



## **Key Data**

	2024	2023		
Condensed Consolidated Income Statement Data				
income Statement Data				
Operating Revenues	\$ 520,996,331	\$ 561,492,855		
Operating Expenses	<b>478,571,243</b> 527,085,3			
Operating Margins, Before Fixed Charges	42,425,088	34,407,507		
Fixed Charges Before AFUDC	27,905,971	27,283,262		
AFUDC on Borrowed Funds	(412,750)	_		
Nonoperating Margins	13,649,901	11,231,070		
Net Margins	28,581,768	18,355,315		
Total Assets	1,366,174,653	1,377,698,574		
Long-Term Debt	550,532,798	574,651,339		
Members' Equity	481,122,859	471,141,091		
GSEC Properties - EBITDA	\$ 527,029	\$ 254,482		
Financial Ratios ————————————————————————————————————				
Total Equity/Total Assets (%)	35.22	34.20		
Days Cash on Hand	268	244		
Debt Service Coverage (DSC) Ratio	1.74	1.63		
Debt/Funds Available for Debt Service	5.30	6.08		
Equity/Capitalization (%)	45.29	43.91		
Operating Statistics —				
Average Sales Price/MWh	\$ 41.95	\$ 51.03		
Energy Sales to Members (MWh) - SPP	<b>6,705,226</b> 6,557,743			
Energy Sales to Members (MWh) - ERCOT	4,140,098	3,252,104		
Energy Sales to Members (MWh) - Total	10,845,324	9,809,847		
Member Peak Demand (MW) - SPP*	<b>1,494</b> 1,484			
Member Peak Demand (MW) - ERCOT*	403	<b>403</b> <u>356</u>		
Member Peak Demand (MW) - Total*	1,897	1,840		
Gas Purchased (MMBtu)	51,631,708	37,664,659		

<sup>\*</sup> Peak demands do not include sales to mega-consumers.

## Planning for Tomorrow's Reliable Power

#### President's and Chairman's Letter

The power industry continues to evolve at a rapid pace, driven by regulatory changes, shifting market forces and unpredictable weather events. Golden Spread Electric Cooperative remains committed to anticipating these changes and creating forward-looking plans that position our Members for success.

We remain focused on our efforts to deliver reliable, affordable energy. Over the years, the Golden Spread Board has engaged in extensive planning to address diverse challenges, including the rise of mega-consumers, fluctuations in gas prices and new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. Thanks to this forward-thinking approach, Golden Spread is well-positioned to meet Member needs regardless of the challenges ahead.

As the industry continues to change, we are taking a fresh look at organizational strategy and resource planning. Our current resource plan provides flexibility to meet Member needs in the years ahead. However, evolving federal and state regulations, combined with shifting consumer demands and emerging technologies,

require us to continually review and refine our strategy. Maintaining a flexible portfolio remains a top priority to ensure we can adapt to an everchanging energy landscape.

A key addition to our resource plan this year is the approval to begin construction of Elk Unit 4, a gas-powered, quick-start unit that enhances the stability of our power supply when renewables fall short. Natural gas plays a vital role as a bridge fuel, helping us maximize the cost-effectiveness of our region's abundant renewable resources. While last year's EPA rulemaking on new and legacy power plants may shape how we use Elk 4, it will complement the other assets in our portfolio. We are working diligently to make long-term decisions that put our Members on solid ground, now and in the future.

Mega-consumers — electricity users with massive power needs — are a pressing topic for many Members. These consumers are drawn to Golden Spread's territory because of the abundant renewable resources in our region and the favorable regulatory environment. While they

Kelly Lankford,
Board Chairman/
President
and
Kari Hollandsworth,
President/CEO



bring significant opportunities, they also pose potential risks for our cooperatives. To balance these dynamics, we have worked with Members to develop contracts that minimize risk while sharing the benefits these large consumers bring to the broader membership.

Our region's abundant natural resources have also caught the attention of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and the Southwest Power Pool, which are planning new transmission infrastructure improvements to carry renewable energy from our area to more populated areas across the country. While we support improvements to grid reliability, we are actively working with regulators and lawmakers to ensure that new transmission projects are necessary, appropriately planned and funded fairly. It is essential that the costs of infrastructure benefiting

areas outside our region are borne by those who benefit, not by our Members.

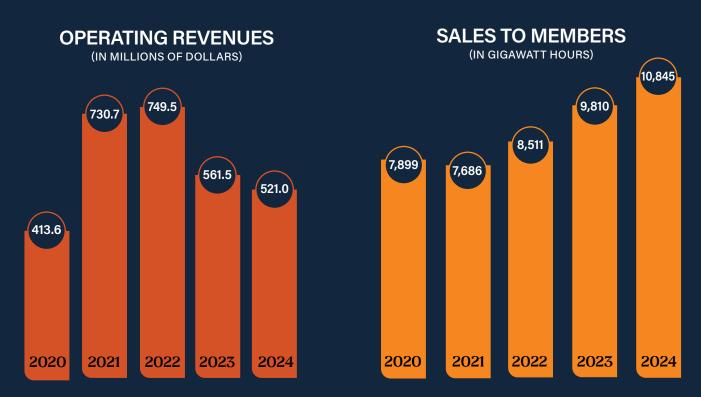
For Golden Spread, this year has been one for the record. Low gas prices and a record peak demand have led to some of the lowest rates in our 40+ years of operation. By staying true to our mission of delivering cost-effective, competitive and reliable power, we are ensuring a secure energy future for generations to come. We are proud of our achievements and are committed to our mission — no matter what challenges lie ahead.

Kari Hollandsworth

President and
Chief Executive Officer

Kai Hollandsworth

Kelly Lankford Board Chairman and President



Variations in operating revenues are due to the volume of kWh sales, Member rates and Board-approved margins.

Members have experienced significant load growth beginning in 2022. In general, fluctuations in kWh sales to Members are caused by weather conditions, oil and gas production and agriculture activity. In addition to traditional load growth, incremental sales were made to megaconsumers and South Plains Electric Cooperative's ERCOT load.

### Strategic Planning for Tomorrow's Power

Golden Spread is always looking ahead, planning for the future while managing risks and opportunities in the electric industry. We follow a three-year strategy cycle, but each plan is flexible, allowing for quick adjustments when needed.

#### Four Key Focus Areas and Initiatives

Golden Spread's strategy is built on four key areas that guide decision-making:

- 1. Generation & Planning Ensuring reliable energy by evaluating resource needs, load growth and new technologies
  - · Provide a longer-term approach to resource planning (e.g., least cost, distributed energy resources, fuel diversity, partners)
  - Evaluate making the entire generation portfolio grid switchable
  - Explore options to address surety of natural gas (supply and delivery)
- 2. Finance & Rate Keeping rates fair and flexible while adapting to industry changes
  - · Confirm financial targets and whether they

- 3. Transmission Improving transmission operations and reliability while managing costs
  - Evaluate Golden Spread's role in transmission (including Member coordination, planning, development, ownership)
- 4. Value-Added Services Providing additional services, such as IT, HR, communications, negotiations with mega-consumers and legislative advocacy
  - Ongoing improvement of specific services (e.g., Special Facilities Agreements, "SFAs")

#### A 2024 Key Initiative: **Longer-Term Resource Planning**

During our 2023 planning event, the Golden Spread Board identified key initiatives for which action plans were developed in 2024. This includes Longer-Term Resource Planning, a process that estimates or forecasts Members' needs, arranging and committing generation in the right market, and then determining if additional resources are needed.





The regulatory landscape is shifting quickly, and Golden Spread must factor regulations into our resource planning process. In the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) market, each Load Serving Entity – organizations such as Golden Spread who are required to provide electricity to their end users – must match their load with their generation resources plus a reserve margin. This is called a capacity requirement.

SPP is changing the rules for how generation resources are credited toward this capacity requirement. This new factor is called performance-based accreditation and is intended to include the value of each generation resource based on how much it contributes to system reliability.

There are different regulatory requirements in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). As an energy-only market, ERCOT has no capacity requirement. Load and resources are currently matched in real-time as energy is used.

To meet Members' growing electric needs and to comply with these pending and potential market changes, Golden Spread is acquiring additional resources. As a first step, Golden Spread, with the support of its Members, is building additional flexible generation at Antelope Elk Energy Center by installing the proper equipment to make Elk Unit 3 grid switchable (like Elk Units 1 & 2) and building Elk Unit 4 with grid-switchable capability.

Generation interconnect agreements can take many years to execute depending on the market and timing of the application. It is important to be proactive with interconnection applications to fulfill our resource plan and have flexibility with any changes in load, regulatory rules or other factors. The goal of the longer-term approach to resource planning strategic initiative is to develop a plan that addresses rapid regulatory changes and long lead times.

Golden Spread is using the information we have on hand now to plan for the future and ultimately support our Mission and Vision.

#### **Annual Strategy Event**

Golden Spread's Strategic Planning event brought together the Board, staff and industry experts to discuss future energy challenges and opportunities. Key discussions this year included:

- Energy market trends and regulations Experts from ACES, Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Renewables Cooperative Organization shared insights on power markets, supply chains and emerging technologies.
- Industry challenges and innovations Leaders from SPP and ERCOT discussed reliability, load growth and the future of energy.
- Artificial Intelligence in energy Futurist Zack Kass spoke about how Artificial Intelligence is transforming industries and what it could mean for energy companies.

Golden Spread remains committed to delivering reliable, affordable and innovative energy solutions to its Members. By staying informed and planning ahead, we are well-positioned for a successful future.



## Expanding Flexibility and Reliability at Antelope Elk Energy Center——



As part of our commitment to providing flexible and reliable generation, we're making significant upgrades at Antelope Elk Energy Center (AEEC). One major enhancement is making Elk Unit 3 grid switchable between the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), allowing us to better respond to market conditions. Additionally, we're expanding AEEC with the construction of Elk Unit 4, which will be grid switchable from day one.

Like the three existing Elk units, Elk Unit 4 will be a gas-fired combustion turbine with fast start-up times, enhancing our ability to respond to fluctuating grid demands. This project strengthens our capacity to meet growing energy needs in the SPP region, particularly in response to new performance-based accreditation requirements aimed at improving system reliability. As Member demand in the SPP territory rises and these requirements become more stringent, securing additional generation resources is essential to ensuring continued reliability.

Elk Unit 4 will use the GE 7F.05 combustion turbine, which is the same as Elk Units 1, 2 and 3. Because this turbine has been in storage, Golden Spread is avoiding the high costs and long wait times associated with purchasing new turbines in today's high-demand market. In addition to the turbine, we have proactively placed orders for

other critical equipment, such as transformers and switchgear, which often have extended lead times. By ordering these components early, we've minimized potential delays and positioned the project for timely completion.

We also submitted generator interconnection applications for Elk Units 3 and 4. Elk Unit 3 has already received an interim interconnection service agreement, allowing it to begin serving the SPP grid in summer 2025, with full interconnection expected in 2027. This phased approach ensures we can bring new resources online as efficiently as possible while meeting regulatory and operational requirements.

Upon completion of these projects, every registered resource at AEEC will be fully grid switchable between ERCOT and SPP, providing greater operational flexibility, cost efficiencies and enhanced reliability. This adaptability allows us to serve Member needs in both markets more efficiently and respond to demand fluctuations and market conditions in real time.

Flexible, reliable and cost-effective generation remains the foundation of our resource planning strategy. These enhancements at AEEC will strengthen our ability to deliver secure, dependable power for our Members well into the future so we can continue to meet growing energy demands while maintaining the highest standards of reliability and affordability.





## Load Requests: New Delivery Points Energized

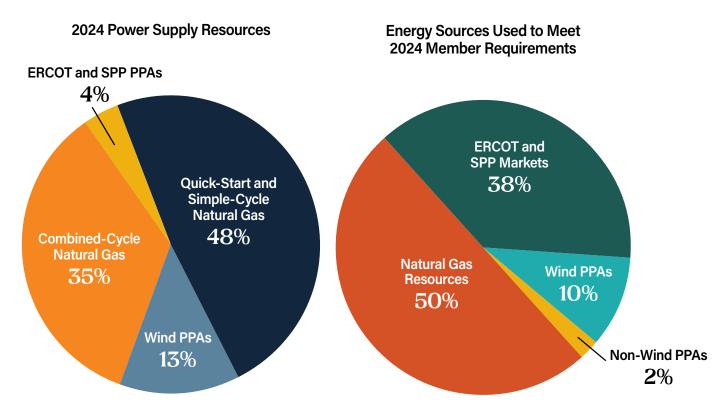
Golden Spread has successfully energized multiple new delivery points in both the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) to improve service for our Members. We successfully helped energize four new ERCOT delivery points and two new SPP delivery points in 2024.

## Mega-Consumers: SCADA Enhancements

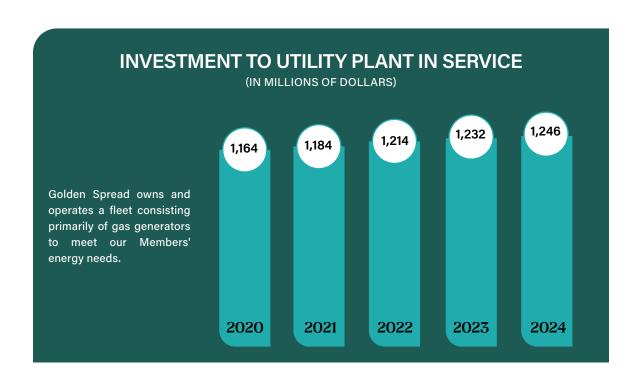
Golden Spread's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) team is implementing metering plans for several new high-load consumers while also deploying Peak Avoidance programming to prevent new loads from negatively affecting Members' rates.

As interconnection projects progress, Golden Spread remains committed to ensuring that all new generation and load resources are efficiently integrated, enhancing reliability and flexibility for Members.

#### **CURRENT RESOURCE OPERATION**



Energy sources reflect the net impact of market conditions. Charts refer to sales made under the System Service Rate (SSR), which rely on all of Golden Spread's resources including its power plants. PPAs are power purchase agreements. Golden Spread does not retain the environmental attributes associated with wind.



## Navigating an Evolving Energy Landscape ——

In 2024, significant changes in energy policy, market structure and transmission planning emerged at both state and federal levels. Golden Spread remains engaged in these developments to ensure reliable, affordable power for our Members. Adapting to evolving regulations and market shifts is essential for long-term planning and strategic decision-making.

## **ERCOT: Addressing Growing Demand and Enhancing Grid Resilience**

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has implemented several initiatives to strengthen system planning, enhance grid reliability and manage unprecedented load growth.

#### New Era of Planning for Growth

In April, ERCOT launched the New Era of Planning initiative to address Texas' rapid economic and population growth. The aim of the initiative is to improve system planning, including generation and transmission development, to support a potential 40+ GW of additional load growth in ERCOT by 2030.

ERCOT continues to experience unprecedented electricity demand. In August 2023, ERCOT recorded a peak demand of 85.5 GW, a 14% increase from four years prior. Forecasts project peak demand could exceed 125 GW by 2030, driven by industrial expansion, data center development, artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency mining.

House Bill 5066, passed in 2023 by the 88th Texas Legislature, allows ERCOT to include prospective load growth before formal agreements are signed, increasing forecast projections.

## **ERCOT Transmission Infrastructure Strain** and Cost Allocation

ERCOT estimates the need for \$30 to \$33 billion in transmission investments, with \$13 billion designated for the Permian Basin to support oil and gas electrification, industrial expansion and data center growth. The existing grid is operating near capacity, requiring significant infrastructure expansion for long-term reliability.

Cost allocation remains a concern. The Four Coincident Peak methodology, adopted in 1996,





assigns transmission costs based on peak usage. However, large industrial users have adjusted operations to reduce transmission charges, shifting a greater financial burden onto residential customers and small businesses. The Independent Market Monitor has recommended revising this cost allocation model to reflect the true drivers of new transmission needs.

## SPP: Expanding Transmission and Managing Growth

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) has taken significant steps to strengthen its transmission network and improve reliability.

In October, SPP's Board of Directors approved a \$7.7 billion transmission expansion plan, the largest in its history. The plan includes 89 projects spanning 2,333 miles of new transmission and 495 miles of upgrades to support new generation and load growth.

SPP is also addressing a backlog of interconnection requests, some dating back to 2018. SPP sought approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to delay its 2024 interconnection queue cluster study process, allowing for a more efficient review of outstanding requests.

## Grid Resilience and Reliability Improvements

In 2024, extreme weather events continued to test grid reliability. In July, Hurricane Beryl left millions without power, highlighting the need for improved resilience measures. The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) adopted regulations requiring utilities to adopt resiliency plans, focusing on infrastructure hardening, better vegetation management and flood and wildfire mitigation.

In 2025, the Texas Supreme Court will review lawsuits related to the 2021 winter storm, which could affect future regulatory requirements for grid reliability and emergency response.

## PUCT: Strengthening Reliability and Expanding Infrastructure

The PUCT adopted key policies to strengthen grid stability and ensure the state's infrastructure keeps pace with increasing demand.

In August, the PUCT implemented a new reliability standard for ERCOT, aiming to limit loss-of-load events to one day in 10 years, with each event lasting no more than 12 hours. ERCOT will begin regular assessments in 2026 to measure compliance.

The Texas Energy Fund Loan Program, introduced to encourage private investment in new dispatchable generation, received 125 notices of intent, requesting \$38.9 billion in financing for proposed power projects. In August, 17 gasfired generation projects totaling nearly 10 GW advanced in the loan review process, representing \$5.4 billion in potential loans. These initiatives aim to increase grid reliability by accelerating power plant construction.



Golden Spread has joined the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Rule 111b, also known as the Power Plant Rule. The rule threatens overall electric reliability and market stability — two critical factors in maintaining affordable and dependable power for our Members.

The EPA's rule aims to accelerate the retirement of coal-fired power plants by mandating the use of carbon capture and sequestration technology, which is not yet commercially viable, if plants are to stay open. By forcing the premature closure of these plants, the rule reduces the availability of always-on, dispatchable power at a time when electricity demand is rapidly increasing. As more industries expand their energy needs, eliminating the power sources we've long depended on weakens the grid's ability to respond to fluctuations in demand.

Golden Spread supports a diversified energy portfolio, including renewable resources, recognizing that traditional fuels remain an essential component of grid stability. Renewable energy, while critical to our long-term energy strategy, is inherently intermittent. The reliability challenges posed by wind and solar require the continued presence of stable, dispatchable power sources. Without them, grid operators will struggle to maintain balance, increasing the risk of service disruptions and driving up electricity prices.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas and the Southwest Power Pool both predict electricity demand will continue to grow rapidly in coming years. Meanwhile, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that more than 110 GW of firm power generation will retire by 2033, putting 19 states at risk of rolling blackouts over the next five years. The Power Plant Rule exacerbates this crisis by pushing essential generation offline without a viable alternative. With the change in presidential administrations, the industry expects this rule will be revised again in 2025.

Golden Spread holds the position that responsible energy policy should prioritize reliability, affordability and long-term sustainability. That's why we stand with NRECA in challenging this rule and advocating for a balanced approach that ensures a secure energy future for our Members.

## Mega-Consumers: Opportunities, Challenges and Golden Spread's Strategic Approach

Golden Spread worked on multiple projects that began to bring mega-consumers — large-scale energy users — to our Members' territories. These consumers are drawn to Golden Spread Members' service areas due to abundant renewable resources and a favorable regulatory environment. Their operations span industries such as artificial intelligence, data centers, cryptocurrency mining and green hydrogen production.

While these mega-consumers present significant opportunities, they also introduce new challenges. Some of these proposed loads are larger than Golden Spread's entire traditional load, creating both revenue potential and the need for careful planning. Successfully integrating these consumers into our system requires balancing risk while maximizing benefits for our Members.

To put these projects into perspective, Golden Spread is facing a potential 10,000 MW of new load from mega-consumers in our Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) territory — an exponential increase compared to our current ERCOT load of 400 MW. On average, each of these projects is the size of Golden Spread's existing ERCOT load, with individual projects ranging from 200 MW to more than 1,000 MW.

It's important to note that numbers here reflect potential loads. However, actual loads remain uncertain.

Because of the complexities of serving such large consumers, Golden Spread has collaborated with our Members to develop contracts that balance stability and cooperative interests. One key strategy in this balance is that Golden Spread is not currently constructing new generation to support these loads. Instead, energy is procured to match what is consumed, ensuring that Members do not bear the financial burden if these projects fail to materialize.

There was a shift in energy demand in 2024. While cryptocurrency data centers with loads between 50 and 200 MW dominated the landscape in 2023, the focus has now turned to artificial intelligence. Al data centers require significantly more power, with discussions rapidly escalating from 200 MW to 1,000 MW or more. Unlike cryptocurrency operations, which are highly sensitive to market prices, Al data centers demand firm load services, bringing new considerations for managing manual load shed obligations and navigating the ERCOT market.

These loads mark a pivotal moment for Golden Spread and its Members. As demand for large-scale energy consumers evolves, Golden Spread remains committed to innovative, risk-managed solutions that support growth while ensuring long-term stability for all Members.

A new data center is co-located with a wind farm in the Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative territory.



### Market Operations Update

The natural gas market in 2024 experienced atypical dynamics, with a record stretch of negative gas prices in the Permian Basin. These low prices were driven by oversupply and limited takeaway capacity, creating unique opportunities for Golden Spread and its Members.

#### **Historic Low Gas Prices and Their Impact**

Golden Spread leveraged its firm transportation agreements to access low-cost gas throughout the year. Our weighted average cost of gas ranged from -\$0.87 to \$1/MMBtu from February to November, helping drive some of the lowest rates in recent history for our Members.

Due to growing oil production, Permian Basin natural gas production also increased. Lack of pipeline capacity to move the gas enabled Golden Spread Members to benefit from the low and "trapped" gas prices.

## Takeaway Capacity Expansion and Market Recovery

While trapped gas pricing provided a temporary advantage, it is not expected to last indefinitely.

As pipeline capacity improves, natural gas prices are normalizing and returned to the \$1-\$3/MMBtu range near the end of 2024.

A key factor in this shift was the Matterhorn Express pipeline, which came online at the end of 2024 to transport gas from the Permian Basin to the Gulf Coast. Additional pipeline projects are expected to increase takeaway capacity over the next three to four years, further normalizing gas prices.

#### **Looking Ahead: 2025 Market Projections**

Forward pricing for 2025 indicates a more stable market, with the Waha Hub averaging around \$1.50/MMBtu for the remainder of the year. While this remains relatively low, it suggests that the extreme pricing volatility seen in 2024 is easing.

Golden Spread will continue monitoring market conditions and optimizing procurement strategies to secure reliable, low-cost energy for its Members. While prices are expected to rise modestly, the long-term outlook remains favorable for maintaining competitive rates.









## Strength in Unity: Cooperatives

In times of crisis, cooperatives stand together to support one another and their communities. That principle was on full display in February 2024, when the Smokehouse Creek Fire became the largest wildfire in Texas history, scorching over 1 million acres across the Panhandle. The fire displaced families, disrupted essential services and destroyed homes, including the homes of several employees of North Plains Electric Cooperative, a Golden Spread Member.

In the face of devastation, the Golden Spread Community Involvement Committee (CIC) and Golden Spread employees mobilized swiftly to support their fellow cooperatives. The CIC immediately launched a fundraiser, gathering donations and information about clothing sizes, favorite children's toys and household necessities to directly support affected residents. Within days, the response surpassed expectations, filling a Suburban to capacity with donated supplies.

Recognizing that many residents would need ongoing financial support, Golden Spread employees also contributed \$4,264 in monetary donations, providing further relief to those in need.

The cooperative response didn't stop there. Lineworkers from North Plains Electric Cooperative, Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, Lamb County Electric Cooperative, Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, Lyntegar Electric Cooperative, Bailey County Electric Cooperative, Swisher Electric Cooperative, Tri-County Electric Cooperative and Greenbelt Electric Cooperative, along with crews from across Texas, Oklahoma and beyond, worked around the clock to restore power in the wildfire's aftermath. Crews braved hazardous conditions, replacing burned poles and downed power lines to bring electricity back to affected areas. Their efforts helped the area begin rebuilding homes, farms, ranches and essential infrastructure as quickly as possible.

While the Smokehouse Creek Fire presented an extreme example, cooperation among cooperatives is a daily reality. Whether restoring power, providing financial support or responding to crises, cooperatives work together to strengthen each other and the communities they serve. When cooperatives unite, the entire network benefits.

Long after the Smokehouse Creek Fire was extinguished, Golden Spread Members remained dedicated to recovery, helping the affected communities rebuild with greater strength and resilience. This disaster underscored the value of cooperative-led emergency planning, driving continued efforts to reinforce infrastructure, expand mutual aid networks and equip Member-Consumers with critical preparedness resources. By prioritizing collaboration and long-term solutions, cooperatives are not just restoring what was lost; they are fortifying communities to withstand future challenges with confidence and agility.

## **Building a Resilient Future:** Governance, Compliance and Risk Management

Golden Spread is committed to maintaining a for policy updates and streamlines approvals, strong foundation of governance, compliance and risk management for long-term stability and operational excellence. In 2024, Golden Spread took strategic steps to modernize governance structures, strengthen compliance oversight, enhance internal controls and refine risk management processes. These initiatives are designed to increase transparency and improve decision-making. By proactively addressing industry challenges, Golden Spread is reinforcing its ability to navigate regulatory changes, mitigate risks and continue delivering reliable, affordable energy to Members.

#### **Advancing Corporate Governance**

Corporate governance provides the foundation for strategic decision-making, policy development and operational oversight. In 2024, Golden Spread advanced its Governance Modernization and Board Effectiveness initiative, which included a comprehensive review of the articles of incorporation and bylaws to align with regulatory requirements and cooperative needs. Additionally, a board governance assessment was conducted to evaluate governance effectiveness and refine committee structures, ensuring a framework that supports efficiency, transparency and accountability.

Another key development was the Governing Document Framework, which introduced a structured system for managing key corporate and governance documents. At the core of this initiative is the implementation of InfoHub, a centralized digital platform designed to house, track and maintain governance policies, corporate records and compliance materials. InfoHub enhances accessibility for employees by ensuring they have real-time access to the most current version of critical documents. The platform also automates document review processes, provides automated notifications reducing manual oversight burdens and ensuring consistency across departments.

Records and Information Management has standardized document retention and improved information accessibility across departments, improving efficiency and minimizing redundancy. By implementing structured data governance, Golden Spread has enhanced document security, minimized risks associated with outdated records and improved responsiveness to audits and legal inquiries.

#### **Strengthening Compliance Oversight**

With a strong governance framework in place, Golden Spread is advancing its enterprise compliance program to meet regulatory requirements and proactively manage risks. In 2024, Golden Spread launched a three-year strategic plan to strengthen compliance by building internal expertise, refining oversight mechanisms and aligning compliance with risk management strategies.

The 2024 focus was on developing internal expertise by identifying subject matter experts within Golden Spread and providing targeted training initiatives. These efforts give employees and stakeholders the tools and knowledge to navigate compliance obligations effectively. Golden Spread also integrated compliance risk assessments with Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), ensuring a more comprehensive approach to mitigating potential regulatory risks. This alignment improves visibility into compliance challenges while reinforcing proactive risk management strategies.

Golden Spread's compliance efforts span multiple departments, including Power Supply, Power Delivery, Market Operations, Human Resources and Information Technology. Other teams, such as Accounting, Finance, Risk and Governance, also play key roles in supporting compliance functions.



By laying this foundation, Golden Spread is preparing for future phases of the compliance plan, which will include risk assessments, oversight and controls in 2025, followed by a formal monitoring and audit program in 2026. Strengthening compliance means Golden Spread can continue to manage industry risks effectively while maintaining operational efficiency and accountability.

#### **Optimizing Internal Structures and Controls**

Golden Spread has refined internal structures and controls to improve transparency, accessibility and security across the organization. Standardizing board policies and delegation structures has clarified decision-making roles, strengthening alignment between leadership, governance and operational processes. Additionally, legal hold and e-discovery processes have been strengthened to improve regulatory compliance, data protection and risk mitigation efforts.

A key improvement is the implementation of Access Profiles, a structured tool designed to track and consolidate system access across approximately 45 different systems. This initiative enhances data security, user access management and operational efficiency by providing employees with the necessary system permissions while reducing duplicative efforts. Access Profiles' centralized way of monitoring, adjusting and standardizing employee access strengthens internal controls and helps prevent unauthorized access. Additionally, it allows Golden Spread to identify single points of failure, ensuring that key operational functions are not overly reliant on individual employees.

Through these improvements, Golden Spread has reinforced internal governance, improved compliance oversight and optimized operational processes. These enhancements help systems, policies and security controls remain adaptable and aligned with Golden Spread's long-term objectives.

# Building a Resilient Future: Governance, Compliance and Risk Management

#### **Proactive Risk Management**

Bringing together governance, compliance and internal controls, Golden Spread's ERM approach plays a critical role in identifying, assessing and mitigating risks across the organization.

In 2024, Golden Spread updated its risk register to categorize and prioritize risks, allowing leadership to take proactive steps in managing potential challenges. This process helps Golden Spread identify top-tier risks and allocate resources more effectively. Additionally, a standardized risk reporting process has been implemented to improve consistency across the cooperative and enhance responsiveness.

Golden Spread has already identified its most significant risks, assessed risk scores and advanced to the next phase of its five-step framework. This structured process enables teams to shift from explaining risks to implementing solutions, so that leadership can make informed, data-driven decisions. The initiative reduces time spent on reactive risk discussions and allows teams

to focus on executing solutions that address longterm risks.

As industry regulations evolve with new technologies, regulations and market shifts, a well-integrated ERM framework assists Golden Spread in maintaining service reliability, financial strength and informed decision-making. ERM is about improving decision making and positioning Golden Spread for the future.

#### Positioning for a Resilient Future

Golden Spread's commitment to governance, compliance and risk management helps the cooperative remain resilient in an evolving energy landscape. By modernizing structures, strengthening oversight and proactively addressing risks, Golden Spread is building a foundation that not only safeguards operations today, but also positions the cooperative for long-term success. These strategic improvements enhance decision-making, increase operational agility and reinforce Golden Spread's ability to adapt to industry shifts while continuing to provide reliable, affordable power to Members.





## Strong Credit Ratings Reflect Financial Stability

MOODY'S	S&P	FITCH		
Aaa	AAA	AAA	Prime	
Aa1	AA+	AA+		
Aa2	AA	AA	High Grade	
Aa3	AA-	AA-		
A1	A+	A+		
A2	A	Α	Upper Medium Grade	
A3	A-	A-		

Highlighted cells indicate Golden Spread's credit rating at year-end 2024.

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Golden Spread continues to demonstrate financial strength, as evidenced by its consistently high credit ratings from major agencies.

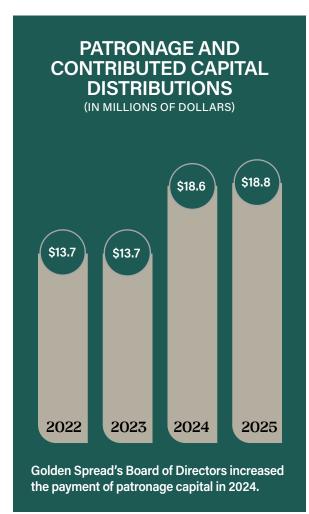
In 2024, Fitch Ratings reaffirmed Golden Spread's AA- rating with a stable outlook, citing Golden Spread's strong financial profile, prudent risk management and solid liquidity position, which support its ability to meet financial obligations and invest in future energy needs.

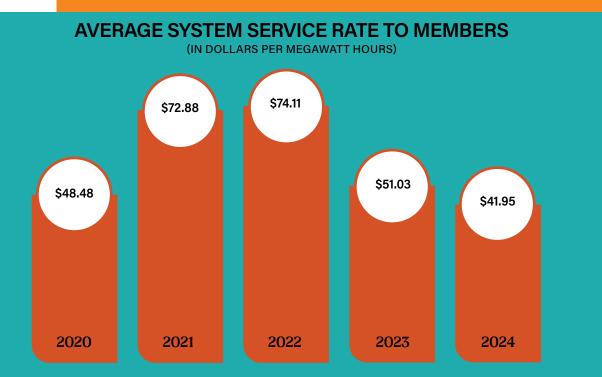
Standard & Poor's Financial Services also reaffirmed Golden Spread's A+ issuer credit rating with a stable outlook, recognizing the cooperative's financial stability, well-managed debt structure and ability to navigate market fluctuations while maintaining competitive rates for its Members.

Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) reaffirmed Golden Spread's A2 issuer rating with a stable outlook in February 2025. Moody's highlighted Golden Spread's sound financial metrics, well-capitalized balance sheet, good liquidity and long-term leverage reduction inclusive of near-term borrowing plans.

These strong credit ratings affirm Golden Spread's commitment to responsible financial management, ensuring long-term stability for its Members. By maintaining high credit ratings, Golden Spread can continue securing favorable

financing to support ongoing investments in reliable and long-term energy solutions while keeping costs competitive.





Average rate to Members fluctuates with changes in operating costs, margin requirements and commodity costs. The increases in 2021 and 2022 were due to natural gas prices, amortization of Winter Storm Uri costs and increases in plant maintenance expense. The 2023 and 2024 rates reflect a return to lower natural gas prices.

System Service Rate refers to sales that rely on all of Golden Spread's resources, including its power plants.



EXECUTIVE TEAM (from left): John Eichelmann, Vice President, Member Services and Power Delivery; James Guy, General Counsel, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer; Matt Lowe, Chief Financial and Risk Officer; Kari Hollandsworth, President and Chief Executive Officer; Matt Moore, Vice President, Commercial and Asset Operations

## Empowering Future Leaders: Government-in-Action Youth Tour



BRYSON KLEIN
Lighthouse Electric
Cooperative
Lockney, Texas

Each summer, more than 100 high school students from electric cooperatives nationwide travel to Washington, D.C., for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Government-in-Action Youth Tour. The event provides students with invaluable insights into government, leadership and the cooperative business model, equipping them with skills they can apply in their communities. Selected by their local cooperatives, these students step beyond the classroom to engage in hands-on learning about government, leadership and the role of electric cooperatives in the regions they power.

During the 12-day tour, students visit iconic national sites, such as the White House, Supreme Court and Arlington National Cemetery, gaining a deeper appreciation for civic engagement and public service. The experience also highlights the vital contributions of electric cooperatives to communities both locally and globally.

Each year, Golden Spread proudly sponsors two outstanding students from Member Cooperatives to attend the tour, investing in the next generation of leaders through this transformative experience. In 2024, the Golden Spread Youth Tour sponsorship was awarded to Denton Moore of Littlefield, Texas, in the Lamb County Electric Cooperative territory, and Bryson Klein of Lockney, Texas, in the Lighthouse Electric Cooperative territory. Additionally, Denton was selected as the Texas Delegate to the Youth Leadership Council, a credit to his leadership skills, dedication to service and commitment to learning about cooperative principles.

**DENTON MOORE** 

Lamb County Electric Cooperative Littlefield, Texas



## Mark W. Schwirtz Employee Memorial Scholarship



The Mark W. Schwirtz Employee Memorial Scholarship was established in 2021 by the Golden Spread Board of Directors to honor the service of the late Mark Schwirtz, former Golden Spread President and CEO. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Kamryn Boatright, daughter of Golden Spread employee Ty Boatright and his wife, Staysha; and Emmanuel Hernandez, son of TCEC employee Armando Hernandez and his wife, Diana.

The Board approved an initial contribution of \$10,000, and CoBank matched the donation. Golden Spread Members' Boards and numerous individuals also contributed to the scholarship fund.

Eligible applicants must be an employee or Director of Golden Spread or one of its Members or have a parent or guardian who is an employee or Director of Golden Spread or one of its Members. Applications are due on March 1 of each year and awarded for the following school year.

Each student receives a \$1,000 scholarship to further their college education. Ten students have received the scholarship since the first ones were awarded in 2021.

### Directors' Memorial Scholarship

The Directors' Memorial Scholarship, established in 1991, honors former Directors of Golden Spread who were dedicated to the development and advancement of rural electrification.

The scholarships are designated for graduating high school students attending a college, university or technical/trade school in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma or Texas in the following fall semester. The student must be a Member-Consumer of one of the 16 rural electric cooperatives which Golden Spread serves.

Student recipients receive a total of \$2,000, providing \$500 for each of the four semesters of a student's first two years. The eight students who received scholarships in 2024 are:

#### **NORTH**



Kaden Perry
TCEC



Caleb Strickland
Greenbelt Electric
Cooperative

#### **CENTRAL**



Sanya Fuambu
South Plains Electric
Cooperative



Aubrey Whitworth

South Plains Electric
Cooperative

AT LARGE

#### SOUTH



Allie Caddell

Big Country Electric

Cooperative



Jaymee Medrano

Lyntegar Electric

Cooperative



Esmeralda Mendiola
TCEC



Ryleigh Rinker
South Plains Electric
Cooperative

More than \$192,000 has been disbursed to 144 recipients since the first scholarship was awarded in 1995. Opportunity Plan, Inc., of Canyon, Texas, administers the plan.

Golden Spread makes annual contributions to the fund, in addition to making contributions in memory or in honor of past Board Members. Individual contributions are welcomed and add to the endowment for the scholarship fund.

For more information about Golden Spread's scholarships or to apply, visit gsec.coop.

### Local Commitment, Big Impact



High Plains Food Bank Check Presentation - Amarillo



Volunteering at Martha's Home - Amarillo

South Plains Food Bank Volunteers - Lubbock

Golden Spread remains dedicated to strengthening the communities it serves, ensuring that cooperative values translate into real, meaningful support. In 2024, the Golden Spread Community Involvement Committee (CIC) embraced this mission with the vision "Local Commitment, Big Impact." This guiding principle shaped every initiative, driving impactful action to uplift those in need and reinforcing the cooperative spirit that defines Golden Spread.

The vision statement was put to the test early in 2024 when the Smokehouse Creek Fire devastated several of the Member Cooperatives' territories, including the homes of several North Plains employees. In response, the Golden Spread CIC quickly coordinated a relief effort, gathering clothing, household goods and monetary donations. Within a week, Golden Spread employees, Cooperative families and the local community filled a Suburban with supplies and contributed more than \$4,000 to assist those affected. The overwhelming generosity of employees and Member Cooperatives showcased the power of the cooperative mindset, proving that in times of crisis, standing together makes all the difference.

The Golden Spread CIC also expanded its "Bringin' it Back to Our Members" initiative by working with four Member



2024 Ignite Conference Presentation - Amarillo



CIC Salsa Competition Winners - Amarillo

Cooperatives to identify families in need during the holiday season. Through this program, four families received electric bill assistance, holiday meal gift cards, essential household supplies and winter necessities. Member Cooperatives, knowing the needs of their communities firsthand, ensured that support reached those who needed it most.

Beyond these initiatives, Golden Spread employees collectively volunteered more than 370 hours with local organizations and achieved record-breaking employee giving, raising more than \$20,000 for various causes to supplement the \$50,000 allocated by the Board of Directors. Golden Spread CIC efforts also resulted in the donation of 35 blankets and numerous clothing items for local children, reinforcing Golden Spread's commitment to serving and strengthening local communities.

The Golden Spread CIC's efforts reflect a deep commitment to service and the power of cooperation in action. The committee remains dedicated to supporting communities, strengthening the cooperative family and finding new ways to give back. With a strong foundation built in 2024, the Golden Spread CIC will continue making a meaningful impact, proving that even the smallest actions can create lasting change.



Heal The City Check Presentation - Amarillo



Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House - Lubbock



Snack Pak 4 Kids Volunteers - Amarillo



Maverick Boys & Girls Club Check Presentation - Amarillo

### Remembrance/Gratitude

#### In Remembrance

#### **Gaylord Groce**

Gaylord DeLynn Groce of Petersburg, Texas, served as a Board Member of Lighthouse Electric Cooperative from 1983 to 2022 and as a Board Member of Golden Spread from 2006 to 2018. His dedication to community service extended beyond the electric cooperative industry, with decades of leadership in various organizations.

Mr. Groce balanced a 55-year farming career with his commitment to public service, earning a degree from Texas Tech University while working on the farm. He believed deeply in giving back, serving as a Deacon of First Baptist Church in Petersburg and as a board member for First State Bank of Petersburg, Petersburg Coop Gin and the Soil Conservation Board of Hale County. He was also a 50-year member of both the Lions Club and the Masons.

#### In Gratitude

#### **Dwain Tipton**

Dwain Tipton joined Swisher Electric Cooperative in May 2008 and became general manager on January 5, 2016, a role he held until November 30, 2024. During that time, he also served as a Golden Spread director, providing dedicated leadership and strategic insight.

During his tenure, Mr. Tipton contributed to several Golden Spread committees, including serving as an at-large member of the executive committee in 2024 and holding key roles on the audit committee, government relations committee and rate/wholesale power contracts committee. Additionally, he was the Golden Spread representative to the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives from January 17, 2018, to January 14, 2022. Beyond his service to Golden Spread, Mr. Tipton serves his community as a Swisher County Appraisal District board member. Golden Spread honors Mr. Tipton for his leadership, service and commitment to the cooperative mission.



### **Board of Directors**

Kelly Lankford - Chairman and President of the Board

Greg Henley - Vice Chairman and Vice President of the Board

Mark McClain - Secretary/Treasurer

#### **BAILEY COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Keith Hicks • David Marricle

#### **BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Danny Helms • Mark McClain

#### **COLEMAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Brent McMillan • Synda Smith

#### CONCHO VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Jeff Copeland • Kelly Lankford

#### **DEAF SMITH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Vick Christian • Tim Burkhalter

#### **GREENBELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Michael Souder • Randy White

#### LAMB COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Kevin Humphreys • Blake Moore

#### LIGHTHOUSE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Mark Hegi • Albert Daniel

#### LYNTEGAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Ben Franklin • Greg Henley

#### NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

David Sell, CPA • Randy Mahannah, PE

#### RITA BLANCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Shad McDaniel, PE • Grace Subealdea

#### SOUTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Benny Nixon • Dale Ancell

#### SOUTHWEST TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pat Jackson • Buff Whitten

#### SWISHER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Dwain Strange • Dwain Tipton

#### **TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Cecil Davis • Ryan Bartlett

#### **TCEC**

Shawn Martinez • Zac Perkins

## Golden Spread Officers

Kari Hollandsworth - President and Chief Executive Officer

James Guy - Assistant Secretary, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer

Matt Lowe - Assistant Treasurer, Chief Financial and Risk Officer

## Golden Spread Board of Directors



**Keith Hicks BAILEY COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** 



**David Marricle** 



**Danny Helms** BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Mark McClain** 



**Brent McMillan** COLEMAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Synda Smith



Jeff Copeland CONCHO VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Kelly Lankford** 



**Vick Christian DEAF SMITH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** 



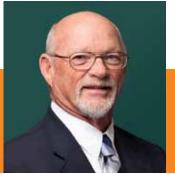
**Tim Burkhalter** 



**Michael Souder** GREENBELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Randy White** 



**Kevin Humphreys** 



**Blake Moore** LAMB COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Mark Hegi

**Albert Daniel** 

LIGHTHOUSE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Greg Henley** Ben Franklin LYNTEGAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**David Sell Randy Mahannah** NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Shad McDaniel** RITA BLANCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Grace Subealdea** 



**Benny Nixon** 



**Dale Ancell** 



Pat Jackson SOUTHWEST TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Buff Whitten** 



**Dwain Strange** SWISHER COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Dwain Tipton** 



**Cecil Davis** TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Ryan Bartlett** 

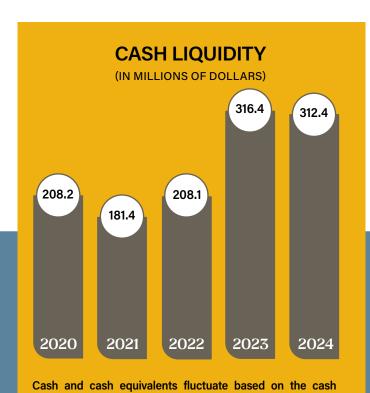


**Shawn Martinez** 



**Zac Perkins** 

TCEC

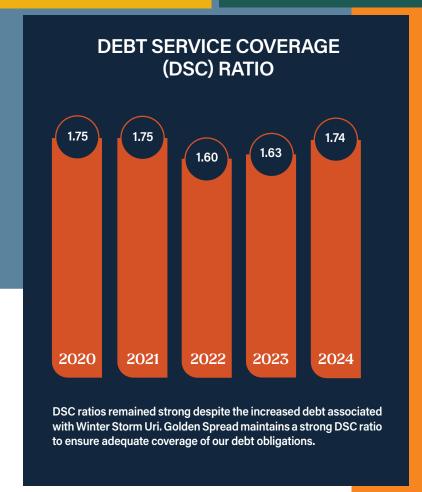


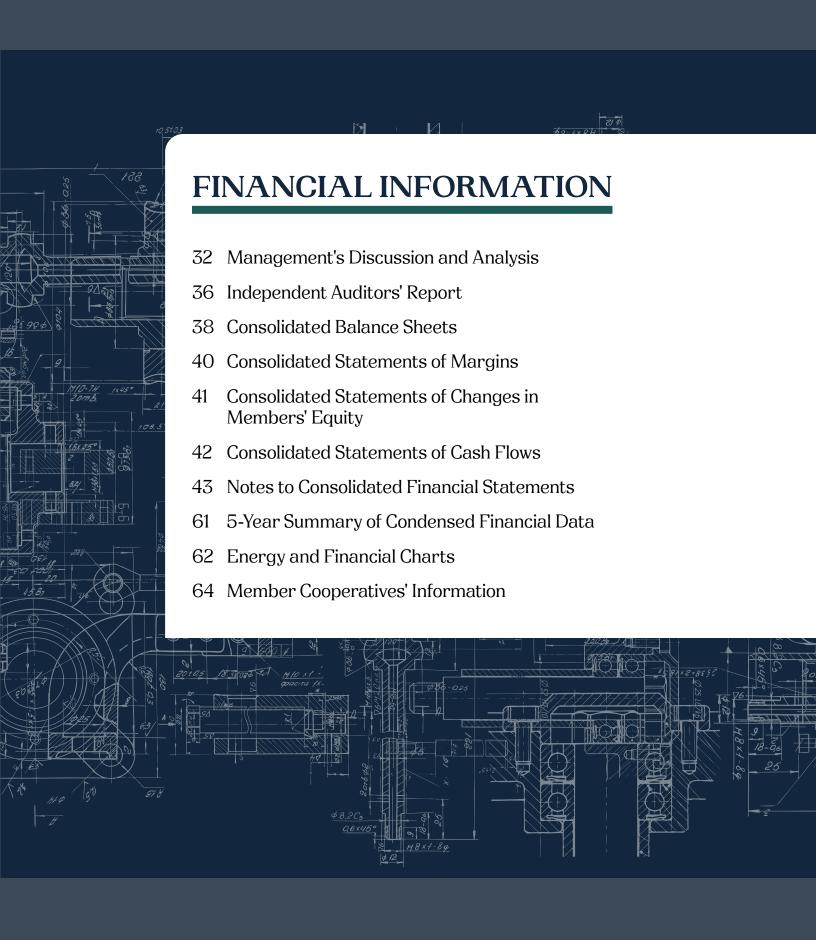
liquidity needed to fund capital expenditures, operations and

rate stabilization. Golden Spread targets cash balances of at

least 90 days of operating expenses at all times.







## Management's Discussion and Analysis

#### of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Management's Discussion and Analysis provides an overview of the consolidated financial condition and results of operations of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Golden Spread) and its wholly owned operating subsidiaries as of December 31, 2024, and 2023, and for the 12 months ended December 31, 2024, and 2023. On December 31, 2024, and 2023, the operating subsidiaries included Golden Spread Panhandle Wind Ranch, LLC (GSPWR) and GSEC Properties, LLC (GSEC Properties). GSPWR owns wind generation assets, and GSEC Properties owns a seven-story office building in which Golden Spread's headquarters are located.

The matters discussed in Management's Discussion and Analysis contain forward-looking statements that are based on estimates, forecasts and assumptions involving risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results or outcomes to differ from those expressed in these statements. Any forward-looking statements are based on information as of the date of this report.

#### **OVERVIEW**

#### **Golden Spread**

Golden Spread, headquartered in Amarillo, Texas, is a tax-exempt, consumer-owned public utility organized in 1984 to provide low-cost, reliable electric service for our rural distribution cooperative Members ("Member Cooperatives" or "Members"), located in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) regions. Our 16 Member Cooperatives supply power to 336,742 services in place, representing 275,824 Member-Consumers (i.e., retail electric customers served by Golden Spread's Member Cooperatives) located in the Panhandle, South Plains and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas, the Panhandle of Oklahoma, and small portions of Southwest Kansas. Southeast Colorado and Northeast New Mexico. Five of our Member Cooperatives operate solely in SPP, four operate solely in ERCOT, and seven operate in both regions. As not-for-profit rural electric distribution cooperatives owned and managed by their Member-Consumers, Golden Spread's Member Cooperatives are not subject to retail electric rate regulation by state regulatory agencies, and retail electric rates are not regulated under federal law.

Golden Spread owns and operates a fleet of gas generation facilities to serve the loads of its Member Cooperatives. These resources provide quick-start energy to complement the abundance of wind energy • Market and regulatory matters.

in the Golden Spread territory. Golden Spread also owns a wind generation facility and has power purchase agreements with two other wind energy providers. When the wind is blowing, use of energy from wind resources offers a lower-cost alternative to gas generation.

Golden Spread is committed to maintaining prudent financial metrics to support a strong balance sheet and providing sufficient cash flows to support operations, capital expenditures and distribution to its Member Cooperatives. We continue to target the following financial objectives:

- Maintain equity as a percentage of the total capitalization of 30-35%;
- Maintain Debt Service Coverage (DSC) ratio of not less than 1.5: and
- Maintain cash working capital equal to 90 days of cash operating expenses (including interest) for operating liquidity supplemented with credit lines to provide the liquidity needed for other purposes, such as capital expenditures and collateral for credit markets.

Golden Spread strives to maintain our power supply plan to deliver competitive energy solutions for our Member Cooperatives. We continually evaluate how best to utilize existing plant capacity and be flexible in adding resources (e.g., owned and contracted) to our power supply portfolio, while achieving our targeted financial objectives and optimizing the rate charged to our Member Cooperatives.

We earn revenue and generate cash from operations by providing wholesale electric service. Our business is affected primarily by:

- · Weather, particularly precipitation timing and amounts, affecting irrigation loads;
- Fuel prices;
- Geographic location in an area with an abundant supply of high-capacity wind energy;
- · Prices of energy in the markets;
- Farm, oil, and gas commodity prices the primary industries in our Member Cooperatives service territories:
- General macro-economic conditions (viz. geopolitical events, pandemics);
- Interest rates;
- Golden Spread's securities' credit ratings; and

#### Regulation

To protect and maximize the effectiveness of our power supply strategy, including the value of the physical assets and long-term agreements we have secured, Golden Spread must actively participate and advocate in regional markets and federal and state regulatory proceedings that affect our operations. We actively monitor and participate in regulatory proceedings of power, transmission and natural gas suppliers because costs of generation and transmission suppliers ultimately affect costs passed on to our Members.

Within the SPP, Golden Spread's rates for power sales and the rates it pays for purchases of wholesale power and interstate transmission services, which are later passed on to its Member Cooperatives through Golden Spread's wholesale rates, are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Golden Spread is an active participant in FERC proceedings and subsequent appellate reviews involving terms and conditions for the procurement of transmission services from SPP, as well as the rules governing the operation of the SPP Integrated Marketplace, under which Golden Spread buys and sells services to serve its Members' loads. Included in these proceedings are cases that specifically affect transmission rates within the zones of the SPP from which we take service, as well as proceedings that can generally affect the market design, cost allocation, rules related to SPP governance or other terms and conditions of service.

Within the ERCOT region, Golden Spread's rates for wholesale power sales to Members are not subject to FERC jurisdiction. Rather, the rates it pays for purchases of wholesale power and transmission services are affected by regulations adopted by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and ERCOT. ERCOT and SPP market rules substantially affect the operations and financial performance of Golden Spread's generation fleet and power supply strategy. Also, other federal and state initiatives, such as those advanced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, affect Golden Spread's generation fleet.

Golden Spread's rate schedules for full requirements sales to its Members are formula rates that allow recovery of all Golden Spread's costs plus a margin and include the ability to modify margin contribution levels with the Board's approval. Golden Spread periodically submits amendments to one or more of those rate schedules to FERC for its SPP-based Members to provide specific services to Members through riders or other contract amendments or to modify or clarify recovery of costs in rates. Comparable amendments are made to ERCOT-based Member rate schedules but are not required to be, and are not, filed with the PUCT.

On October 16, 2023, Golden Spread made a filing with FERC, amending its Wholesale Power Contracts (WPCs), to update depreciation rates based on an update to the 2022 study of Mustang Station's generating assets as recorded on Golden Spread's books, as filed with FERC in 2022, and a new study of Antelope Elk Energy Center's generating and associated switchyard assets. Golden Spread also filed to amend the schedule within Golden Spread's Formula Rate Template located in Exhibit B, Schedule D of each WPC to list the new depreciation rates. The changes in depreciation rates reflect a combined increase in annual depreciation expense of \$2.9 million. FERC accepted the filing on November 21, 2023, with the requested effective date of December 15, 2023.

On August 26, 2024, Golden Spread made a filing with FERC, amending its WPCs to include a periodic update to delivery points for four of its SPP-based Members. These amendments are located in Exhibit A of the WPC, amendments to Rider D – Member System Net Metering Program under Exhibit B, Schedule C of each Member's WPC, and amendments to Exhibit D – Seller Owned Units to include reference to upgrades to the Elk 3 generating unit, which is scheduled for commercial operation in 2025, and a new Elk 4 generating unit, which is scheduled for commercial operation in 2027. Golden Spread requested an effective date of October 26, 2024, for these WPC amendments. The application was accepted for filing by FERC on October 21, 2024.

On December 31, 2024, Golden Spread made a filing with FERC, amending its WPCs to modify the Formula Rate Template included in each jurisdictional Member's WPC addressing four changes: (1) Compliance with the requirements of Order No. 898; (2) To add a mechanism for direct assignment of Dedicated Service Rate costs to the Formula Rate Template; (3) To enable recovery of Right of Use assets related to generator interconnection for Elk Units 3 and 4; and (4) To incorporate ministerial updates to improve clarity and functionality of the Formula Rate Template. Golden Spread requested an effective date of January 1, 2025.

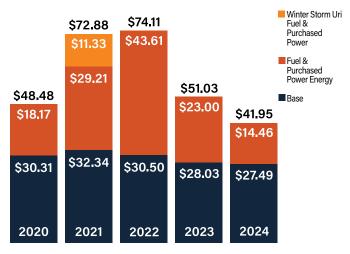
Golden Spread must also maintain authorization under Section 204 of the Federal Power Act to issue debt. Currently, Golden Spread is authorized to (1) Issue short-term debt in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$600.0 million, (2) Issue long-term debt in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$2.0 billion, and (3) Continue to issue or assume notes in connection with the special facilities transactions under Rider A of its wholesale rate. Current authorization to issue debt has been reauthorized through July 31, 2025.

Golden Spread has also intervened in PUCT cases that may affect Golden Spread or its Members' interests.

In May 2023, the EPA issued its proposal to amend its New Source Rule (for new, modified and reconstructed plants). Golden Spread submitted comments to EPA's proposal and is also working with its national association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), on advocacy. Golden Spread's comments requested that EPA reconsider its proposed ceiling for new "low load" natural gas-fired combustions and the impacts associated with the use of clean hydrogen in geographic areas with limited water resources. EPA issued its final New Source Rule in April 2024. Following the rule's finalization, multiple states and industry groups challenged its legality. In July 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit denied motions to stay the rule, allowing it to remain in effect during ongoing litigation. In October 2024, the Supreme Court declined to halt the EPA's rule while litigation continued, permitting the regulation to remain in place during the legal proceedings. In January 2025, the Trump administration requested that the Supreme Court pause cases related to environmental regulations, including those concerning the EPA's authority. In March 2025, the Trump administration announced its intention to reconsider the EPA's power plant regulations established during the Biden administration.

#### **Rates**

#### AVERAGE RATE TO MEMBERS (\$/MWH)



Golden Spread utilizes market purchases to reduce Members' rates when market prices are less than its incremental production cost. In 2024, 38% of the energy needed to serve Members' loads was purchased from these markets, compared to 53% in 2023. Natural gas prices, which is a significant component of Golden Spread's production costs, averaged \$0.22 per MMBtu in 2024 compared to \$1.80 per MMBtu for 2023.

#### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

#### Sales

Sales are summarized in the following table:

#### SUMMARY OF SALES AND REVENUE

	YTD ended December 31,			
		2024		2023
Operating Revenues (\$ in 000s)				
Member System Service Rate Sales (net of Deferred Member Sales of \$6,994 and \$7,691)	\$	454, 963	\$	500, 623
Member Rider A Sales		18,720		15,519
Nonmember Sales (net of Deferred Nonmember Sales \$24,766 and \$82,744)		13,633		25,641
Recognized Nonmember Sales		23,643		12,190
Other		10,037		7,519
Total Operating Revenues	\$	520,996	\$	561,492
Megawatt-Hour Sales (MWh in 000s)				
SPP Member Sales		6,705		6,558
ERCOT Member Sales		4,140		3,252
Total Member Sales*		10,845		9,810
Non-member Sales (includes energy and ancillary services sales)		968	_	1,241
Total		11,813		11,051
Average Rate to Members (\$/MWh)	\$	41.95	\$	51.03

<sup>\*</sup> Includes Designated Service Rate

For the year ended December 31, 2024, the average rate to Members decreased as compared to the same time period in 2023. The lower rates in 2024 reflect a decrease in fuel and purchased power costs. Fuel and purchased power energy costs to Members averaged \$14.46 per MWh for 2024, compared to \$23.00 per MWh for 2023. Lower natural gas commodity costs affected the average fuel and purchased power energy costs.

Member megawatt-hour energy sales for 2024 were higher as compared to 2023. Member sales can be impacted by the variability in the oil and gas industry and fluctuations in weather, which affect irrigation sales. ERCOT member sales include traditional sales, sales made under the Dedicated Service Rate Schedule to loads including the South Plains Electric Cooperative load previously supplied by Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., as well as new mega-consumers.

Golden Spread's WPCs require all nonmember margins and all major maintenance market revenue to be deferred as a regulatory liability. This attribute allows these revenues to be applied to future rate periods at the discretion of Golden Spread's Board of Directors. This feature resulted in \$31.8 million of revenue being deferred as a regulatory liability in 2024.

#### **Net Margins**

Margins include the annual Board-approved Equity Stabilization Charge (ESC), which establishes the amount of margin to be included in rates each year, nonmember sales and other sources of margins. The Board-approved ESC increased in 2024 in anticipation of building a new generation resource by 2027. Other sources of margins include interest earned on cash balances and patronage income. Interest income is affected in 2023 and 2024

due to variations in interest rates and cash balances. Net margins for 2024 were \$28.6 million compared to \$18.4 million in 2023. Golden Spread's formula rate allows for the recovery of all costs plus an approved margin.

#### **Operating Expenses**

Operating expenses are summarized in the table below:

Dollars in Thousands		YTD ended December 31,					
Dollars in Thousands	_	2024	_	2023			
Fuel and Purchased Power Energy	\$	187,850	\$	250,922			
Transmission		103,867		93,194			
Plant Operation and Maintenance		43,367		47,688			
Administrative and General		34,097	*	32,887			
Depreciation		53,660		53,599			
Amortization of Deferred Charges		17,015		17,007			
Taxes Other Than Income Taxes		5,781		5,985			
Other		27,934	*	25,804			
Total	\$	478,571	\$_	527,086			

<sup>\*</sup> For comparison, the 2023 amounts reflect a change in Operating Expense classification to match a change made in 2024 from A&G to Other

The changes in Fuel and Purchased Power Energy and Transmission costs are directly related to the volume of sales, fuel costs, the volume of energy purchased under third-party power purchase agreements, and net settlements in the ERCOT and SPP markets. For Members' loads, Golden Spread uses the lowest-cost resources available.

Plant Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses vary from year to year based on a variety of factors ranging from the nature of operations, schedule of required planned maintenance and maintenance cost resulting from unplanned outages, along with other expenses necessary for plant operations.

Administrative and General costs in 2024 have been higher compared to 2023 due to increased costs for labor, insurance and outside services.

Other costs consist of market facilitation, special facilities operating costs and other miscellaneous costs which were higher in 2024 than the previous year.

#### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

As of December 31, 2024, Golden Spread had available cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$312.4 million. Golden Spread also had lines of credit totaling \$410.0 million for liquidity purposes, such as the financing of current capital projects, inventory purchases and for other liquidity needs. As of December 31, 2024, \$30.7 million was borrowed under these credit lines. At December 31, 2024, Golden Spread had \$0.1 million in Restricted Cash held with a broker in a margin account. There are no restrictions, limitations or pledges of cash or any other assets other than as separately identified on the financial statements and in the footnotes. In June 2023, Golden Spread renewed a three-year \$90.0 million line of credit with CoBank. In June 2023, Golden Spread renewed an unsecured

committed line of credit for \$40.0 million from Amarillo National Bank for a term of two years. In September 2024, Golden Spread renewed a four-year line of credit agreement with National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) for \$80.0 million (previously \$120.0 million). In September 2024, Golden Spread acquired an additional five-year secured revolving line of credit agreement with CFC for \$200.0 million.

#### LINE OF CREDIT USAGE

	YTD ended December 31,			
		2024		2023
Amount Borrowed on Lines of Credit (in Millions)	\$	30.7	\$	27.2
Average Interest Rate		7.03%		7.01%

### CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

The following table details our fixed contractual obligations for 2024 through 2029.

		Payments Due						
Dollars in Thousands	_2	2025-2029	_	2025	20	26-2027	2	028-2029
Principal Payment on Long-Term Debt	\$	199,637	\$	45,594	\$	78,875	\$	75,168
Interest Payments on Long-Term Debt		104,341		24,045		43,211		37,085
Purchased Power Obligation (1) - Energy		496,515		44,797		225,567		226,151
Firm Gas Transportation		68,150		12,736		27,707		27,707
Service Maintenance Agreement		7,544		2,155		4,311		1,078
Wind Ranch Lease-Minimum Rent		4,355		847		1,694		1,814
Operating Leases		1,374		397		600		377
Total	\$	881,916	\$	130,571	\$	381,965	\$	369,380

(1) Based on estimated energy delivered and forecasted pricing

Recognizing the need for equity and liquidity for operations, balanced with the Board's desire to make annual patronage and contributed capital refunds, the Board currently employs a patronage capital retirement policy of refunding annually a percentage of the prior year-end equity balance. In 2024, \$18.6 million of patronage was authorized and paid. In 2025, the Board authorized a patronage payment of \$18.8 million, which was paid in March 2025.

The target ratios and objectives guide management and the Board of Directors in establishing annual budgets, setting rates (including the annual ESC to be included in rates) and determining the level of patronage and contributed capital retirements to our Members. Our financial policies are designed to maintain capital and liquidity sufficient to provide for the financing of any future capital expenditures with an appropriate mix of debt and equity while maintaining strong financial metrics.

In October 2024, Standard & Poor's Rating Services reaffirmed its rating of Golden Spread to an A+. In September 2024, Fitch Ratings reaffirmed its rating on our 2005 Series senior secured debt of AA- with a stable outlook. In February 2025, Moody's Investor Services reaffirmed its general corporate credit rating of A2 (unsecured) with a stable outlook.



#### Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. Amarillo, Texas

#### Opinion

forvismazars.us

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. and its subsidiaries (Golden Spread), which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the related consolidated statements of margins, changes in members' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Golden Spread as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Golden Spread, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Golden Spread's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the consolidated financial statements are available to be issued.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions,

misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks.
   Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures
  that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the
  effectiveness of Golden Spread's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant
  accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the
  consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Golden Spread's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Forvis Mazars, LLP

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma April 10, 2025

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Utility Plant, at Cost		
Electric plant in service	\$ 1,245,698,699	\$ 1,231,741,542
Capital maintenance	38,164,016	38,164,016
Construction work in progress	46,249,438	25,687,663
	1,330,112,153	1,295,593,221
Less accumulated depreciation - plant and equipment	497,529,113	459,497,825
Less accumulated depreciation – capital maintenance	33,693,784	24,450,523
Total Utility Plant	798,889,256	811,644,873
Other Property and Investments – at Cost or Stated Value		
Investments in associated organizations and special funds	9,121,878	8,559,225
Other property	13,036,399	13,558,380
Total Other Property and Investments	22,158,277	22,117,605
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	312,399,632	316,415,726
Restricted cash	64,370	3,203,744
Accounts receivable	41,904,862	37,558,256
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	113,654,159	93,026,840
Current deferred charges	17,073,600	23,645,280
Total Current Assets	485,096,623	473,849,846
Other Assets		
Deferred charges	59,022,141	69,758,250
Other charges	1,008,356	328,000
Total Other Assets	60,030,497	70,086,250
Total Assets	\$ 1,366,174,653	\$ 1,377,698,574

(Continued)

	2024	2023
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Members' Equity		V 12:3:2220-2001
Patronage capital	\$ 471,966,616	\$ 461,871,523
Contributed capital	9,156,243	9,269,568
Total Members' Equity	481,122,859	471,141,091
Long-Term Debt		
Mortgage notes less current maturities	504,938,470	528,802,677
Current Liabilities		
Current maturities of long-term debt	45,594,328	45,848,662
Lines of credit	30,745,961	27,168,046
Accounts payable	30,387,905	18,960,937
Other accrued expenses	67,863,723	90,511,255
Current lease liabilities	1,049,972	1,029,852
Current regulatory liabilities	42,036,882	37,620,537
Total Current Liabilities	217,678,771	221,139,289
Deferred Credits		
Asset retirement obligations	7,528,452	7,182,851
Other deferred credits	4,023,361	3,575,047
Lease liabilities	9,637,807	10,398,190
Regulatory liabilities	141,244,933	135,459,429
Total Deferred Credits	162,434,553_	156,615,517
Total Liabilities and Members' Equity	\$ 1,366,174,653	\$ 1,377,698,574

		2024		2023
Operating Revenues				
Wholesale power sales	\$	492,239,578	\$	538,454,554
Other operating revenues	_	28,756,753	_	23,038,301
Total Operating Revenues	_	520,996,331	_	561,492,855
Operating Expenses				
Purchased power		131,631,326		149,812,657
Fuel expense		56,218,190		101,109,562
Transmission expense		103,867,430		93,193,568
Other power supply expense		1,078,907		1,181,298
Plant operations and maintenance		47,287,914		46,506,601
Other operating expense		27,933,845		25,803,459
Administrative and general		34,096,894		32,887,860
Depreciation and amortization		53,660,586		53,598,528
Amortization of deferred charges		17,014,950		17,006,604
Taxes other than income taxes		5,781,201	_	5,985,211
Total Operating Expenses	_	478,571,243	_	527,085,348
Operating Margins Before Fixed Charges	_	42,425,088	_	34,407,507
Fixed Charges				
Short-term interest		2,909,426		1,998,052
Interest on long-term debt		24,431,719		24,954,784
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction		(412,750)		24,004,704
Amortization of debt issuance costs	_	564,826	_	330,426
Total Fixed Charges		27,493,221	_	27,283,262
Operating Margins After Fixed Charges	_	14,931,867	_	7,124,245
Nonoperating Margins				
Interest and capital credit income		14,973,181		12,761,840
Other expense		(1,323,280)	_	(1,530,770)
Total Nonoperating Margins	_	13,649,901	_	11,231,070
Net Margins	\$	28,581,768	\$	18,355,315

#### Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. Consolidated Statements of Changes in Members' Equity Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	Patronage Capital	Contributed Capital		Total
Balance, January 1, 2023	\$ 456,964,230	\$	9,521,547	\$ 466,485,777
Net margins	18,355,315		- 1	18,355,315
Patronage/contributed capital retirement	(13,448,022)	_	(251,979)	(13,700,001)
Balance, December 31, 2023	461,871,523		9,269,568	471,141,091
Net margins	28,581,768		-	28,581,768
Patronage/contributed capital retirement	(18,486,675)	_	(113,325)	(18,600,000)
Balance, December 31, 2024	\$ 471,966,616	\$	9,156,243	\$ 481,122,859

	2024	2023
Operating Activities		
Net margins	\$ 28,581,768	\$ 18,355,315
Adjustments to reconcile net margins to net cash provided		
by operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	70,675,536	70,605,132
Capital credits	(1,179,520)	(1,658,201)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Deferred charges	(3,287,020)	(287,238)
Other charges	(499,930)	42,426
Deferred credits	458,264	390,644
Regulatory liabilities	8,116,857	76,215,141
Accounts receivable	(4,346,606)	2,781,620
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(19,635,666)	(10,270,016)
Payables and other accrued expenses	(7,751,167)	2,587,476
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	71,132,516	158,762,299
Investing Activities		
Additions to utility plant	(40,417,206)	(29,783,420)
Proceeds from sale of assets	311,427	358,085
Insurance proceeds	-	1,711,954
Changes to other property	521,980	703,349
Investments in associated organizations and other	616,866	926,200
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(38,966,933)	(26,083,832)
Financing Activities		
Retirement of patronage and contributed capital	(18,600,000)	(13,700,000)
Payments on long-term debt	(45,948,422)	(44,360,018)
Advance on long-term debt	21,649,456	7,581,985
Repayments – line of credit	(41,674,931)	(26,960,015)
Borrowings – line of credit	45,252,846	42,117,953
Net Cash Used in Financing Activities	(39,321,051)	(35,320,095)
Changes in Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash	(7,155,468)	97,358,372
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash, Beginning	Sec. 5 70% 18 1248	V.C. P.A. 2017 2 1979
of Year	319,619,470	222,261,098
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash, End of Year	\$ 312,464,002	\$ 319,619,470
Supplemental Cash Flows Information	¢ 24.727.025	ê 27.527.665
Interest paid	\$ 24,737,035	\$ 27,537,665
Noncash Investing and Financing Transactions		
Transfer from (to) other current assets to (from) electric		
plant in service	\$ 1,443,460	\$ (592,494)
Additions to utility plant in payables and accrued expenses	\$ 8,486,738	\$ 8,736,345

#### Note 1. Organization and Nature of Operations

#### Nature of Operations

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Golden Spread Inc.) is a public utility organized in 1984 to provide low cost, reliable electric service. Golden Spread Inc., is owned by 16 rural electric distribution cooperatives (referred to as Members) that provide service to their Members in the Panhandle, South Plains and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas; the Panhandle of Oklahoma; and small portions of Southwest Kansas and Southeast Colorado. The Members' loads served by Golden Spread Inc., are located in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) regions.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Golden Spread Inc., and its wholly owned operating subsidiaries, Golden Spread Panhandle Wind Ranch, LLC (GSPWR) and GSEC Properties, LLC (GSEC Properties) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. Another subsidiary, Mid-Tex Generation and Transmission Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Tex), has no operations at this time. The consolidated entity is collectively referred to as Golden Spread. Golden Spread's headquarters are located in Amarillo, Texas.

Golden Spread is subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for corporate and rate regulation related to its activities in SPP and is subject to the regulation of the Public Utility Commission of Texas for certain activities in both ERCOT and SPP.

#### Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Golden Spread Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

#### Operating Revenues

Under the Golden Spread tariff for sales to its Members, Golden Spread bills its Members monthly based on budgeted costs and metered usage. The tariff provides that there will be a reconciliation of actual costs incurred to the amounts billed. Amounts billed to Members in excess of or less than recoverable costs under rate tariffs are accrued as an addition or reduction of revenues and as a current asset or current liability to the Members on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

Golden Spread also has sales of energy to nonmembers that are billed monthly and sales of energy to nonmembers through the ERCOT and SPP Integrated Marketplaces that are settled daily or weekly depending on the market.

Other operating revenues consist primarily of special facilities charges billed to Members for use of transmission and distribution assets.

All amounts receivable from Members and nonmembers are considered collectible; therefore, no allowance was recorded as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

#### Utility Plant

Utility plant is stated at original cost. The capitalized cost of additions to utility plant includes the cost of material; contract services; and various other indirect charges, such as interest on funds used during construction. Retirements or other dispositions of utility plant are based on historical cost or other valuation methods that are deducted from plant and are charged to accumulated depreciation. If determinable, the gains and losses on the disposition of certain assets have been reflected on the accompanying consolidated statements of margins. The cost of repairs and minor renewals is charged to maintenance expense in the period incurred.

Depreciation of utility plant is provided using straight-line depreciation rates over the following estimated useful lives:

Production plant 15 to 36 years
Transmission and distribution plant 6 to 70 years
Gas interconnections 15 years
General plant 3 to 10 years

#### Allowance for Borrowed Funds Used During Construction (AFUDC)

AFUDC represents the cost of interest capitalized during the construction period for various capital assets under construction. AFUDC was \$0.4 million and \$0 in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

#### Debt Issuance Costs

Debt issuance costs are amortized using the effective-interest method over the life of the underlying debt. Debt issuance cost, net of amortization, of \$1.2 million and \$1.4 million for 2024 and 2023, respectively, is presented as a reduction of the carrying amount of long-term debt.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash

For purposes of the consolidated financial statements, Golden Spread considers cash and investments with an original maturity of 90 days or less as cash and cash equivalents.

Golden Spread has presented restricted cash separately from cash and cash equivalents in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

#### Inventory

Inventories are stated at cost and are included in prepaid expenses and other current assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) inventory are stated using the first-in, first-out method. The plant spare parts inventories are stated using the weighted average cost method.

#### Other Property

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, other property includes land, water rights, and an office building in which Golden Spread's headquarters are located.

#### Regulatory Assets and Liabilities

Golden Spread is subject to the accounting requirements related to regulated operations. In accordance with these accounting requirements, some revenues have been deferred at the discretion of the Board, which has budgetary and rate-setting authority, if it is probable that these amounts will be refunded or recovered through future rates. Regulatory assets are costs Golden Spread expects to recover from its Members based on rates approved by the Board in accordance with Golden Spread's rate policy. Regulatory liabilities represent probable future amounts that are expected to be refunded to Members based on rates approved by the Board in accordance with Golden Spread's rate policy. Inclusion of new regulatory assets or regulatory liabilities as determined by the Board may be subject to review and acceptance by FERC prior to incorporation in wholesale requirements rates.

#### Concentrations of Credit Risk

The Member cooperatives are largely dependent on agricultural industry usage and, to a lesser extent, oil and gas industry usage.

Golden Spread maintains cash balances with various financial institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$250,000. At times, cash balances may exceed insurance coverage. Golden Spread also maintains cash balances with two cooperative banks whose deposits are not federally insured. Golden Spread has not incurred any losses as a result of these uninsured balances in 2024 or 2023.

#### Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Consolidated Financial Statements

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Income Taxes

Golden Spread is a cooperative corporation that is tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(12) in years where 85% of its gross income (as defined) is derived from sales to Members for the sole purpose of meeting losses and expenses (the 85% Test). For the year ended December 31, 2024, Golden Spread met the 85% Test, qualified for the tax exemption, and will be required to file as an exempt cooperative. For the year ended December 31, 2023, Golden Spread did not meet the 85% Test and was required to file as a non-exempt cooperative.

Golden Spread's wholly owned subsidiary, GSPWR, was taxable as a C corporation under the Internal Revenue Code through March 31, 2023; at which time GSPWR elected, as a single member LLC, to be a disregarded entity of Golden Spread for income tax purposes. GSEC Properties is a single-member LLC and is a disregarded entity of Golden Spread for income tax purposes.

Golden Spread has adopted the uncertain tax positions provisions of GAAP. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the primary tax position of Golden Spread and disregarded entities is that all power sales are patronage sourced income and eligible for the patronage exclusion. For the year ended December 31, 2024, the primary tax position of Golden Spread is its filing status as a tax-exempt entity based on the annual 85% Test discussed above. Golden Spread, all disregarded entities, and GSPWR (prior to conversion to a disregarded entity) have determined that it is more likely than not that these tax positions will be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service or other state taxing authority and that all tax benefits are likely to be realized upon settlement with taxing authorities.

Golden Spread, including all disregarded entities, and GSPWR prior to March 31, 2023, filed separate income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and are no longer subject to income tax examinations by federal taxing authorities for years before 2021. GSEC Properties and GSPWR also file in the state of Texas and are no longer subject to income tax examinations by the applicable state taxing authority for years before 2020.

#### Fair Value Measurements

Golden Spread utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs to the extent possible. Golden Spread determines fair value based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability in the principal or most advantageous market. Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment in considering factors specific to the asset or liability.

When considering market participant assumptions in fair value measurements, the following fair value hierarchy distinguishes between observable and unobservable inputs, which are categorized in one of the following levels:

Level 1 Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that Golden Spread has the ability to access at the measurement date.

- Level 2 Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3 Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability used to measure fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available, thereby allowing for situations in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at measurement date.

#### Leases

Golden Spread evaluates contracts that may contain leases, including power purchase agreements (PPA) and arrangements for the use of wind generation facilities, office space, and data centers. Under current leasing guidance, a contract contains a lease if it conveys the exclusive right to control the use of a specific asset. Leases result in the recognition of right-of-use (ROU) assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet by lessees for those leases classified as operating leases. ROU assets represent Golden Spread's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term, and lease liabilities represent Golden Spread's obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease. Operating ROU assets and liabilities are recognized based on the discounted present value of the lease payments over the lease term at the discount rate, which is based on the risk-free rate. At the lease commencement date, Golden Spread determines if a lease is classified as an operating lease or finance lease. Operating lease ROU assets are presented in electric plant in service on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

The lease liability is recorded at the commencement date based on the present value of the future minimum lease payments over the lease term. The lease liability is subsequently measured at amortized cost using the effective-interest method. The current portion of lease liabilities is included in current liabilities and the long-term portion of lease liabilities is included in other deferred credits in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

The ROU asset is recorded at the commencement date at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred less any lease incentives received. The ROU asset is subsequently measured at the carrying amount of the lease liability, plus initial direct costs, plus (minus) any prepaid (accrued) lease payments, less the unamortized balance of lease incentives received. If a lease does not provide an implicit rate, Golden Spread uses the risk-free rate for a consistent term in determining the present value of future payments.

The lease term includes options to extend or terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain that Golden Spread will exercise those options. If a lease contains non-lease components, they are not separated from lease components. Lease expense for lease payments is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Variable lease payments associated with certain PPAs and land agreements do not depend on an index or rate and, therefore, are recognized when the event, activity, or circumstance in the lease agreement on which those payments are assessed occurs. These variable lease payments are presented as either purchased power expense or plant operations and maintenance in the accompanying consolidated statements of margins.

Golden Spread has elected not to recognize ROU assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases that have a term of 12 months or less. Therefore, Golden Spread does not recognize a ROU asset or lease liability for such contracts; the lease payments for these short-term leases are recognized as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2023 consolidated financial statements to conform to the 2024 consolidated financial statement presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on net margins.

#### Note 3. Utility Plant

The components of utility plant are summarized as follows:

	2024	2023
Plant in service		
Land	\$ 2,826,034	\$ 2,826,034
Production plant	1,008,437,054	1,001,317,968
Transmission and distribution plant	199,688,585	183,798,256
General plant	24,059,247	32,371,242
Right-of-use assets	10,687,779	11,428,042
Total plant in service	1,245,698,699	1,231,741,542
Capital maintenance	38,164,016	38,164,016
Construction work in progress	46,249,438	25,687,663
Total utility plant	\$1,330,112,153	\$1,295,593,221

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, construction work in progress consisted primarily of construction expenditures related to production, transmission, and distribution plant.

Transmission and distribution plant consists of assets that Golden Spread constructs or acquires for the benefit of individual Members. The debt associated with special facilities is secured by mortgages with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) on the transmission and distribution plant.

Transmission and distribution plant are excluded from the Trust Indenture (see Note 9) under which other Golden Spread property is pledged. All operating costs and the related debt service costs of transmission and distribution plant are recovered from the Members who benefit from the facilities.

#### Note 4. Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash

Cash and cash equivalents are summarized as follows:

	2024	2023
Cash and restricted cash	\$ 104,962,381	\$ 10,854,991
Commercial paper and certificate of deposit	49,972,387	94,604,289
CFC select notes	136,065,608	193,643,150
CFC daily fund investment	21,463,626	20,517,040
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 312,464,002	\$ 319,619,470

Cash and cash equivalents are recorded at cost, which approximates fair value. The commercial paper and select notes are with the NRUCFC and are classified as held to maturity (HTM) and held at amortized cost. The CFC commercial papers matured by January 16, 2025 with interest rates ranging from 3.94% to 4.25%. The Amarillo National Bank certificates of deposit matured January 24, 2025 and had an interest rate of 4.25%. The CFC select

notes matured by March 4, 2025 and had interest rates ranging from 4.14% to 4.49%. The CFC daily fund investments earn interest at a variable interest rate (3.75% at December 31, 2024).

#### Restricted Cash

Restricted cash consists of cash held with a broker in a margin account that is used to purchase natural gas futures and options contracts.

#### Note 5. Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets

Prepaid expenses and other current assets were as follows at December 31:

	2024		_	2023
Derivative assets (see Note 8)	\$	65,838,988	\$	47,947,578
Inventory		35,140,686		33,846,410
Prepayments		11,962,615		9,523,247
Other current assets	_	711,870	_	1,709,605
Total prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$	113,654,159	\$	93,026,840

#### Note 6. Long-Term Service and Parts Agreement

Golden Spread has a long-term service and parts supply and parts repair agreement (LTSPA) covering certain Mustang Station units to provide service and labor for major maintenance of generation equipment, certain parts and refurbishment services, other spare parts at discount prices, and other factory repair services. The amounts for the third major inspection are amortized through November 2025.

#### Note 7. Deferred and Other Charges

Deferred and other charges consist of the following:

	2024	2023
Deferred charges Regulatory asset – deferred Winter Storm Uri costs Regulatory asset – deferred fuel and purchased power expense Regulatory assets – other Preliminary study costs and other deferred charges	\$ 65,962,456 66,997 1,482,477 8,583,811	\$ 82,910,945 6,638,676 1,558,888 2,295,021
Less current deferred charges	76,095,741 (17,073,600)	93,403,530 (23,645,280)
Total deferred charges	\$ 59,022,141	\$ 69,758,250
Other deferred charges Unamortized line of credit fees	\$ 1,008,356	\$ 328,000

Deferred and other charges consist of regulatory assets as well as preliminary study costs and other assets. In February 2021, the electric power markets in Texas were significantly impacted by Winter Storm Uri. Golden Spread recorded a regulatory asset in 2021 to defer recovery of a portion of the fuel expense and purchased power costs associated with Winter Storm Uri. At December 31, 2024, the balance of this regulatory asset was \$66.0 million, of which \$16.9 million is reflected as current deferred charges. These costs will be amortized over five, seven and ten years based on Golden Spread's formula rate. The amortization periods were established based on the period over which Golden Spread's Members elected to defer the recovery of their portion of the deferred Winter Storm Uri costs. In both 2024 and 2023, \$16.9 million of the deferred costs associated with Winter Storm Uri were recorded as amortization of deferred charges. The preliminary study costs are largely related to potential construction of new generation units.

The regulatory assets displayed as deferred fuel and purchased power expense represent outstanding derivative liabilities (see Note 8) of \$0.1 million in 2024 and \$3.6 million in 2023. In addition, there was \$0 in 2024 and \$3.1 million in 2023 of losses on fuel hedges, which were deferred as an adjustment to fuel expense as allowed under Golden Spread's formula rate. Other regulatory assets include \$1.1 million of Special Facility Assets (SFA) in 2024 and \$1.2 million in 2023, which are being amortized by the participating Member system over the average remaining life of those assets. In addition, \$0.4 million in 2024 and 2023 of unamortized prior service cost related to the Executive Benefit Restoration Plan is being amortized over the average future working lifetime of plan participants (see Note 15).

#### Note 8. Derivative Instruments and Hedging

Golden Spread routinely enters into physical commodity contracts for purchases of natural gas, energy, and capacity sales contracts with its Members. These types of contracts qualify for the normal purchases and normal sales exception under GAAP.

Golden Spread periodically uses derivative instruments to reduce the volatility of its costs for natural gas and energy. Any instrument not qualifying for the normal purchases and normal sales exception is recorded on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets at fair value. Changes in the fair value for those derivative instruments are reflected as a regulatory asset or liability. Derivative assets are recorded in the prepaid and other current assets

line item and derivative liabilities are recorded in the other accrued expenses line item. For additional information on fair value measurement, see Note 2.

Golden Spread entered into contracts for forward energy contracts and natural gas fixed price swaps and index swaps during 2024 and 2023.

		20	2024		23
	Valuation	Derivative	Regulatory	Derivative	Regulatory
Туре	Method	Asset (Liability)	Asset (Liability)	Asset (Liability)	Asset (Liability)
Forward energy contracts	Level 2	\$ 12,200,889	\$ (12,200,889)	\$ 10,752,293	\$ (10,752,293)
Natural gas open positions Fixed price swaps	Level 1	1,818,724	(1,818,724)		
Index swaps	Level 1	(62,976)	62,976	(3,632,885)	3,632,885
Total natural gas open positions		1,755,748	(1,755,748)	(3,632,885)	3,632,885
Financial Transmission Rights	Level 3	8,100,321	(8,100,321)	9,282,649	(9,282,649)
Total open positions at December 31		\$ 22,056,958	\$ (22,056,958)	\$ 16,402,057	\$ (16,402,057)

Golden Spread periodically purchases Financial Transmission Rights (FTR) to manage future cash flows from congestion in energy markets. FTRs are purchased from ERCOT or SPP, and the value is derived from congestion revenues on a transmission path. These derivatives do not meet the normal purchases and normal sales exception and are recorded at fair value of \$8.1 million and \$9.3 million at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, in the prepaid expenses and other current assets section of the accompanying consolidated balance sheets (see Note 5). Any gains or losses are recorded as an adjustment to purchased power expense and accrued as over- or underrecovery of revenue, as allowed under Golden Spread's formula rate.

Golden Spread's FTR assets are valued based on forward pricing from current auctions for the same paths. FTR values are affected by many factors. In addition to overall transmission load, values can be affected by unplanned outages, scheduled maintenance, weather, changes in the cost of fuels used in generation, and other areas that affect overall demand for electricity. These are less observable inputs and, therefore, are assigned as Level 3 fair value measurement.

Changes in Level 3 FTR derivatives are as follows:

	2024		2023	
Balance at January 1	\$	37,195,287	\$	16,923,332
Purchases		50,381,033		38,287,139
Settlements		(34,924,737)		(21,992,973)
Net losses recorded as regulatory asset	_	(832,207)	_	3,977,789
Balance at December 31	\$	51,819,376	\$	37,195,287

#### Note 9. Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt is summarized as follows:

	2024	2023
5.75% senior secured notes, due through 2025	\$ 2,266,700	\$ 6,611,300
5.00% senior secured note, due through 2043	58,407,860	60,286,106
4.95% senior secured notes, due through 2041	110,083,596	114,123,792
4.35% senior secured notes, due through 2031	112,696,649	126,187,559
3.93% senior secured note, due through 2045	15,874,950	16,379,106
3.82% senior secured notes, due through 2045	31,806,300	32,813,903
3.75% senior secured note, due through 2045	31,752,468	32,764,621
3.50%-7.60% fixed rate mortgage notes, due through 2059	119,286,963	100,447,162
2.13% senior secured note, due through 2026	9,699,917	15,079,845
2.66% senior secured note, due through 2031	21,592,509	24,469,449
2.22% senior secured note, due through 2026	8,725,101	12,944,867
2.44% senior secured note, due through 2028	2,633,206	3,252,434
2.68% senior secured note, due through 2031	25,522,468	29,168,535
Variable rate mortgage notes, due through 2052	1,375,243	1,494,217
	551,723,930	576,022,896
Less debt issuance costs	(1,191,132)	(1,371,557)
Less current maturities	(45,594,328)	(45,848,662)
	\$ 504,938,470	\$ 528,802,677

The senior secured notes are fully amortizing over the term of the notes and are secured under a Trust Indenture, amended and restated as of June 29, 2012, as supplemented (Trust Indenture). Pursuant to the Trust Indenture, Golden Spread has created a first lien on certain tangible and intangible assets in favor of the indenture trustee to secure debt issued under the Trust Indenture on a pro rata basis. Golden Spread's subsidiary issues notes under a trust indenture substantially identical to the Trust Indenture. These notes constitute "Qualifying Securities" under the Trust Indenture and are assets of Golden Spread. Assets held under the Trust Indenture totaled \$1,035 million at December 31, 2024 and includes land, production plant, plant-related general plant, and Designated Qualifying Securities of GSPWR (eliminated in consolidation), as reported on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

The Trust Indenture requires Golden Spread to establish and collect rates for the use or the sale of the output, capacity, or service of its system that, together with other revenues available to Golden Spread, are reasonably expected to yield a Margins for Interest Ratio of at least 1.10 for each fiscal year. The Trust Indenture also contains restrictions on distributions by Golden Spread to its Members. The Trust Indenture also contains certain other covenants, which include the maintenance of: (i) patronage capital and contributed capital in an amount of not less than \$50.0 million and (ii) a debt service coverage ratio of not less than 1.25.

The variable and fixed rate mortgage notes are due in either monthly or quarterly installments and are secured by Golden Spread's transmission and distribution assets (with a net book value of \$116.6 million and \$106.5 million at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively) and the revenues recoverable through the special facilities charges associated with the transmission and distribution assets. These assets are excepted from the Trust Indenture, and the variable and fixed rate mortgage notes are not secured under the Trust Indenture. GSEC Properties assets are also excluded from the Trust Indenture.

As of December 31, 2024, Golden Spread has long-term facilities maturing in 2056 and 2060 with amounts available to be drawn of \$19,349,975 and \$41,282,088, respectively.

Annual maturities of long-term debt for the next five years are as follows as of December 31, 2024:

2025	\$ 45,594,328
2026	\$ 43,069,855
2027	\$ 35,805,155
2028	\$ 37,193,561
2029	\$ 37,974,800

#### Note 10. Short-Term Credit Facilities

Borrowings under short-term credit facilities are summarized as follows:

	 2024	2023
Borrowings under lines of credit at weighted average rates of		
7.03% and 7.01% at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively	\$ 30,745,961	\$ 27,168,046

In September 2024, Golden Spread reduced its line of credit with CFC (formerly \$120.0 million) to \$80.0 million. This line of credit is also available to provide letters of credit, and a \$10.0 million letter of credit and a \$10.5 million letter of credit were issued under this arrangement at December 31, 2024. This line of credit expires in June 2028.

At the same time, Golden Spread entered into a second secured revolving line of credit with CFC for \$200.0 million. The purpose of the additional \$200.0 million line of credit is to provide bridge funding for expenditures and for the issuance of letters of credit related to the updates and expansion of the Antelope Elk Energy Center. A letter of credit in the amount of \$113.0 million was issued under this line at December 31, 2024. The new agreement bears interest at the CFC line of credit rate and expires in September 2029. There were no borrowings outstanding under these lines of credit at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

In June 2023, Golden Spread increased its line of credit with CFC (formerly \$80.0 million) to \$120.0 million and extended the expiration date to June 2028.

In June 2023, Golden Spread renewed the \$90.0 million line of credit with CoBank and extended the expiration date to June 2026. The amended agreement bears interest at Prime plus a credit spread. Letters of credit issued under this agreement at both December 31, 2024 and 2023 were \$50.0 million. There were no borrowings outstanding under this line of credit at December 31, 2024 or 2023.

In June 2023, Golden Spread renewed its \$40.0 million line of credit with Amarillo National Bank and extended the expiration date to June 2025. The amended agreement bears interest at Prime plus a credit spread. Borrowings under this line of credit at December 31, 2024 and 2023 were \$30.7 million and \$27.1 million, respectively.

#### Note 11. Regulatory Liabilities

	2024	2023
Deferred non-member margins	\$ 117,766,972	\$ 119,408,025
Deferred major maintenance revenue	43,394,909	33,636,999
Deferred fuel and purchased power derivative gains (Note 8)	22,119,934	20,034,942
Less current deferred charges	183,281,815 (42,036,882)	173,079,966 (37,620,537)
Total deferred charges	\$ 141,244,933	\$ 135,459,429

Nonmember electric sales margins will be recognized in wholesale power sales upon Board approval over a period not to exceed 60 months beyond the deferral year. Deferred nonmember revenue to recover costs for major maintenance will be recognized as an offset to operation and maintenance expense upon Board approval in periods when major maintenance expenses are incurred. Each of these regulatory liabilities are designed to smooth rates and help Members plan and budget energy costs.

#### Note 12. Asset Retirement Obligation

The asset retirement obligation represents estimated costs associated with legal obligations to retire long-lived assets and is recorded at fair value in the period in which it is incurred by increasing the carrying amount of the long-lived asset. In each subsequent period, the liability is accreted, and the capitalized costs are depreciated over the useful life of the asset.

GSPWR's asset retirement obligation is associated with the obligation to restore the land-leased site for its wind turbines to a "green field" condition, as stated in its lease agreement. During the year ended December 31, 2023, an additional layer of cost was recognized due to an increase in the asset retirement obligation estimate. The additional layer was recognized at fair value, which is equivalent to the present value, in the period in which the additional layer occurred.

The asset retirement obligation is measured based on the present value of the estimated cash flows required to settle the obligation, which considers the expected timing of retirement, inflation rates, credit-adjusted risk-free rates, and any changes in the legal or contractual requirements.

The net asset retirement obligation, which is reported in deferred credits in the accompanying 2024 and 2023 consolidated balance sheets, and the changes in the net liability for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, are as follows:

	_	2024		2023
Beginning balance Additional asset retirement obligation cost	\$	7,182,851	\$	4,677,551 2,206,030
Accretion expense		345,601	_	299,270
Ending balance	\$	7,528,452	\$	7,182,851

#### Note 13. Income Taxes

For the year ended December 31, 2024, Golden Spread met the 85% Test, qualified for the tax exemption, and was required to file as an exempt cooperative. For the year ended December 31, 2023, Golden Spread did not meet the 85% Test and was required to file as a non-exempt cooperative.

In general, each corporation, limited liability company, and limited partnership registered to do business in the state of Texas is subject to the state franchise tax on gross income, less applicable deductions, apportioned to the state. Golden Spread is exempt from the state franchise tax. However, GSEC Properties and GSPWR are subject to the tax and file the applicable annual tax reports.

Prior to its conversion to a disregarded entity, GSPWR filed a separate income tax return and reported net operating loss (NOL) carryovers of \$52.0 million for offsetting future sources of taxable income. Post conversion, \$51.5 million remains. Of this amount, \$33.9 million was incurred prior to January 1, 2018, has a carryover period not to exceed 20 years, and begins to expire in calendar year 2032. The remaining \$17.6 million was incurred after December 31, 2017 and has a carryover period that is indefinite.

Tax return filings of Golden Spread include the operations of all subsidiaries treated as disregarded entities for federal income tax purposes. All such operations are non-taxable or taxable based on their connection to Golden Spread's tax-exempt purposes and patronage activities. For any year it is tax-exempt, Golden Spread is taxed on net income derived from unrelated trades or businesses. For the year ended December 31, 2024, Golden Spread did not engage in business activities deemed unrelated to its exempt purposes and patronage activities. For any year it is non-exempt, Golden Spread continues to operate on a cooperative and patronage basis with respect to business conducted for or with its Members. Accordingly, Golden Spread is allowed an exclusion from taxable income for the amount of patronage-sourced income allocated to the Members as patronage capital. Utilization of the patronage exclusion effectively reduces Golden Spread's taxable income to that income derived from non-patronage sources. For the year ended December 31, 2023, after utilization of available net operating loss carryovers, net taxable income and income tax expense from nonpatronage-sourced income was \$0.

Golden Spread, its disregarded entities, and GSPWR (prior to its conversion to a disregarded entity of Golden Spread) follow the asset and liability method for recording income taxes. The objective of the asset and liability method is to establish deferred tax assets and liabilities for temporary differences between the financial reporting basis and the tax basis of such assets and liabilities at enacted tax rates expected to be in effect when such amounts are realized and settled. As changes in the tax laws or rates are enacted, deferred tax assets and liabilities are adjusted through the provision for income taxes.

Deferred income taxes result from transactions that enter into the determination of taxable income in different periods than recorded for financial reporting purposes. These differences represent future tax return consequences (increases and decreases in taxable income) when deferred tax assets and liabilities are recovered, realized, or settled. The principal sources of deferred federal income taxes are: 1) differences in the depreciable tax cost basis and tax basis accumulated depreciation of GSPWR wind generation assets, and 2) NOL carryovers. Post conversion of GSPWR to a disregarded entity, the wind generation assets are used in the patronage activities of GSEC. Additionally, to the extent Golden Spread is tax-exempt, the NOL carryover is used to offset future sources of either patronage-sourced or nonpatronage-sourced income. Based on historical amounts of unrelated business taxable income when tax-exempt and nonpatronage-sourced income when non-exempt, a full valuation allowance has been recorded for the respective net deferred tax asset of \$10.8 million.

#### Note 14. Revenue

Golden Spread has identified four revenue streams: Member Power Sales, Non-Member Power Sales, Transmission Revenue, and Service Agreement Revenue.

Revenues for Golden Spread are derived primarily from the sale of electric power to Members pursuant to long-term wholesale electric service contracts or "Wholesale Power Contracts" (WPC). All contracts with Members meet the criteria to be classified as revenue from contracts with customers. These contracts will not expire until the latter of the last unit is in service or 10-years notice is given. Golden Spread has 16 Member contracts to supply power requirements (energy and demand). These contracts are substantially identical; as such, Golden Spread does not incur significant contract acquisition costs. Pursuant to these contracts, Golden Spread is obligated to sell and deliver all power requirements to the Members, and the Members are obligated to purchase and receive all electric power and energy required for operations from Golden Spread. Golden Spread bills the Member distribution cooperatives monthly, and each Member distribution cooperative is required to pay monthly for power furnished under its wholesale power contract. The contract obligations are satisfied over time when control of electricity is transferred as energy is delivered or transmitted to the Member, and the Member distribution cooperatives simultaneously receive and consume the benefits of the electricity. Energy consumption and demand is read monthly for billing purposes. Revenue is recognized, and Members are invoiced based on consumption reported.

Amounts billed to Members in excess of or less than recoverable costs under rate tariffs are accrued as an addition or reduction of revenues and as a current asset or current liability to the Members on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Contract receivables at December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$41.9 million, \$37.6 million, and \$40.3 million, respectively. At December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022, contract liabilities representing amounts over-collected from Members, included in other accrued expenses, totaled \$35.3 million, \$46.7 million, and \$36.3 million, respectively.

Golden Spread also sells excess energy to nonmembers at prevailing market prices as control is transferred.

#### Note 15. Pension Benefits

Golden Spread provides pension benefits for substantially all its employees through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Retirement and Security Program (RS Plan). The RS Plan is a multiemployer defined-benefit pension plan qualified under Section 401 and tax-exempt under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The plan sponsor's Employer Identification Number is 53-0116145, and the Plan Number is 333. Golden Spread makes contributions to the RS Plan, as required by the plan agreement. This multiemployer plan is available to all member cooperatives of NRECA. A unique characteristic of a multiemployer plan compared to a single employer plan is that all plan assets are available to pay benefits of any plan participant. Separate asset accounts are not maintained for participating employers. This means that assets contributed by one employer may be used to provide benefits to employees of other participating employers. Golden Spread's contribution to the RS Plan in 2024 and 2023 represented less than 5% of the total contributions made to the RS Plan by all participating employers. Golden Spread's contributions to the RS Plan were \$3.7 million in 2024 and \$3.6 million in 2023. There have been no significant changes that affected the comparability of total employer contributions for 2024 and 2023. In the RS Plan, a "zone status" determination is not required and, therefore, not determined under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (Act). In addition, the accumulated benefit obligations and plan assets are not determined or allocated separately by individual employer. In total, the RS Plan was more than 80% funded on January 1, 2024 and 2023 based on the Act funding target and the Act actuarial value of assets on those dates. Because the provisions of the Act do not apply to the RS Plan, funding improvement plans and surcharges are not applicable. Future contribution requirements are determined each year as part of the actuarial valuation of the plan and may change as a result of plan experience.

Golden Spread also has a defined contribution plan (Savings Plan), which was established under Code Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Under the Savings Plan, Golden Spread matches employee contributions up to a maximum of 4% of each participating employee's salary. Employer contributions to the Savings Plan for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$0.5 million.

Golden Spread has an unfunded nonqualified deferred compensation plan, Executive Benefit Restoration Plan (EBR Plan), for certain highly compensated employees that were not in the Pension Restoration Plan. The EBR

Plan provides benefits for compensation that is in excess of the limits applicable to the RS Plan. Distributions from this plan are funded directly by Golden Spread upon vesting of eligible employees. The liability associated with the EBR Plan was \$2.3 million and \$1.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Such amounts are included in deferred credits in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. Periodic benefit costs of \$0.4 million and \$0.3 million were recorded in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

#### Note 16. Significant Customers

Golden Spread has two Members whose power purchases represent at least 10% of Golden Spread's annual power sales to its Members as follows for the years ended December 31:

	Sales to Members	Total Sales
2024		
South Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc.	17%	15%
Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative, Inc.	10%	9%
2023		
South Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc.	17%	15%
Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative, Inc.	10%	9%

#### Note 17. Commitments and Contingencies

Golden Spread is obligated under a capacity agreement with a third-party supplier to purchase deliverable capacity. These obligations total approximately 40 MW and run from June 2025 to September 2025.

Golden Spread is also obligated under long-term PPAs with certain of its Members and third-party suppliers to purchase energy in the ERCOT region. These PPAs total up to 526 MW and have terms of varying lengths, terminating from 2026 through 2032.

Golden Spread is committed to a multi-year maintenance program agreement. As per the terms, Golden Spread is obligated to procure various components, including parts, technical advisory services, repair services, and craft labor. The agreement, effective May 2023, is structured to conclude on a unit-specific basis upon completion of the first major inspections for each unit or within 10 years from the effective date (May 2033), depending on which occurs first. The minimum obligation within this agreement is \$20.0 million.

Golden Spread has committed to purchasing combustion turbine components in the amount of \$18.5 million. A total of \$4.5 million was paid in 2024 and \$4.7 million paid in January 2025. The remaining amount of \$9.3 million is expected to be paid during 2025. All combustion turbine components are expected to be delivered in 2025.

In 2024, Golden Spread committed to construct a combustion turbine and grid switch. Payments commenced on both obligations in 2024 and continue through 2027. At December 31, 2024, approximately \$33.5 million remained payable under the commitments.

Liabilities for loss contingencies arising from claims, assessments, litigation, fines, penalties, and other sources are recorded when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount can be reasonably estimated. Legal costs incurred in connection with loss contingencies are expensed as incurred.

#### Note 18. Leases

Golden Spread has certain noncancellable operating leases, primarily for wind generation facilities, office space, and data centers. If a lease contains an option to extend or terminate the lease and there is reasonable certainty the option will be exercised, the option is considered in the lease term and cash flows from inception. Golden Spread's leases generally do not include termination options for either party to the lease. None of the Golden Spread lease agreements contain material residual value guarantees, material bargain purchase options, or material restrictive covenants. Payments due under the lease contracts include fixed payments, except for the wind generation facilities, which have variable payments based on the power that is generated.

#### Operating Leases

Golden Spread enters into various leases for office space, data centers, and the land upon which GSPWR operates. These leases have varying terms and conditions and expire at various times through 2036. Operating leases are included in electric plant as ROU assets and other liabilities for lease liabilities on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

Golden Spread also has PPAs for wind and solar energy and treats these contracts as operating leases. These leases have varying terms and conditions and expire at various times through 2034. These PPAs require variable payments based on net output. These PPAs require variable payments that do not depend on an index or a rate; therefore, these capacity payments are not accounted for as consideration in the contract by Golden Spread. As a result, Golden Spread will not recognize a lease liability and ROU asset for the PPA operating leases. The amounts paid under these PPAs will be expensed as purchased power when incurred.

#### Finance Leases

Golden Spread does not have any finance leases.

Components of lease cost include the following for the years ended December 31:

		2024	2023
Lease expense Operating lease expense Variable lease expense Short-term lease expense	\$	1,229,513 15,243,266 25,149	\$ 1,228,459 15,962,672 22,211
Total lease expense	<u>\$</u>	16,497,928	\$ 17,213,342

Golden Spread did not have any sublease income or sale and leaseback transactions for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

2025	\$ 1,244,092
2026	1,149,430
2027	1,144,121
2028	1,035,316
2029	1,155,316
Thereafter	6,088,198
Total minimum lease payments	11,816,473
Amounts representing interest	(1,128,694)
Present value of minimum lease payments	10,687,779
Current maturities	(1,049,972)
Noncurrent lease liabilities	<u>\$ 9,637,807</u>

Other information related to operating leases was as follows as of December 31:

	2024	2023
Other information		
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of		
lease liabilities		
Operating cash flows from operating leases	\$ (1,235,945)	\$ (1,235,236)
Operating cash flows from PPA operating lease	\$ (15,259,973)	\$ (15,874,191)
Weighted-average remaining lease term		
Operating leases	10.18 years	11.59 years
Weighted-average discount rate		
Operating leases	1.86%	1.75%

#### Note 19. Other Accrued Expenses

Other accrued expenses were as follows at December 31:

	2024	2023
Accrued taxes	\$ 4,368,057	\$ 4,510,318
Accrued interest	5,376,993	5,671,964
Member refunds	36,789,132	47,427,349
Accrued plant invoices	7,703,925	9,717,874
Accrued fuel expense	6,762,202	7,460,078
Derivative liabilities	62,976	3,632,885
Accrued substation invoice	2,841,689	8,382,277
Other	3,958,749	3,708,510
Total other accrued expenses	\$ 67,863,723	\$ 90,511,255

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

#### Note 20. Subsequent Events

Golden Spread's management has evaluated subsequent events from the balance sheet date through April 10, 2025, the date at which the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.



# 5-Year Summary of Condensed Financial Data and Statistical Information

Statement Data (000)	
	413,615
Operating Expenses         Fuel, Purchased Power and Transmission         \$ 291,716         \$ 344,115         \$ 525,722         \$ 530,856         \$ 201,716	226,938
Plant Operations and Maintenance <b>48,367</b> 47,688 55,651 50,055	46,656
Administrative and General <b>34,097</b> 32,888 36,104 32,062	30,635
Depreciation and Amortization 53,661 53,599 49,560 48,631	46,053
Amortization of Deferred Charges 17,015 17,007 17,040 3,945	-
Taxes Other Than Income Taxes 5,781 5,985 6,265 6,944	7,343
Other Operating Expenses 27,934 25,803 17,523 14,417	15,316
	372,941
Operating Margins - Before Fixed Charges \$ 42,425 \$ 34,408 \$ 41,594 \$ 43,807 \$	40,674
Fixed Charges 27,493 27,283 27,155 27,425	26,055
Operating Margins - After Fixed Charges \$ 14,932 \$ 7,125 \$ 14,439 \$ 16,383 \$	14,619
Nonoperating Margins 13,650 11,230 3,041 (697)	1,146
Net Margins \$ 28,582 \$ 18,355 \$ 17,480 \$ 15,686 \$	15,765
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet Data (000)	
Utility Plant, net \$ 798,889 \$ 811,645 \$ 826,482 \$ 833,030 \$ 8	217 720
	313,320
	22,516
Cash, Cash Equivalents and Short-Term  Investment Securities 312,400 316,416 208,065 181,380 2	208,179
Restricted Cash 64 3,204 14,196 -	-
	126,044
Regulatory and Other Assets	2,874
	172,933
	,
Total Members' Equity \$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	447,019
Long-Term Debt, excluding current maturities \$ 504,938 \$ 528,803 \$ 566,913 \$ 603,117 \$	524,112
Current Liabilities 217,680 221,139 173,692 139,266 1	06,384
Deferred Credits	95,418
	725,914
Total Members' Equity and Liabilities $\frac{\$ 1,366,175}{\$ 1,377,699}$ $\frac{\$ 1,288,990}{\$ 1,288,990}$ $\frac{\$ 1,256,500}{\$ 1,288,990}$	172,933
Other Financial and Statistical Data	
Energy Sales	
Energy Sales to Members (MWh) <b>10,845,324</b> 9,809,847 8,511,206 7,686,271 7,8	398,832
	987,673
Total Energy Sales (MWh) 11,813,236 11,050,448 9,687,181 8,308,869 8,8	386,505
Member Peak Demand (MW) 1,897 1,840 1,689 1,654	1,686
Member System Load Factor (%)         54.88         54.36         56.64         53.01	53.31
Energy Generated (MWh) (2) 5,724,364 4,335,368 3,212,420 1,729,652 4,335,368	374,506
Energy Purchased (MWh) (2) 6,073,135 6,721,262 6,503,263 6,599,163 4,4	552,525
Average Rate to Members (\$/MWh) \$ 41.95 \$ 51.03 \$ 74.11 \$ 72.88 \$	48.48
Average Natural Gas Commodity Price (\$/MMBtu) \$ 0.22 \$ 1.80 \$ 5.70 \$ 4.49 \$	1.35
Financial Ratios	2.00
Equity/Capitalization (%) 45 44 43 42	45
Debt Service Coverage (DSC) Ratio 1.74 1.63 1.60 1.75	1.75
Debt/Funds Available for Debt Service 5.30 6.08 6.64 7.08	6.31
Days Cash on Hand 268 244 115 104	232
200	

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes energy and ancillary services sales

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes ancillary services for Member load

### Energy and Financial Charts

# AVERAGE NATURAL GAS COMMODITY PRICE

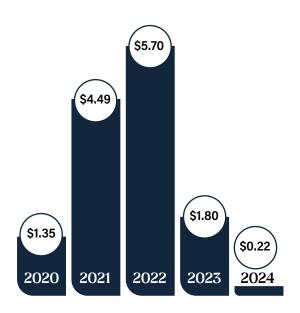
(\$/MMBtu)

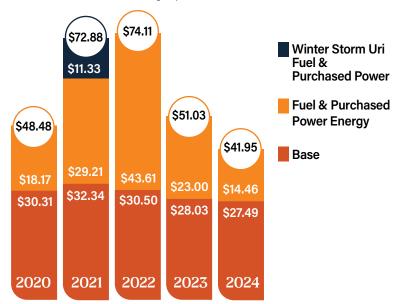
Natural gas prices have a direct effect on Members' rates.

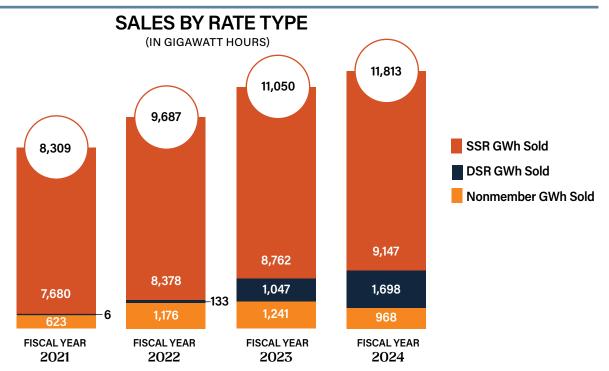
# AVERAGE SYSTEM SERVICE RATE TO MEMBERS

(\$/MWh)

Average rate to Members increased in 2022 due to natural gas prices and increases in transmission rates. Average rate to Members decreased in 2023 and 2024 due to lower natural gas prices.







Golden Spread offers two types of service to Members:

- Sales made under the System Service Rate (SSR), which rely on all of Golden Spread's resources including its power plants.
- Incremental sales are made under the Dedicated Service Rate (DSR), which uses specific assigned resources that match the load commitment.
   The majority of DSR sales are to mega-consumers and to South Plains Electric Cooperative for load that was previously served by Brazos Electric Cooperative.

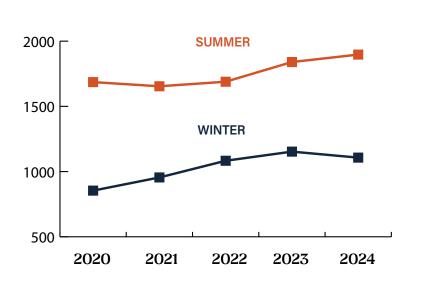
#### **COINCIDENT DEMAND**

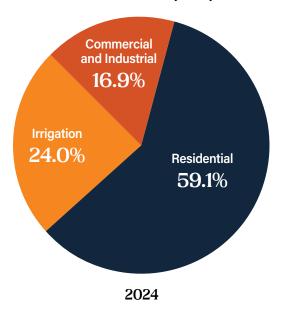
(MEGAWATTS)

Peak loads are affected by weather conditions, commodity prices and general load growth in the Members' service territories.

# SYSTEM SERVICE RATE CLASSIFICATION

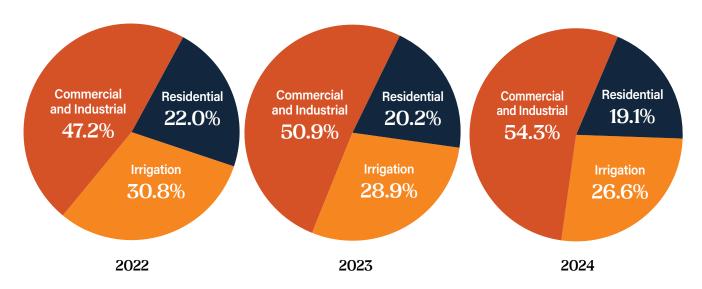
The composition of Member-Consumers by rate classification remains stable from year to year.





#### **USAGE BY SYSTEM SERVICE RATE CLASSIFICATION**

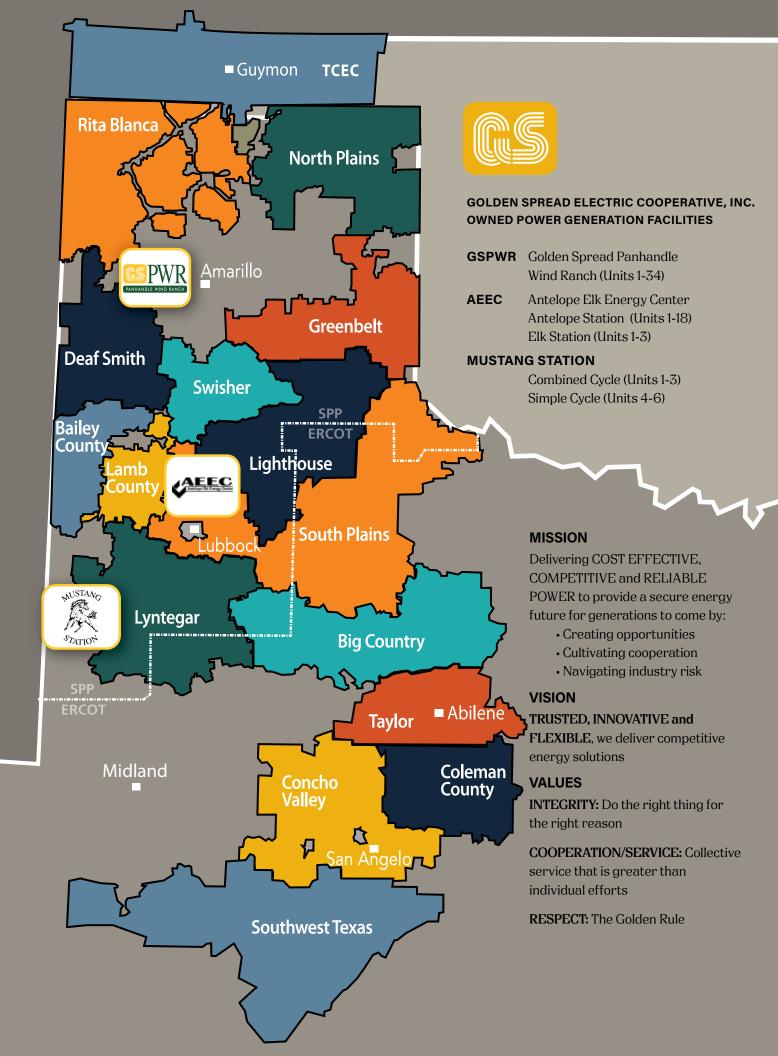
Weather conditions affect the mix of energy sales by classification – particularly the level of irrigation sales, which has ranged from 27% to 34% of total sales in the last few years.



# Member Cooperatives' Information

(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

2024 SUMMARY	Bailey County	Big Country	Coleman County	Concho Valley	Deaf Smith	Greenbelt
Number of Employees Total Services in Place Miles of Distribution Line Miles of Transmission Line Peak Demand (kW - NCP) Sales (MWh) Net Utility Plant Assets Margins Plus Equities Revenues Cost of Purchased Power Interest on Long-Term Debt Net Margins DSC Equity Ratio (%)	42 10,119 2,780 174 75,394 342,318 \$ 27,046 \$ 103,012 \$ 51,122 \$ 28,688 \$ 17,210 \$ 1,777 \$ 5,403 3.65 50.00%	65 18,352 5,387 <b>75*</b> 100,794 354,958 \$ 95,324 \$ 130,393 \$ 74,208 \$ 38,631 \$ 16,693 \$ 1,847 \$ 5,230 2,79 56,91%	36 13,318 3,815 46* 57,707 252,114 \$ 23,158 \$ 40,477 \$ 28,294 \$ 16,024 \$ 9,132 \$ 387 \$ 1,741 2.85 69,90%	70 21,008 4,438 36* 107,976 596,603 \$ 165,895 \$ 177,351 \$ 65,710 \$ 46,021 \$ 26,762 \$ 3,822 \$ 5,627 2.24 37.05%	51 15,389 4,580 129 177,357 809,364 \$ 47,196 \$ 134,564 \$ 117,803 \$ 55,547 \$ 38,522 \$ 257 \$ 7,028 10.05 88.00%	35 7,011 2,643 45* 44,439 209,203 \$ 45,500 \$ 70,141 \$ 34,149 \$ 20,277 \$ 10,555 \$ 1,407 \$ 1,682 1,77 48.69%
Number of Employees. Total Services in Place. Miles of Distribution Line. Miles of Transmission Line. Peak Demand (kW - NCP) Sales (MWh). Net Utility Plant. Assets. Margins Plus Equities. Revenues. Cost of Purchased Power. Interest on Long-Term Debt. Net Margins. DSC. Equity Ratio (%).	Lamb County  40 13,574 3,258 39 92,853 366,902 \$ 44,496 \$ 90,585 \$ 57,827 \$ 29,192 \$ 17,133 \$ 1,171 \$ 3,075 2,42 63.80%	47 11,519 4,608 94 110,905 619,007 \$ 66,717 \$ 110,186 \$ 61,790 \$ 37,696 \$ 23,782 \$ 1,680 \$ 2,243 1.58 56.08%	115 25,717 6,833 113 234,819 917,508 \$ 199,096 \$ 312,971 \$ 157,932 \$ 73,638 \$ 41,129 \$ 5,433 \$ 6,658 2.18 50.46%	North Plains  50 7,670 3,601 278 120,228 416,789 \$ 80,480 \$ 133,711 \$ 67,442 \$ 31,424 \$ 17,212 \$ 1,756 \$ 5,036 2.66 50,40%	Rita Blanca  35 9,885 3,502 56 206,267 1,013,422 \$ 89,240 \$ 161,864 \$ 130,207 \$ 59,307 \$ 41,957 \$ 452 \$ 12,701 6.93 80.44%	South Plains  163 89,107 10,313 123* 422,281 1,751,519 \$ 364,857 \$ 544,278 \$ 231,473 \$ 159,730 \$ 106,254 \$ 8,967 \$ 1,547 1.78 42.53%
Number of Employees. Total Services in Place Miles of Distribution Line Miles of Transmission Line Peak Demand (kW - NCP) Sales (MWh) Net Utility Plant. Assets Margins Plus Equities Revenues Cost of Purchased Power Interest on Long-Term Debt Net Margins DSC. Equity Ratio (%)	Southwest Texas  49 15,609 5,488 1 45,846 311,738 \$ 59,141 \$ 94,688 \$ 61,668 \$ 28,634 \$ 14,227 \$ 775 \$ 5,708 7.08 65,12%	37 9,787 3,713 145 59,141 162,454 \$ 41,367 \$ 75,115 \$ 44,538 \$ 22,064 \$ 12,481 \$ 895 \$ 1,503 1,47 59,29%	90 31,316 5,251 34* 171,284 575,297 \$ 180,713 \$ 234,284 \$ 92,647 \$ 67,962 \$ 31,758 \$ 5,500 \$ 7,186 2.15 39.54%	95 37,361 4,943 1 164,125 870,686 \$ 259,808 \$ 358,910 \$ 122,206 \$ 101,228 \$ 57,385 \$ 11,322 \$ 9,397 1.75 35.97%	1,020 336,742 75,153 1,389 2,191,416 9,569,882 1,790,033 2,772,529 1,399,016 816,062 482,192 47,447 81,763 3.33 55.88%	



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