



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

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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.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Mor-Gran-Sou’s power suppliers joined a Regional Transmission Organization. What does that mean for the member-owner?

After many years of discussion and analysis, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative’s power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. and the Western Area Power Administration (Western), have joined and successfully integrated into the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) based out of Little Rock, Ark.



Franklund



Baumgartner

The SPP is charged with ensuring a reliable supply of electric generation, transmission infrastructure and competitive wholesale electricity prices to their members, throughout the Upper Great Plains, on behalf of utilities and transmission companies in 14 states, which now include Basin Electric and Western. The SPP is one of several other RTOs that blanket the country and operate under the oversight of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, of which Tony Clark, a North Dakota native and former Public Service Commissioner, is a member.

So how does this affect our business?

When participating in an RTO, Basin Electric and Western can more economically purchase power from other regional utilities in time of need and sell power in time of excess. It also allows them to adopt standardized rules and tariffs that apply to wheeling power across the high-voltage transmission system.

Even though we are considered a distribution cooperative, interestingly enough, Mor-Gran-Sou also provides transmission service to other utilities such as Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU). While Basin Electric will operate its transmission facilities under SPP guidelines, we are also considering operating our transmission facilities in the same manner. Your board of directors and management are currently weighing the possibility of this commitment.

In addition, Mor-Gran-Sou receives some of its power over transmission lines we do not own. This sharing of lines is known as wheeling and a wheeling fee is charged. We understand this fee may increase and are currently preparing for this possible escalation. Of course, that affects the bottom line at your cooperative.

Although a complicated and philosophical change, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors and management believe that Basin Electric and Western have made the right move to join the SPP. We will keep you informed as we learn more about the evolving electric generation and transmission environment.

Please understand, no matter what issues your cooperative will face in 2016, the member-owner is front-and-center in our decision-making. You can expect that Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service. We have — and will continue — to work hard to accomplish that goal.

For more information, visit <http://www.spp.org/> and <http://www.ferc.gov/>.

Serve your electric cooperative as a director 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 on July 15, 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.

Appointed by the board, the Nominating Committee met on Jan. 13. The members 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.

To learn the process and procedure to be nominated as a board member, read Mor-Gran-Sou's February local pages in the *North Dakota Living* magazine. Or, contact one of the Nominating Committee members or call Jackie Miller at Mor-Gran-Sou at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301 or email Jackie at jlmliller@morgransou.com.

All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and submitted the required form by the **March 10** deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board.

DEADLINES APPROACHING on youth opportunities!

For more information, read the February local pages of *North Dakota Living* or call Jackie or Julie at 597-3301, 663-0297 or 800-750-8212.

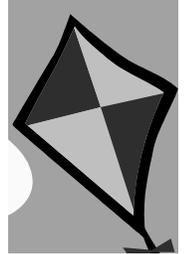
Scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou is once again offering four \$500 scholarships to qualifying high school seniors, with the assistance of Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The scholarships will be awarded during the 2015-2016 school year. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at www.morgransou.com. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on **Feb. 17, 2016**. Please deliver or mail information to Mor-Gran-Sou at P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.



Poster coloring contest

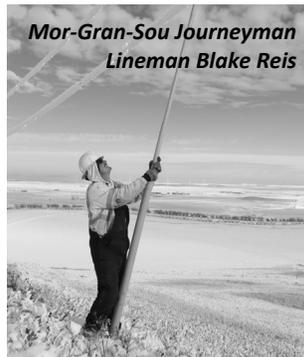
Kids, grab your art supplies for Mor-Gran-Sou's safety poster coloring contest. The topic is, "How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?" All posters should display the Touchstone Energy® logo. Cash prizes will be awarded. Posters must be received at the Flasher office by 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on **Feb. 29, 2016**.



BYLAW/RESOLUTION MEETING SET

A bylaw/resolution meeting will be held in conjunction with the regular board meeting scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. CT (9:30 a.m. MT) on Wednesday, March 30. The meeting will be held in the board room of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, located at 3201 Nygren Dr. N.W., Mandan.

If you have a bylaw/resolution to propose at the 2016 cooperative's annual meeting in July, but cannot make the scheduled meeting on March 30, please submit your information in writing to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative before March 30. Thank you.



RIME ICE: STUNNING SCENERY, SIGNIFICANT OUTAGES

In the February community pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine, learn how rime ice has been causing power outages across the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area, and what factors help determine the restoration process.

Also in the FEBRUARY issue of *North Dakota Living*:

- Line crews patrol power lines ■ First Link: Dial the Helpline
- Keeping our electric system reliable ■ Meeting minutes and more



**Sunday,
Feb. 14**

HOLIDAY CLOSING: Presidents Day Monday, Feb. 15

In observance of Presidents Day, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Feb. 16. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.

