

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: BEYOND KILOWATTS



Today, I want to take a moment to discuss an essential aspect of our cooperative's operations: base rates. A few members expressed concern about these rates in our recent member satisfaction survey, and I wanted to take the time to explain them a little more.

Base rates, which are the foundation of our rate structure, play a pivotal role in ensuring the financial sustainability and operational integrity

of our cooperative. These rates represent the fixed costs associated with maintaining and operating the infrastructure necessary to deliver electricity to your doorstep, regardless of the amount of energy consumed.

It's important to understand base rates encompass more than just the cost of electricity generation. They also cover a myriad of other expenses, including transmission and distribution infrastructure, equipment maintenance, grid modernization initiatives and compliance with regulatory requirements. These investments are essential for maintaining a reliable and resilient electric system that meets the evolving needs of our members.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative takes great care in setting our base rates to balance the needs of our members with the financial obligations of our cooperative. Our goal is to ensure rates remain fair, transparent and reflective of the true cost of service, while also promoting affordability and accessibility for all members, regardless of their energy usage.

However, it's essential to recognize our cooperative is more than just a utility provider of kilowatt-hours. We are stewards

of an essential service that powers the homes, farms and businesses that form the backbone of our communities.

We are a community partner dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our members and fostering economic prosperity in our service area. From supporting local initiatives and charitable causes to providing energy efficiency programs and educational opportunities, we strive to make a positive impact on the communities we serve.

Moreover, cooperatives like ours are uniquely positioned to serve areas for-profit utilities may overlook due to economic considerations, such as the challenges associated with fewer members per mile of line. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which prioritize profitability, cooperatives are driven by a commitment to serving all members of our community, regardless of geographic location or population density.

As we navigate the complexities of setting rates and financial management, it's crucial to remember our cooperative is rooted in the principles of cooperation, democracy and member ownership. Your input and participation are invaluable as we work together to shape the future of our cooperative and ensure it remains a beacon of service and integrity for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. Together, we are more than just selling kilowatts. We are providing an essential service that powers the vitality and resilience of our communities.



Jason Bentz, Co-General Manager/ CEO

"WE ARE PROVIDING AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE THAT POWERS THE VITALITY AND RESILIENCE OF OUR COMMUNITIES."

CO-GENERAL MANAGER/CEO, JASON BENTZ

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Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger

Directors:
Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
Kathy Tokach, Casey Wells

Co-General Managers/CEOs:
Travis Kupper
Jason Bentz

Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS



A FULL LIST OF UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS IS PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF *NORTH DAKOTA LIVING*.

Unclaimed Capital Credits

A list of current or former Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members has been published in the August issue of *North Dakota Living* who had unclaimed capital credit checks mailed in December 2023.

These checks have either been received, but not cashed, or returned to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric by the postal service, because it could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric personnel has not turned up their whereabouts. If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list, please have them contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. Keep in mind not all of the capital credit amounts are large, but we would like to get these checks to the proper parties. Persons who wish to claim checks from the list should be prepared to provide proper personal identification.

Please call the office at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301 with any questions or information.

Blend explores Washington, D.C.

Each June, hundreds of high school students gather in Washington, D.C., for an opportunity to learn more about electric cooperatives and cultivate lifelong friendships and memories.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative holds an annual contest for high school sophomores or juniors to be chosen to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Students enter the contest by writing an essay in response to a question posed by the cooperative.

Lucy Blend from New Salem joined other North Dakota youth sponsored by their local electric cooperatives, along with students from around the nation, in Washington, D.C., for a week of learning and networking. Read more about Blend's experience in the August issue of *North Dakota Living*.



Picture credit Krista Rausch

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

Congratulations to Tony Stegmiller, facility technician, on his retirement after 21 years of service to our cooperative and membership.

Thank you and best of luck on your future endeavors!

