

# MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF YOUR COOPERATIVE

**June 6th, 1948**

FEM Electric votes and passes Articles of Conversion, converting FEM Electric to its current membership cooperative status in which every member has a vote in the cooperative.

**June 4th, 1951**

Byron Jones, FEM Treasurer, presents first prepayment to REA, creating a cushion of credit against payments due on REA loans.

**December 10th, 1945**

FEM Electric Association Inc. is officially launched after Douglas Barrows, Oscar Prestegard and Walter Lassar spearhead project to bring electricity to farms and homes in Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson counties.

**May 25th, 1949**

A ceremony is held to mark the official entrance of the Bureau of Reclamation's low-cost power into the State of South Dakota.

**July 24th, 1950**

A groundbreaking ceremony is held for site of new FEM headquarters.

**June 10th, 1959**

Anton Malsam receives the first capital credits check from FEM Manager A. W. Grage at the annual meeting in Bowdle, SD. \$26,000 in capital credits were paid out that year.

**December 19th, 1949**

Tolstoy Substation energized

**December 1950**

Ted & Frieda Martel of Long Lake are the first people in South Dakota to have electric heaters in their home.

**November 30th, 1948**

Hillsview Substation energized

**August 9th, 1948**

FEM directors vote to join Dakotas Electric Cooperative, Inc. of Beulah, ND, from which FEM Electric would purchase energy.

**June 5th, 1949**

The first annual membership meeting is held in conjunction with Ipswich's Trail Days.

**December 23rd, 1950**

End of the contract construction period with the completion of three major line construction contracts. 2114 miles of line had been constructed to serve the rural people of Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson counties

**1957**

Eureka warehouse built due to difficulties reaching rural members. This warehouse served as headquarters for FEM's outpost linemen and as a storage facility for material

**State of South Dakota passes the Electric Cooperative Act of 1947** - allowing rural electric organizations to convert to cooperative, nonprofit, membership corporations.

**December 12th, 1948**

Ipswich Substation energized, electricity is now available to slightly over 200 members

**June 6th, 1950**

The second annual membership meeting is held in Bowdle, SD.

**March 17th, 1951**

Dedication of permanent headquarters building. FEM moves to the operational phase.

# MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF YOUR COOPERATIVE

**1960**

Freida Martel became the first woman director in the State of South Dakota to serve on a rural electric board. She was appointed when her husband T. T. Martel passed away.

**1964**

The first year FEM sold one million kilowatt hours every month of the entire year

**December 18th, 1963**

Leola substation energized

**1965**

Faulkton warehouse built to serve as an outpost station and warehouse facility

**October 14th, 1966**

Roscoe Substation, originally the Tolstoy substation moved to a new location near Roscoe, energized.

**March 13th, 1970**

Newtown substation energized

**1973**

SD legislators passed the Proximity Law, making it illegal to be within 6 feet of an electrical distribution line.

**January 1st, 1973**

National Electric Safety Code required ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on all construction sites.

**August 19th, 1976**

Albert C. Hauffe passes away. Mr. Hauffe has the distinction of serving as president of FEM Electric Association, Inc., South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), all at the same time.

**1969**

First underground cable was installed

**1964**

Increased sales created an opportunity for FEM directors to reduce energy rates for the first time.

**April 14th, 1965**

Onaka substation energized

**October 1969**

FEM becomes a charter member of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

**1973**

FEM introduces the "Double Zero" method for meter readings, allowing easier record keeping for kWh usage.

**June 6th, 1979**

FEM Electric joins East River Electric Power Cooperative. East River assumes the role of operating and maintaining the transmission system serving FEM Electric.

**January 1961**

The first month FEM sold one million kilowatt hours in a single month

**February 13th, 1964**

Cresbard Substation energized, the first FEM substation in Faulk County

**Winter 1968-1969**

A blizzard and ice storm cause widespread damages to lines and extended outages.

**1972**

Idle service fee of \$2.00 introduced

**1975**

Legislators passed an act addressing territorial problems, establishing set electric utility service area boundaries.

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**1980's**  
Load control developed - "Use Electricity - But Use it Wisely!"

**1985**  
A new computer system installed, greatly increasing efficiency in the office

**1990**  
Grassland Colony added to FEM's service

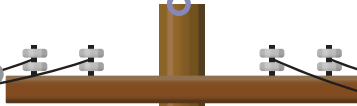
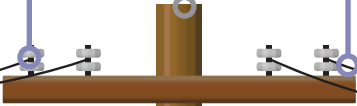
**September 1992**  
FEM upgrades computer system, allowing employees to assemble a large variety of information in less time than before.

**1994**  
FEM begins working on newsletter in house, saving on publication costs.

**January 1995**  
A winter storm hits. Frost build up on lines, freezing rain and winds cause 105 poles to topple, 22 crossarms to break, and 26 anchors to pull out. Line hardware broke, and there were approximately 425 wire breaks. Outages covered most of the western half of FEM's territory. Continuing blizzard conditions cause delays. Six South Dakota cooperatives assist with repairs.

**December 1st, 1994**  
REA becomes Rural Utilities Service (RUS) after the US Department of Agriculture underwent major reorganization.

**April 4th, 1997**  
FEM Electric loses over 400 poles, 400 crossarms, 75 anchors, and has an estimated 1300 wire breaks due to ice and freezing rain. Most of the damage occurred in McPherson County and western Edmunds County.



**1986**  
Evergreen Colony added to FEM's service

**August 1993**  
FEM submits a loan application to REA for \$400,000 for proposed Bowdle healthcare facility.

**April 1995**  
FEM's application for Bowdle healthcare facility is approved.

**April 18th, 1995**  
Faulk and Edmunds Counties are hit with a spring storm, affecting 10 miles on either side of highway 45. 80 poles, 45 anchors, 70 crossarms and at least 250 wirebreaks as well as damaged hardware was caused by this storm. FEM was able to restore power to the last member on April 22nd, 1995 at 6:00 pm. FEM received aid from three other cooperatives that furnished five trucks and nine additional linemen.

**September 10th, 1980**  
With the help of East River, the Burkmere substation is energized.

**June 30th, 1992**  
Wetonka Substation energized

**1994**  
FEM is able to lower energy rates thanks to savings Basin and East River received from paying off high interest loans.

# MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF YOUR COOPERATIVE

**Fall 2002**

FEM Electric teams up with North Central Farmers Elevator, Multi-County Cooperative, and Selby Gas to create North Star Energy. The main purpose is to provide propane gas and services to the area.

**June 7th, 2005**

FEM loses 31 poles, 5 anchors and a crossarm in a windstorm, causing a 42.5-hour outage. Repairs were being made on the day of the annual meeting that year.

**2007**

FEM signs an agreement for the Tatonka Wind Farm, the first wind farm on FEM's project. This was the first merchant wind farm in South Dakota and was built in northern McPherson County.

**July 1st, 2019**

FEM Electric has sold their shares of North Star Energy, LLC to Agtegra

**June 13th, 2012**

Brick Propane merges with North Star Energy, LLC

**September 2003**

FEM Electric Board approved a contract with NRTC to provide WildBlue satellite internet.

**August 24th, 2006**

The Hillsview area suffers damage from a tornado. 265 meters lost power, all of which were reenergized August 25th. Repairs for farms last years.

**September 2008**

Aberdeen Energy (Glacial Lakes - Mina) is fully energized, doubling FEM's electrical load/kWh sales.

**September 8th, 2015**

FEM's new headquarters is built, connecting the office space with existing shop space. Employees move into new building.

**2020 - 2021**

FEM converts to a new computer software, adds the option of a mobile workforce, and SmartHub to stay up to date with latest industry technologies.

**January 1st, 2000**

"Goodbye Y2K". Years of planning and worry over in a few minutes. No power disruptions occur.

**2004**

FEM Electric partners with Valley Telecommunications and North Central Farmer's Elevator to form Rural Dakota Development. The goal of the group was to purchase land for development of additional housing options.

**October 2007**

FEM implements ACH (automatic clearing house), allowing members to have their payments automatically paid each month.

**2010**

A major ice storm hits FEM's territory, causing damage to 80% of our system. FEM lost over 4600 poles, and went from a crew of 12 employees, to over 400. The outage lasted about 13 days, and in some areas, the snow was three feet deep.

**June 1st, 2018**

FEM Electric buys out Agtegra's and ValleyTel's shares of Golf View Acres.

**February 16th, 2021**

FEM loses power to Cresbard and Burkmere substations due to a shortage of power on the SPP system. This was FEM member's first experience with a Southwest Power Pool outage.

**2003**

FEM converts to automatic metering (AMR)

**Summer 2005**

Golf View housing development is ready to sell lots.

**2007**

A new East River substation and transmission line was built for Glacial Lakes Energy at Mina.

**May 2014**

FEM starts an electrical department, with existing employees becoming electricians.

**2020**

FEM begins to deploy Verizon AMI data based meters, starting a 3-year conversion project.