



MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Ending 2019 in Good Financial and Operational Shape

As of this writing, we have closed the financials through October and continue to be confident that we will end the year in good financial shape. Through October, we have a total margin year-to-date of \$721,000 compared to budget of \$327,000. Our 2019 budget calls for a year-end total margin of \$1,053,000 and we expect to end the year ahead of that.

For the year, energy sales are off about 4% of where we were last year at this time. Our total revenue through October is up about \$383,000 compared to budget. On the expense side, total expenses through October are down about \$135,000 compared to budget.

Operationally we are closing in on finishing all of the maintenance projects planned for the year to keep your system operating properly except for right-of-way maintenance. There were a couple of construction projects that will be pushed into next year because of the river levels. We will not get all the tree trimming done that we were hoping to for the year, but we are on a path to catch up. Our goal is to get through our system on a four-year rotation.

Anyway, we feel like we are in pretty good shape operationally and financially at this point for 2019.

Board Approves 2020 Work Plan and Budget without a Rate Increase

At the November board meeting, the staff presented their Work Plan and Budget for next year to the board for approval. The staff recommended holding rates for 2020 and the board concurred. It is a tight budget for next year but we are hopeful we will make it through in good financial shape.

Peltier Re-elected to Serve District 9 on Basin Electric Board

Our Wayne Peltier will again represent Flathead Electric of Kalispell, MT, Mor-Gran-Sou of Flasher, ND, KEM Electric of Linton, ND, Grand Electric of Bison, SD, Rosebud Electric of Gregory, SD, Crow Wing Power of Brainerd, MN, Wright-Hennepin of Rockford, MN, Minnesota Valley of Jordan, MN and of course, our Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association of Montevideo.

Wayne was re-elected at the District 9 Caucus Meeting held in conjunction with the Basin Electric Annual Meeting held in Bismarck on November 8th. Wayne has been a Basin Electric Director since 2008 representing District 9. He has been representing our members from our District 7 since 1999. Wayne is a farmer and co-owner of P&K Fabricating in Cottonwood, MN.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is owned and operated by 141 electric cooperatives in 9 states with 5,300 MWS of power capacity and 2,400 miles of transmission line serving over 3 million members. They are governed by directors from 11 director districts.

From All of Us

The board and employees would like to express appreciation for your business this past year. Thank you! We want you to know that we appreciate working for you and for your cooperative. We look forward to working hard for you in 2020 to keep your system in good working order so we can continue to provide the reliable electric service you have rightfully come to expect from your cooperative.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Merry Christmas
from all of us at
Minnesota Valley
Cooperative**

Directors

Darryl Bursack
Don Fernholz
Gary Groothuis
Steve Norman
Wayne Peltier
Mark Peterson
Tim Velde
Matt Haugen, Attorney

Employees

Pat Carruth, General Manager

Brandon Bjelland	Scott Kubesh	Jill Sand
Stacey Boike	Eric Landmark	Joe Schultz
Mitch Christensen	Tommy Lee	Kent Smith
Dustin Cole	Blake Lymburner	Don Snell
Trevor Diggins	Scott Monson	Jill Strand
James Hughes	Duane O'Malley	Mark Sweno
Andy Johnson	Jerrad Perkins	Bob Walsh
Mark Johnson	Tracie Peterson	Lacey Wintz
Bob Kratz	Jill Rothschadl	Eric Wollschlager

F.L. Blair Substation Re-energized

The F.L. Blair Substation, located near Gary, South Dakota, was recently re-energized after work was completed on a five-month rebuild process. The substation is jointly owned by East River Electric Power Cooperative and Minnesota Valley Cooperative. Otter Tail Power Company interconnects with the substation and also owns some of the facility's equipment. The substation interconnects with the Western Area Power Association (WAPA) transmission line and serves the member-owners of H-D Electric, Lyon-Lincoln, Sioux Valley Energy and Whetstone Electric Cooperative within East River Electric's service area. East River is a wholesale power provider to 24 distribution electric cooperatives and one municipal electric system in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.



The original F.L Blair Substation had exceeded its service life and needed to be rebuilt to increase reliability and operability, as well as to accommodate the connection of new wind generation via the Otter Tail Power Company interconnection. Work on the rebuild began in March 2019 and wrapped up in July 2019.

“We appreciate the collaboration with Minnesota Valley Cooperative through the substation’s rebuild process,” said East River Chief Operations Officer, Mark Hoffman. “The updates to this substation will bring enhanced reliability to the member-owners that it serves. The new substation will also allow us to accommodate future growth in this region.”

2020 Caucus Meetings

Thursday, February 6th, 2020

District 7: Wayne Peltier • 10:30 AM • Cottonwood Community Center

District 5: Darryl Bursack • 1:30 PM • Clarkfield City Hall

Save the Date

Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 4th, 2020

Prairie's Edge Casino

Meet Your Employees



Name	Andy Johnson
Hometown	Battle Lake, MN
Family	My wife, Bridget and daughters Sami & Bri
When did you start at Minnesota Valley?	I started in June of 2003 as a lineman on the digger truck. I am currently a Journeyman Lineman.
What do you like best about working here?	The variety of the work.
What do you like to do in your free time?	Hunt & fish
People would be surprised if they knew:	I like to cook.

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed on December 24th and 25th for Christmas and on January 1st for New Years Day.





Manager of Operations

The crews have been busy finishing up underground work and putting the plow away for another year. There are some projects left for spring that were not a priority and of course, some will come in over the winter. Hopefully, with good weather, we will be right back at it in the early spring.

During the colder days, the crews are busy with our annual line patrol duties. This includes checking the poles, wires and hardware for problems that could cause outages or blinking lights. BB three thirty two zero four A Preventive maintenance is always good; keeping the system in good shape for Minnesota Valley members is one of our goals. The substations involved in this year's annual inspection are: Echo, Wood Lake, Minneota, Rosewood and Vallers.

Some projects Minnesota Valley crews will be working on this winter will be rebuilding a couple miles of line east

of the Madison Substation and five miles of line rebuild east of the city of Bellingham.

Minnesota Valley contractor, Karian-Peterson, will be starting the first phase of the transmission rebuild program just north of the City of Madison, along County Road #26. This is replacing the existing line for nine miles to the east, with another six and a half miles to be done shortly after, which includes getting some cross country line to the road right-of-way.

Minnesota Valley Tree Service is currently moving towards the west and north parts of the system. We would like to thank all members who have let them cut as much as possible, as it has really been noticed in the lower amount of outages, caused by trees and branches, the past couple of years.

Thank you for the past year. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Apply Now for the Minnesota Valley/Basin Electric Scholarship

Minnesota Valley R.E.C. has again joined Basin Electric Power Cooperative in sponsoring a scholarship in 2020. A total of \$2,000 in educational scholarships will be awarded to area students. All dependent children of Minnesota Valley Cooperative members meeting the qualifications are eligible to apply. The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements, abilities and school/community involvement of students in Minnesota Valley's service territory. The cooperatives have developed the scholarships to help meet the college funding needs of students in rural areas.

To qualify for the scholarship, an applicant must be the dependent child of a Minnesota Valley member and a U.S. citizen. Applicants must be students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year

college, university or technical college in the 2020-2021 school year. Students in any year of post high school education are eligible. Previous scholarship winners are not eligible.

Recipients will be chosen based on a combination of overall grades, achievements, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, applicant appraisal form and an essay. A neutral group of Minnesota Valley members will review all applications and make a selection on a recipient(s). All post high school areas of study will be equally considered for the scholarship.

Apply now! Scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 school year will be accepted until February 3rd, 2020. The winners will be determined by March 2nd, 2020.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Oct 2019	Jan-Oct 2018	Jan-Oct 1999
Kwh Purchased	176,236,571	183,563,467	115,172,901
Kwh Sold	165,397,725	172,824,069	106,300,409
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$8,868,639	\$9,176,884	\$3,623,945
Patronage Capital Margins	\$721,247	\$1,503,865	\$402,905
Reserve For Taxes	\$213,330	\$229,167	\$278,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	50.32	49.99	31.47
	October '19	October '18	October '99
Total Plant	\$75,129,925	\$73,470,075	\$32,777,587
Number of Active Services	5,290	5,306	5,195
Average Residential Bill	\$255.04	\$324.55	\$140.50
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	2,212	2,898	1,936
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,199	3,865	2,362
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	45,814	40,024	28,078

**CLAIM BY
DECEMBER
25TH FOR:**

\$20

No one located their account numbers last month, so we rolled it into this month's credit!

If you find your account number in this newsletter, you could receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If the credit goes unclaimed, that amount rolls over into the next month! If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.





Member Services Manager

Have You Ever Washed Your Dishwasher?

It may seem redundant to clean a dishwasher, but that's exactly what you should do to ensure that your hardworking machine stays in top shape. Cleaning every four to six weeks will help reduce the buildup of lime scale and soap scum and eliminate food particles that can diminish the machine's effectiveness or clog the little water spouts that rinse your dishes. **Bottom line: A clean machine means cleaner dishes. Here's how to clean a dishwasher.**



- 1. Check your heat.** First, check your hot water heater. To best clean and sanitize your dishes and the inside of your dishwasher, set the water heater temperature to at least 120 degrees Fahrenheit, but not over 150 degrees.
- 2. Empty the filter.** Over the years, consumer demand has led manufacturers to design increasingly quiet dishwashers. Good news, right? Until you learn how the machines are being silenced.

In the past, dishwashers were equipped with a part called a macerator, a food-grinding component that operated along the same lines as a garbage disposal and made almost as much noise. The food fell into the macerator and was ground up and disposed of with the wastewater.

Newer models have eliminated the macerator and instead use a detachable cylindrical filter located on the bottom of the machine. The problem is that the large particles remain trapped inside until the filter is cleaned. Forgotten filters can become clogged with large pieces of debris and may even start to smell. If there is a foul odor coming from your dishwasher, this may be the culprit.

For most dishwashers, removing the filter requires little more than turning it counterclockwise and gently pulling it out. However, since there are a variety of models, your best bet is to locate the owner's manual either in print or online.

- 3. Avoid introducing hand soap and detergent into your machine.** You can wipe down the inside of your machine with a cloth or sponge, but make sure it's not something you've used in combination with hand soap or dish detergent. Even a small amount of residue left behind on a sponge can cause foaming inside your dishwasher. Suds and foaming can loosen the seals inside your machine's filter and other components and cause leakage. Instead, make a paste with powdered dishwashing detergent or use your automatic dishwasher detergent with a clean, damp cloth or sponge.
- 4. Prevent and remove hard water deposits.** Notice white streaks inside your machine? Those are hard water deposits, also known as lime scale and calcium carbonate, which appear as white residue. AA one twenty eight zero four A Over time, this buildup can clog the holes in a dishwasher's spray arms and filter components. White vinegar can help remove these deposits.
- 5. Use quality detergent.** High-quality detergent will keep your machine's interior and your dishes clean. Usually an all-in-one product works best. These are the pods or packs you place in your dispenser. Look for different colors and a mix of liquid and powder inside the pack. They release components at different times throughout the wash cycle, introducing enzymes and rinse aids.

- 6. Watch what goes into your dishwasher.** Check plates for things like toothpicks, bones, olive pits and fruit pits, paper labels stuck on jars and sticky pricing labels left on newly purchased plates.
- 7. Use your machine's options.** Many people don't use the different options and all those different cycles. The pots and pans setting, for example, isn't just for washing pots and pans, but is for tackling a higher level of food soil. Don't be afraid to use the cycles and options to see what works best for targeted cleaning.
- 8. Load dishes well.** Many people don't know how to properly load a dishwasher, unsure of what all those prongs and slots mean. Check your owner's manual or the manufacturer's website to see loading tips.

For one, make sure you spin the spray arms before turning on a cycle. If the arms can't rotate because they are getting hung up on a protruding spatula or pot handle, neither your dishes nor your machine will get adequately cleaned. Secure measuring spoons and cups that can slip between racks and block the filter.
- 9. Try these home remedies to remove odors and stains.** Many homeowners swear by white vinegar. Once you've cleaned out your filter, place a dishwasher-safe container with one cup of white vinegar on the top rack of your empty dishwasher. Run a hot water cycle. This should wash away grease, gunk and odors.

Next, sprinkle about a cup of baking soda on the bottom of the inside of your machine. Run a short cycle. This will keep your appliance free of stains and smelling fresh. Some manufacturers suggests using citric acid crystals for stains. We hope these hints will help you clean up on your dishes!

Here is wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
800.247.5051

Minnesota Valley Co-op News

Published monthly by:
Minnesota Valley Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Website

www.mnvalleyrec.com

Address

501 South 1st Street
P.O. Box 248
Montevideo, MN 56265

