

MRES[®] TODAY

December 2025

A PUBLICATION OF  MISSOURI
RIVER[®]
ENERGY SERVICES

WHAT'S BEHIND THE RATE INCREASE AND HOW MRES IS RESPONDING

As energy demands grow, many utilities are facing the reality of rate increases. For Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) members, these increases are largely driven by two main factors: the need for major capital projects to support new generation and transmission infrastructure, and higher market-based power costs.

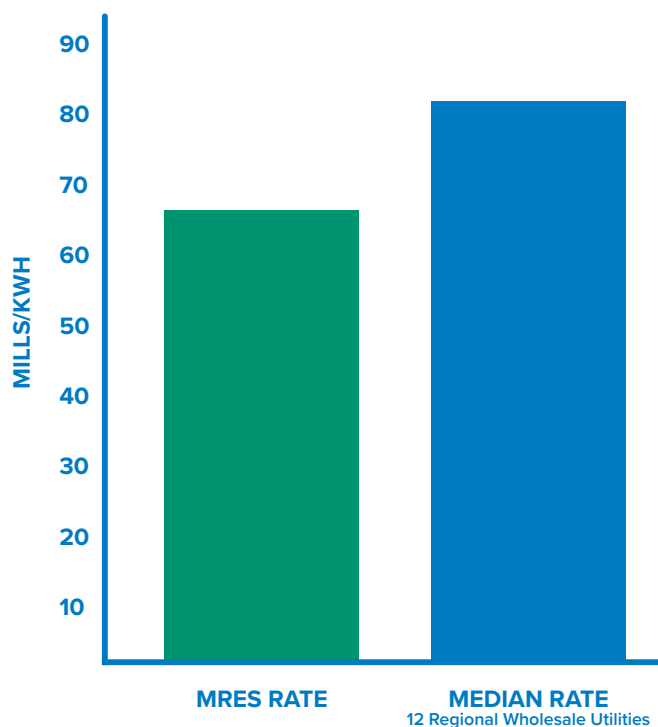
In 2026, the MRES power supply rate will increase 4.7%. While not ideal, rate increases are a broad trend happening across the utility landscape, including investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and cooperatives.

In response, MRES is working to minimize the impact on members by planning strategically. “On average, MRES expects rates to increase around 4.4% annually for the next few years to help members better anticipate and prepare for the future,” said Chris Olson, MRES vice president and chief financial officer.

According to Olson, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) also plays a crucial role in regional rates, and members should be aware of some key adjustments. The drought adder, which was introduced in 2023 at 3.44 mills, has gradually decreased, dropping to 2.46 mills in 2025 and 1.41 mills in 2026. However, the WAPA base rate is increasing. In 2023, the WAPA base rate was 24.8 mills per kilowatt-hour. By 2026, it's projected to be 30.7 mills, marking a steady climb. Combined with the drought adder reductions, the total rate increase from WAPA will be 6.2% in 2026.

When it comes to wholesale rates, MRES is in a favorable position. As of 2024, MRES' wholesale rate was 15% lower than 12 regional wholesale utilities that don't rely on WAPA power and member retail rates are also generally about 15% lower than IOU retail rates. MRES also compares favorably with other municipal utilities and is typically more affordable than most cooperatives in the region. “Additionally,

WHOLESALE RATE COMPARISON



the 2025 power supply rate matches the MRES 2017 rate, which is quite remarkable,” Olson said.

After a 5% decrease in 2022, MRES saw rate increases of 2.7% in 2024 and 5.3% in 2025. These increases follow several years of stable rates for members, and MRES is committed to working closely with its members to minimize the impact of increases. Through strategic planning and gradual rate adjustments, MRES continues to deliver reliable and affordable power for its members, while also continuing to invest in future energy needs.

KEVIN GEORGIUS APPOINTED TO MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES BOARD

At its November meeting, the Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) board of directors appointed Kevin Georgius as its newest member. Georgius, who serves as the general manager of Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU), brings a wealth of experience in utility management and a deep commitment to his local community.

A lifelong resident of Denison, Iowa, Georgius began working in the utility sector at the Denison Wastewater Treatment Plant. “What drew me to this field is the real, tangible impact utilities have on the community,” Georgius said.

Georgius professional background is diverse. He began with working in the construction and agriculture industries, where he gained skills in welding, heavy equipment operation and agricultural science. After transitioning to the utility sector, he gained hands-on experience through different roles at DMU, from wastewater operator to lead operator, plant superintendent and ultimately general manager. Under his leadership, DMU has successfully completed major upgrades, including a comprehensive rehabilitation of its collection system. Georgius’ focus has always been on reliability,

environmental stewardship and supporting the long-term needs of the Denison community.



In his new role on the MRES Board, Georgius is eager to contribute to the future of public power and utilities in the region. “I’m excited to be part of MRES and collaborate with other members to drive sustainability and efficiency across the utility sector,” Georgius said. He sees opportunities to modernize infrastructure, enhance renewable energy efforts and maintain affordable, reliable services for the communities MRES serves.

Outside of his professional life, Georgius enjoys spending time with his wife, Heidi, and their blended family, which includes seven children and one grandson. Together, they stay active through a family farming operation, Heidi’s seed corn business

and participation in youth sports. Georgius is also an avid outdoorsman. He enjoys walleye fishing in South Dakota and coyote calling at night using thermal optics.

Long-term, Georgius is committed to advancing the shared goals of sustainability, reliability and local economic growth.

LAWRENCE TO LEAD MID-WEST ELECTRIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION

The Mid-West Electric Consumers Association (Mid-West Electric) board of directors selected Chris Lawrence as the organization’s next executive director. He officially began his new role on Nov. 3, 2025, succeeding Jim Horan, who became senior vice president and general counsel at Basin Electric Power Cooperative earlier this year.

Lawrence joins Mid-West Electric with extensive experience in federal energy policy and public power. Most recently, he served as the acting senior vice president and assistant administrator for corporate liaison at the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) in Washington, D.C., where he

worked closely with members of Congress and their staffs on WAPA programs and initiatives.



A native of Virginia, Lawrence holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Lynchburg and a master’s degree in environmental law from the Vermont Law and Graduate School.

Lawrence took over from Chris Studer, who has served as interim executive director since Horan’s departure. Mid-West Electric, founded in 1958, represents more than 300 consumer-owned utilities that purchase power from the federal dams in the Missouri River Basin. Its membership includes municipal utilities, electric cooperatives and public power districts across the region.



MRES PROJECT ADDS MORE SOLAR TO THE MIX

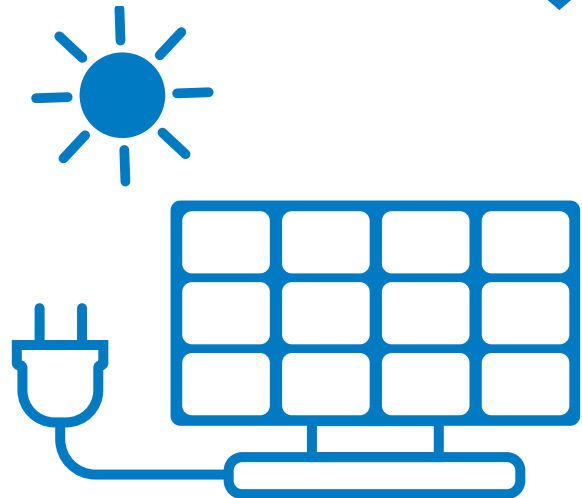
The Brookings Solar Project, currently under construction northeast of Brookings, South Dakota, will increase the Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) solar energy portfolio by nearly a third, and the project continues to move forward with strong momentum. Since breaking ground in November 2024, construction has progressed steadily and remains both on schedule and on budget.

According to Nick Fanning, MRES resource engineer supervisor, site grading is complete, access roads have been built, concrete pads are in place and the water retention pond has been constructed. Underground conduits are also fully installed, an important milestone that ensures electrical cables for the panels will be protected from pests and rodents.

The contractor, US Solar, is now entering the next major phase: installing the steel pilings that will anchor the solar arrays. “The piles are scheduled for delivery in December and will be installed as weather conditions allow. The project remains on track for panel installation in March and April,” Fanning said.

The project continues to track within the established \$15 million budget, with no unexpected costs or adjustments needed. The schedule also remains solid as there are no current concerns related to material deliveries or construction challenges.

Once complete, the facility will include approximately



2,500 solar panels with a mix of 540-watt and 545-watt panels. The panels are engineered to withstand 90-100 mph winds and can be manually adjusted in the event of hail to reduce direct impact. The solar arrays will cover roughly half of the 80-acre site.



The underground conduit stub-ups are complete.

MRES continues collaborative work with member Brookings Municipal Utilities to finalize agreements and coordinate next steps. When operational, Brookings Solar Project will increase MRES-owned nameplate solar capacity to 16 megawatts (MW), joining Marshall Solar+ at 10 MW and Pierre Solar at 1 MW. Overall, the Brookings Solar Project is progressing well with commercial operation set for July 31, 2026.

ALP UTILITIES HELPS ALEXANDRIA BOOST EFFICIENCY AND SAVE MONEY ... AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) member, ALP Utilities in Alexandria, Minnesota, is helping the Alexandria community save energy and reduce expenses. Recent projects with the NorthStar Sports Complex, the school district and its own operations center demonstrate how the utility is helping businesses make a tangible impact with energy-efficient upgrades and rebates.

NorthStar Arena Personnel Looked Up To Find Energy Savings

The NorthStar Sports Complex in Alexandria, home to NorthStar Christian Academy's hockey and athletic programs, has taken a major step toward improving both performance and efficiency. In the fall of 2025, the arena earned a \$9,054 rebate from ALP Utilities, after completing a significant energy-saving upgrade to its ice arena ceiling. The rebate is just the beginning of energy savings. The improvement is expected to reduce electricity use by more than 168,000 kilowatt-hours annually.

NorthStar installed 24,200 square feet of low-emissivity reflective ceiling insulation, a specialized technology designed to reduce radiant heat transfer from the roof structure down to the ice surface. The arena selected Astro-Rink, a product from Energie Innovations Inc., featuring dual layers of bubble film and reinforced metallized aluminum capable of reflecting up to 95% of radiant heat.

For ice arenas, one of the most energy-intensive types of commercial buildings, reducing heat load on the ice sheet is critical. With less radiant heat warming the rink, the refrigeration system no longer needs to work as hard to maintain ice temperature. The result is better ice quality, improved athlete and spectator experience and substantial energy savings for the facility.

The project is expected to deliver an average 25.9-kilowatt demand reduction during peak summer hours, when refrigeration loads are highest. Over the course of a year, the energy savings will help lower operating costs while extending the life of the arena's mechanical systems.

"Ice rinks are very energy-intensive facilities, and our new ceiling will greatly reduce energy consumption while improving ice quality," said Eric Mages, sports complex director at NorthStar Christian Academy. "We're thrilled to have a utility company that shares our values and vision."

The NorthStar Sports Complex opened in 2018 as part of NorthStar Christian Academy's 40-acre campus. The facility



Sonya Skinner, ALP Utilities (left) presents rebate check to Eric Mages, sports complex director at NorthStar Christian Academy. Photo provided by ALP Utilities.

includes a full-size hockey rink, fieldhouse, training center, weight room and student gathering spaces.

The project was completed with support from the Bright Energy Solutions® (BES) program, a partnership that allows member utilities like ALP Utilities to offer incentives for cost-effective commercial energy efficiency projects.

"ALP truly excels at proactive customer service," said Joe Peters, MRES energy services field representative. "While they may be too humble to highlight it themselves, anyone who works with them can see the impact of their hands-on approach."

As the NorthStar Sports Complex continues to serve student-athletes and the broader community, this upgrade showcases how modern efficiency technologies paired with impactful utility incentives can help facilities operate more sustainably without compromising performance.

BES also provides no-cost energy walk-throughs, helping member businesses better understand their electric use and identify opportunities for long-term savings. To learn more about how your business or organization can benefit from BES, visit brightenergysolutions.com.

Share your Bright Energy Solutions stories at info@mrenergy.com.

ALP Utilities Helps Alexandria School District Bank More Than \$10,000

ALP Utilities has helped the Alexandria School District save money and improve energy efficiency. The utility presented the school district with a \$10,575 rebate check, thanks to their efforts in upgrading the lighting at their high school gym. This rebate comes through the BES program.

The district replaced 144 old gym light fixtures with new, energy-efficient LED lights. This change not only brightens up the space but also reduces peak energy demand by 19 kilowatts and is expected to save around 61,529 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. That's a big deal for the district's budget and the community!

"Through a community-driven process we are pleased to incorporate energy efficient building systems and maximize energy savings to carefully manage operating costs," Superintendent Rick Sansted said.

The BES program is available to commercial customers at no cost and includes energy assessments to help organizations better understand their usage, rates and areas where they can save. These assessments often lead to lower energy bills and more efficient operations for years to come.



(From left) Sonya Skinner, ALP Utilities, presents a BES rebate check to Rick Sansted, Alexandria School District superintendent; Chad Duwenhoegger, school principal; and Mitch Kaeter, school maintenance. Photo provided by ALP Utilities.

ALP Utilities Leads By Example

ALP Utilities doesn't just encourage its customers to be more energy efficient, the utility leads by example. In October 2025, ALP Utilities celebrated the grand opening of its new operations center in Alexandria, a state-of-the-art facility designed with energy efficiency at the forefront. The building includes high-performance lighting, an advanced heating, ventilation and air conditioning system,



The dedication ceremony included a community open house, facility tours, and an opportunity to meet the ALP team to see firsthand how this investment will help Alexandria long-term. ALP Utilities board members and city council members cutting the ribbon are (from left) Matt Fischer, ALP Utilities board member; Rich Rentz, ALP Utilities board chair; Ted Cash, ALP Utilities general manager; Bobbie Osterberg, mayor of Alexandria; Roger Thalman, city council member of Ward II; and Bill Franzen, city council member of Ward III. Photo provided by ALP Utilities.

and variable frequency drives, all of which exceed current energy code standards. By focusing on these technologies from the start, the utility was able to reduce operational costs while boosting the long-term sustainability of the facility. The project also benefited from the BES rebate program, which helped offset initial costs and ensure that energy efficiency remained a primary goal of the building.

"Our new operations center is not just a building, it's a strategic step toward reducing long-term operational costs and improving our service reliability," said Ted Cash, general manager of ALP Utilities. "By focusing on energy efficiency, we've created a space that supports both our current operations and our ability to serve the Alexandria community for many years to come."

The new facility consolidates four aging storage buildings into one modern campus designed to improve service reliability, operational efficiency and emergency response times. One standout feature is the center's ability to operate independently from the electricity grid during major outages, ensuring uninterrupted service when it's needed most.

"Our new operations center is not just a building, it's a strategic step toward reducing long-term operational costs and improving our service reliability. By focusing on energy efficiency, we've created a space that supports both our current operations and our ability to serve the Alexandria community for many years to come."

- Ted Cash, general manager of ALP Utilities

2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

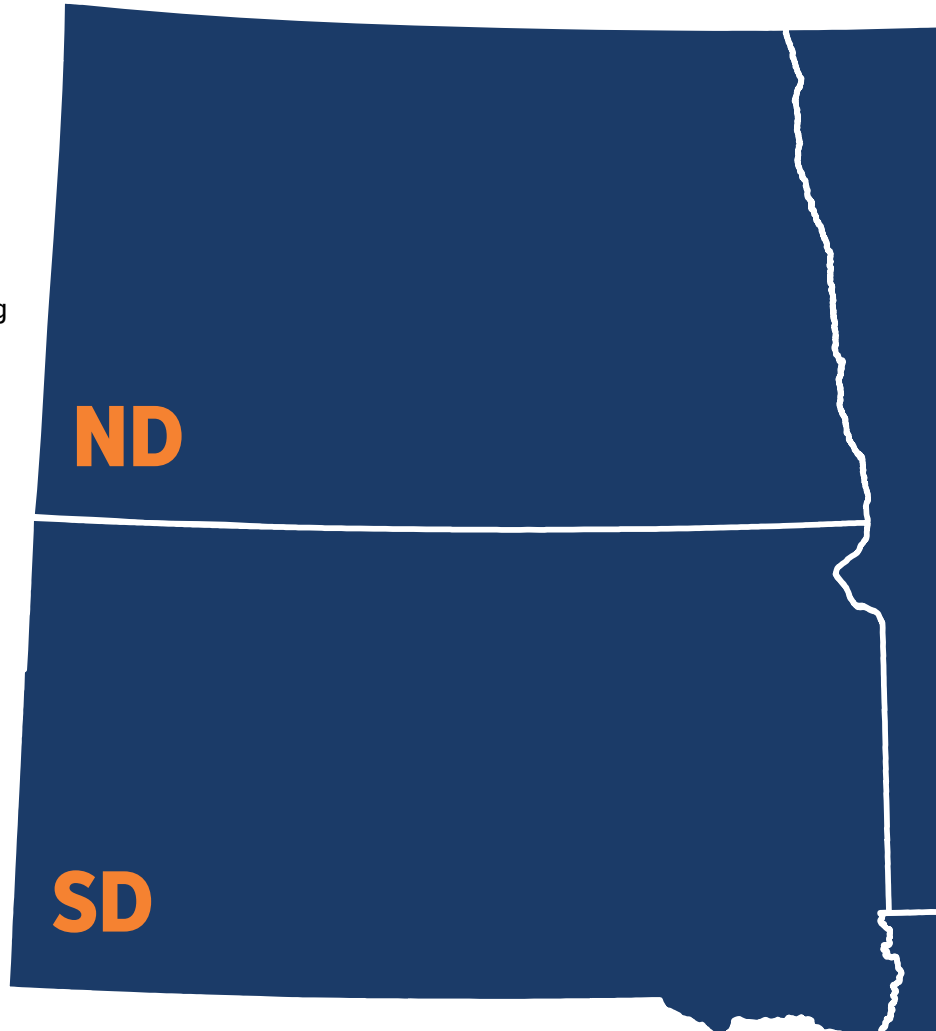
North Dakota

The North Dakota Legislature does not meet in even-numbered years. However, the North Dakota legislators will be called back into special session in January to address spending of a \$500 million grant for rural health care. It is highly unlikely that energy policy would be discussed during the special session. Meanwhile, the state will continue working through its interim committee process, which includes some energy policy. The interim Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee is continuing to discuss advanced nuclear energy and its potential place in the state. Likewise, the interim Energy Development and Transmission committee continues to review the impacts of large loads (data centers) on the state, the accelerating electric energy demand, and the need for major transmission buildouts.

South Dakota

The topic most likely to consume debate during the 2026 South Dakota legislative session is property tax reform. Several proposals came from the summer study committee and additional ones are likely to be introduced by legislators; all in the hope – no matter how lofty – to find a solution that will address the concerns of property taxpayers. It is a topic that will likely be debated from the opening week to the closing days. Other issues that will also top legislative minds include education funding, data center tax incentives, prohibition on data centers and tax-increment financing. We also expect that investor-owned utilities will bring forth a proposal to mitigate wildfire liability. If wildfire mitigation legislation like that adopted in North Dakota were introduced, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) would be supportive. Finally, given the recent Public Utilities Commission ruling requiring the proposed Crown Ridge storage facility to obtain a permit, it is probable there will be legislation clarifying the regulation and permitting of large-scale storage facilities.

Meanwhile, Gov. Larry Rhoden has announced his intention to seek re-election and Speaker Jon Hansen (R–Dell Rapids) is also running for governor. This race (as well as other races) will lead to legislative positioning during session among current seated lawmakers.



Iowa

The Iowa Legislature will gavel in on the second Monday in January (Jan. 12 this session), kicking off what's expected to be a busy session. Even though it's the second year of the general assembly, there will still be quite a few new faces at the Capitol due to five special elections held over the past year and new leadership in both the Senate and the House.

Property tax reform is expected to take center stage this year after lawmakers fell short of agreement last year. This session the governor, Senate and House are all expected to roll out their own tax proposals in hopes of finding common ground. Eminent domain is another topic guaranteed to be a priority for many. The issue has stayed in the spotlight since last year's end-of-session drama, when the governor ultimately vetoed a bill that reached her desk. Other energy issues expected to return this year include developer-led community solar projects, deregulation for large energy users led by data centers and continued interest in integrated resource planning.

This year's session is scheduled to go for 100 days, concluding on April 21. But if recent history is any indication, lawmakers may stick around a little longer, working past the deadline without per diem pay.

Minnesota

The Minnesota Legislature will not meet until Feb. 17. The key to this session is the tie in the House. Even with two special elections coming up in January, it is doubtful that the tie will be broken. As a result, unless there is bipartisan support in the House, it is unlikely a bill will pass. The Senate continues with a one-vote Democratic-Farmer-Labor party (DFL) majority.

The other potential side issue this year is access to legislators in St. Paul. House members will again be in the Centennial Office Building pending the refurbishing of the House State Office Building. Access to the legislative floors in the Centennial will require an appointment and an escort. Meanwhile, after the events of last summer, the Capitol and the Minnesota Senate Building may have additional security as well.

Two issues that have some bipartisan support, at least in the Senate, are the repeal of the state's nuclear moratorium and reform of net metering. The sticking point for each of these issues is the House. In 2025, DFL members of House Energy Committee opposed changes both to the rates paid by cooperatives and municipalities for net metering and opposed the repeal of the nuclear moratorium. Without buy-in from these key committee members, it is unlikely any House DFL members would break ranks and vote to support the changes. Additionally, several lawmakers have indicated that without tribal support, they will not vote in favor of removing the nuclear moratorium.

One issue that may arise is third-party sales to solar customers. A solar developer is considering bringing legislation to allow solar developers to use a sales model that would allow them to install panels on homes and then sell the power to the homeowner on a kilowatt-hour basis. It is also possible that their bill would allow aggregation of rooftop power to sell to utilities or directly into the market.

Finally, there will be a lot of time spent discussing issues that quite frankly may not pass this session, but will set up debates for post-election 2027. One issue will be data centers. Some see data centers as good economic development opportunities and want to bring them to Minnesota with incentives and clear siting protocols. Other legislators see data centers as potentially gutting the ability to comply with the 2040 carbon-free standard (CFS) and renewable energy standard (RES) mandates and would want to place specific environmental requirements on data centers in Minnesota.

Likewise, legislators may bring legislation to amend the CFS or RES or add new electric energy policies. These policy proposals could include virtual power plants, implementing storage mandates, requiring hourly retirement of renewable energy certificates and adding further requirements to the CFS or RES. Again, these approaches are unlikely to pass in 2026 but may lay the foundation for debate in 2027.

The MRES South Dakota Legislative Power Lunch will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026**, in Pierre, South Dakota. Members are welcome to join at the Capitol in promoting the value of municipal power.

BRIGHT STARS IN PUBLIC POWER: 2025 WATTSTAR WINNERS



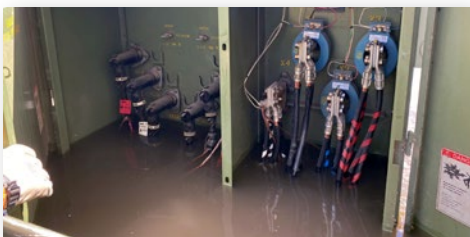
Accepting the awards on behalf of their municipalities are (from left) Amy Nielson-Olson, Detroit Lakes Public Utilities (DLPUI); Vernell Roberts, DLPUI; Sonya Skinner, ALP Utilities; Ted Spanier, Sauk Centre Public Utilities; LaJeanna Eckhoff, DLPUI; Chris Grafing, Valley City Public Works; Susan Orth, Moorhead Public Service (MPS); Cory Buck, Valley City Public Works; Gwen Crawford, Valley City Public Works; Peggy Adams, City of Luverne; Marissa Marr, City of Luverne; Travis Wills, City of Luverne; Maggie Landegent, Sioux Center Municipal Utilities; Adam Fedders, Sioux Center Municipal Utilities; and Taylor Holte, MPS.

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) recognized the municipalities selected for this year's WattSTAR Awards. Each recipient demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and a steadfast commitment to the customers and communities they serve. Their work embodies the true spirit of public power and the values that unite the communities they serve.

- **Extraordinary Event** – Jackson Municipal Utilities, Moorhead Public Service and Sauk Centre Public Utilities
- **Utilities Making A Difference** – Luverne Municipal Utilities
- **Marketing Gurus** – Detroit Lakes Public Utilities
- **Innovative Utility** – St. James Municipal Utilities
- **Utility That Never Stops** – Hartley Municipal Utilities, Sioux Center Municipal Utilities, ALP Utilities, Valley City Public Works

Jackson Municipal Utilities

A devastating 2024 flood put Jackson's critical infrastructure at risk, but their utility staff and volunteers acted fast. Crews built



a massive sandbag wall to protect essential facilities and keep services running. Their dedication minimized outages and sped up recovery for affected residents. It was a true display of resilience and teamwork.

Moorhead Public Service (MPS)

This past year showcased MPS's commitment to community, both near and far. From sending crews to aid Hurricane Milton recovery in Florida to providing a scholarship



that supports the next generation, MPS made an impact at every level. They strengthened partnerships in Hillsboro, North Dakota, through a new maintenance agreement and restored power within 24 hours after a major windstorm. Their actions reflect a utility that shows up whenever and wherever they're needed.

Sauk Centre Public Utilities (SCPU)

SCPU brought energy and connection to the 2025 Night to Unite celebration. The event featured family-friendly activities, music and opportunities for residents to meet first



responders. SCPU staff handed out branded giveaways and engaged with neighbors throughout the evening. Their involvement highlighted their ongoing commitment to local relationships and community pride.

Luverne Municipal Utilities

Luverne Municipal Utilities turned a community challenge into meaningful impact. Working with the local Housing and Redevelopment Authority, staff helped secure 12 new energy-efficient air conditioners and two refrigerators for low-income residents. The upgrades improved comfort for elderly tenants and students while helping stretch limited household budgets. It's a powerful example of compassion paired with smart energy solutions.

Detroit Lakes Public Utilities (DLPU)

DLPU stands out as a true marketing leader, connecting with the community through events, partnerships and thoughtful outreach. Whether sponsoring the Parade of Lights, showing up at local parks, or engaging online, they consistently meet customers where they are. Their use of print, radio and social media strengthens brand awareness and customer trust. DLPU proves that authentic communication is the heart of great utility marketing.



St. James Municipal Utilities

St. James Municipal Utilities is redefining community engagement through creativity and collaboration. Their partnerships broaden access to energy programs and bring topics like solar and electrification directly into schools and community groups. With 178 households signing up for free energy



audits, their outreach is making a measurable impact. From electric vehicle ride-and-drive events to renewable energy education, they're building a more informed and sustainable future.

Hartley Municipal Utilities

Within just three weeks, Hartley Municipal Utilities supported RAGBRAI, endured a devastating derecho and still pulled off the annual city celebration on schedule. After the storm, crews worked long hours to restore power and clean up widespread damage. Their determination ensured the community could come together again just days later. It was a true demonstration of grit, service and pride.

Sioux Center Municipal Utilities

Sioux Center Municipal Utilities spent the year strengthening reliability, supporting growth and investing in the community. Their proactive infrastructure upgrades led to only three short outages all year.

The team also added extensions to the electrical system, visited classrooms, hosted events and answered mutual aid calls after severe storms. Their work shows a utility that is always serving and always moving forward.



ALP Utilities

ALP Utilities advanced major upgrades that support a smarter, more responsive electric and water system. With Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Meter Data Management now fully installed, they can deliver real-time insights and faster



service for customers. This fall, their new operations center will further streamline efficiency and safety. ALP Utilities continues to modernize with purpose, ensuring they meet the needs of their growing community.

Valley City Public Works

A historic storm struck Valley City, North Dakota, leaving trees down and power lines snapped across the community. With only four staff members in town, the small team worked nonstop for 48 hours to restore power. They navigated dangerous conditions and blocked roads while keeping safety at the forefront.

Their dedication proved that even a small team can make an enormous impact.



APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 MRES SCHOLARSHIPS

SPREAD THE WORD!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 13, 2026



It's scholarship season, and Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) is excited to announce that applications for its 2026 scholarship opportunities are officially open.

High school seniors across MRES member communities can apply for **12 total scholarships**.

MRES is offering five renewable **\$1,000** scholarships for students planning to enroll full-time at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or technical school in fall 2026. These awards can be renewed for up to three additional years, giving recipients the opportunity to earn a total of **\$4,000** toward their degree.

The organization is also offering seven **\$2,000** one-time scholarships for students entering an approved powerline or lineworker program at participating technical colleges. These programs play a vital role in keeping electricity flowing to member communities, and so do the students entering this essential field.

Know a high school senior? Share this with them! Every year, talented students miss out simply because they're unaware of opportunities like these. MRES encourages anyone who knows a high school senior to share this information and urge them to apply.



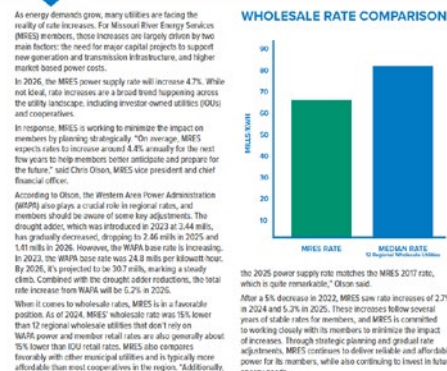
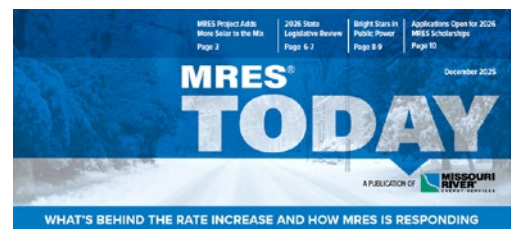
How to apply: Eligibility details and access to the online application are available at mrenergy.com/services/scholarships

A FRESH RHYTHM FOR MRES TODAY IN 2026

Beginning in 2026, MRES Today will shift from a monthly release to a bi-monthly publication, giving readers six thoughtfully curated issues each year. Each edition will continue to include stories, updates and member highlights. The update allows MRES to streamline production while still delivering the timely, reliable information readers count on.

Under this new rhythm, issues will arrive during the first week of the second month in each cycle. For example, the January–February issue will hit mailboxes the week of Feb. 1, 2026, offering a clear, comprehensive look at what's happening across the Missouri River membership. This schedule provides a consistent and predictable delivery pattern for all readers.

What's not changing is the heart of the publication. You'll still find the same great content, project spotlights, member features and industry insights. We're excited for this new format and remain fully committed to keeping members informed and engaged.



SIGN UP FOR THE SMART ENERGY SQUAD SCHOOL PROGRAM



Missouri River Energy Services' (MRES) Smart Energy Squad school program for the 2025–2026 school year is off to a strong start. As of mid-December, there are 29 schools, 61 teachers and 2,216 students from 25 member communities participating in this year's program. There's still time for member utilities to enroll and bring this fun, educational program to their local elementary schools.

The Smart Energy Squad is a turnkey, ready-to-go program that makes it easy for member utilities to connect with their community. Aimed at fifth-grade students, the program introduces kids to the basics of energy: where it comes from, how utilities deliver power to homes and businesses, and simple ways families can save energy every day.

Each student receives a hands-on kit customized with the member utility's logo and filled with interactive learning materials, energy-saving tools and take-home activities designed to spark curiosity – and maybe even a few conversations around the dinner table. Many teachers rave about the program, and students also have the chance to participate in photo and video contests for fun prizes, adding a creative twist to the experience. Member utilities benefit, too, with end-of-year reports that show how the program performed and how students engaged with the material.

The cost is just \$32 per student, but with MRES covering half, participating members pay only \$16 per student.

If you'd like to bring the Smart Energy Squad to a school in your community, MRES would love to help your utility get started. Contact Amy Collins, MRES member programs coordinator, at info@mrenergy.com.

POWERTRX REPLACES eRELIABILITY

PROGRAM AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO MRES MEMBERS

Reliability is at the heart of what public power utilities do. To help track and strengthen reliability performance, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) encourages all members to use the PowerTRX Reliability program, the new and improved version of the American Public Power Association's (APPA) eReliability Tracker.

PowerTRX Reliability keeps all the best parts of eReliability but makes the experience easier and more efficient. The updated, web-based system lets utilities log outages, review past data and generate reports, all from an intuitive, mobile-friendly platform.



And here's the big news: MRES pays the full cost for members to use PowerTRX Reliability. If your utility hasn't joined the program or has been paying for the old eReliability Tracker, there's no need to budget for it.

PowerTRX Reliability offers the same reporting capabilities as the federal EIA-861 reliability form, but it's much easier to use and manage. The transition from eReliability to PowerTRX was just completed in early November, so now is a great time to sign up or move your utility to the new platform.

To get started or learn more, contact Andrew Johnson or Amy Collins, MRES member programs coordinators. You can also find additional details about PowerTRX Reliability on the APPA website at www.publicpower.org/reliability-tracking.



PO Box 88920
Sioux Falls, SD 57109-8920

Phone: 605-338-4042 | Fax: 605-978-9360

© 2025, Missouri River Energy Services. All rights reserved.
No portion of this publication may be copied or duplicated in any format
without the expressed permission of MRES.

EVENTS CALENDAR

JAN
6-8

DAKOTA FARM SHOW
Vermillion, South Dakota
dakotafarmshow.com

FEB
21-22

SHIVERFEST
Devils Lake, North Dakota
devilslakend.com

JAN
31

FROSTIVAL
FUN AT FROZEN FORTRESS
Moorhead, Minnesota
frostival.com

FEB
7

FROSTBITE FOUR
Beresford, South Dakota
facebook.com/frostbitefour

FEB
6-22

POLAR FEST
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
polarfestdl.com

To have your event listed, send
the event's date, name, location
and contact information to
info@mrenergy.com.

Visit mrenergy.com/events
to see a full listing of calendar
events for MRES.

