



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Tree Trimming is Key in Keeping Your Lights On

One of the most effective maintenance things we do is trim trees away from power lines. In severe weather, it really helps us keep your lights on at Minnesota Valley. We have about 3,287

miles of line and all but 412 miles of it is overhead. If trees grow close to or into power lines, they can fill with wet snow or ice and either knock lines out or to the ground. Trees in full foliage catch more wind and again can knock lines out or to the ground. Repairing and rebuilding lines because of tree problems can increase outage time a great deal.

We all cherish our trees and sometimes have a hard time seeing them trimmed back for power lines. Please weigh that sentiment against being out of power. If you let our guys trim the way they are supposed to, we will have a better chance of keeping your power reliable. Our Minnesota Valley Tree Service takes care of keeping our lines clear of trees. They are professionals who know trees and will do their best to make sure that they take only what they feel is necessary to keep the lines clear for about four years of growth. As a practice, we try and maintain a 20-foot plus path for our power lines. If we don't take enough off when we are on site, we will simply have to be back before our scheduled rotation and that is not cost effective.

This year we are working in the northwest quarter of our project. Presently, it has taken us 4 years and 4 months to make the rotation. We shoot for 4 years. We

appreciate you allowing Minnesota Valley Tree Service to cut what they need to keep lines clear. If we all work together, we can keep outages and costs associated with them to a minimum.

Financials in Good Shape

Year to date, energy sales are up about 4% of where we were last year through April and slightly ahead of what we had budgeted to sell. Our total margin for the year to date is slightly above budget at \$269,129. Our operating margin is slightly below the budget of \$106,458 at \$81,015. The operating margin tells us if this year's revenue from our retail rates is covering this year's costs and they are. Anyway, we think we are in pretty good shape financially going into summer.

Upgrading Your Service

If you are planning to add load that might require a service upgrade, please give us a call so we can help you prepare. We try to plan as far out as we can and like to be as punctual as we can. Longer lead times help us to schedule more efficiently, which helps everyone get what they need on time. If you are looking into a large load addition such as a new grain drying system, get ahold of us early so we can prepare to be able to provide the power you will need to run your new system. Many times, we have members contact us after they have purchased a new drying system and they are surprised to find out that we have to make some major investments on our side of the line to provide the power to make their new system work. We just want you to be aware of this.

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)



**Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed
Friday, July 4th for Independence Day.**



Oh, and by the way, if you are upgrading your service for a new home or shop, make sure you size it to include room for adding electric heat. Our dual heat rate and electric heat rates are 4.6 and 5 cents per kwh respectively. The dual heat rate using straight resistance heat compares to \$1.11 propane run through a high efficiency furnace. An air source heat pump is twice as efficient as straight resistance heat. A ground water sourced heat pump is three times as efficient as straight resistance. Call our guys in Member Services for more information.

Did You Notice Capital Credit Allocation?

You should have received capital credit allocation information on your last billing statement. If you have any questions about what this means, give us a call. Your statement should tell you what your share of the margin from fiscal year 2024 is as well as what is in your allocation account balance back to 2013.

The total unpaid allocation to date represents your share of about \$33 million of accumulated patronage capital over the past 13 years. It is your money that we are using to make improvements in your electric utility. If your cooperative continues to be successful, and there is no reason to believe otherwise, it will all eventually be repaid to you.

Your board is doing its job of making the investment in your cooperative electric utility to keep the system reliable while keeping rates reasonable while retiring capital credits. The electric utility business is very capital intensive. Therefore, in order to make continued investments in your system, we need to hang on to your money longer than other types of cooperative businesses. However, I want you to know that your board at Minnesota Valley has always been committed to retiring capital. We are paid out to our members through 40% of 2013 on a first in first out method. Over the past 25 years, we have been able to shave some time off on how quickly we have been able to retire capital credits. We are currently paying out on about a 13-year rotation as compared to a 17-year rotation.

As a member of Minnesota Valley, when you pay your light bill, you are buying good service and competitively priced electricity. You are also being allocated your share of any margins that accumulate each year that will eventually be returned to you as cash after a period of time.

Thanks for your business and have a great summer!

June is Dairy Month: Thank Our Local Farmers

June is Dairy Month, a perfect time to appreciate our local dairy farmers. Dairy farming is an important part of our community's livelihood and economy. Despite long hours, harsh weather and unpredictable prices, they show up every day—milking cows, maintaining equipment and keeping their farms running.

At the cooperative, we are proud to provide the electricity needed for their daily tasks. We recognize and value their dedication.

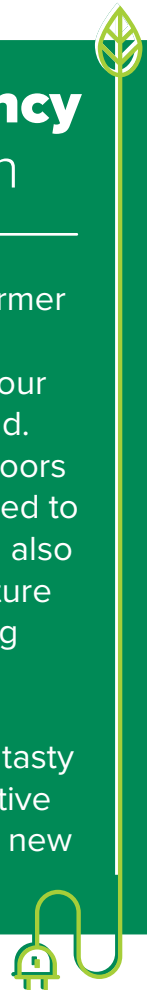
This June, let's thank our dairy farmers for their hard work and commitment. They deserve it.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov



Find Your Location Number

If you find your location number in this newsletter, you will receive a bill credit that starts at \$10 (*Operation Round Up participants get an additional \$10 bonus*). If no number is claimed before the 25th of the month, the unclaimed amount *rolls over into the next month*. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, we will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



Comparative Report

	Jan-Apr 2025	Jan-Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2005
Kwh Purchased	84,811,015	81,121,082	55,434,841
Kwh Sold	80,948,878	77,219,462	51,781,963
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$4,500,770	\$3,857,679	\$1,377,287
Patronage Capital Margins	\$269,129	\$307,843	\$344,876
Reserve For Taxes	\$113,332	\$88,000	\$58,400
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	53.07	47.90	24.85
	April '25	April '24	April '05
Total Plant	\$109,344,010	\$100,261,478	\$39,001,019
Number of Active Services	5,315	5,298	5,222
Avg. Residential Bill	\$223.79	\$205.30	\$101.71
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,651	1,659	1,369
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,011	2,975	1,928
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	32,701	31,364	19,988

Congratulations to Michael Anhalt who found his number last month and received \$20 (plus \$10 for being an Operation Round Up participant)! If you find your number, claim by the 25th of June to be eligible for:



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // TODD BOLKEMA

Engineering & Operations Manager



Our new transmission line on County Highway 24 near Madison is moving along. We installed the poles this winter, except for those in the slough where we are patiently waiting for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources public waters crossing license. In the meantime, we are installing the 69 kilovolt switch poles at the Madison Substation and at County Highway 24 and 141st Ave. The pole at 141st Ave. (pictured) is 87½ feet tall and weighs about 28,000 lbs. – so large and heavy it came in two pieces and is assembled on site. It is set 22½ feet into the ground. It will have nine switches mounted to it and be an important junction point between Rosen Substation, Madison Substation and our delivery point in Gary, SD.

We poured the concrete foundations for the new Torvik Substation in the northeast side of the service area. The foundations will support the transformer, regulators and

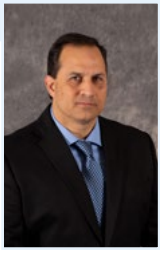
steel framework that is installed in the future. The steel framework has foundations that are 12 to 18 feet deep.

Over the next few months, you may see crews from Michels Power Inc. working on our lines. They are here to straighten poles that remain tipped from the 2022 storms. M two thirteen zero one The process of documenting leaning poles, applying for reimbursement from FEMA, receiving approval and then bidding out the work has been a long one. We are looking forward to getting our system straightened up.

We are also bringing back our pole inspecting crews. There will be six high school guys helping us inspect the condition of our poles this summer. The crew will consist of Carter Malstrom, Noah Erickson, Alex Rodeberg, Carson Spray, Ben Dehne and James Seeman. They are tasked with doing an above and below ground inspection of around 6,000 poles this summer.



MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH



Member Services Manager

Heat Pump Promotion

The main reasons for installing a heat pump are higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, 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, 2025 through September 1st, 2025. 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 all of the great benefits of a heat pump system along with the double rebate offer. Don't let this great offer slip away!

**DOUBLE
REBATES!**

BEST PRICE!

Summer Double Rebate Days

Now through Labor Day, we are offering **double rebates** on heat pumps! Call our Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 for more information!



Power Outages and Home Standby Generators

Whether it is the result of the heat of summer, freezing cold of winter, high winds or severe storms, being without power can be devastating. Power outages are unpredictable and can be costly for any home owner. Without electricity, basements can flood, security systems can fail and food can spoil. For people with medical problems, being without power can be especially dangerous. When your power does go out there are certain steps, precautions and preparations you can take to make that time less troubling. AA three twenty-eight zero four Knowing your

hazards could save your life and having an emergency storm safety kit could save you a lot of grief.

When it comes to weather, sometimes utility power outages can't be avoided, but the costs associated with them can be by installing a Generac automatic home standby generator. A home standby generator is an integral part of the preparedness planning process for homes and can greatly reduce disruption when power is interrupted. The home standby generator is permanently installed at a home, sitting outside like a central air conditioning unit and runs on natural gas or liquid propane to automatically deliver power to the home's electrical system. A standby generator provides added protection by ensuring your home is never without power which maintains operational efficiency of sump pumps, security systems, heating and cooling controls and other important appliances.

You can't put a price on the luxury of peace of mind. However, Minnesota Valley and Generac Power Systems have partnered together to offer its members a special deal. If you're interested in more information on Generac automatic home standby generators, contact the Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for more details.



Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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