

Volts & Views



... from the inside

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST
AND DATES TO ADD TO YOUR
2026 & 2027 CALENDARS!

- October 4-7, 2026
NECA 2026 Convention &
Trade Show, Las Vegas, NV
- October 20-22, 2026
NECA Safety Professionals
Institute, Kimpton Monaco
Washington, DC
- November 2-4, 2026
2026 Labor Relations
Conference
Hotel Valley Ho,
Phoenix, Az
- January 25-27, 2027
2027 MEP Innovation
Conference
Tampa, FL
- April 14-14, 2027
NECA Now 2027
Hotel Del Coronado
Coronado, CA

Data Center Construction:

A Balanced Impact Assessment, Part 2

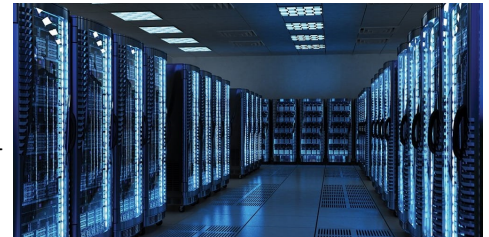
Prepared by: *ELECTRI International March 2026*

Noise and Electromagnetic Concerns

Two categories of physical harm claims have emerged: noise/vibration from cooling equipment and diesel generators, and claims that electromagnetic emissions cause cancer or other health effects.

Noise: Legitimate, Manageable

Data center noise concerns have a factual basis. Cooling towers, HVAC systems, and backup generators produce continuous low-frequency noise (typically 50–80 dB at the facility boundary) and can emit infrasound. Research published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2022) confirmed that industrial low-frequency noise correlates with sleep disturbance, annoyance, and stress-related health impacts in nearby residents. This is a real externality that zoning setbacks, acoustic baffling, and operational restrictions can meaningfully address.



Electromagnetic Radiation and Cancer Claims: Not Supported by Evidence

Claims that data centers cause cancer through electromagnetic emissions are not supported by peer-reviewed science. Data centers operate standard electrical infrastructure transformers, power distribution systems, and fiber optic communications which produce non-ionizing electromagnetic fields at levels indistinguishable from other commercial and industrial facilities. The World Health Organization, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), and the U.S. National Cancer Institute do not identify data center electromagnetic emissions as a cancer risk factor.

The confusion likely arises from conflation with concerns about 5G towers and high-voltage transmission lines, both of which have their own scientific literature. Advocates should not dismiss community health anxiety it reflects genuine fear but must clearly distinguish it from actionable scientific risk.

Agricultural Land Displacement: A Case Study Framework

When a data center is sited on former farmland, the relevant comparison is not 'data center vs. empty field' but 'data center vs. active agricultural operation.'

Industrial/Brownfield Replacement

When data centers replace former industrial sites or brownfields, the calculus shifts favorably. Prior land often generates minimal tax revenue, employs few or no workers, and may impose ongoing remediation costs on municipalities.

(Data Center Construction... continued on page 4)

Staff Directory:

NECA Phone: 701-293-1300

JATC Phone: 701-297-5934

Office Fax: 701-293-1301

NECA Executive Director
Ed Christian
director@dakotasneca.org
Cell: 701-371-7314

NECA Executive Assistant
Darla Dybwad
admin@dakotasneca.org

Accounting Manager
Sharlene Larson
dakneca@dakotasneca.org

Dakotas NECA Receiving
Darla Dybwad
crf@dakotasneca.org
Phone: 701-293-1300

JATC Director of Education
Adam Kidwell
director@dakotasjatc.org
Phone: 701-297-5934

JATC Coordinator
Amber Tougas
ambert@dakotasjatc.org

2026 Annual Meeting Highlights



Kelli Dietrich (L), picked the mini Milwaukee bucket with the lucky red poker chip and Tina Swift (R), picked the card with the Joker on it to win the Tiffany gifts this year.



Rob Zachariason of RZ Electric, Fargo, ND was the lucky winner of a trip to Las Vegas, NV for the 2026 NECA National convention and trade show.

Congrats



Mike Anderson won the Airbnb gift basket that was donated by Border States. Enjoy your stay!



The participants from Wacky Olympics all received a DQ gift card that was held on Friday afternoon on the front lawn. Thank you for participating!



Tigirlily Gold



Kendra and Krista sharing their talented voices with us!

We had the pleasure of having Tigirlily Gold back for our entertainment again this year! They played two fabulous sets for us and then we talked them into playing longer! They had some family in the audience and that made it even more special for them! We hope everyone enjoyed their show, we sure did!



Kari Carlson, Krista, Ed Christian, Kendra, and Lisa Christian.

2026 Dakotas Chapter NECA Golf Outing



Winning team: (L to R) Heather & Tyler Cymbaluk & Veda, Mike Anderson & Lance Johnson.



Second place team: (L to R) James Ruud, Paul Comeau, Max Ruud & Chris Lauinger.



Wild Card Winners: (L to R): Pete Carlson, Eric Bretheim, Bob Jarding & Jason Kruse.



(L to R): Bode and Bannon Larson, Karla Feuerstein & Eric Kouril.



(L to R): Rich Haarstad, Brian Woiwode, Darrin & Kelli Dietrich.



(L to R): Shawn Wolf, Denny Rick, Parker Gleason & Chris Williams.



(L to R): Kane & Dave Danielson, Patrick McGready.



(L to R): Brent Michelsen, Keith Gorter, Darin Hohn & Travis Toso.



(L to R): Dave Orman, Justin Grina, Michael Amick & Tom Kewley.



(L to R): Isla, Laura, Brady, Mila & Knox Wheeler.



Monday, September 7, 2026



Tyler Cymbaluk (L) won closest to the pin on hole #8 and Brady Wheeler won longest putt on hole #9.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

With Ed Christian, Executive Director, Dakotas Chapter NECA

Hello all,

Thank you to those who attended our 67th Annual Summer Meeting at Arrowwood Resort last month. As we have come to expect, the weather was awesome again and no major decisions needed to be made as to where to hold any of the events. It was great to spend time with our members, industry partners, and their families. We appreciate the attendees adjusting to a new schedule. As you can see from the photos everyone enjoyed the events including Golf, BBQ dinner, and Cosmic Bingo on Friday to Saturday's Membership meeting, Pontoons and Jet skis, Dinner, and awesome entertainment by Tigirlily Gold who came back to join us.

Looking forward, we have a group of members heading to Las Vegas October 4-7, for the NECA National Convention and Trade Show celebrating NECA's 125th anniversary. We will have a Chapter Reception and Dinner at the Moon View room (53rd floor) at the Palm Hotel on Tuesday evening October 6th as a multiple Chapter event. It was announced recently that the NECA Now 2027 event will be held at the Hotel Del Coronado, CA on April 12-14, 2027.

Thank you to our Affiliate members who attend our annual meeting with their families. We appreciate your sponsorship of events and your generous donations for our door prize drawings. We appreciate NECA's Premier Partners who support us throughout the year and support the Dakotas Chapter.

On behalf of the Dakotas Chapter NECA staff,

Ed Christian



2901 1st Avenue North
Fargo, North Dakota 58102-3001
Phone: 701-293-1300
Fax: 701-293-1301
E-mail: admin@dakotasneca.org

2026 NECA National Convention & Tradeshow

NECA 125: Celebrating a Legacy. Powering the Future.

In 2026, NECA proudly marks 125 years of leadership, innovation, and impact, a milestone that reflects more than a century of powering progress across the electrical construction industry.

Join us in Las Vegas October 4-7th as we honor our history, celebrate our community, and power the future, together.



Data Center Construction...(from page 1)

Data center development in these contexts frequently represents unambiguous economic improvement, and several states (Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio) have structured incentive programs specifically to channel data center investment toward brownfield sites.

Forested and Greenfield Land

Displacement of forested land or ecologically significant greenfields represents the most environmentally costly scenario. Forest clearance eliminates carbon sequestration (a mature temperate forest sequesters 1–5 metric tons CO₂e per acre per year), disrupts wildlife corridors, increases stormwater runoff, and is irreversible on human timescales. Several data center projects in the Southeast have drawn justified opposition on these grounds.

No economic comparison justifies systematic deforestation for data centers when alternative sites exist. This is an area where opposition advocacy is well-founded and should be supported by policy requiring environmental siting reviews.

Below is what our local Data Center in Harwood, ND looks like, photo taken by Ed Christian.

