



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Déjà Vu All Over Again

Back in 2007, Minnesota Governor Pawlenty signed a law banning new coal fired generation from being used to make electrons for use in Minnesota whether or not they were made in Minnesota. It was called the Next Generation Energy Act of 2007. This created an obvious problem for electric utilities whose job is to provide reliable and affordable electric power to the homes and businesses in Minnesota. For electric cooperatives, about 60% of our electrons are generated by coal fired power plants. For us in the Basin Electric family, back in 2007 we were right in the middle of building a new state of the art coal fired plant near Gillette, Wyoming. Some of the electrons from this new coal-fired plant were coming to Minnesota. The physics of electrons flowing on the interconnected grid in this region would assure this state statute or not.

Most of the electric cooperatives in Minnesota and the Dakotas kept on our Minnesota legislators to rethink this statute. We argued that we needed our baseload coal fired plants for reliability primarily. When gas is constrained, the wind isn't blowing, the sun isn't shining and it is 30 below in this region if coal fired power plants

are not running, the lights will go out. People will lose their lives. Secondly, affordable energy in Minnesota was at risk. The Next Generation Energy Act required that 25% of your power generation would come from renewable energy by 2025. After Pawlenty, both houses brought companion legislation to removing the coal ban to Governor Dayton, he would never sign.

Our Basin Electric, along with several other like-minded parties, got behind the State of North Dakota who filed suit in Federal District Court. Our primary argument had nothing to do with coals reliability and affordability. We argued this law violated the interstate commerce clause of the United States Constitution. Minnesota's Ban on Coal was Ruled Unconstitutional in U.S. District Court of Minnesota in late April of 2014.

Governor Walz signed into law the zero-carbon by 2040 law of which it is better known as the Blackout Bill in February of 2023. North Dakota again, with our full support, will sue Minnesota. In about 7 years, we fully expect to get a ruling striking down the Blackout Bill as it will again have violated the

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5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

- 1) **NOTIFY**
Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.
- 2) **WAIT**
Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.
- 3) **CONFIRM**
Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.
- 4) **RESPECT**
Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.
- 5) **DIG CAREFULLY**
If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides), consider moving your project location.



Manager's Message (continued from page 1)

commerce clause of the United States Constitution despite a few clever word changes. In the meantime, the price for your electricity will continue to rise sharply along with your risk of rolling blackouts.

We continue to rebuild and improve our transmission and distribution facilities, including the substations. All to provide you with not only the best quality power, but the most reliable. When we look at where we are going as a state and a nation with our energy policy, we fully understand all of our efforts cannot thwart the blackouts that are coming with the forced retirement of our national coal, gas and nuclear power generation fleet. The blind march toward so called carbon free generation will hit a wall one not so distant day. Rolling blackouts will precede complete blackouts. No matter what the renewable energy industry, the politicians and carbon free crowd say in an attempt assure you to the contrary. They cannot stop what is coming. Only when the citizenry has had enough of the blackouts will the pendulum start to swing the other way. Only then, will reliable 24/7/365 power be restored with coal, nuclear and gas generating facilities.

Find Your Location Number and Receive a Credit to your Energy Bill!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!**

The bill credit will continue to roll over and accumulate until it is claimed. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at \$10. The current running amount is noted in each issue. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

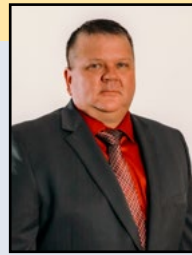


Find your number and claim by the 25th of April to receive a prize of:

\$10

Congratulations to Rodney Weber, who identified his number to receive \$10 off his energy bill plus an additional \$10 for being an Operation Round Up participant!

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS / ERIC WOLLSCHLAGER



Manager of Operations

As of the middle of March, the winter weather continues to hang on. Last month's weather wasn't too tough on the system as far as outages go. Some ice on the lines and windy conditions caused some galloping of the wires and a couple line outages down in the Minneota area on March 6th.

Pole change outs from this year's line patrol are being worked on as weather cooperates. This year's snow amounts have made it slow going for crews and most of the digger work has to be done with the track unit. J three thirty-one zero one Linemen also continue with line patrol and overhead line maintenance.

Karian Peterson continues with work on the Minneota transmission line. Stringing in new conductor has been the job for the last few months. They are now in the process of getting ready to set new laminated switch poles. These poles are engineered and designed specifically for each application. These switch poles have electric motor operators on them and are designed to be operated by hand on site or remotely from the office.



Minnesota Valley R.E.C. will be accepting applications for the summer Pole Treating Crew until April 14th, 2023. Applications are available at the Minnesota Valley office or on our website, www.mnvalleyrec.com.



2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

The selection committee for the Minnesota Valley/Basin Scholarship met on Thursday, February 16th and made a selection for the scholarship. Members of the committee were: Barb Holien, Robin Olson, Vicki Sandberg and Darryl Bursack. J three thirty zero two Since the committee felt there were many exceptionally strong candidates again this year, they elected to split the scholarship and award \$500 to four students. The students selected are:



Kara Rangaard will graduate from the Canby High School in 2023. Kara is the daughter of Amanda and Jeremy Rangaard. Kara will be attending Alexandria Technical and Community College studying Business Management and Interior Design.



Kate Hennen will graduate from the Minneota High School this spring. Kate is the daughter of Laura and Martin Hennen. Kate will be attending the University of North Dakota for Nursing.



Meg Wanke is the daughter of Beth and Jake Wanke and will graduate from Montevideo High School in 2023. Meg will be attending the University of Minnesota studying Retail Merchandising.



Grace Pauling is the daughter of Becky and Jamie Pauling. Grace will graduate this spring from the Montevideo High School and will be attending South Dakota State University studying Business Economics.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Feb 2023	Jan-Feb 2022	Jan-Feb 2003
Kwh Purchased	44,417,414	48,852,113	29,247,485
Kwh Sold	42,029,576	46,472,871	27,251,276
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$1,896,754	\$2,104,818	\$719,371
Patronage Capital Margins	\$356,272	\$501,390	\$249,233
Reserve For Taxes	\$48,000	\$42,834	\$38,268
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	42.70	43.95	24.60
	February '23	February '22	February '03
Total Plant	\$91,914,537	\$86,509,464	\$35,025,931
Number of Active Services	5,318	5,316	5,219
Avg. Residential Bill	\$269.96	\$270.44	\$129.72
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,705	2,956	2,015
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,738	4,057	2,470
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	41,591	44,333	27,413

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.



Know what's **below**.
Call before you dig.

Source:
energy.gov





Member Services Manager

Double Rebate Days

There is many reasons why you should put in a heat pump. Those reasons are higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. Well, from now through all of this summer, we will DOUBLE the rebates given for the installation of an air to air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump. That makes an already attractive heating system look that much better.

These rebates will run from **May 1st, 2023** through **Labor Day**

(September 4th, 2023). That will give you all summer to take advantage of this great offer. The system needs to be a new installation and placed in service between the dates stated above and certain size limitations apply. That will give you all summer to take advantage of the great benefits of a heat pump system along with the double rebate offer. Please contact the Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for more information.

Don't let this great offer slip away!

Summer DOUBLE REBATE Days



From **May 1st – September 4th, 2023** we are offering **double rebates** on air source or geothermal heat pumps! Call Member Services at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 today!

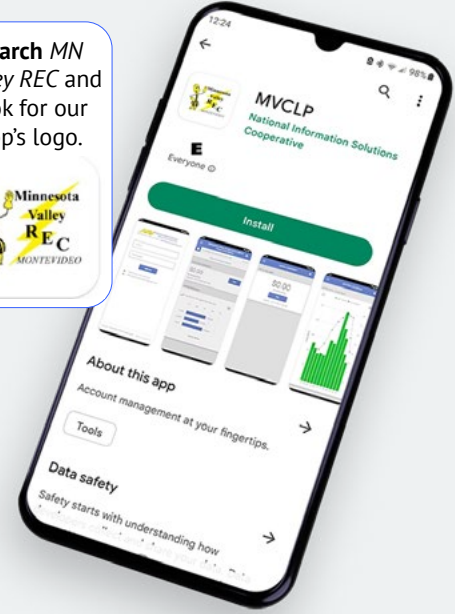
MVCLP APP & Online Account Access Keeps You Informed

As our customers, you want convenient account access and detailed information about your use. Put the power of data in your hands with mobile and web apps. You can have the tools you need to manage your account. **Online Account Access** on the website gives you the ability to manage an account anytime, anywhere on the Web. Just click on the *Online Account Access* button located at the top of the our website at www.mnvalleyrec.com. You can also access on a mobile device using the MVCLP App. You have the option to pay a bill, check account usage, report service issues and contact our office right at your fingertips. You can gain a better understanding of energy use.

The home screen provides an overview of account information with the next amount due and your total balance. Any alerts, such as notification of a delinquent bill, are displayed here as well. There are many links on the screen that allow you to quickly navigate to various sections of the application such as, to make a payment, view usage view billing and payment information

Online Account Access/MVCLP bill payment and transaction environment is designed with the latest security features available, giving you the comfort of knowing any time your bill is paid, the transaction will be safe and sound.

Search MN Valley REC and look for our app's logo.



How to Get the App

- 1) Download the app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store by searching for "MN VALLEY REC" or "MVCLP" (*not case sensitive*). If duplicates appear, our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative, provides the correct app.
- 2) Select the *New User* link.
- 3) Enter your account information and choose *Register*.
- 4) A temporary password will be sent to the email address you provide.
- 5) When you receive the email, click the login link and use the temporary password.
- 6) Change your password and choose *Continue* to access the MVCLP app.

Scan one of the QR codes below with your mobile device for your app store.



Google Play Store



Apple App Store

Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
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Minnesota Valley Co-op News

Published monthly by:
Minnesota Valley Cooperative
Light and Power Association

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www.mnvalleyrec.com

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