

MINNESOTA VALLEY Co-OP NEWS

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MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

President Signs Law Overturning DOE Large Capacity Electric Water Heater Ban

The five-year struggle to stop the Department of Energy's (DOE) plan to end large capacity electric water heaters ended on April 30th with the President signing a bill into law overriding the DOE.

On April 16th, the Department of Energy's ban on electric water heaters over 55 gallons went into effect. The DOE was to require electric water heaters over 55 gallons to be 200% efficient. The only way to do that today is to use a heat-pump water heater. This, of course, would not be practical for many of our members for several reasons. The big one would be the increase in the upfront cost for the unit to get the efficiency above 200%. Almost 90% of our members use electric water heaters and when they replace them, many opt for lifetime warranty electric water heaters of over 55 gallons of capacity.

Anyway, the ban has been lifted by law and hopefully our manufacturer, Rheem, can get back on their feet. This new law has not stopped the DOE from their shenanigans. They will continue to work

June is Dairy Month

Minnesota Valley salutes our area dairy farmers during *June Dairy Month*.

Their quality milk and dairy products improve the quality of our lives. We thank them for their contributions to our area communities.



behind the scenes to get the ban re-stored. Electric cooperatives across the nation will continue to work to see that does not happen.

Ratepayer Protection Act Clears Key House Committee

This summer, EPA is expected to finalize a sweeping new regulation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. If this proposal stands, it will result in the premature closure of existing power plants. We're urging Congress to pass the Ratepayer Protection Act (H.R. 2042) approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee on a 28-23 vote. The bill now goes to the House floor. It would provide a "safe harbor time out" for states to delay implementing EPA's existing plants rule until courts rule on legal challenges. We also continue to

urge EPA to withdraw its proposal and work with co-ops on a more viable and realistic plan.

We are working on this legislative issue and are asking our members to help us through our Cooperative Action Network at www.action.coop. If you get a chance, please go to that website and find out how to support this bill. It is easy and basically you are sending this message: "Help protect electric cooperative members from this rule while the legal challenges work their way through the courts." Speak out today and tell Congress that it's unfair to expect American businesses to comply with EPA's proposal until the courts have had a chance to weigh the proposal's legality.

Have a great summer!

Tell Congress: Support the Ratepayer Protection Act

The Ratepayer Protection Act:

- Provides a legislative "safe harbor" period while the courts evaluate the Clean Power Plan and determine whether it legally complies with the Clean Air Act.
- The bill also provides that no state shall be required to implement a state or federal plan that the state's governor, in consultation with other relevant state officials, determines would have a significant adverse effect on:
 - Retail, commercial or industrial ratepayers
 - The reliability of the state's electricity system

We urge you to support the Ratepayer Protection Act to protect electric cooperative members from the uncertainty of the Clean Power Plan while the legal challenges work their way through the courts.

Show your support for HR2042 by logging on to www.action.coop today!



**MAKE YOUR
VOICE
HEARD!**

Can you afford to
pay more

for your electricity bill?

THE **EPA** THINKS YOU CAN.

ACTION.COOP



Office Manager

Financial Update

We were blessed with a mild winter and warmer spring than normal and our energy sales show it. Sales were down 3.4% from budget and down 5% from a year ago, which means our member/owners had more money in their pockets at the end of the month. While operating revenues are below budget, our non-operating revenue is well above budget. This includes interest income, merchandise sales and distributions from other cooperatives. Overall, Minnesota Valley's total margins of \$671,000 exceed the year-to-date budget by \$125,000. Financially, we are in good shape going into our busiest time of the year—summer!

Remember June is Budget Billing Sign-up Month! Give us a call to get set up!

Also, sign up for Automatic Payment, Paperless Statements or Operation Round-Up and receive **\$5 off your next month's energy bill.**

Contact the Billing Office at 800.247.5051.

Keep Children at a Safe Distance!

Now that school is out, there are often children playing in the areas where our crews are working. This is just another reminder to please alert your children to stay as far away as possible from these work areas until the job is completed.

There are many unseen dangers in playing around power lines and line maintenance equipment. Most of our work only takes a short period of time in one area, so there should not be any long-term inconvenience. Warn children that although they may watch from a distance, going close could mean a serious accident. Your concern and words of caution could save a child's life.



Building or Moving a Grain Bin or Other Structure?

BEFORE you make plans to build or move any structures, call Minnesota Valley R.E.C. at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for a free site inspection to avoid clearance problems or costly line relocations.

Moving houses or other buildings to another location may also mean that we need to notify members in the surrounding area in advance if they will be without power during the move. Q one twenty eight zero four We will help you plan a route that will affect the least number of people.

It is also important to let us know of your plans ahead of time so we have the material and equipment available and ready when you need it.

Clean Poles Are Safe Poles

Fastening signs, posters, birdhouses and other objects to utility poles can create serious hazards for utility linemen. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples and barbed wire all present eminent dangers for co-op line crews who climb poles all hours of the day and night in the worst of weather conditions.

A lineman's hooks can cut out due to contact with any foreign object on the pole. If a lineman's hooks cut out while he is climbing, his injuries could be much more severe if an arm or leg catches on a nail or other object tacked to the pole. Sharp objects not only compound a fall, but can also puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution. When linemen have to remove objects from poles in order to climb during an outage, it means power restoration takes that much longer.

Please think of the line crew's safety and refrain from attaching signs or other objects to co-op poles.

Thank you!

Get a \$10 or \$20 bill credit!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your number, you will receive a \$10 energy credit or \$20 if you are an Operation Round Up participant. Call the office to claim your credit.

There were no winners from last month's issue. Keep looking!



Comparative Report

	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2014	Jan-Apr 1995
Kwh Purchased	76,859,602	81,039,095	49,252,474
Kwh Sold	73,098,574	76,954,624	45,300,237
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$3,403,159	\$3,462,774	\$1,455,921
Patronage Capital Margins	\$671,818	\$802,572	\$248,602
Reserve For Taxes	\$99,081	\$99,235	\$102,259
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	44.28	42.73	29.56
	April '15	April '14	April '95
Total Plant	\$64,770,981	\$62,192,469	\$24,895,580
# Of Members Receiving Service	5,271	5,257	5,142
Average Residential Bill	\$165.35	\$186.67	\$126.00
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	1,549	1,861	1,649
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,564	2,807	2,032
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	27,619	31,535	21,192



Do you know any of these former Minnesota Valley members?

We need help in locating the people listed below. Their capital credit checks have been returned to us because we do not have a current address.

If you have the address of any of these people or one of their heirs, please get in touch with us via phone at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051; email at mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com; or mail to *Minnesota Valley R.E.C., P.O. Box 248, Montevideo, MN 56265*. Thanks for your help!

- » Alltel Corporate Accounts - Little Rock, AR
- » Anderson, Edward - Hudson, WI
- » Anderson, Steven G - Brookings, SD
- » Disinger, Steve - Appleton, MN
- » Dreyer, Johannes C - Worthington, MN
- » Egge, Tina - Winnebago, MN
- » Felton, Bryan - Sacred Heart, MN
- » Govellan, Florencio - Granite Falls, MN
- » Green, Jacqueline - Dawson, MN
- » Groen, Andrew - Clara City, MN AC
- » Grove, Starkey J - Elk River, MN
- » Guaranty Residential Lending, INC - Austin, TX
- » Hart, Chauncey W - Granite Falls, MN
- » Heidecker, Greg - Montevideo, MN
- » Hunters Blind % Sam Simonson - Minneapolis, MN
- » Ironheart, Rita - Granite Falls, MN
- » Kroening, David & Terri - New Ulm, MN
- » Lang, Tina - Taunton, MN
- » Large Car Express % Randy Enevoldsen - Watson, MN
- » Lubrant, Mark - Granite Falls, MN
- » Mackey, Karen Kae - Milbank, SD
- » Malone, Sean & Meaghan - Louisburg, MN
- » Marcella SR, Thomas - Vesta, MN
- » Meyers, Bill - Nisswa, MN
- » Paananen, John A - Madison, MN
- » Panther Properties - Willmar, MN
- » Pederson, Laurie - Aberdeen, SD
- » Peterson, Timmy D & Denise - Detroit Lakes, MN
- » Plank, Nicholas - Clarkfield, MN
- » Prather, John - Papillion, NE
- » Price, Greg - Maddock, ND
- » Privatt, Carmelita - Bellingham, MN AC
- » Ross, Jason - Granite Falls, MN
- » Schmidt, Gary & Peggy - Boone, IA
- » Schroeder, Bruce & Kelly - Belle Plaine, MN
- » Sharp, Johnny - Montevideo, MN
- » Speaks, David - Maynard, MN
- » Tharaldson, Greg - Watson, MN
- » Walter, Lachelle Rena - Paynesville, MN
- » Ward, Stacy - Warrenton, MO
- » Wetzig, Amelia - Minneapolis, MN
- » Zook, Michael - Montevideo, MN

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • JOHN WILLIAMSON



Manager of Engineering & Operations

This month, I have a couple of pictures I'd like to share with all of you.

This first picture shows line insulators that we use on our system grid. The new style that we currently use is on the left. The one in the middle has seen some wear and is the same style as what the one on the right is supposed to look like, hence a fault (short on our line) from a failed piece of equipment.



The second picture shows a pole that was hit by farm equipment. The phase wire (7,200 volts) was laying just above the cab of the tractor, while still being energized. It had not come into contact with anything when the pole was hit (broken) and rested on the tractor cab. This could have been very bad if the person in the cab had touched the wire.



With the great weather we had this past month, we were able to put in a lot of underground cable. We did have a transmission outage on May 3rd that affected consumers being served power from our Chapman, Asbury and Gluek Substations. The outage was caused by a raccoon climbing to the top of a 55' pole and shorting across the insulator to a ground wire. J three nineteen zero three Minnesota Valley Tree Service continues to cut trees, cleaning the right-of-way on both sides of power lines in order to keep trees at bay. As of this writing, crews are working in the south portion of the system.



Dustin Cole

We recently hired Dustin Cole, who is from the Marshall area, to help us out during the summer months as an Apprentice Lineman. Starting June 1st, the summer pole treating crew will be checking the condition of power poles on the co-op system according to our ground line pole inspection program. So, if you see six young men (Jason Van Engen, Derek Rodeberg, Tanner Lindemann, Ricky Schmitz, Jackson Lovsness and Dylan Abraham) working along the roads, they are inspecting our poles. This inspection and treatment program extends the life of the poles for additional years of service.

**Minnesota Valley
will be closed on
Friday, July 3rd
in observance of
Independence Day.**



MEMBER SERVICES • BOB WALSH

Member Services Manager



Let Congress Know How You Feel About EPA

Our front page story asks you to support the Ratepayer Protection Act that would put a hold on proposed EPA regulations for carbon dioxide emissions. The newly proposed legislation allows for a better review of the ruling that is scheduled to be handed down this summer. It asks that the implementation of EPA's Clean Power Plan be delayed until everyone has a chance to weigh the proposal's legality. We feel our members shouldn't have to be forced into measures that could surely raise electric rates across the nation.

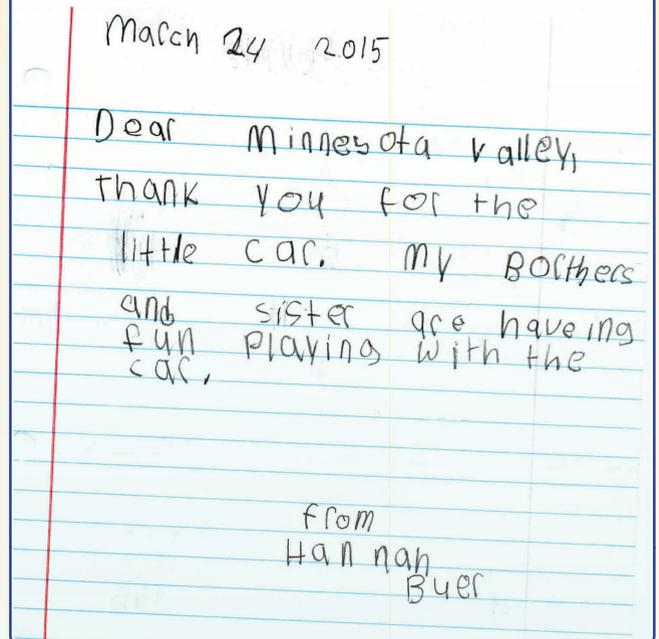
We thank Representative Collin Peterson for his support of the Ratepayer Protection Act and ask you to support it also. You can show that support by becoming part of the Cooperative Action Network www.action.coop. Logging on will help you to get a better understanding of what the Ratepayer Protection Act is all about and sending your message will allow you to have your voice heard. Please take action now!

Get Yourself a Bill Credit

If you install an electric heat pump between now and Labor Day, you can take advantage of our new bill crediting. You can earn 3,000 KWhs of credit per ton of air source heat pump that you install. That credit increases to 5,000 KWhs of credit for every ton of geothermal heat pump that you install. You can take advantage of a great offer and get some of your cooling and heating bill for free. For more information, contact your local heating contractor or the Member Services Department at Minnesota Valley Cooperative.

Remember to look for the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing appliances!

A Thank You Note from the Annual Meeting



Heating Bill Credit/ Heat Pump Offer

Earn a **Bill Credit** by installing a heat pump heating and cooling system at your home or business from now until Labor Day of 2015!

Don't miss out!

Did You Know?



- ❖ More than 85% of American households recognize the **ENERGY STAR** label.
- ❖ In 2013 alone, **ENERGY STAR** helped Americans reduce their utility bills by \$30 billion.
- ❖ In 2013 **ENERGY STAR** savings were equivalent to the total usage of 38 million homes.
- ❖ Since 1993, more than 4.8 billion **ENERGY STAR** labeled products have been sold.
- ❖ Americans purchased approximately 300 million **ENERGY STAR** certified products in 2013.
- ❖ There are more than 70 product categories for **ENERGY STAR**.

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