



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Annual Meeting

We had a great crowd of members and friends at the Prairie's Edge Casino near Granite Falls for our Annual Meeting this past month.

We had a breakfast buffet served from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The business meeting started at 10:00 and concluded in about an hour and 40 minutes. We gave bucket rides to any adults and kids who wanted one before, during and after the business meeting, which they all seemed to enjoy—especially with the great weather. We had door prizes, giveaways and drew for a busload of members to go on the Basin Tour. All in all, we think it was an enjoyable morning. For those of you who came to spend time with us...thank you! Next year's meeting date is Saturday, April 3, 2027 at the Lac qui Parle High School. If you have never been to one, hopefully you will plan on it next year. It is your business and your meeting and we do our best to make it enjoyable for you.

Construction Underway

The mostly pleasant winter allowed us to get to work on the planned construction projects for the year. The roads and ditches firmed up early, which allows us to work without causing damage to them as we rebuild line. We have a good amount of construction and maintenance projects to complete this year, so it is good to be off and running.

Have a great spring!



ANNUAL MEETING



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // TODD BOLKEMA



Engineering & Operations Manager

We are in the middle of our 2025-2028 Construction Work Plan. Over the last year, we have completed Torvik Substation, built 11.2 miles of new transmission line and rebuilt five miles of transmission line. While 2026 will include some transmission work, there will be more distribution line rebuilds. We have 12 line rebuilds planned – ranging from 0.3-mile to 3.5-mile sections.

There are three wire types that we are targeting for replacement: amerductor, copper and steel. They were all installed decades ago and either have lower strength in storms or lower ability to carry electrical load. Amerductor is a steel-copper composite conductor first produced in the 1940s. It is no longer available and was installed with very wide pole spacing leading to more outages. Copper has excellent qualities for carrying electricity, but small diameter copper tends to get brittle and break more frequently during storm conditions. Steel wire is very strong, but heavy, and it has a much lower electricity carrying capacity, so it can lead to lower service voltages in areas farther from the substation.

Most utilities now choose aluminum wire for overhead installations. It offers the best balance between cost and performance. For the same size wire, aluminum can carry 63% as much electricity as copper and it weighs 30% of what the copper does. When you factor in that copper is roughly four times the cost of aluminum, you can see why utilities choose aluminum. Aluminum has a lower material strength than copper, but manufacturers have added strands of galvanized steel to the aluminum making it stronger to handle ice and wind storms. This steel reinforced aluminum wire has been the default choice for utilities in recent decades; we will be using it for our overhead construction work plan projects.



Our linemen have been working on a three-mile section of line near Minneota. They are installing 4/0 steel reinforced aluminum wire that is 0.563 inches in diameter. There are three wires and an additional neutral on that line. G two one six zero three H In the picture, you can see that old line tipped out of the way and still energized while the new line is being pulled in on rollers. Our yellow trucks will be out there replacing lines this summer so we can keep our grid strong and reliable.

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

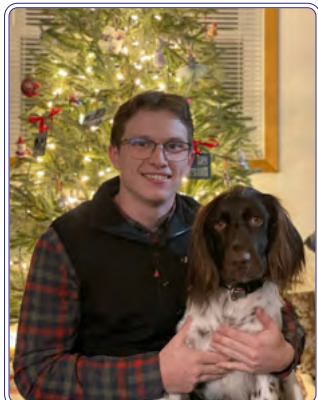
	Jan-Feb 2026	Jan-Feb 2025	Jan-Feb 2006
Kwh Purchased	47,460,810	49,027,495	34,862,774
Kwh Sold	45,200,879	46,821,375	32,716,567
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$2,649,629	\$2,484,012	\$873,649
Patronage Capital Margins	\$667,871	\$330,643	\$170,328
Reserve For Taxes	\$71,667	\$56,666	\$29,200
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	55.83	50.67	25.06
	February '26	February '25	February '06
Total Plant	\$114,637,745	\$108,599,871	\$41,201,579
Number of Active Services	5,331	5,312	5,251
Avg. Residential Bill	\$306.33	\$307.13	\$132.84
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,368	2,885	3,160
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,792	4,165	3,094
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	42,456	47,573	33,232

No one found their number last month, so we are rolling that amount over to this month! If you find your number, claim by the 25th of April for:



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

The selection committee for the Minnesota Valley/Basin Scholarship met on Thursday, February 19, 2026 and made a selection for the scholarship. Members of the committee were: Robin Olson, Vicki Sandberg, Mark Sweno and Don Fernholz. Since the committee felt there were many exceptionally strong candidates again this year, it elected to split the scholarship and award \$1,000 to four students. The students selected are:



Ethan Spors graduated from New London Spicer and is attending Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls, SD and part time at the St. Cloud St. University. Ethan is the son of Kevin and Julie Spors. Ethan plans to become a Licensed Professional Land Surveyor.



Gabrielle Augeson will graduate from Montevideo High School this spring. Gabrielle is the daughter of Shane and Stacy Augeson. Gabrielle will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Gabrielle's goal is to become a Certified Physician Assistant specializing in Pediatrics.



Cash Antony is the son of Ron and Barb Antony. Cash will graduate from Canby High School in 2026. Cash will be attending Minnesota West Community College in Granite Falls to pursue his degree in becoming a Lineman.



Dustin Schlenner is the son of Carla and Tim Schlenner. Dustin will graduate this spring from the Lakeview Public School and will be attending South Dakota State University and majoring in Ag System Technology.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

1) NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online at [GOPHERSTATEONECALL.ORG](https://gopherstateonecall.org) 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

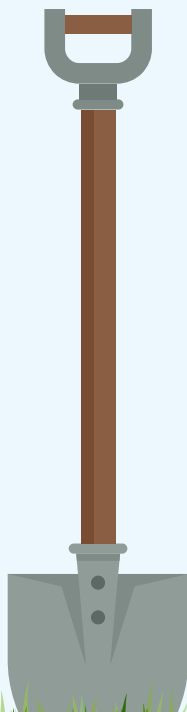
Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.

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.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.



MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH



Member Services Manager

Double Rebate Days

There are 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, 2026 through Labor Day (September 7th, 2026). That will give you all summer to take advantage of this great offer. N two two four zero three C 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.

Equipment Loans

Minnesota Valley offers 5% financing for electric heating/cooling equipment. Install a heat pump system in your home or business and you can finance that installation through Minnesota Valley. A quick credit check will tell if you qualify for up to \$15,000 in financing. Loan terms can be for up to 7 years. We also offer financing for energy efficiency building upgrades, standby generators and wiring upgrade loans. The whole process is quite simple and turnaround time is quick. 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!



Get **double rebates** on air source or geothermal heat pumps! Call Member Services at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 today!



Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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Basin Tour Drawing

Everyone is encouraged to sign up for the Basin Tour drawing—even those who have previously attended.

If you have never been on the Basin Tour **OR** if you have previously attended the Basin Tour and would like the opportunity to go again, please fill out the form below and then drop it off at the office. We will randomly draw names from those interested in attending.

The Basin Tour will be held July 20th-22nd, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Sand at 320.269.2163.

BASIN TOUR DRAWING SIGN UP

I have been on the Basin Tour

☐

I have never been on the Basin Tour

☐

Name

Address

Telephone Number

