



MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Mid-Year Financials Show Minnesota Valley in Good Shape

We are just ahead of where we thought we would be financially through the first half of this year. We have a total margin of just over \$1 million through June, compared to a budgeted total margin of \$589,644. Energy sales are running higher than they were last year at this point. Operationally, like everyone else, we have been working in and around the rain. We are getting the maintenance projects completed that will assure the system continues operating the way it needs to. Financially and operationally, we are in good shape through mid-year.

Basin Tour Reminds Us of the Importance of Coal

A sure sign of summer for us at the co-op is the Basin Tour. We have the drawings for the Basin Tour each year at our District Caucus Meetings and our Annual Meeting. This year we had a snowstorm just ahead of the Annual Meeting and we could not fill a bus with enough eligible members who attended the meeting. We held a sign up and drawing after the Annual Meeting to fill the bus. The tour this year was once again a great success. For those of us who have been on the tour, when we now hear the words "Basin Electric," coal easily comes to mind.

Each summer the cooperative takes a busload of member-owners up to look at the coal mines and the mine-mouth power plants and the hydroelectric facilities on the Missouri River. The tour is designed to give our members a first-hand chance to witness the long journey electric power makes

from its origination as a 15 foot thick coal seam over 100 feet under the windswept prairie to the power outlet at their homes and farms. Additionally, the members on the Basin Tour are informed of our collective investments in alternative energy sources, such as wind. Minnesota Valley depends on coal to provide energy for approximately 65% of the electric energy you, as members, use through our Basin Electric. Additional energy comes from natural gas peaking stations and wind farms. The balance is hydropower from the Missouri River.

Contacts with Power Lines

Harvest is just around the corner; for those of you in production agriculture, you know how harried the season can get. Please take some time to discuss working safely around power lines with your family or those you will be working with to get the crop out and prep the land for next year's crop. Each year it seems there are more contacts with equipment and power lines. It is not just with Minnesota Valley, it is with all rural electrics across the country who serve power in production ag communities such as us.

So please, think about overhead power lines this fall. We don't care about having to rebuild a line knocked down by equipment - that is our job. What we do care about is someone getting injured or killed. It happens and it happens fast. Please be careful and have a great harvest season.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day.



Basin Tour Photos on Page 2

Antelope Valley
Creation

2018 Basin Tour

The 2018 Basin Tour trip included a tour of the Garrison Dam, a visit to the Antelope Valley Station and a trip into the world of coal mining at the Coteau Freedom Coal Mine. Along with all the fun, traveling and food, tour members learned “the story behind the switch”. It

is remarkable to learn what is actually involved in the process of bringing electricity into our lives.

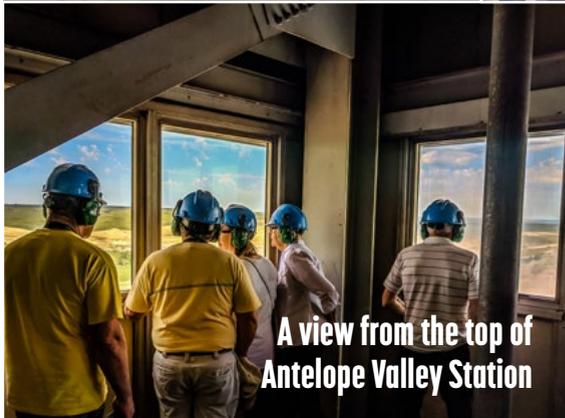
Make plans to attend next year’s tour. Anyone who has ever been there will tell you it’s an “enlightening” experience and a great way to spend three days!



Guided Tour of Antelope Valley Station



On-A-Slant Indian Village



A view from the top of Antelope Valley Station



Tour of the Custer House at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park



Find Your Location for a \$10 or \$20 Bill Credit!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If one of them is your number, you will receive a \$10 energy credit or \$20 if you are an Operation Round Up participant. Keep looking each month—it could be your number! If you find your number in the newsletter, call the office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Jun 2018	Jan-Jun 2017	Jan-Jun 1998
Kwh Purchased	114,126,932	102,427,945	66,642,856
Kwh Sold	107,818,610	97,236,476	62,239,631
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$5,289,775	\$4,851,076	\$2,047,838
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,022,596	\$273,188	\$(23,978)
Reserve For Taxes	\$137,500	\$137,500	\$207,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	46.35	47.36	30.73
	June '18	June '17	June '98
Total Plant	\$73,071,079	\$70,228,584	\$31,005,816
Number of Active Services	5,282	5,274	5,180
Average Residential Bill	\$208.81	\$178.39	\$100.19
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	1,639	1,513	1,236
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,806	2,633	1,684
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	30,710	28,650	22,046



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

Your cooperative continues to be busy during these summer months and this will continue into fall. The wet weather in June and July has hampered a lot of the projects that were scheduled for the crews. This causes work to get backed up and may result in a rush in the fall season. Harvest will be upon us and from here on, everyone will be in a hurry to get things done. As always, be cautious of power poles and anchors when turning around in the fields and during harvest and tillage.

The pole treater crew members have pretty much finished up for the season and are headed back to college. The number of poles that were treated this year and how many were rejected have not yet been tallied. G two twenty zero three As of the middle part of July,

they had tested 2,200 poles, with 51 of those poles being rejected due to rot, ants or mechanical damage.

Minnesota Valley Tree Service continues to cut trees in the northeast part of the system and there is no lack of trees for them to cut. As I have mentioned before, please allow them to cut as much as possible, even beyond the 10' clearance Minnesota Valley requires. Tree branches that Minnesota Valley crews come upon in the wires that they cut will be left in as neat a pile as possible. We do not have the equipment to haul them away or chop them up like the Tree Service. A few of the outages that we have had this year have been caused from tree branches or trees falling on the lines.

As always, be safe and enjoy the fall season.

Thank You



This year, I had the honor of being selected as Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association's Youth Tour delegate on a trip to Washington, D.C. This trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity! I had so much fun getting to know the other delegates from around Minnesota and meeting delegates from other states. While on the trip, we stayed in a hotel and were chartered around the city to our destinations. We got to visit the iconic monuments and memorials, the Smithsonian museums, the White House and much more. One of my favorite things we got to do was attend a live musical called "The Scottsboro Boys." The whole trip was such an enjoyable experience for me and, thanks to my co-op, was completely paid for. I highly recommend that anyone who is eligible should apply!

-Mckenna Nelson





Member Services Manager

The Scammers are at it Again

Scammers don't take summer vacations. Reported efforts to rip off consumers have been picking up in recent months at electric cooperatives across the country, including one making claims of incorrect meter readings and another citing invalid checks.

Nebraska's Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District stated some members have been getting calls that the meter reading has been wrong for a few months and that they need your address to send you a check. What the scammers really planned to do with the addresses was not known. In neighboring Colorado, La Plata Electric Association says someone claiming to be from the co-op is calling members, saying the payment check they sent wasn't valid and they need to give a credit or debit card on the spot to keep the lights on. "The scammers called members late in the afternoon, which is apparently part of the now traditional scam to panic them. Of course our consumer-members do not want to be without electricity overnight," said Ron Meier, LPEA manager of engineering and member services.



At Minnesota Valley, we urge you to be aware of any contacts made by people claiming to be from our office. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be with Minnesota Valley that seems suspicious, don't give any personal or financial information. J three seventeen zero two A Also, we would never ask for a pre-paid card to pay your bill—that is what many scammers ask for in their calls! Instead, hang up and call us at the office phone number printed on your bill or listed below.

At certain times, we have to contact our consumers for various reasons to gather information or verify meter readings. This is part of our daily routine, but if at any time you feel uncomfortable or suspicious, we urge you to tell the Minnesota Valley employee that you will call them back. Then ask for their name and hang up. Do not ask them for a phone number, but rather call us back on a published Minnesota Valley number (800.247.5051 or 320.269.2163) to assure yourself that it was indeed us calling.

We have not experienced any scamming telephone calls in our area recently, but there is always a possibility that it could happen. Please protect yourself from the people who love to prey on utility consumers.

Don't TOY with your SAFETY

Watch out for these...

...when playing with these.



When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.

- Never fly kites or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call Minnesota Valley REC.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line.

Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
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