rather than reactive and it is best to alleviate hazards or hiccups in times of peace than in times of chaos. Utilize the above tips to reduce the risk for catastrophe or at least minimize the damage.

Source: Safety Resources, Inc.



Keep cords away from water!

Maddy Pannell, Age 12

Maddy Pannell advises people it's not safe to plug in appliances around water. Maddy is the daughter of Scott and Kim Pannell from Sioux Falls, S.D., members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

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.

PASTA PERFECT

ITALIAN SPAGHETTI

Ingredients:

1-8 oz. can tomato sauce
 1-6 oz. can tomato paste
 1 1/2 paste cans water
 1 small onion, chopped
 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
 1 tsp. garlic salt
 1/2 tsp. chili powder
 3 shakes cayenne pepper
 1/8 tsp. black pepper
 1 tsp. basil
 1 tsp. oregano
 1/2 to 1 lb. ground beef

METHOD

Combine all ingredients except ground beef. Cover and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Brown beef and add to sauce. Serve over cooked noodles. May add green peppers or mushrooms.

Gail Keating
Flandreau, S.D.

GARDEN HARVEST PASTA SHELLS

Ingredients:

2 tbsps. vegetable oil
 2 medium zucchini, shredded
 1/2 cup finely shredded carrots
 2 cups chopped fresh broccoli
 1 small onion, chopped
 Salt and pepper
 1 lb part-skim ricotta cheese
 2 cups shredded mozzarella
 1 egg, lightly beaten
 1/4 cup grated parmesan
 1 tbsp. dried basil
 27.5 oz. jar pasta sauce
 12 oz. pkg jumbo pasta shells, cooked and drained

METHOD

Heat oven to 350. In a large skillet heat oil, then saute broccoli, zucchini, carrots, and onions until tender. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside. In a large bowl, thoroughly combine ricotta, mozzarella, egg, parmesan, and basil. Add vegetables and stir to combine. Spread 1 cup of the pasta sauce evenly in a 9" x 13" baking dish. Fill pasta shells with the vegetable and cheese mixture and arrange in the baking dish. Spoon the remaining sauce over the shells. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10 minutes or until bubbly.

Faye Chambliss
Murdo, S.D.

CREAMY CHICKEN AND BACON PASTA

Ingredients:

8 oz. spaghetti
 1 1/2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 3/4-inch chunks
 2 tbsps. flour
 4 slices bacon
 1 cup milk
 4 oz. (1/2 package) cream cheese, at room temperature
 1 1/2 tsps. basil leaves
 1 1/2 tsps. garlic powder
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1/4 tsp. coarse ground black pepper

METHOD

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, toss chicken with flour. Set aside. Cook bacon in large skillet on medium heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Set aside. Remove all but 1 tbsp drippings from skillet. Add chicken; cook and stir 4 minutes or until golden brown. Stir in milk, cream cheese and seasonings until well blended. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut bacon into bite-size pieces. Add to skillet. Place spaghetti in serving bowl. Add chicken mixture; toss well. Serve immediately.

mccormick.com

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

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& Ross Christen, Leola, SD, Active Farm; LDL Cattle Co, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm, Pasture Pump; Jenna & Kevin Malsom, Roscoe, SD, Active Farm

Contracts: Doug & Taylor Kallas, Leola, SD, Active Farm; Brian & Charlene Geffre, Leola, SD, Active Farm; Plainview Colony, Leola, SD, Active Farm; Brian & Morina Hauck, Roscoe, SD, Active Farm; Chris & Re Etta Sieh, Leola, SD, Active Farm; AJB Partnership, Roscoe, SD, Commercial

Retired Locations: Sylte Bros, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm

Capital Credits:

Estates – August 2023 – three estates = \$2,401.83

73 & Older – August 2023 – none

The board held discussion on the special retirement at age 73. It was considered that retiring by age could cause concern in the future. No action taken at this time.

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: The check register for the month of July 2023 contained information on checks #33583 through #33705 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for July 2023 totaling \$377,512.98.

July Financials were reviewed.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen to sign AA45 RUS Loan Commitment Acceptance Letter.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried board approval and review of 2023 Form 990 "Draft".

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: None

Meeting Report:

East River board update was given by Gary Bachman. Basin Annual Meeting report was given by Gary Bachman and Paula Petersen. SDREA Coop Board Leadership Summit report was given by Gary Bachman and Paula Petersen.

There were no Safety or Safety Committee Minutes.

Board acknowledged receiving August 3, 2023 employee meeting minutes.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.



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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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GARY NORLAND SPEAKS TO ELECTRIC CO-OPS

FEM Electric, Northern Electric, Whetstone Electric and Lake Region Electric co-hosted speakers Gary and Jeanne Norland on Wednesday, August 30th, 2023 to talk about how safety should be everyone's number one priority one-hundred percent of the time.



Gary Norland is an electrocution survivor. After working many years in construction, a work accident left him with burns on over 37 percent of his body. He spent years in and out of surgeries, and suffered permanent, life altering injuries.

However, Gary did not just talk about how falling into a line of 12,500 volts impacted his life. He described the impact it had on his family, his co-workers, his friends and his community. His wife Jeanne spoke about the impacts she experienced, as well as the experiences their children had.

At the end of the presentation, Gary and Jeanne made sure to impart that at the end of the day, the number one person who is responsible for safety, is ourselves.

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accommodate the larger yields. There is no doubt that kernels of grain help keep our rural economy strong.

If you haven't checked your electrical wiring at the grain bin site, please do so before you need to operate the electric fans and motors.

If you need some assistance with electrical needs, please call Ryan Holien 605 426 6891. As we enter fall, please contact FEM Electric if you are planning on adding some electrical equipment in 2024. We continue to see some long lead times for certain equipment.

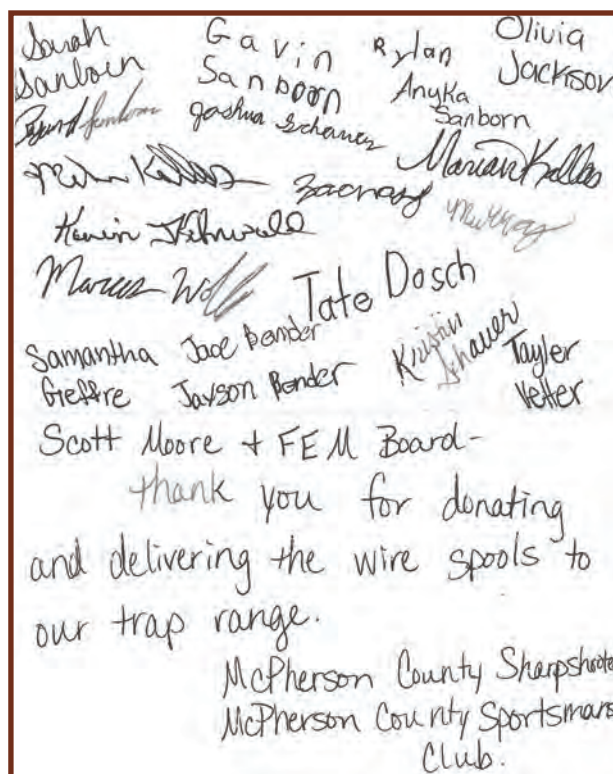
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We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.



FOR THE LOVE OF HUNTING DOGS

Source: Travel South Dakota

A Successful Hunt May Depend on Your Dog

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

With numerous television appearances and A-list clients under his belt, Day County resident and Lake Region Electric Cooperative member Tom Dokken has become one of the premiere hunting dog trainers of our time.

But you won't hear the modest pro brag about himself. Instead, Dokken gives credit to the hard work and the innate capabilities of the dogs themselves.

The 70-year-old Minnesota native has been professionally working with dogs over the last 50 years at his training facility, Dokken Oak Ridge Kennels, Inc. in Northfield, Minnesota.

It's one of the largest gun dog training kennels in the region.

His love for hunting alongside a canine

companion harkens back to his teenage years when he'd tag along to go hunting throughout the country with his friend and his friend's Labrador Retriever, Charlie.

"We were probably 16 years old when we started hunting together. He had a lab and I didn't have one. We hunted with that dog just about every weekend."

After a few years, Dokken decided it was time to get his own dog.

And to that dog goes all the credit, in Dokken's eyes.

"I started training her then I started running field trials. I did really well, not because of me, but I had a good dog who did

really well on a national level," he recalled.

After that, Dokken was hooked and knew training dogs was what he wanted to do for a living. He's since established



An adult black lab out hunting

himself as one of the top hunting dog trainers in the world, even bolstering a line of dog training products – Dokken Dog Supply – which is carried in sporting good stores across the country.

“That’s just as a result developing products we wanted for training themselves,” Dokken said of his supply company.

Some of the dogs Dokken has trained have hunted under some big names, including President George W. Bush and country music legend Hank Williams, Jr., along with many major professional athletes.

But it takes some prying to get that kind of info out of the humble Dokken, and he’s quick to emphasize that everyone that he does business with is treated the same, no matter what.

“Every customer is important. One person doesn’t get treated different than the other,” Dokken said.

His facility employs four full-time trainers, as well as office staff.

When Dokken isn’t training one of the 350 hunting dogs that come to his Minnesota training facility each year, he’s at home with his wife, Tina, in Day County.

“My wife and I live north of Webster. That’s our connection with the area. I’ve hunted down in the Lily area for years. We’ve had our place here 18 years or better,” Dokken explained.

“My mom’s family homestead is down in the Selby area, so as kids we’d be back on the farm for a good portion of the summer,” he added.

Dokken said his business trains pretty much any of the sporting, pointing and flushing breeds. But in the Upper Midwest, the more popular breed tends to be the Labrador Retriever.

Dokken has a special place in his heart for labs, which he described as a hardy breed able to withstand the punishing winter conditions known to challenge hunters in South Dakota during pheasant season.

And in South Dakota, pheasants are

king, according to Dokken.

“As far as population of pheasant – up in our area the weather sometimes knocks them back a little bit. Last year we had rain in December, which is a little bit of a factor when it comes to pheasant numbers,” Dokken said.

“The further south and west you get, the population changes too. Regardless, South Dakota numbers will always be top in the U.S.”

Hunters who have a dog in their arsenal have a much greater advantage over those who do not. For one, they can flush birds out of thick cover and, unlike the average human, have an absolute blast doing so.

“Without a dog – if you’re a pheasant hunter – you’re not going to have the ability to get the birds up and get them out of higher and denser cover. Finding birds that you’ve shot is going to be a real challenge as well. A dog is a great conservation tool as well,” Dokken said.

From a training standpoint, Dokken advises dog owners to start teaching their hunting partners good habits when they’re really young.

The earlier the training begins, the more success you’re setting the dog up for down the line.



Dokken with two adult labs

“Try to buy the best bloodlines that you can because if you do, in most cases your success rate just gets higher.”

Dokken says it boils down to three things: teaching, repetition and reinforcement. For the human, practicing patience is crucial.

“A majority the time the dog is not in the wrong, it’s that the dog can’t understand what you want,” he said.

The entire job is a dream for Dokken and his team, and one he hopes to continue for decades more to come.

“It’s what we do,” he said. “It’s a labor of love.”



Source: Travel South Dakota

CATTLE OPERATIONS MEETING

FEM hosts informative cattle operations meeting

On July 11th, FEM welcomed a number of FEM members to participate in an informal meeting with Mike Jasper and Bryan Sanderson. Mike Jasper is East River Electric's REED Business Development Director. Bryan Sanderson was invited to speak about his experience with cattle operations.

Some of the topics covered were feeding livestock versus custom feeding for others, types of facilities and investment levels for each, raising feed versus buying feed, what is the value of grain through livestock versus selling grain, as well as general discussion.



FEM Board President Gary Bachman presents to several cattle operations owners.

FEM would like to host future events when cattle producers have more free time. Be on the look out for updates on future events like this one.

GOLF VIEW ACRES

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KEEP ENERGY RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE

American families and businesses expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. Our national energy policies must support this fundamental promise. But burdensome new regulations threaten the future of reliable energy.

What's Happened? In May, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed unworkable regulations for new and existing power plants.

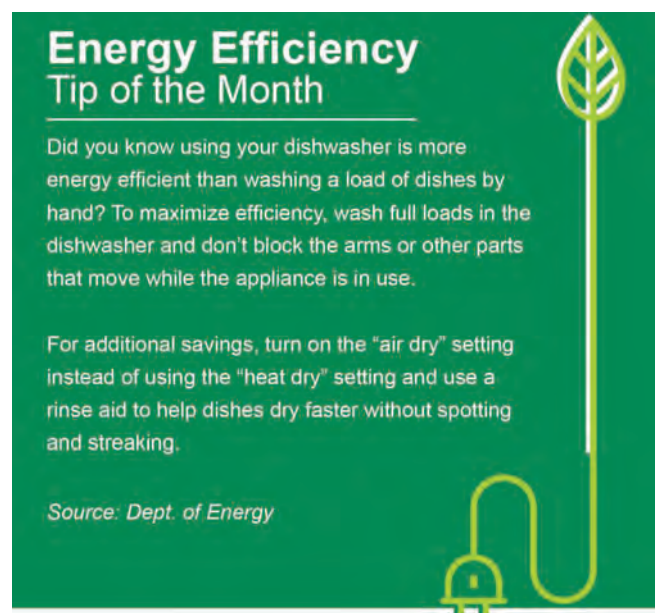
Electric cooperatives are driving innovation in low- and zero-emission energy technologies. However, this proposal would require the use of carbon capture and hydrogen technologies that are promising but not yet commercially viable. This will force the early closure of always available power plants while also making it harder to permit, site, and build critical new power plants.

This proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to keep the lights on. The EPA must recognize the disruptive impact these requirements will have on the future of reliable energy before it's too late.

We need YOUR help to make a difference!

Act today and tell the EPA that keeping the lights on is essential. Your voice matters. Join us in urging the EPA to reconsider these regulations and prioritize policies that ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply for the future.

For more information, visit voicesforcooperativepower.com.





Touchstone Energy Celebrates 25 Years with Commercial Debut

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is encouraging member electric cooperatives and their member-owners to pop some popcorn, settle in, and join them in celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary on Nov. 29, when they'll debut their

newest line of 2024 commercials.

The historic milestone will commemorate a quarter-century of Touchstone Energy's drive to establish a universal brand – seen on t-shirts, logos, and even soaring hot air balloons – for co-ops nationwide. Select commercials from the lineup, which will feature on the Touchstone Energy website, will highlight the local South

Dakota prairie landscape and local co-op employees with Sioux Valley Energy.

Touchstone Energy Board of Directors President and Sioux Valley CEO Tim McCarthy said he is glad to see South Dakota being represented on a national scope. "We are excited to be celebrating this historic milestone," said McCarthy. "Touchstone Energy continues to be an invaluable resource for co-ops in South Dakota and throughout our nationwide network."

Touchstone Energy's journey began 25 years ago when a group of movers and shakers recognized the need for an outward-facing organization that would connect the image of

co-ops across the nation. Although individually small, cooperatives from all around the nation believed a unified brand would broaden and strengthen their presence. Together, these co-ops owned and operated more distribution lines than any other sector in the electric utility industry and served more than half of the American landmass. On Nov. 26, 1998, 17 founding co-ops established Touchstone Energy, powering through a time of regulatory uncertainty.

“In the late ‘90s, there were some revolutionary things happening in the energy industry,” said Jana Adams, executive director of Touchstone Energy. “The cooperatives really wisely said: as individual entities we are small, but if we come together and create a recognizable brand, we will have a better opportunity to compete in this evolving energy landscape.”

From the start, Touchstone Energy was set on making an impression. By purchasing six iconic Touchstone Energy branded hot air balloons and sponsoring notable events such as the famous NASCAR Talladega 300 race, Touchstone Energy quickly transformed into a nationally recognizable brand.

To date, Touchstone Energy’s membership has grown to nearly 700 co-ops, which now reaches more than 30 million member-owners across 46 states. Along with this remarkable growth, Touchstone Energy has enhanced its services, including advertising, social media management, and web development, among others. Over time, Touchstone Energy’s wide range of services, said Adams, have become a crucial communication resource for their membership.

“Our first national ad was in the early 2000s, and to this day, we run advertisements in every single zip code served by a Touchstone Energy cooperative,” said Adams. “We are

constantly innovating and giving our cooperative members the opportunity to highlight the great work they do and the achievements they have.”

Looking back on the last quarter century, Adams said Touchstone Energy is thrilled to connect to its original roots and celebrate its longstanding service to co-ops across the country.



Touchstone Energy celebrates 25 years while producing new commercials in South Dakota.



“We encourage everybody to join us on Nov. 29 for our 2024 national ad premier and to celebrate the 25 years behind us, but more importantly the many years ahead of us where we continue to work together,” she said.



FARM SAFETY PARTY

On August 17th, at the Brown County Fair, FEM Electric helped host the Farm Safety Party in the Kid's Zone. FEM, along with Northern Electric, Lake Region Electric and Agtegra, teamed up to help promote farm safety.

There were five stations kids of all ages could stop by to learn a bit about safety. The stations included helmet safety, grain bin safety, personal protective equipment (PPE), electrical safety and fire safety.



As children made their way through the tent, they were tasked to stop at each station to watch and listen to a demonstration. They were provided a sheet to check off each station they visited. Once they made their way through each station, they could turn in their sheet for several prizes, including a color changing electrical safety cup provided by the electric cooperatives.

Lake Region electric manned the "Power Town" display, which demonstrates potential electrical hazards farm families may run into on their farm, including contact with overhead and underground lines.

FEM and Northern Electric staffed the PPE station, where they demonstrated the value of a line workers personal protective equipment. Kiddos were able to try on the heavy rubber and leather gloves, as well as a hard hat and safety vest. Once they

had the gloves on, staff asked them to attempt to unscrew insulators and bolts off a board clamped to the table. This simulated some of the work line workers experience day to day.

The weather was perfect during the event, held from 10 am to 2 pm. There was a constant stream of kids throughout that time, and a number of area daycares stopped by to educate their groups.

If you were able to stop by, we appreciate the opportunity to impart some safety tips on your youngsters, and we hope to see everyone next year!



A family stops and listens to Lake Region's Power Town demonstration.

FEM CELEBRATES CO-OP MONTH

October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, and FEM Electric is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including FEM, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs. One such need was developing our Electrical Department, which helps our rural residents with their personal and commercial electrical needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

Co-ops Grow Together: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

Co-ops Grow for You: At FEM Electric, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!





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.

SEPT 22-23
Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair
 9 a.m.
 Davison County Fairgrounds
 Activity Center
 Mitchell SD
 605-359-2049

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee
 Meadow, SD
 605-788-2229

SEPT 23
German Fest
 Webster, SD
 605-380-0588

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
 9 a.m.
 Springfield Community Building
 Springfield, SD

SEPT 24
Annual Bazaar & Fall Fest
 4-7 p.m.
 St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
 Wagner, SD

SEPT 30
Day of Wellness
 10 a.m.
 Sturgis Armory
 Sturgis, SD

SEPT 30
Mission Quilt and Bake Sale
 Zoar Lutheran Church
 Revillo, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
 Ramkota Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-941-4958

OCT 6-7
Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vendor Show
 Philip, SD
 605-441-1060

OCT 7
Spirit of Dakota Award
 Huron Event Center
 Huron, SD
 605-352-6073

OCT 12-19
"In Flanders Fields" Art Exhibition & Silent Auction
 Vermillion Public Library
 Vermillion, SD

OCT 14
Oktoberfest
Leo Lonney Polka Band
 6 p.m.
 Menno, SD
 605-660-1839

OCT 19-21
Fall Fundraising Rummage Sale
 Spearfish Senior Center
 Spearfish, SD
 605-642-2827

OCT 21
Fall Festival
 11 a.m.
 18473 U.S. HWY 83
 Onida, SD
 605-788-2229

OCT. 28-29
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association
 Ramkota Hotel Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-731-9155

NOV 11
Sisseton Area Merchants & Crafters Holiday Extravaganza
 Sisseton, SD
 605-698-7425

NOV 12
Lutefisk, Lefse & Meatball
 4-7 p.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Chamberlain, SD
 605-730-0553

NOV 24
Parade of Lights
 7 p.m.
 Dakota Avenue
 Huron, SD
 605-788-2229

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.