Minnesota Valley Co-op News
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Manager's Message // Pat Carruth

General Manager

Ratepayer Protection Pledge

As we have mentioned over the past few years, we are running out of baseload generation for keeping the lights on in our homes and businesses. We, Basin Electric, are building power plants to serve those shortfalls for our members' future needs. We are also building power plants to serve new data center loads. Data centers are being treated differently than our existing members in that they are paying the full cost of their share of any new power plant that would need to be constructed to serve them upfront. For example, a 100-megawatt data plant would have to give us $270 million up front for us to build for them. It would also be 7 years before we could get that resource built for them and we would have to buy power on the market for them in the meantime, if available. When the new power plant is completed, we would own the resource even though they paid for it up front. We would continue to sell them power as a separate class of members.

We are keeping the costs of serving data centers, artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency facilities separate from your costs of providing you with electric service. We, and most utilities in this country, are doing our best not to let these big power users drive up your energy costs more than necessary.

Through our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Trump Administration has requested electric cooperatives across the country sign on to what is known as the *Ratepayer Protection Pledge*. The pledge was introduced in March and signed by numerous technology companies. We, as well as many other electric cooperatives across the nation, will sign the symbolic pledge. As cooperatives, we believe that data center developers must cover all of the costs of these projects, including the generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure needed to serve these new facilities. That is an essential step to protect our existing member-owners.

The *Ratepayer Protection Pledge* reads as follows:

> America's continued economic and technological leadership depends on reliable, large-scale data center infrastructure built here at home. Data center infrastructure is the foundation of the internet, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence (AI), and supports our economic and national security. As that infrastructure grows and the related electricity demand increases, the American people should not be footing the bill for the benefit of private companies. Instead, the data center boom should be leveraged to address affordability and benefit all American households and businesses.
>
> President Trump is calling on the leading United States hyperscalers and AI companies to build, bring, or buy all of the energy needed for building and operating data centers, paying the full cost of their energy and infrastructure, no matter what.

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)

2026 Basin Tour Photos *(more details on page 2)*

Manager's Message (continued from page 1)

As part of the Ratepayer Protection Pledge, companies agree to protect American consumers from price hikes due to data center energy and infrastructure requirements, and lower electricity costs for consumers in the long term, including by:

1. Building, Bringing, or Buying New Power Supply

- WHAT: Companies will build, bring, or buy the new generation resources and electricity needed to satisfy their new energy demands, paying the full cost of those resources whether by building, or buying from, new or otherwise additive power plants. Where possible, these companies will also add more capacity that serves the broader public by increasing supply.
- WHY: This advances self-sufficiency and protects Americans from higher prices.

2. Paying for New Power Delivery Infrastructure Upgrades

- WHAT: Companies will pay for all new power delivery infrastructure upgrades required to service their data centers, including adequate network upgrade costs to ensure that these expenses are not passed on to the ordinary household.
- WHY: This way, data centers can benefit all ratepayers and the grid.

3. Paying Whether They Use the Power or Not

- WHAT: Companies will voluntarily negotiate new, separate rate structures with their utilities and relevant State governments wherever they build data centers. Importantly, they will pay these rates for the power and related infrastructure that are brought online to service their data centers, whether they use the electricity or not.
- WHY: This will protect the American people from increased utility bills as a result of the development of these data centers.

4. Investing in Local Job Creation and Workforce Development

- WHAT: Companies will invest in the local communities in which they build data centers. This includes hiring from within the local community and establishing programs to develop relevant skills.
- WHY: This allows all American workers to benefit from the oncoming technological boom at every step from construction to operation.

5. Contributing to Electric and Community Resilience

- WHAT: Companies will coordinate with grid operators to contribute to a more reliable grid and, whenever possible, make available their backup generation resources at times of scarcity to prevent blackouts and power shortages in their communities.
- WHY: Consumers will benefit from enhanced grid resilience from data center power resources in times of emergency.

Basin Tour Reminds Us of the Importance of Coal

Each summer, the cooperative takes a busload of member-owners to Bismarck, North Dakota to look at the coal mines and the mine-mouth power plants and the hydroelectric facilities on the Missouri River. We have the drawings for the Basin Tour each year at our District Caucus Meetings and our Annual Meetings. 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 mandated collective investments in not always available or intermittent non-firm energy sources, such as wind and solar.

Minnesota Valley depends on coal to provide energy for about 35% of the always available electric energy, electric power that is available 24/7/365. Always available natural gas electric power generation provides about 20%. The balance of your electric energy through our Basin Electric is hydropower and again, when available, wind and solar.

Have a great rest of the summer!

2026 BASIN TOUR

The 2026 Basin Tour gave members an inside look at how the electricity they depend on every day is generated and delivered. Along the way, participants enjoyed time together while visiting the facilities and meeting the people behind the power. The experience offered a firsthand look at the planning and teamwork required to provide safe, reliable electricity throughout the year.

Engineering & Operations // Todd Bolkema

Engineering & Operations Manager

Please be aware of, and careful around, high voltage power lines. Electric utilities do a good job of communicating these hazards to the public, but wildlife does not get the message. Every year we remove squirrels, raccoons and an occasional bird from our lines. Many of these cause power outages that affect you. In the last couple decades, we have been installing critter guards at switches and transformers. These devices have prevented outages and kept animals from coming in contact with the energized lines. Unfortunately, one raccoon was found recently hanging from the energized lines. It may have been chasing a bird, but when it bit down on the powerline it expired with its jaws clamped tightly. Minnesota Valley Tree Service found it still hanging on the line until the linemen could pry it off. It didn't cause an outage because the wood pole is a good insulator.

At our headquarters building in Montevideo, there is a fireproof vault where we keep archived documents. Several drawers contain easements we have been granted by our members to give us legal rights to access and use a portion of their property for installing, maintaining and repairing powerlines. Most of our easements are recorded at the county offices, but some were not recorded. Some of these easements date back to the earliest days of the cooperative in 1938. It is always interesting to see the signatures that are nearly 100 years old. L two thirty-three zero four Our great-great grandparents understood the value of electricity and the need to supply it to them and their neighbors.

When installing a new powerline at your home or farm, we will ask for easements to cover the installation. The easement is a requirement of the installation. They are most important for underground powerlines because you can't see the line. If you sell or pass on your land, it is also helpful for a new owner to understand the route of the line when it is shown as part of the land survey.

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed **Monday, September 7th** in observance of **Labor Day**.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Jun 26	Jan-Jun 25	Jan-Jun 2006
Kwh Purchased	122,203,341	117,526,616	92,511,457
Kwh Sold	115,938,348	111,591,274	87,101,582
Cost Of Purchased Power	$7,760,668	$6,533,115	$2,409,268
Patronage Capital Margins	$1,352,028	$602,264	$431,749
Reserve For Taxes	$215,000	$169,998	$88,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	63.51	55.59	26.04
	June '26	**June '25**	**June '06**
Total Plant	$114,220,410	$110,299,457	$41,829,730
Number of Active Services	5,350	5,322	5,267
Avg. Residential Bill	$273.45	$242.83	$109.81
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,504	1,515	1,422
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,116	2,917	2,519
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	36,097	35,171	27,227

Find Your Location for a $10 or More Bill Credit!

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.

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 August** for:

Member Services // Scott Kubesh

Member Services Manager

NEW: MN Valley Co-op Installs Generac Water-Cooled Generators

When it comes to reliable backup power, bigger operations often require a bigger solution. That's why Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Association offers professional installation of Generac water-cooled standby generators for homes, farms and businesses with higher power demands.

Water-cooled generators are designed for large residential and commercial applications, providing dependable power during extended outages. When utility power is interrupted, the generator automatically starts and supplies electricity to critical systems, helping protect homes, livestock operations, businesses and valuable equipment from costly downtime.

As an authorized Generac dealer, Minnesota Valley Cooperative provides complete installation services. H two fourteen zero three A Factory-trained technicians handle site preparation, transfer switch installation and electrical hookups to ensure each system operates safely and reliably.

In addition to installation, the cooperative offers ongoing maintenance and service support to keep generators ready when they are needed most. Annual maintenance helps ensure dependable performance and extends the life of the equipment.

With severe weather and unexpected outages becoming more common, a Generac water-cooled generator can provide peace of mind and uninterrupted power for years to come. To learn more about standby generator options, contact Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Association at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

LAST CHANCE

DOUBLE

REBATES

DAYS

OFFER ENDS ON LABOR DAY

ACT NOW TO DOUBLE YOUR SAVINGS

Time is running out! ***Double rebates*** *on air source and geothermal heat pumps ends on Labor Day. Call Member Services at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to learn more!*

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering
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