

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE: EPA ruling can impact reliability



As an electric cooperative, our primary concern is the reliability of the service we provide to our valued members. It is with this commitment in mind we share with our members the deep concern regarding recent developments that threaten our local power supply and, consequently, our way of life. Our cooperative, along with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, stands firmly against the new power plant rules

released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 25.

These rules, while purportedly aiming to cut emissions from power plants, pose a dire risk to the reliability of our electric grid. They would force the premature retirement of reliable, dispatchable, baseload electric generation assets, putting the security of our power supply in jeopardy.

The timelines set forth by the EPA are unrealistic, and the technologies required are not yet deployable. For instance, existing coal-fired power plants would be required to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by a staggering 90% by 2032, necessitating the use of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technologies. While CCS shows promise and is actively being pursued by organizations like Minnkota Power Cooperative, it is not yet proven or commercially available.

Furthermore, while existing natural gas plants are exempt from immediate compliance, new natural gas units must

adhere to strict greenhouse gas standards outlined in the new rule. This regulatory environment threatens the very foundation of our energy infrastructure.

Looking ahead to 2032, the prospect of a future without coal is deeply troubling. As demand for electricity continues to rise, these EPA rules threaten to exacerbate reliability challenges, as highlighted by the North American Reliability Corporation. The North American Reliability Corporation, a not-for-profit international regulatory authority whose mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the electric grid, estimates the demand for electricity will grow 10% through 2032, while the electric generation to meet that demand is projected to grow only 4% in that time.

As a community, we pride ourselves on innovation and progress. Our electric cooperatives have diversified and made strides forward, but we cannot compromise on reliability. The implications of these regulations are dire: more blackouts, higher costs and increased uncertainty for families and businesses.

We urge our policymakers to consider the practical implications of these rules and prioritize the reliability of our power supply. It is essential we work together to ensure a sustainable energy future without sacrificing the reliability and security of our local grid. ⚡



Jason Bentz, Co-General Manager/ CEO

## JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

**Join us for an evening filled with camaraderie, delicious food, exciting prize giveaways, Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships and much more!**

📅 Tuesday, June 11

🕒 5 p.m. (CT) Registration & Meal | 6 p.m. Business Meeting

📍 Our Club Hall, 601 E Cedar Ave, Linton



### OFFICERS

Chair.....Victor "Chuck" Wald  
Vice Chair..... John R. Beck  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Carter Vander Wal

### DIRECTORS:

Dean Dewald • Neil Meidinger  
Carmen Essig • Vacant

### CO-GENERAL MANAGERS/CEOS:

Travis Kupper  
Jason Bentz

## EMPOWERING THE SERVICE AREA: Operation Round Up deadline approaching



Operation Round Up stands as a beacon of goodwill in the KEM Electric Cooperative service area. As part of this voluntary program, members can make a significant impact by simply rounding up their utility bills. Through this program, the KEM Electric Operation Round Up board receives vital support to enhance and uplift our local communities.

The board members, who are also KEM Electric members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants to nonprofit corporations, organizations or agencies. All the money raised by members stays in our local area.

The next Operation Round Up deadline is June 30.

To complete an application or for more information, visit our website, <https://kemelectric.com/operation-round> or call the office at 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673. ⚡

## SPARK YOUR FUTURE: Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships

High school seniors, you still have an opportunity to be awarded a \$500 scholarship from KEM Electric Cooperative! At the 2024 Annual Meeting, KEM Electric will award two \$500 Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships. If your parents or guardians are members, you're already in the running. Just make sure to RSVP and join us at our Annual Meeting with at least one of your parents or guardians to claim your spot in the drawing! Students who have already been awarded a cooperative scholarship are not eligible for the Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarship.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to spark your future. Students can RSVP by scanning the QR code, visiting our website at [www.kemelectric.com](http://www.kemelectric.com) or calling the office at 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673. ⚡

**CLAIM YOUR  
LUCK-OF-THE-DRAW  
SPOT HERE**



## Explore it, Adore it and SAVE!

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, KEM Electric Cooperative is once again making excursions to Medora more affordable for families.

This summer, our members are eligible for a 15% discount off the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Gospel Brunch Tickets
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Old Town Theater shows

Lodging at any of the following:

- Badlands Motel
- Elkhorn Quarters
- Rough Riders Hotel

KEM Electric members can use the code **"TOUCH2024"** for the discount. The code is good for reservations by phone, website or in-person. ⚡