

# Frederick Fuels Up

## REED Fund Loan Helps Build Refueling Station

Leaders in Frederick, South Dakota, want visitors to stop in their town but they don't want visitors to get stuck in their town.

For more than a decade Frederick has not had a gas station, and local residents can tell numerous stories about stranded travelers who have rolled into the northern Brown County town on fumes.

"We've had people come for sporting events and not be able to get home," Frederick Development Corporation Vice President Gary Peterson said.

Frederick sits just off U.S. Highway 281. The town is 14 miles south of Ellendale, North Dakota, and 29 miles north of Aberdeen. Until a few months ago, those were the only nearby towns where travelers could fill their tanks.

"We've needed a gas station for some time in this area," Peterson said.

Last fall, the Frederick Development Corporation started working on plans to build an unmanned refueling station along the highway to give drivers a spot to fill up in the 43-mile stretch between Aberdeen and Ellendale. The project was completed in January thanks to financing from the Northeast South Dakota Economic Development Corporation (NESDEC), the North East Council of Governments (NECOG), and Northern Electric Cooperative through the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund.

"We're proud to be able to help the Frederick Development Corporation provide needed services locally," Northern Electric Cooperative CEO/General Manager Char Hager said.

Members of the Frederick Development Corporation signed the final paperwork for the \$300,000 loan from the REED Fund on March 21 along with the financing documents from NESDEC and NECOG.

The REED Fund is governed by 22 electric cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota through East River Electric Power Cooperative. It was established in 1996 to promote growth and development in rural areas and the Frederick project fits that mission.

"We are committed to growing our rural communities, and we're happy to be a part of this exciting opportunity to make a difference in rural South Dakota," Hager said.

The refueling facility includes four diesel pumps and one pump with unleaded and ethanol blends. The Frederick Development Corporation coordinated the construction and financing but North Central Farmers Elevator supplies the station with fuel and handles the daily operations.

Local leaders know the project is already filling the tanks of travelers and a need the area has had for a long time.

"It's a project we have whole-heartedly embraced as a board and community," Peterson said. "We have had tons of positive comments."