Capital Electric COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER **2026**

You need to see it to believe it. Jay Pahlke, left, the owner of Endless Tubing and Capital Electric Cooperative's Wes Engbrecht, demonstrate the size of the coiled tubing spools provided by the company. Capital Electric is proud to serve Endless Tubing, which is located on the north side of the McKenzie exit east of Bismarck on Interstate 94.



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Used tubing is hauled back from the oilfield on the same spools as new tubing and is ready for the disposal process. Above it, you will notice an 80-ton crane used to handle the spools.

Endless Tubing provides valuable service to North Dakota oil companies

BY WES ENGBRECHT

Fifteen miles east of Bismarck, along Interstate 94, is a building with the name "Endless Tubing" in large letters. What exactly does this company do? Why is it located here?

The answers by owner Jay Pahlke were enlightening and surprising!

Pahlke, who also owns Pahlke Steel in Bismarck, started Endless Tubing because he recognized an opportunity to serve oil companies drilling new wells in the North Dakota oil patch.

Oil companies in the drilling process require steel tubing for a variety of reasons. The most common use is to mill out frack plugs after the well is fracked. The tubing is also used for well clean-outs to pump built-up frack sand and other materials. In addition, it can be used for well intervention and maintenance. They use the coiled tubing until the fatigue life is reached.

What does Endless Tubing do? It is the intermediary between the manufacturer and the oilfield service company. The manufacturer hauls the coiled tubing on spools to North Dakota from Texas, delivering them to Endless Tubing's shop near McKenzie. This is a trip of more than 1,300 miles. There, they are stored until an oilfield service company needs them.

The tubing used in North Dakota wells is manufactured in Houston, Texas. That's where the process begins and it ends with between 22,000 and 30,000 feet of coiled tubing wrapped around a single spool. A single spool will weigh between 125,000 and 150,000 pounds. For this reason, only one spool can be hauled at a time by a specially designed truck with up to 64 wheels and the capability to haul a load of that magnitude.

"Each spool has approximately 5.5 miles of tubing. If you dropped the spool out of an airplane, holding onto the end of the tubing and the airplane was flying at 25,000 feet, the spool WOULD reach the ground, and you would still have pipe left! The spool would hit the ground before you ran out of pipe," Pahlke says. This is somewhat mind-boggling!

When customers pick up the new tubing at Endless Tubing, they store or dispose of the used tubing. The used tubing is either stored or disposed of through various methods where the steel can be repurposed.

Pahlke touts the hard work and dedication of his team at the shop.

"These guys work hard and I'm fortunate to have them as employees. I told Dominic's wife if she had more sons I would hire them, too," he says.

"A significant benefit of our service is oil companies working in North Dakota don't have to travel to Houston for new tubing. This is a significant savings of time and resources," Pahlke explains. "Logistics and location will

define where oil companies across the country will get their tubing, but it will be from us or the manufacturers in Houston."

Endless Tubing is the only spooling service center in the United States, other than the manufacturers in Texas. The service it provides has great value to the oil industry in North Dakota, and it is meeting the challenge.

"We have proven we can be trusted with this product and the process involved," Pahlke says. In addition to North Dakota companies, Endless Tubing serves some oil companies traveling from Wyoming and Colorado.

The spooling business started in 2017 with the completion of the Endless Tubing facility the year after. Prior to this, Pahlke at Pahlke Steel had been dealing in steel and used oilfield pipe and saw a need for this service.

"We are adding to the local economy, bringing in companies who spend money on food, lodging, truck and trailer repair. It's a two-day turnaround, so they are here for a few days. We provide business to Sterling and Bismarck truckstops as well," Pahlke says.

Pahlke is pleased with the electric service Capital Electric Cooperative provides.

"We appreciate the reliability of our electric service as we have seen very few interruptions," he says.

Capital Electric is grateful to count Endless Tubing as a co-op member!



***D.J. Volk**, left, and **Cassidy Volk** control the spooling process from the control board.*



*This team handles day-to-day operations at the facility. They are standing on an immense forklift, weighing 275,000 pounds. The family trio originally from Flasher includes, left to right, **Cassidy**, **Dominic** and **D.J. Volk**.*



PHOTO COURTESY UTTC

UTTC International Powwow celebrates culture, community and tradition

For 56 years, the annual United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) International Powwow has been a signature event in Bismarck, bringing together people from across the region to celebrate Native American culture, tradition and community.

Held each September on the UTTC campus, the International Powwow is one of the final large outdoor events on the Northern Great Plains powwow circuit. Its place on the circuit has earned UTTC the distinction of being known as the "Home of the Champions."

The pageantry of a powwow is unlike anything else. The vibrant regalia, music and dance reflect the rich diversity of Native nations and the traditions passed down through generations. Regalia often features styles, colors and designs connected to individual tribal regions, while many dances carry their own cultural significance and history.

For spectators, the dancing and pageantry are among the most anticipated parts of the celebration, offering an opportunity to experience the beauty and diversity of Indigenous cultures.

UTTC President Dr. Leander McDonald says the college is proud of what the powwow represents and grateful for the community support it receives.

"We feel this year's powwow has again been a success with so many offerings for spectators. Our staff does a great job organizing and carrying out the work needed to get it done well," he says.

McDonald also expressed his appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of UTTC's annual Events Week.

"On behalf of United Tribes Technical College, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our annual Events Week an extraordinary success. Bringing together the UTTC International Powwow, Tribal Leaders Summit, LEGENDS softball tournament, UTTC golf tournament, Thunderbird Run and high school basketball tournament is a monumental achievement, and truly takes a village," he says.



Your voice matters at Capital Electric Cooperative

Capital Electric Cooperative is owned by nearly 20,000 members, and every member's voice matters. The cooperative board of directors is on the front lines, keeping informed about what's happening at Capital Electric and helping to share that information with members. At the same time, employees and managers work every day to make decisions that serve our members and strengthen the cooperative.

The work isn't always without challenges, but one thing remains constant: Our focus is on doing what's best for our members and the cooperative.

Twice each year, Capital Electric welcomes members of the Member Advisory Committee (MAC) to an evening informational meeting. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss current issues, share cooperative updates and have open conversations about the challenges and opportunities facing Capital Electric.

MAC members are encouraged to ask questions and share their honest thoughts and perspectives. Their feedback helps create an important connection between cooperative members, the board of directors and staff.

Topics that matter to members

At the most recent MAC meeting, discussion focused on several areas affecting the cooperative and its members, including:

- Data center and large load issues
- The status of grants
- The importance of a line extension policy.
- Attaining an all-time peak
- Enhancing member bills for better understanding
- Community commitment and involvement
- The future of electric rates
- Ways members can save money on their electric bills

For Dave Holte of Bismarck, who has attended seven MAC meetings, serving on the committee has provided a valuable opportunity to better understand the cooperative and share the perspective of its members.

"As a volunteer member of the MAC Committee, we are basically a sounding board and communication link to offer feedback and foster interaction between Capital Electric's members, board of directors and staff. The commitment of a couple meetings as a volunteer per year has been a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the internal workings of the co-op," he says.

"The managers' presentations were extremely thoughtful, helpful and refreshingly human. It did not feel like a corporate boardroom presentation. Rather, it felt like neighbors who genuinely cared were discussing an important part of the community. The accessibility and communication were excellent, and the dialogue between members and managers was sometimes as thought provoking as the presentations themselves," says Ransom Schmidt, a new member of the MAC.

Get involved

If you're interested in joining the Member Advisory Committee, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Wes at 701-712-7923 to learn more.

MAC members serve a three-year term and provide an important connection between the cooperative and the members it serves.

We welcome feedback from members at any time. Capital Electric is your cooperative, and we're here to serve you.



***Kim Hemphill** of the 31:8 Project accepts a grant to support human trafficking survivors.*



Apple Creek School will use the grant to improve facility safety.



Heavens Helpers Closet 701 provides nearly new clothing and necessities to people in our community needing a little help.

Your pennies lead to caring

A strong community is built on people helping one another, especially when someone is facing a difficult time. Capital Electric Cooperative members have a long history of supporting their neighbors, and that spirit of generosity inspired the creation of Operation Round Up in 1997.

Through Operation Round Up, Capital Electric members can choose to round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. Those extra pennies are collected and placed in a charitable trust, where they can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

The funds are distributed through grants reviewed by a five-member board of Capital Electric members. Together, they consider applications and determine how the available funds can best serve local communities and organizations.

Over the past 29 years, Capital Electric members have contributed more than $1.1 million through Operation Round Up. Those contributions have supported local nonprofits, community projects and organizations, as well as helping individuals facing medical expenses and other needs.

Each grant represents more than a few extra cents on a monthly bill. Together, those small contributions add up to meaningful support for organizations and people throughout the communities Capital Electric serves.

Spare change can make a difference

The next Operation Round Up application deadline is Feb. 28, 2027. Anyone residing in Burleigh or Sheridan counties may apply for an Operation Round Up grant.

To complete an application, visit capitalelec.com. We have added an online form process, which is quick and simple to use. On the website, select "News and Community" and then "Operation Round Up" to complete the online application.

You can also print an application and email it to Wes at wese@capitalelec.com

Join Operation Round Up

Your spare change can help support a neighbor, strengthen a local organization or make a difference when someone needs a helping hand.

To join your fellow cooperative members in rounding up your monthly electric bill, call 855-937-1736 to opt in to Operation Round Up.

A few cents from each member can add up to a whole lot of caring.

In September, Capital Electric presented $20,250 in Operation Round Up grants to 14 organizations:

- Legacy Girls Golf Boosters
- Apple Creek School PTO
- DAR Minishoshe-Mandan Chapter
- Elk Ridge Elementary (LEGO Robotics)
- 31:8 Project
- Hospice of the Red River Valley
- The Village Family Service Center
- Missouri Valley Coalition for the Homeless
- Sheridan County Food Shelf
- Sheridan Memorial Home
- Stepping Stone Ministry
- Sterling Public School
- Innovation School
- Heavens Helpers Closet









JUNE 16-22, 2027

Stand Out. Lead. Explore.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is more than a trip. It's a leadership experience that can shape your future. Selected high school students, including one from each electric cooperative, spend a week in Washington, D.C., gaining firsthand insight into government, cooperative history and business model, and civic engagement. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. **And all expenses are paid by your electric cooperative!**

To enter the essay-writing contest:

- You must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Capital Electric Cooperative.

Essay question:

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

The application deadline is Jan. 19, 2027.

Questions? Please contact Wes Engbrecht, Capital Electric Cooperative, at 701-223-1513 during regular business hours.

Email entries to Wes Engbrecht at wese@capitalelec.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 7401 Yukon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58503.

Learn more at ndyouthtour.com

Board minute excerpts **SEPT. 25**

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative was held on Friday, Sept. 25. The meeting was held in person at Capital Electric, 7401 Yukon Drive, Bismarck, pursuant to due notice to all directors. All directors except Witford Dwyer were present.

Also present were: Manager Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Engineering Services Manager Greg Owen, Energy Services Manager Josh Schaffner, Manager of Communications and Public Relations Wes Engbrecht, Manager of Information Technology (IT) Kent Kensmoe and Attorney Zachary Pelham of Pearce Durick PLLC, who acted as recording secretary.

Minutes and Agenda: President Deon Vilhauer called the meeting to order. The agenda and minutes from the Aug. 28 board meeting were approved.

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Sara Vollmer and Dwight Wrangham reviewed the August check register and expenditures. They advised all checks and expenditures were in order. The financial review was approved as presented.

Management Reports (Business Department, Operations Department, Engineering Services, Energy Services and Communications/IT):

Business Department Report: Steen presented the August financial and statistical report to the board.

Revenue was ahead of budget for August, as $5,148,318 was generated in comparison with the budgeted figure of $5,035,503 (favorable variance of $112,815 or 2.2%).

Capital Electric's August power costs were under budget for the month by 2.1%.

The operating margin for August was $132,095, ahead of the budgeted amount of $-207,648. The total margin for August was $129,260, which was ahead of the budgeted amount of $-201,004.

Capital Electric began billing 53 new services in August, bringing our active services to 23,109 versus 22,633 at this time last year, or a net increase of 476 accounts over the last 12 months.

Cash on hand as of Aug. 1 was reviewed.

Estate Retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, approval of capital credits to 12 estates totaling $12,102.51 were approved.

Operations Report: Owen reviewed the written report from the operations department. Owen reported on annual testing of poles and the replacement of 26 poles identified for replacement, installation of 62 meters at the new apartment complex west of Fleet Farm and completion of overhead to underground line conversion at the Black Leg Ranch.

Safety Report: There were no lost-time accidents since the last board meeting. Annual inspections and dielectric testing was completed on all commercial trucks. The safety report was reviewed.

Engineering Services Report: Owen reviewed the written report from engineering services. Twenty-eight work orders were completed in August. Owen reported on ongoing and upcoming projects, including residential and commercial line extensions, grant opportunities through the Grid Resiliency and Innovation Partnerships, and work being done on the University of Mary campus.

Energy Services: Schaffner reviewed the energy services report. Thirteen service orders were completed in August. Schaffner reported on continued engagement with members regarding bills, attendance at Enertech's "Master the Elements" geothermal and installation and service training in South Dakota.

Communications/Public Relations: Engbrecht reviewed the communications and public relations report. Engbrecht reported on community engagement efforts, Rural Development Finance Corporation community grant nomination and the Member Advisory Committee meeting.

IT Report: Kensmoe reviewed the IT report. Kensmoe reported on configuration of new firewalls, migration of call to order to web-based access and update on cybersecurity.

2027 Budget: Steen reviewed the 2027 preliminary budget and no action was taken.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative: Fitterer reported on Basin Electric matters. Steen reviewed the 2027 load forecast. Following discussion, it was carried to accept the forecast as presented.

Central Power Electric Cooperative: Dave Charles reported on Central Power Electric matters.

Industry Update: Fitterer reviewed materials related to power markets and general cooperative news.

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC): Fitterer reviewed NDAREC matters, including meeting with the N.D. Public Service Commission and a joint meeting between NDAREC and the N.D. Broadband Association.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA): Fitterer reported on NRECA matters including the Region 5/6 meeting. Whitford Dwyer was selected as the delegate and Vollmer as alternate at the upcoming PowerXchange meeting.

Mid-West Electric Consumers Association: Fitterer reported on the upcoming meeting. Kyle Tschosik was selected as delegate and Vilhauer as alternate.

National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC): Fitterer reviewed the NISC Member Information conference.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Tschosik, seconded by Luke Ellenbaum, and carried to adjourn the regular meeting at 12:22 p.m.

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
7401 Yukon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58503
Website: capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Deon Vilhauer, Pres. ..... Bismarck
Sara Vollmer, V. Pres. ..... Wing
Kyle Tschosik, Sec.-Treas. ..... Bismarck
Greg Dehne, Asst. Sec.-Treas. ..... Bismarck
Dwight Wrangham ..... Lincoln
Bret Weiland ..... Bismarck
Dave Charles ..... Bismarck
Whitford Dwyer ..... Bismarck
Luke Ellenbaum ..... Bismarck

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday : 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Phone: 855-937-1736
DAY-NIGHT-WEEKEND

Capital Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative