

RESOLUTIONS

How the membership sets a course for Basin Electric



The 2010 Resolutions Committee met Sept. 13-14 at Basin Electric Headquarters. (Back row, from left) Don Feldman, District 11; Alan Lucken, District 4; Robert Shaffer, District 9; John Van Beek, District 7; Harold Dykstra, District 2; Jack Finnerty, District 5; Charlie Gilbert, board representative; and Philip Habeck, District 10. (Front row, from left) Alden Flakoll, District 1; Melanie Roe, District 6; Arden Fuher, District 3; and David Sigloh, District 8.

By Tracie Bettenhausen

2010 is a year of celebration for the Resolutions Committee, but also one of important work, setting the path for Basin Electric staff to follow in the coming year.

Each year, the Resolutions Committee meets to review and prepare possible revisions to existing resolutions and to consider new resolutions. The proposed changes are put to a vote of the membership at the annual meeting, to be held Nov. 3-4 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, ND.

The 2010 Resolutions Committee is represented by a director from each of Basin Electric's 11 districts and Basin Electric director, Charlie Gilbert. The committee considers amendments to Continuing Resolutions, which are long-term policy positions that continue over the years, and Current Resolutions, which are policies and challenges of current interest.

The committee met Sept. 13-14 at Basin Electric Headquarters and chose to re-elect their committee

chair, Arden Fuher of District 3 – Central Power Electric Cooperative.

The meeting began with a question-and-answer session by Mike Ettl, Basin Electric senior vice president of External Relations & Communications, on current issues including proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation and climate change bills in Congress. Wayne Backman, Basin Electric senior vice president of Generation, gave a report on surplus power at the hydroelectric dams

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Charlie Gilbert, Basin Electric board representative

and how that affects operation of Basin Electric's generation fleet.

The committee briefly celebrated the outcome of a resolution that was made in 2005. In that year, the committee said Basin Electric should obtain renewable energy equal to 10 percent of the megawatt capacity needed to meet its member demand by 2010. As of the end of 2010, the cooperative has met and surpassed that goal.

While that resolution has proven successful, the committee is discussing whether to include an entirely new resolution concerning green tags. The resolution would either say that green tags should be socialized and provided to member cooperatives that need them to meet renewable energy standards, or that green tags should be

sold, with members required to buy them to meet their state's standards. The committee will further discuss the possible resolution in November before the annual meeting.

In other revisions, the resolution "End-Use Energy Efficiency and Conservation" mentions ongoing funding of energy efficiency programs for members. For two years, Basin Electric has pledged \$1 million each year toward such programs. While the board of directors has voted to suspend that program in 2011, the committee will consider an addition to the resolution to encourage future funding for such programs.

The resolution dealing with railroad deregulation and freight rates now addresses the Berkshire Hathaway

Inc. acquisition of BNSF Railway and the possibility of increased rates without any appreciable benefit. It urges Congress to adopt legislation to protect shippers from higher rates.

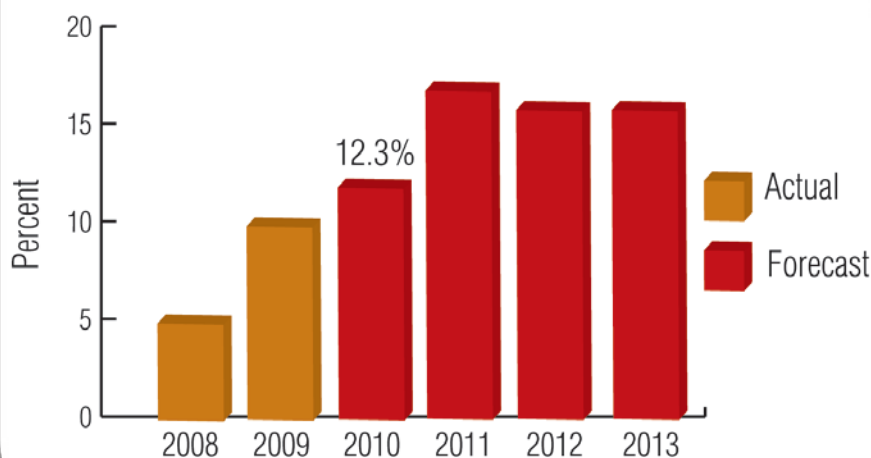
The resolution "Air Quality Regulation" was expanded to address proposed regulations by the EPA. These regulations will require major capital investments in pollution control technologies on existing coal-based power plants.

The resolution concerning carbon dioxide capture and storage now includes a request to Congress to provide federal liability for the first demonstrations of carbon storage. Also, a resolution was added to support federal incentives for renewable development. Additional edits and amendments were made to several other resolutions.

Charlie Gilbert, the Basin Electric board representative on the committee, urged a strengthening of the resolution "Political Action Committees." He says it's very important for cooperative members, directors, managers and staff to support rural electrification and help political "candidates who will advocate policies that we (rural electric cooperatives) can relate to and support."

The committee will gather feedback from their respective cooperatives on the proposed changes before they meet again on Nov. 2 to finalize changes. All proposed changes will then be brought to a vote of the Basin Electric membership on Nov. 4.

RENEWABLE PERCENT OF RESOURCE PORTFOLIO¹



¹ Winter capacities of owned facilities and purchased generation longer than 3 years