




# Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Current News

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### Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland “Judge” Barth  
Vice Chair.....Casey Wells  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Pam Geiger

#### Directors:

Mark Doll  
Vern Frederick  
Lance Froelich  
Chad Harrison  
Bob J. Leingang  
Bonnie Tomac

#### Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Chris Baumgartner  
Donald A. Franklund

[www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com)

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*Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable energy and services that support and unite our member-owners.*

*We also aspire to meet the four Touchstone Energy core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.*

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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## If left unchanged, the Clean Power Plan may have a significant impact on our member-owners

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined the utility industry should be doing more to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions into the atmosphere, so it has created a federal plan to speed the process. It will come at the expense of consumers at the end of the line — including the member-owners of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.



Franklund



Baumgartner

The EPA’s Clean Power Plan initially proposed an overall 11-percent reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in North Dakota from 2005 levels by 2030. But when the final rule was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 23, the EPA had kicked that number up to a 45-percent reduction over that same time period.

To the electric cooperatives in North Dakota, reducing emissions by 11 percent sounded challenging, yet achievable. Given today’s current technology and short timeframe, 45 percent will be next to impossible. If this ruling remains as is, it will have significant impacts on our membership, communities, state, and rural America as a whole.

North Dakota’s electric cooperatives have always considered ourselves good stewards of the environment. For many years now, we have been retrofitting coal-based power plants, restoring land to its original habitat through reclamation, and developing renewable-energy resources — all while meeting or exceeding environmental requirements. We have taken these steps to provide our member-owners with affordable and reliable electric service, which has become one of the foundational lifelines to our society. The EPA’s plan puts that in jeopardy.

Electric cooperatives are heavily invested in coal-based generation for good reason: At the time that we knew we had to build more generation to meet increasing demand for power in the 1970s, the nation was operating under the Fuel Use Act. This Act made it illegal to use natural gas for power generation, virtually forcing power companies to use coal as the primary source of fuel.

It was not hard to follow the law. North Dakota is blessed with the two abundant natural resources required to produce affordable electric power: lignite coal (used as fuel) and water (which creates the steam to spin the turbines). From 1963 through 1985, North Dakota’s electric cooperative members invested some \$5 billion to build about 3,500 megawatts of coal-based generation that provides dependable, affordable electric power to millions of people in the Great Plains (roughly 55 percent of the electric power generated in North Dakota is shipped outside our borders). While North Dakota-based generation cooperatives have invested in renewable energy, renewable generation constructed prior to 2013 does not count toward North Dakota’s carbon-reduction goals.

Some of you may be thinking, “We want cleaner air. We want to do what’s right for the environment.” Electric cooperatives care about the environment, too. That’s why our power providers have spent a tremendous amount of money on mercury controls, sulfur controls and air-particulate controls, to

protect our water and air. You may remember the issue of “regional haze,” in which the idea was to reduce carbon monoxide and air particulates in order to improve visibility. The Clean Power Plan is a very different issue. It deals with carbon dioxide — not carbon monoxide. There is no viable solution for CO<sub>2</sub>. The improvements the EPA wants made will have no noticeable impact on our air quality.

Our state’s response to the Clean Power Plan is following two tracks: implementation and litigation. The N.D. Department of Health is taxed with developing an implementation plan. Before year’s end, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said the state will also file suit in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., to seek a stay in the rule. Collectively, 26 states are opposing this rule.

This region’s coal-based power plants are some of the cleanest, most reliable, and best operated and maintained facilities in the world. Because we believe in being good stewards of the environment, North Dakota’s electric cooperatives will continue to invest in technology to make these plants even cleaner. Coal must remain in the mix, if we are to have affordable and reliable energy.

The current plan is unaffordable, and may cause significant rate increases for our member-owners. To make it attainable, we need realistic goals, and technology and time.

We’ll keep you updated on this important issue as events unfold.

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## **Holiday closings ...**

Mor-Gran Sou wishes our member-owners a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year! In observance of the holidays, we will be closed: Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, for Christmas, and Friday, Jan. 1, 2016, for New Year’s Day



Line crews will be available in case of an emergency electrical outage.

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## **In the DECEMBER issue of *North Dakota Living*:**

- Rusty’s Saloon & Grill
- Scam alert
- Meeting minutes ... and more

## **Mor-Gran-Sou’s annual meeting scheduled for July 15, 2016**

It’s time to consider serving the people of central southwestern North Dakota and your electric cooperative by becoming a board director for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. The initial commitment is a three-year term, with provisions in the bylaws limiting a director to serving six consecutive three-year terms, after which time the director is not eligible for another six consecutive three-year terms until one year has elapsed.

At the annual meeting, the following three board positions will be elected:

- The Grant County position presently held by Vern Frederick;
- The Mandan Area position presently held by Leland “Judge” Barth; and
- The Morton County position presently held by Pam Geiger.

Under the bylaws and due to the use of a mail-in ballot, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Instead, the bylaws require the board of directors to appoint a Nominating Committee of five to nine members who geographically represent the cooperative. These members will provide a list of qualified and willing candidates to the board for approval and inclusion on the ballot at the board of directors’ meeting scheduled for March 30, 2016. This date has been set so there is adequate time for each candidate’s biographical information to be included with the notice of meeting sent to the members in June, along with the mail-in ballot for those who are unable to attend the annual meeting in person.

The Nominating Committee has been appointed by the board and will meet for the first time, set for Jan. 13, 2016. The members of the Nominating Committee include Leslie Dirk, Andrew Holle and Jim Neubauer, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Kathy Hoff, Leith; Jim Hopfauf, Flasher; Lisa McLaughlin, Fort Yates; Rodney Nelson, Almont; and Travis Wilkens, New Salem.

For a person to be nominated, the member vying for a board seat must submit the completed declaration of candidacy form to Mor-Gran-Sou by 4 p.m. CT (3 p.m. MT) on Thursday, March 10. The completed form must be mailed to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Jackie Miller, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297. If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members or Jackie at Mor-Gran-Sou by calling 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. You can also email Jackie at [jlmliller@morgransou.com](mailto:jlmliller@morgransou.com).

The Nominating Committee members or Jackie can provide you or the potential candidate with the declaration of candidacy form. It is also located on Mor-Gran-Sou’s website at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com). To download the form electronically, click on the link entitled Find the Declaration of Candidacy form on the home page. Candidate qualifications can be found on the website under Home/Cooperative/Articles and Bylaws/Board of Directors/402 Director Qualification or on the declaration of candidacy form.

If you have questions about the process, give Jackie a call. All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and forwarded the written declaration of candidacy form to the Mor-Gran-Sou office by the March 10 deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board.

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## **Christmas is almost here! Gift certificates are available at Mor-Gran-Sou**

If you are shopping for a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member, why not wrap up a gift certificate he or she can use toward an electric bill? Call Mor-Gran-Sou at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212 and ask for Julie or Jackie. We can help you “lighten” up the holidays.

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## **YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES** Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is currently offering several youth opportunities including student scholarships, a safety poster coloring contest and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. To learn how the students in your family can take part, read the December local pages of *North Dakota Living*.