

2012 excerpts

Basin Electric is proud to provide detailed reports on operations at all facilities and in all subsidiaries during its annual meeting. It's part of what makes the Basin Electric annual meeting so well-attended by members. Below, excerpts from speeches and videos, including links to full videos.



Mike Fluharty

"Over the years, each of Basin Electric's facilities has developed a safety program that helps employees make safe choices day in and day out, at work and at home. It's time to take a step forward and unify the cooperative's safety front. We're identifying the best of the best in the facilities' programs and putting them to work across the cooperative. Working together allows everyone to benefit from each others' strengths and to share knowledge and research. ... We've always had good safety programs. I think just like anything else, it can evolve into something better."

[Video: Learn about EPA's Regional Haze decision in North Dakota](#)

[Video: Laramie River Station](#)

[Video: Leland Olds Station](#)

[Video: Antelope Valley Station](#)

[Video: Dry Fork Station](#)

[Video: Deer Creek Station](#)



Dave Raatz

"This last spring, we finalized updates to our 15-year member load forecasts. The peak demand growth we're anticipating in the next 10 years is more than 1,600 megawatts. About two-thirds of that is Williston Basin area growth, which includes all residential, commercial, pipelines and associated services that support this area. ... The 2012 load forecast also predicts steady growth in farm, ranch, rural residential and small commercial electrical growth 'outside' the Williston Basin area."

[Video: Electric load growth in South Dakota](#)



Mike Paul

"To help serve the increasing demand for electricity by member cooperatives in northwest North Dakota ... Basin Electric is constructing two natural gas-fired peaking stations: Pioneer Generation Station and Lonesome Creek Generation Station. Construction on Pioneer, near Williston, ND, and Lonesome Creek, near Watford City, ND, began this summer. The plants will each provide 45 megawatts of natural gas-fueled peaking capacity ... When generation is not needed, the turbine can be disconnected from the generator and the generator can act as a synchronous condenser to provide voltage support to the surrounding transmission grid. Both of these units are expected to be fully operational in early 2013."



Mike Risan

"Basin Electric is watching with great concern as the Department of Energy proposes changes to the nation's power marketing administrations. That includes our close ally and partner in the Integrated System, the Western Area Power Administration. DOE Secretary Dr. Steven Chu is proposing an initiative that, among other things, incentivizes energy efficiency, demand response and renewable energy through rate design. It also directs the PMAs to coordinate planning and operations with neighboring utilities and balancing authorities. While these are laudable goals, Basin Electric is concerned that the initiative duplicates much of what is already being done in the region between Western, their preference customers, and their partners in the Integrated System. Preference customers have a statutory and contractual relationship with Western, and that simply must be recognized."

[Video: Transmission System Maintenance manager](#)



Gary Loop

Dakota Gasification Company

"As you've heard from me from the day I got here, we're on an ambitious goal to knock ourselves down from producing a product at six dollars down to five dollars. We had to do that before 2016, because we were going to be in a situation where we just couldn't be viable. I'm proud to say this team has not only met the five dollar goal, but we're not anticipating that we'll be at four dollars and fifty cents and we're continuing to find projects to do even better than that."

[Video: Dakota Gasification Company subsidiary report](#)



Bob Bartosh

Dakota Coal Company

“My congratulations to the teams both at Montana Limestone Company and the Wyoming Lime Producers for their safety achievements. With regard to the Freedom Mine, they too achieved a safety award in 2011, and my congratulations to them. However in 2012, we’ve refocused our safety efforts at the Freedom Mine, and I’m sure those folks will continue to set safety records as the safety program has been looked at again, and we will achieve our goal of zero reportable incidents.”

[Video: Dakota Coal Company subsidiary report](#)



Mike Eggl

BTInet

"Since BTInet went from providing Internet access to data hosting and server hosting, changes have been aplenty at the Basin Electric subsidiary. The BTInet data center serves Basin Electric and BTInet customers, which includes clients from around the world. The potential for new clients is almost unlimited, but we needed to find a way to focus our marketing. Therefore, we decided to focus our marketing on our membership."

[Video: BTInet subsidiary report](#)



Kevin Tschosik

PrairieWinds ND 1 and PrairieWinds SD 1

"For the past year, both wind projects have been performing above our expectations. The thing about wind turbines is that we can't control the fuel source – the wind. And the fact that they are producing higher megawatts than we expected is a true testament to all the work that was put into properly siting the wind turbines to collect the most wind possible. In addition to keeping the turbines in working order, our employees have done so safely. Our safety record has been great the past year."

[Video: PrairieWinds subsidiary report](#)