



**A message from BMU
Executive VP / General Manager
-Steve Meyer**

As the seasons change, BMU remains dedicated to delivering reliable utility services to the Brookings community.

Local decisions, local investment, and dependable service remain at the heart of what we do.

Thank you for your continued trust. Happy Fall!

**Our board is
composed of
local citizens with
longstanding ties
to the
community.**



Spence Hawley built his 44-year career as an insurance agent. Hawley was a former member of the SD House of Representatives, representing District 7 from 2011 to 2019. Spence has served on the Utility Board since May 2020. Since his appointment, he has been a valuable advocate for BMU. He currently serves on the American Public Power Association Policy Makers Council. Their mission is to engage with elected representatives and congressional staff to help shape legislation and regulatory frameworks that impact public power utilities and their customers. The Policy Makers Council has monthly calls and meets twice a year in Washington DC to ensure that the voices of community-owned utilities are represented in national energy policy discussions.



The Water Beneath our Feet

When you turn on the tap, it's easy to forget where your water comes from. Beneath portions of Brookings lies one of South Dakota's most important natural resources: groundwater stored in underground aquifers. Brookings is fortunate to have access to the Big Sioux Aquifer, which provides a reliable source of high-quality water for our community.

An aquifer is a layer of sand, gravel, or rock that stores and moves water underground, much like a giant sponge. Rainfall, snowmelt, and water moving through nearby streams and wetlands slowly seep into the ground, replenishing these valuable water sources.

In the Brookings area, the Big Sioux Aquifer can be further subdivided into the Six Mile Creek Aquifer and the Aurora Aquifer. Both were formed by glacial deposits of sand and gravel left behind thousands of years ago. These aquifers store large quantities of groundwater and

serve as an important source of water for the region.

Because these aquifers are relatively close to the surface, they are vulnerable to contamination from activities on the land above them. Protecting groundwater through responsible land use and environmental stewardship is essential to maintaining water quality.

Although aquifers are out of sight, they provide the dependable water that supports our homes, businesses, and agriculture needs. Understanding and protecting these underground resources helps ensure a safe and sustainable water supply for generations to come.

BMU takes the responsibility of protecting the groundwater resource seriously; we manage approximately 760 acres around our two active wellfields. In addition, we work with local stakeholders and property owners to protect an even larger area defined as wellhead protection.

Introducing ProtectIQ™ Security from Swiftel

Your connected home is growing. From smartphones and tablets to smart TVs, gaming consoles, cameras, and other smart devices, there are more devices online than ever before. That's why Swiftel is excited to introduce **ProtectIQ™**, an advanced network security service that will soon be enabled for our **Managed Wi-Fi** customers who lease routers from Swiftel.

ProtectIQ works behind the scenes to help protect every connected device on your home network from cyber threats such as malware, ransomware, phishing attempts, and other suspicious online activity. Unlike traditional antivirus software that only protects individual devices, ProtectIQ provides protection across your entire home network.

Benefits of ProtectIQ include:

- *Enhanced security for all connected devices*
- *Automatic threat detection and blocking*
- *Protection for devices that cannot run antivirus software*
- *Increased visibility into network security activity*
- *Peace of mind for your family*

ProtectIQ operates automatically in the background with no software to install and no action required from you.

Swiftel is committed to delivering a fast, reliable, and secure internet experience. We look forward to bringing this added layer of protection to your home.

Expect to see it about the 3rd week of October!

Sign up for *E-Billing* today!

E-Billing is a simple, convenient way to receive and manage your utility bill. Instead of waiting for mail delivery, you'll receive your bill as soon as it's ready, giving you more time to review it and make your payment.

E-Billing also makes recordkeeping easier. You can quickly view, download, and save copies of your bills for filing purposes whenever you need them. Plus, electronic delivery helps eliminate the risk of bills being delayed, misplaced, or lost in the mail, giving you peace of mind and reliable access to your account information.

*Scan the QR code to learn
how to sign up for E-Billing!*



MRES & WAPA - how does BMU get its power

Brookings Municipal Utilities (BMU) receives electricity from a combination of regional power resources.

Approximately 30% of our power comes from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), which markets renewable hydroelectric power generated by Missouri River dams. Our current contract with WAPA is through December 31, 2050.

The remainder 70% is supplied through Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), BMU's wholesale power provider, which delivers a diverse mix of energy sources including wind, solar, hydropower, natural gas, nuclear, coal and diesel. MRES provides wholesale power to its 61 member communities. Which BMU is a member of MRES.

The BMU Utility Board recently approved a sixth extension to the S-1 Power Agreement with MRES. This extension shall remain in effect through January 1, 2067.

Together, these partnerships help ensure Brookings has reliable, affordable electricity year-round.