



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH

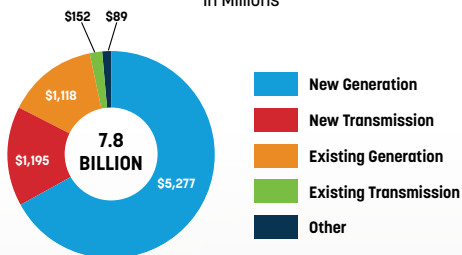


General Manager

### Significant Rate Increases for Next Year

Work is well underway on our work plan and associated budget for next year. We know at this point that we are facing significant wholesale power rate increases over the next few years. Basin Electric is building new power plants to meet member load growth and they are expensive. They will be spending about \$8 billion over 10 years on gas fired power plants and transmission line improvements. The Basin Board will finalize the rates at their meeting this month. Additionally, we have increased costs here locally to put into next year's retail rates. As you know, we are making serious investments in rebuilding our transmission line. We estimate our retail rates will go up by over 10% next year. We will be doing a cost-of-service study to ensure we are assigning costs equitably across our different rate classes. Anyway, we will have proposed rate adjustments for 2026 ready for the board to look at by the end of the year.

**BASIN ELECTRIC: 2025-2034 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**  
In Millions



### Please Think About our Power Poles When Burning Ditches

Burning ditches has caused much damage to expensive power poles over the years. Please be careful. If you do accidentally burn poles, please let us know so they can be replaced.

### October is Cooperative Month

As we move into October, it reminds us of the role cooperatives play in our lives, particularly in rural America. Cooperatives operating today in the U.S. number over 20,000 in many different business and service sectors. Cooperatives have thrived, in part, because the concept is so fundamental: people banding together to form an independent business entity to serve the needs of the collective membership. Cooperatives hold dear to solid core values which are not present in most other business models. These values are geared for the members and by the members we serve. Every member is part owner of this company. As a member-owner, you have a say. Your board members you elect are your neighbors and conduct your business in your best interest. We are self-regulated and our rates are set to cover operating costs and produce a margin. All of that margin is eventually retired and returned back to you in cash. The employees of your cooperative are right here working and living in your community. When the lights go out, they are right here to do what it takes to get them back on as quickly as they safely can.

## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // TODD BOLKEMA

### Engineering & Operations Manager



Minnesota Valley is one of 675 cooperatives that participate in NRECA's national safety program, RESAP. One part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program is a thorough facility inspection every three years - that is happening this September. Beyond this inspection, the larger purpose of RESAP is an ongoing effort to help co-ops and employees consistently ingrain strong work practices into everyday work, setting a standard to enable safer workplaces. I three two eight zero three Safety is about identifying risks and hazards and assigning controls, but it is also about creating a culture of safety. That starts with the commitment and engagement of our General Manager, the Operations Manager and extends to every employee here.

Providing safety gear and proper tools is important. Equally important is keeping safety top of mind every day. Our linemen pause for a safety tailgate when they are starting work at a jobsite. They take a few moments to identify hazards and mitigate any dangers of the work. There

are always dangers when you work with heavy machinery and high voltage. Every

Monday morning, we start with a group safety meeting where we discuss abnormal conditions and hazards on the system as well as a safety message for the week. If someone had a close call or sees a potential problem, we talk through it. We have a safety committee that meets quarterly to make safety policy updates and investigate any accidents. Our Job Procedure Manual is



reviewed yearly by the safety committee and a board member. Lastly, every three years we have RESAP.

The pole inspectors have inspected 10,650 poles with over 100 bad poles found. This is above the 6,000 I had as a goal for them. Typically, we have inspected around 3,300 per summer. The big change this summer was the result of changing the process so we dig on two sides of the pole and test with a screwdriver and hammer rather than digging all around it. We are not installing a wrap around the poles like we have in the past. The expectation is that we will reduce outages due to broken poles by inspecting, finding and replacing more bad poles each summer. I would like to thank our pole inspectors Carter Malstrom, Noah Erickson, Alex Rodeberg, Carson Spray, Ben Dehne and James Seeman. They worked very hard this summer to strengthen our grid.

Since May, Michels Power Inc. crews have been working on our lines. They are here to straighten poles that remain tipped from the 2022 storms. They have two three-man crews working on straightening poles this summer. There have been several broken poles, downguys out of line and other conditions that they found in the field and reported - see the pole they found rotted below the ground surface. Our guys have been following up with repairs and replacements.



## 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

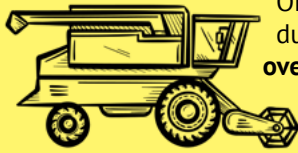
	Jan-Jul 2025	Jan-Jul 2024	Jan-Jul 2005
Kwh Purchased	136,699,347	131,972,035	91,539,482
Kwh Sold	129,556,854	125,317,628	85,232,919
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$7,698,758	\$6,698,154	\$2,416,298
Patronage Capital Margins	\$792,535	\$1,008,627	\$317,032
Reserve For Taxes	\$198,331	\$154,000	\$102,200
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	56.32	50.95	26.40
	July '25	July '24	July '05
Total Plant	\$110,175,770	\$101,443,742	\$39,821,142
Number of Active Services	5,321	5,308	5,254
Avg. Residential Bill	\$285.68	\$243.62	\$129.07
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,855	1,750	1,731
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,376	3,267	2,388
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	34,448	33,582	26,311

Congratulations to Rick Hewitt who found his number last month and received \$10 (plus \$10 for being an Operation Round Up participant)! If you find your number, claim by the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to be eligible for:



## Look Up, Slow Down: Safety Reminders for Fall

As fall arrives, it brings both the busy harvest season and the return of students to school. That means more large equipment on the roads, longer hours in the fields and the need for extra caution while driving.



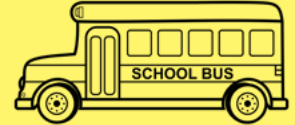
One of the most serious risks during harvest is **contact with overhead power lines or poles.**

Tall equipment can come dangerously close if operators aren't paying attention. Always

look up and check the clearance before moving equipment, especially when entering and exiting fields. Even a small mistake near a power line can cause severe injury,

fire or outages. Staying mindful of your surroundings and planning equipment routes can prevent accidents.

Roads are also busier this time of year with **school buses and students going to school.** Watching for children at bus stops, respecting bus stop arms and slowing down in school zones are simple steps that keep everyone safe. Parents can also remind young drivers that harvest traffic requires extra patience and awareness.



With a little extra care and attention, this fall season can be both productive and safe for all.

## Cold Weather Rule

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) helps protect and reconnect your heat from October 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. CWR protection is for residential customers only. All electric and natural gas companies must offer CWR protection. Different types of payment plans are available, depending on your household income. If you are having trouble keeping up with your winter heating bills, contact Minnesota Valley to sign up for a CWR payment plan. CWR protection ends on April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you still owe on your bill on April 30<sup>th</sup>, you may ask to continue your payment plan.

### Can my heat be shut off in the winter?

YES. You must make and keep a CWR payment plan with your electric utility to receive protection between October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. This is true for all residential customers, including senior citizens and families with young children. Payment plans can be established at any time during the CWR season. If the payment plan is broken, the electric company is not required to offer additional arrangements. If you are unable to agree on a payment amount, you may request an appeal from your electric company.

### How do I sign up?

Contact your electric company and request a CWR payment plan. Once you make and keep a CWR payment plan, the utility will turn on your heat. As long as you make your payments, you are protected until April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### What if I can't make my scheduled payment?

If you can't make your payments, call your utility immediately to make a new CWR payment plan. If you do not make your payments, your service may be shut off.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

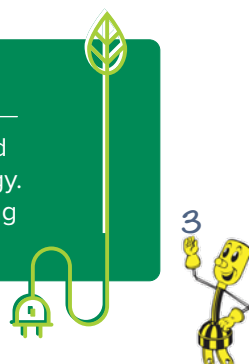
To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint](http://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Take advantage of the *shoulder months*—those periods of mild weather between peak heating and cooling seasons. With less need for your furnace or air conditioner, it's a perfect time to save energy. Stay comfortable by opening windows for ventilation, using ceiling fans to circulate air and adjusting clothing layers throughout the day.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)





## MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH



Member Services Manager


### Furnace Inspections

It is that time of the year again. With the heating season upon us, it is time to take a serious look at your heating system. Many of us just turn up the thermostat and expect the furnace

to work and that may be the case. The problem with that being that many of our furnaces have not been properly serviced for quite some time. This lack of preventative maintenance could be costing you money. There are many things that could be robbing you of the full potential of every heating dollar.

You may need to arrange for a technician in some instances if you have furnace operation issues. Contact the Minnesota Valley Cooperative Member Services Department since a complete furnace inspection usually requires a professional technician. Call and arrange for a qualified technician to schedule a furnace inspection. Our three two one zero one Annual tune-ups have as an important a value for furnaces as they do for cars. We would be happy to schedule your service work. Contact us at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

**We're extending our double rebates for an additional month!** Get your **double rebates** on a heat pump before October 1st! **Call our Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 today!**



**DOUBLE  
REBATES  
DEADLINE  
EXTENDED!**

#### 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](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com)

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Montevideo, MN 56265

# NOTICE

## Make Sure Your Heat Meter is On

Minnesota Valley would like to remind all members on either our *electric* or *dual heat* rates, that the power must be turned on to your heat meter for it to operate properly. If the meter does not have power, you will not be getting your heat usage at a discounted rate. All electric heat installations have power supplied to the heat meter from your electrical service. If that meter power has been turned off, all of the kWhs that are used for heat **will be at our higher general rate.**

Please turn on your electric heat power and verify that your meter is operating. The meter is operating correctly if the **electronic display is lit up.** Failure to verify that your meter is powered up may result in a higher electric bill than normal.

Make sure this display is lit up.

