

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



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ELECTRIFICATION WILL BRING OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES

By **TYE WILLIAMS** | Manager

OVER the years, as you can see on your bills, we charge everyone for energy in kilowatt-hours (kWh), but we do not normally show or talk about demand for residential loads. As loads get larger than a residential home, we charge for demand per kilowatt (kW), rather than per kWh. This is because larger loads require larger wire, transformers and other material to operate safely. They also set our monthly peak demand, which Southeast Electric Cooperative (SECO) pays for separately in our monthly power bills. In August of 2022, SECO peaked at just over 12,000 kW (12MW), which we have not been at since before the COVID pandemic.

When you hear about the push to electrify everything, think about how



that will increase the demand on the grid. A good analogy would be to think about traffic and highways, where cars would be the power needed and highways would be the powerlines. If you have one car going down a road per hour, you don't need a big road. But if you have 1,000 or 10,000 cars per hour, you will need a much bigger road. SECO transmissions lines from Baker and Buffalo are our interstate highways, larger 3-phase lines are the state highways and single-phase taps are the gravel roads.

Once we get out of the SECO system, the transmission lines that feed SECO can be from 230,000 to 500,000 volts. These large lines allow a tremendous amount of power to flow from the power generating stations in Montana, the Dakotas and Wyoming to our

homes. We receive approximately 1500 kW from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), through hydro generation and power-market purchases. The rest of our power is purchased from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which produces their power from an array of sources.

The push to electrify everything will bring opportunities and challenges to SECO over the upcoming years and decades. While we are assessing rates throughout 2023, we will look at adding a demand charge for residential rates to offset the increase in "cars" on our system. Over the next few months, you may notice the demand reading on your bills, but there will not be any charge. To keep rates steady, we hope to see continued growth in 2023 starting with a larger pumping station load by Albion coming online in April. RM

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC WELCOMES LINEMAN TRENTON REINHART

TRENTON Reinhart is a new face at Southeast Electric Cooperative. Trenton started work on October 1, 2022. He is from Glendive and has been a lineman for almost one year. He attended school at Bismarck State College. Trenton chose this career because he likes heights and likes being able to help keep the power on for those who need it.



Reinhart

For fun, Trenton likes to golf and play with his Great Pyrenees Puppy named Ranger. An interesting fact about Trenton is that he played college baseball at North Dakota State College of Science. Welcome to Ekalaka and the Southeast Electric family Trenton.

We would also like to welcome Wilson Venhaus back. Wilson took a little over a year to pursue other interests, but has returned to Southeast Electric as an apprentice lineman.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Nominating committee appointed in April, Annual Meeting is June 16

THE Annual Meeting is June 16. A nominating committee will be appointed in April. Trustee positions up for re-election are as follows:

- **District No. 5:** Clayton Jardee
- **District No. 9:** Albert Paul

Further nominations may be made by petition of 15 or more members, acting together not less than 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Nomi-

nations by petition, received at least five days before the meeting, shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations received by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall also call for nominations from the floor for a period of one minute during the time for nominations. No member may nominate more than one candidate. RM

CURRENT DIRECTORS:

District 2: Doug Gardner

District 3: Michael Hansen

District 5: Clayton Jardee

District 6: Karen Kreitel

District 8: Dave Hayden

District 9: Albert Paul

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NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than

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LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY - APRIL 18

BEING a lineworker may not be the most glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Working near high-voltage equipment requires special-

ized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Every April, we recognize lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering everyday life. RM

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC'S FINEST

Thank you for your courage & commitment to powering our community.



LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY - APRIL 18TH

SECO'S LINEMAN LINEUP:

JAKE HAMMEL

Line Foreman

ADAM KUNTZ

Lead Lineman

SAM ERFMAN

Crew Foreman

DAVE LOUDERMILK

Apprentice Lineman

TRENTON REINHART

Apprentice Lineman

WILSON VENHAUS

Apprentice Lineman