

# Member Focused, Future Ready



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## **ABOUT US**

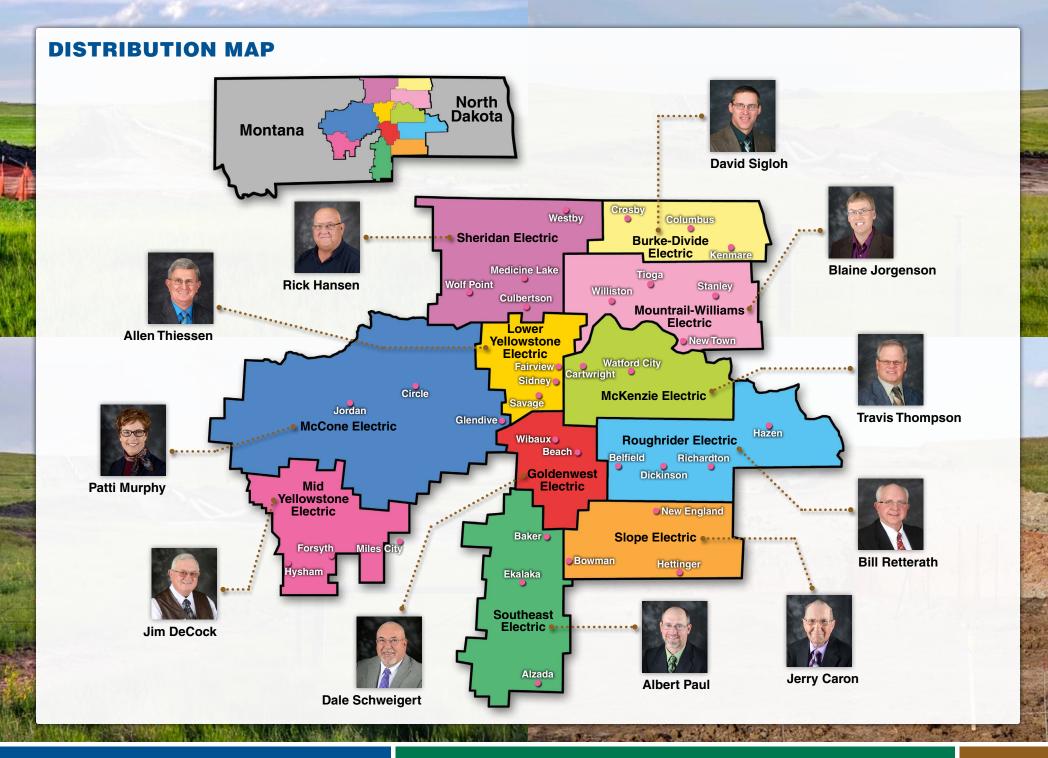
Upper Missouri Power Cooperative (Upper Missouri) was organized in 1957 to serve transmission needs of rural electric cooperatives in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. Today, Upper Missouri provides service to eleven distribution cooperatives, six in eastern Montana and five in western North Dakota. The eleven Member Systems serve 74,834 meters to farms, ranches, homes and businesses in thirty-seven counties, representing 54,762 square miles.

Upper Missouri sources power from two major power suppliers, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin). The majority and increasing percentage of power supply is sourced from Basin; in 2019, 96.69%.

Upper Missouri has 241 metering points, serves as the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) meter agent and is a transmission owner in Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO).

Upper Missouri continues to have healthy sales growth due to the oil/gas development in the Bakken Oil Play. Upper Missouri became a 1470 MW system; sales growth in 2019 was 13.54% over 2018. Upper Missouri is projecting continued growth over the forecast period.





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



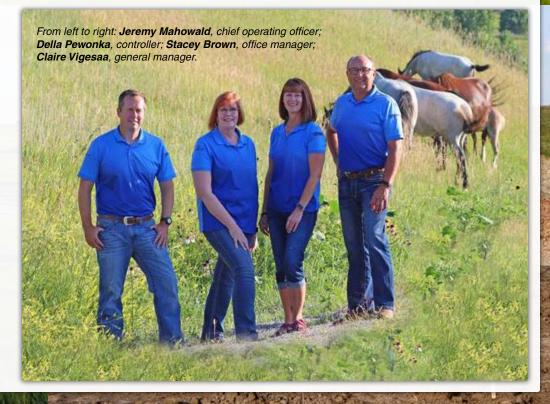
**Blaine Jorgenson** 

"Member Focused, Future Ready" is the theme for this year's annual meeting. This theme has two distinct yet interdependent parts. First, how does UMPC strive to be member focused. This organization is made up of eleven distinct members with unique needs. Each has been affected by changes to our electric industry ranging from drastic growth to needs for shared services to achieve economies of scale. UMPC has worked to meet the needs of our members by realizing our differences yet focusing on our

shared philosophy. The members of UMPC in western North Dakota and eastern Montana share common values, and that is reflected in our cost of service rate. Member focused means we meet the needs of our members in the fairest and most cost effective yet complete way possible.

The second part of this year's theme is "Future Ready." This is certainly a challenge in this fast-paced dynamic industry. To be future ready implies having a plan or plans, a roadmap toward favorable outcomes. How do we get there from here? By staying educated and engaged and by seeking agreement within our organization. Unity has certainly been a challenge in 2019. In November, UMPC was named as a defendant in a civil suit filed by McKenzie Electric Coop. McKenzie also objected to UMPC rates in our recently required FERC filing (which was ultimately rejected-UMPC plans to refile sometime in early 2020). Of all our challenges, these things cloud our future the most. To look through this haze, we must remember that UMPC is not made up of heroes or villains, just neighbors with some differences.

# **UPPER MISSOURI STAFF**



# **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**



Claire Vigesaa

Our member-owners and communities experienced extreme weather conditions in 2019; from a very cold winter, to spring flooding and a wet late fall harvest. The impact on our member-owners drove us to our theme for this report; "Member Focused, Future Ready." Whether the member-owner is a rancher, farmer, retired school- teacher or a commercial and industrial entity; their success is important to us. We, too, recognize the energy world is changing rapidly... we must be "Future Ready" to assure the best value to the member-owner.

The cold winter weather increased power supply requirements, while the wet summer decreased irrigation sales. Nonetheless, the region continues to grow due to oil/gas development, Upper Missouri established a new monthly peak of 1,470 MW. Upper Missouri sales increased 13.54% over 2018. The growth in this sector looks promising in the coming years as well; driving the need to expand transmission and generation resources. Our allocation from WAPA is fixed, now representing just over 3% of UMPC's purchases. Basin Electric Power Cooperative is responsible, through contract, to provide power supply beyond the WAPA allocation. Through the most recent load forecasts, we will be counting on Basin to buy, build or contract for additional and significant capacity to serve the region. The fuel of choice is an economic choice; we expect the additional capacity to be met with a mix of market, natural gas, flare gas, wind and solar. Utilizing flare gas would be a win-win, solving the flare gas issue, enhancing oil recovery and locating generation next to load.

The Upper Missouri family of cooperatives is intrigued with the concept of developing the petro-chemical industry in the region, adding value to oil/gas locally. The integration of the petro-chemical industry would provide long-term industry stability and economic development in the region.

While Upper Missouri values its privilege of growth, it comes with additional responsibility and project work. In November, Upper Missouri's largest Member System crossed the 4,000 GWH annual sales threshold, requiring that Upper Missouri become under FERC jurisdiction. This event created a

new level of reporting and process for Upper Missouri's rate development. At this writing, we continue to work on compliance with help from our FERC legal counsel.

WAPA had a good sales year, enabling WAPA to add \$80 million to the drought mitigation fund. Because of the load growth, most of it in the Upper Missouri region, Basin's margin projections for 2020 led to a one mill rate decrease.

We appreciate the help we received along the way and have been privileged to pay it forward this year; participating in a Senior WAPA leadership event, serving as a NRECA Trusted Advisor in their CEO Network, supporting the ND Transmission Study, serving on the WAPA Broadband Committee and serving as a mentor in the development of a new G&T in Louisiana. In addition to these special events, we continue to be engaged with legislative activity through our associations.

Our industry is seeing significant changes due to technology and consumer trends; we desire to be on the cutting edge and supportive to our member-owners...it's all about being "Member Focused; Future Ready."

# **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S REPORT**



Jeremy Mahowald

Our theme, "Member Focused, Future Ready," fits our operational objectives well. At Upper Missouri, we are committed and engaged with our members, and we continue to adapt to and meet our ever-changing challenges. Our main objectives in operations consist of revenue metering and data management, maintenance of substation and other transmission assets, and meeting NERC compliance regulations for reliability. We met those obligations in 2019 with a series of improvements that continue to lower costs and increase the value of our operations. Working

with members directly on how they can better utilize our data or to keep their costs down in their transmission endeavors are just some of the ways we focus on our members and ready ourselves for the future.

In 2019, there were no significant maintenance issues at the six substations owned by Upper Missouri. There were, however, some physical security additions made at the five facilities we have in the Bulk Electric System (BES) to meet cybersecurity compliance regulations. We also developed a new water flow plan for Medora that will mitigate washouts and reduce ground settling that will be fully implemented in 2020. Through frequently scheduled meetings with Montana-Dakota Utilities and Roughrider Electric Cooperative, we ensure each station is well maintained.

Upper Missouri performs revenue metering utilized for power billing and its associated maintenance and data management for facilities that aren't owned by WAPA or Basin. In 2019, this included 141 meters owned by Upper Missouri. We made significant process improvements to metering in 2019, lowering the average shared costs of metering by 25% from the prior year, reducing the monthly cost per meter from \$187 in 2018 to \$140 in 2019. In 2019, with a top-tier data record, Upper Missouri earned \$1,004,068 in incentives from Basin, which covered the metering costs with \$640,705 to spare. Important improvements made with metering include a new geo-referenced map and metering database, a meter return and exchange program that allows meters to stay in use throughout Upper Missouri, and we shifted the field work from HDR Engineering to Chapman Metering.

On the compliance front, we continued to streamline our processes in 2019. We were asked to self-certify as compliant in cybersecurity, how we identify and categorize our cyber assets, and in facility ratings and how we document our weakest links in our transmission system. We were also asked to attest to our supply chain policies, and to verify we weren't purchasing components or software from adversarial nations known for cyber espionage. This year has proven we are competently handling compliance, however, our work in this field will continue to escalate as our threat landscape and resulting regulations increase.

On the member front, we worked in many areas to improve their success. We work closely with members as they grow, facilitating in all aspects of their delivery additions, rates, transmission and SPP processes. We developed a peak prediction program in 2019 that accurately predicts and alerts members to peak conditions to manage coincidental billing through load management. We worked with several members to create performance-based rates, which includes coincidental billing and structural changes in passing along member capacity costs.

Upper Missouri will strive through its operations to provide value and lower risk through adapting to growth, increased regulations, and an increasingly competitive energy environment: together, we'll be future ready.

# **CONTROLLER'S REPORT**



**Della Pewonka** 

Upper Missouri's sales growth remained strong; sales totaled 10,516 GWH in 2019 a 13.54% increase over 2018. Upper Missouri's coincidental peak reached 1,470 MW in December. Oil and gas development continue to drive load growth.

Just ten years ago, in 2009, Upper Missouri had a peak demand of 296 MW and sales of 1,786 GWhs. Present load forecasts indicate that Upper Missouri will continue strong growth due to oil/gas development.

In 2019, 97% of Upper Missouri's energy supply was purchased from Basin Electric Power Cooperative with the balance (3%) purchased from WAPA.

Our world changed in 2019, moving under FERC jurisdiction for rate filings. This change requires new procedures and reporting requirements. Our goal is to have a formulary rate approved to minimize annual filings.

Upper Missouri is required to file an Attachment "O" with MISO and hold an annual meeting for transmission customer input on transmission cost recovery. The annual meeting is held in late July; no concerns or protests were raised during the meeting.

Upper Missouri's NRECA Benefit Audit was conducted in 2019. The audit is conducted on a five-year interval; the audit report was clean.

After due review, the board of trustees allowed it's \$40 million line of credit to expire in September.

Under Upper Missouri's cost of service model, wholesale power costs are passed directly through to the Member Systems. Maintenance and replacement expense, operations expense, capital credit allocations and renewable energy credits are passed through to the Member System based on asset use or sales percentages.

Upper Missouri's financial audit was completed by Brady-Martz.

The cooperative is financially secure and has quality resources, both

human and technical, to operate from a position of strength. Upper Missouri's healthy financial ratios, cost effective financing and cost of service model provide for a predictable ten-year rotation of member patronage. Upper Missouri returned its budgeted \$700,000 in capital credits in December.

With confidence, I am pleased to report that we have accounting and financial systems in place to provide secure and predictable financial performance; "Member Focused, Future Ready." For it is our Member's investment for which we are stewards.



Slope Electric Cooperative line technicians changed out a large pad-mounted transformer to one designed to work with an oil member's equipment, which helps reduce the Arc Flash Hazard their workers were exposed to. Slope workers and equipment receive the same benefits from the equipment changes. Photo Credit: Slope Electric Cooperative.



ONEOK's Elk Creek Pipeline traverses through McKenzie, LYREC, Goldenwest and Southeast's region. The pump loads will provide significant energy sales growth to **Goldenwest Electric Cooperative** and Southeast.



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) mobile → substation keeps power flowing to LYREC members. Outside of emergency conditions, the mobile unit serves an enormous role in system reliability, allowing LYREC line crews to perform maintenance, and construction projects whenever necessary.



One of **Sheridan Electric Cooperative**'s strategic elements in their communications plan is to promote cooperative education for the youth of the region. Here, trustee Rick Hansen is interviewed by regional youth at the Sheridan Annual Meeting.

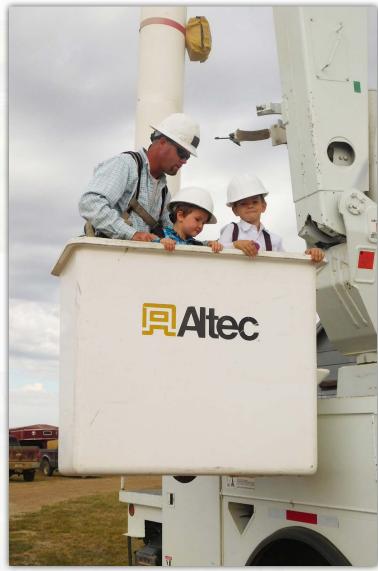


COOKIES FOR HEROS – Cordelia Cofer poses with her "heroes" and some of the girl scout cookies that were donated on their behalf.

Cordelia was given a choice as to a hometown hero that she could donate girl scout cookies to. She saw the **Southeast Electric Cooperative** linemen working in the below freezing temperatures one day and said to her mom, "those guys are real heroes – they keep our power on no matter what the weather."



After weeks of planning Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative held it's first → mock disaster training. July 3, 2019 Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative, Treasure County Ambulance, Fire Dept. Sheriff's Dept, Rosebud County 911 staff/ambulance and St. Vincent Help Helicopter personnel participated in a "real time" mock training exercise.



Lance Anderson, McCone Electric Cooperative lineman in Jordan, making the day for young future linemen. Garfield County Fair-Jordan, Montana.



2019 marked the completion of the largest construction workplan in the history of **Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative**. \$27 million was invested in the Cooperative's infrastructure over a period of four years. The plan focused on system reliability and included projects such as construction of new lines, upgrades to existing lines, and installation of updated meter technology.



**McKenzie Electric Cooperative**'s Demicks Lake Substation built in 2019 to serve oil and gas development.

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative celebrates lineworkers and makes a commitment to zero contacts.



In May 2019, Roughrider Electric Cooperative crews cut in → bypass switches and installed new Versa-Tech breakers. This crew included Linemen Brock Swensrud (left bucket) and Dion Gefre (right bucket). Photo Credit Roughrider.

#### **JANUARY 2019**

MV90 data export automated; streamlining report procedures.

Check engine light commissioned for load monitoring system

Vigesaa attends NRECA CEO advisory meeting

ND Transmission Authority study kick-off

Snake Butte lease updated

MDU announces coal plant shutdowns

New record peak of 1,366 MW

#### **FEBRUARY 2019**

Cold, cold weather

Delivery system and major transmission network digitized, geo-referenced and on ArcGIS

Peak prediction tool prototype working well

Jeremy attends the Idaho National Laboratory Cyberstrike workshop

ArcGIS data goes live

UMPC offers information to support \$150 million of tax-exempt bond refinancing associated with Dry Fork Station

Vigesaa coordinated Native American WAPA credit meeting with member yystems

#### **MARCH 2019**

Board of Trustees/staff tour Pioneer Station





Pioneer Station tour

Board of Trustees hold their March meeting at MWEC

Financial audit completed

Midwest board meeting

UMPC staff recognized for 100% ACRE participation





2019 Congressional visits



Claire and Jill Vigesaa participate in the Touchstone Energy community service project.



#### **APRIL 2019**

NRECA's CEO community site goes live

Annual Meeting held in Sidney; Blaine, Allen, Bill and Albert elected to officer positions



Historic flooding on the Yellowstone river

Board drafts position statements

Chapman begins meter testing

MISO attachment "O" submitted

TransCanada pipeline receive presidential permit

UMPC supports NRECA RC3 Program

#### **MAY 2019**

Vigesaa and several trustees/manager attend NRECA Legislative Rally



Congressional visits - NRECA Legislative Rally



Eric Boesse-HDR joined Jeremy Mahowald and Gary Markwart
– MDU on the annual facility inspection.

ND Department of Commerce supports the development petro-chemical industry

Jeremy/MDU conduct facility inspections

ND Transmission Authority report released

Vigesaa served on WAPA broadband committee meeting

Vigesaa meets with senior leadership at WAPA

WAPA Irrigation pumping rate preserved

Flooding in the Nebraska/Iowa leads to the Missouri River flow being stopped for a week

#### **JUNE 2019**

2020 Cost of service payroll distribution calculated



Yellowtail Dam Tour - Midwest Electric Consumers Association



Chapman Metering installation

Demand/energy split discussion & review

Chapman to take over meter conversion work (from HDR)

UMPC recognizes it will be under FERC jurisdiction later 2019

Trustees Murphy, Tescher, Vigesaa and Franklund attend the Midwest board

meeting & tour Yellowstone dam

Mahowald and Vigesaa meet with the New Hampshire Cooperative via conference call to discuss peak shedding programs

FERC work in earnest

Contracted with Sean Kavanagh for business IT support

#### **JULY 2019**

UMPC Selected for FAC-008-3 facility ratings self-certification

UMPC Bestows 2019 Helping Hand Award to Cristy Hoferer

Engaged Sutherland Law for FERC work

NRECA Benefit Audit completed -favorable report



Our heartfelt appreciation to Cristy Hoferer for all she has done for UMPC over the years. Ms. Hoferer was the 2019 Upper Missouri Helping Hand Award recipient

Board of Trustees adopted UMPC position statements

Litigation support for Clean Power Plan dismissed since replaced with ACE

Emergency response plan updated and tabletop exercise

Peak prediction program ready to go

Database moved to ArcGIS (July 26th)

MISO Annual meeting held on July 30th

New pipeline load coming for Southeast; need access to the Little Missouri substation

Lease updated with Basin

Tradable Renewable Credit Certificate presented to MWEC

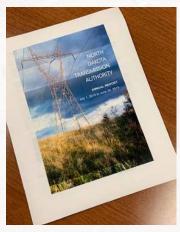
#### **AUGUST 2019**

UMPC Board of Trustees moved to proceed with FERC initial filing



WAPA Customer meeting, Denver

UMPC Board of Trustees allow the \$40 million Line of Credit to expire



ND Transmission Authority Annual Report

Signed the FY 2020 Western States Participation Agreement

David Sigloh selected as delegate to Basin Resolutions Committee

SPCC plans Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures updated

Basin Board of Directors decrease rates a mill for 2020

Vigesaa attends WAPA customer fiber meeting

Trustee Murphy and Vigesaa meet with Basin staff to discuss DGC synergies

#### **SEPTEMBER 2019**

Forest Service Permit for the Medora transmission lines extended from 5 years to 30 years



FERC Filing Preparation

NDAREC Cally Peterson pays a visit to UMPC

Jay Lundstrom – Basin pays visit to discuss the 2020 Load Forecast

ND Transmission Authority annual report

2020 Draft budget presented



Basin Resolutions Meeting

Mahowald meets with Chapman and HDR to discuss 2020 test results

UMPC initiates a new Meter Return & Exchange Program with member systems



Ray Clouse

UMPC completes its first FERC filing on September 16th

Ray Clouse, former UMPC trustee passes

Significant staff effort to provide information for the FERC Formula Rate filing



Board of Trustees participate in Wally Goulet's System Thinking Seminar

Montana Managers attend Senator Testor town hall re: Electric Cooperative Tax Bill

MECA annual meeting held in Great Falls - ACRE auction very successful



Goldenwest and Lower Yellowstone Electric Cooperatives worked with Upper Missouri to develop a peak prediction program for member-consumers.

#### **OCTOBER 2019**

City of Golva power agreement termination

Board of Trustees engage Wally Goulet for systems thinking training

Theresa Haynie McCone receives the Hard Ridin Award

WAPA had a good year financially; added \$80 million to drought fund

Jeremy participates in the NRECA Accounting and Finance Course -Capstone project

Several cooperatives file FERC Interventions; including a protest intervention from McKenzie Electric Cooperative over inclusion of Basin subsidiary losses in wholesale power rates

#### **NOVEMBER 2019**

Vigesaa ask to provide mentoring to a fledgling G&T cooperative in Louisiana

Vigesaa and Haugen attend the ND Energy Conference & Expo

McKenzie hits 4,000 GWH sales mark midmonth

McKenzie files civil suit with respect to wholesale power rates and Basin's inclusion of subsidiary losses in wholesale power rates.

UMPC board approves \$700,000 patronage refund

Basin Resource Planning identify 800-900 MW of generation need north of Lake Sakakawea; and identifies the need for another 45 MW unit at Lonesome Creek Station near Watford City, ND

Chapman meter testing complete

RC3 self-assessment license application completed

Vigesaa selected to serve as NRECA Trusted Advisor Network

Midwest Electric Consumers Association hires Jim Horan as its next executive director

#### **DECEMBER 2019**

Ty Thompson NRECA governance training



Ty Thompson governance training

December 12th, FERC rejects UMPC filing without prejudice

Midwest Electric Consumers Annual meeting; retirement of Bill Drummond, Executive Director

Denbury Resources announce plans for a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline to southwest ND and SE Montana for enhanced oil recovery

# **2019 MEMBER STATISTICS**

Соор	Total Members	Total Meters	Miles of Line	Square Miles of Service Area	Coincidental - Peak Demand (MW)	GWH Sales
Burke-Divide	1,410	3,487	2,642	2,590	40.1	240
GoldenWest	681	1,592	1,168	1,500	8.9	62
Lower Yellowstone	2,448	6,187	2,114	2,253	44.0	293
McCone	2,429	5,316	3,828	14,400	17.0	74
McKenzie	4,531	13,138	4,425	4,600	625.4	4,578
Mid-Yellowstone	734	2,027	1,045	4,000	8.2	29
Mountrail-Williams	8,231	18,062	5,201	4,089	528.5	3,755
Roughrider	8,978	14,768	5,231	5,800	150.4	836
Sheridan	1,852	4,103	2,835	4,230	27.6	152
Slope	1,910	4,017	3,196	4,500	61.2	431
Southeast	931	2,137	1,716	6,800	10.1	66
Upper Missouri	34,135	74,834	33,401	54,762	1,470	10,516

# **2019 UPPER MISSOURI FINANCIALS**

**Assets** 

**Total Assets** 

ASSETS A		

ACCETO AND CITE	III DEBITO	
	2019	2018

\$311,802,744

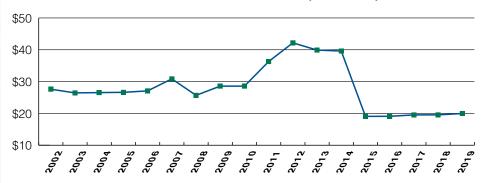
\$283,583,299

Assets	2019	2018
Electric Plant		
In Service	\$19,972,708	\$19,547,366
Under construction	13,688	499,140
Total electric plant	19,986,396	20,046,506
Less accumulated depreciation	(12,338,894)	(11,876,272)
Electric Plant - net	7,647,502	8,170,234
Other Property and Investments		
Patronage Capital - Basin Electric	242,145,682	220,636,796
Investments in associated companies	701,663	674,694
Investment in economic development proj	aata 400 000	400,000
investment in economic development proj	ects 400,000	400,000
Total other property and investments	243,247,345	221,711,490
	·	
Total other property and investments	·	
Total other property and investments  Current Assets	243,247,345	221,711,490
Total other property and investments  Current Assets  Cash and cash equivalents	<b>243,247,345</b> 844,705	221,711,490 1,044,633
Total other property and investments  Current Assets  Cash and cash equivalents  Temporary cash investments	243,247,345 844,705 135,017	221,711,490 1,044,633 135,017
Total other property and investments  Current Assets  Cash and cash equivalents  Temporary cash investments  Accounts receivable	243,247,345 844,705 135,017 59,279,017	221,711,490 1,044,633 135,017 51,940,922
Total other property and investments  Current Assets  Cash and cash equivalents  Temporary cash investments  Accounts receivable  Materials and supplies	243,247,345 844,705 135,017 59,279,017 140,825	221,711,490 1,044,633 135,017 51,940,922 69,895

#### **LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS**

Equities and Liabilities	2019	2018
Equities		
Memberships	\$5,500	\$5,500
Patronage capital	246,324,165	224,891,858
Total equities	246,329,665	224,897,358
Long-Term Debt, Less Current Matur	ities 6,625,598	6,817,862
Current Liabilities		
Current maturities of long-term debt	192,264	184,125
Line of credit	0	24,073
Accounts payable - Power supply	58,454,229	51,189,879
Other current and accrued liabilities	82,344	79,026
Total Current Liabilities	58,728,837	51,477,103
Deferred Credits	118,644	390,976
Total current liabilities	\$311,802,744	\$283,583,299

#### **TOTAL UTILITY PLANT VALUE (MILLIONS)**

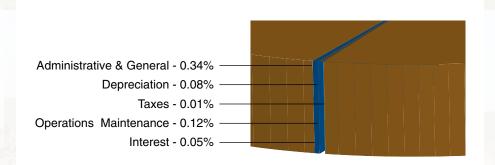


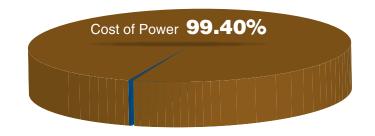
# **2019 UPPER MISSOURI FINANCIALS**

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Operating Revenues	2019	2018
Electric	622,169,396	544,877,213
Other	3,383,202	3,167,069
	\$625,552,598	\$548,044,282
Operating Expenses		
Cost of Power	622,333,262	545,049,968
Transmission - operations	528,412	739,674
Transmission - maintenance	202,110	379,252
Administrative and general	2,105,742	1,700,586
Depreciation and amortization	503,820	505,999
Taxes	61,576	59,288
Interest on long-term debt	329,819	344,223
Total Operating Expenses	626,064,741	548,778,990
Operating Margins Before Capital Cred	dits (512,143)	(734,708)
Basin Electric capital credits	21,859,340	77,350,099
Other Cooperative Capital Credits	76,718	97,059
Total Capital Credits	21,936,058	77,447,158
Net Operating Margins	21,423,915	76,712,450
Nonoperating Margins		
Interest Income	78,262	60,107
Gain (loss) on sale of plant	17,000	0
Compliance	69,866	48,563
Load Monitoring	545,090	694,167
Maintenance	159,951	332,600
Other non-operating income	188,678	194,892
Total non-operating margins	1,058,847	1,330,329
Net Margins	\$22,482,762	\$78,042,779

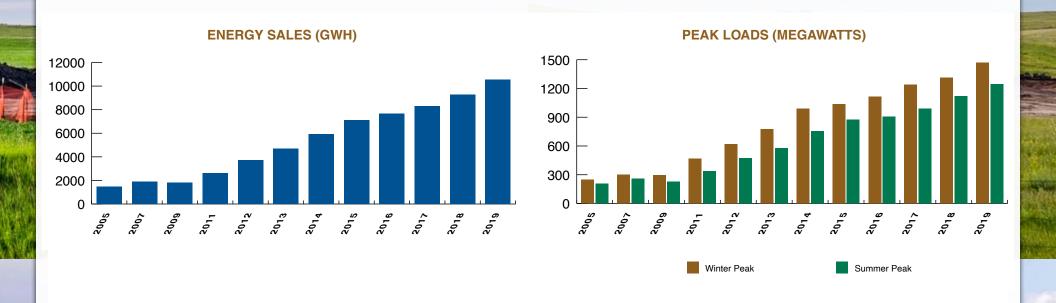
# 2019 EXPENSES Administrative & General 2,105,742 Cost of Power 622,333,262 Depreciation 503,820 Taxes 61,576 Operations Maintenance 730,522 Interest 329,819



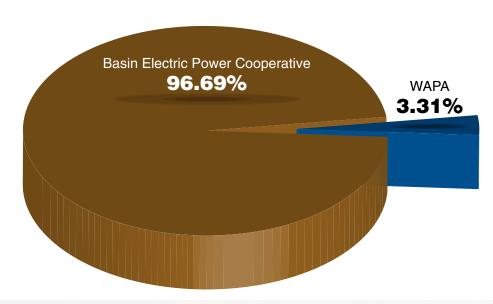


626,064,741

# **2019 UPPER MISSOURI FINANCIALS**









# Member Focused, Future Ready



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