

MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Push Back on EPA

EPA is extending the comment deadline on its proposed GHG rule for existing power plants by 45 days to December 1st. The new deadline was announced after many states, 53 U.S. senators and other stakeholders requested more time for stakeholders and state regulators to review the complex 1,600-page proposal and develop comments. EPA said the comment extension for the existing plants proposal will not change its plans to issue a final rule in June 2015 and start the three-year clock for states to submit plans to EPA.

EPA's proposal sets state-by-state emissions rate targets for 2030 and the national 30-percent reduction target is relative to a 2005 baseline year. Individual emissions rate targets vary for each state.

Calculations presented by the EPA are based on each state's ability to improve heat rates at existing coal-based plants by six percent; increase capacity factors at natural gas power plants to 70 percent; add new renewable generation; retain existing nuclear generation; and increase end-use energy efficiency.

Additionally, each state has been given the option to group with other states to meet target emissions rates. States must submit state implementation plans by either 2016 for individual states or 2017 for groups of states.

EPA's proposal says implementation of the CO₂ rule, which starts in 2020, must be measureable, verifiable, enforceable, contain penalties and have interim targets.

The proposed rule also says EPA will not provide New Source Review (NSR) relief, which will limit the ability of utilities to meet the six percent increase in heat rates. NSR requires that any major modification in a power plant adhere to the same emission standards as a brand new plant.

The proposed carbon rule would also affect end-use consumers, a point raised by Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). "Americans count on affordable and reliable energy to power our communities, promote jobs and economic growth and keep costs in line for the basic necessities in our family budgets," she said in an NRECA statement. "New EPA regulations that add to the price of electricity have serious consequences for our communities, jobs and families."

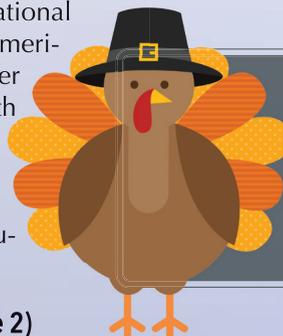
(Manager's Message is continued on page 2)



Our Website has a Fresh, New Look!

Minnesota Valley recently launched a new website that offers improved functionality and a fresh look for our members. Visit www.mnvalleyrec.com to check it out now!

On our website, you'll be able to quickly and easily pay your monthly electric bill and keep up-to-date with what's happening around your co-op with relevant news and articles. The new website will work with all modern browsers. It's responsive design also makes it easy to access from your computer, tablet or smartphone.



Minnesota Valley will be closed on Thursday, November 27th in observance of Thanksgiving.

Manager's Message *(continued from page 1)*

Delay in Transformer Replacement at USBR Granite Falls

We were scheduled to put all of our load on Blair and Appeldorn delivery points in the July to September time period this year so that the transformer that serves our east side could be replaced. We have been planning for this for the better part of 10 years. Patience is always at a premium in these projects. There have been some personnel changes over the years at WAPA. Some miscommunications there had them telling us they planned to take us offline at USBR Granite Falls for six weeks starting October 1st. We, of course, said no. This is exactly the period we were planning on avoiding since we started this project. Of course, this is because of typically heavy drying and heating load at that time. Anyway, we switched over to Appeldorn and Blair, our two other delivery points, for a week in October so they could pour a new cement pad for our new transformer in USBR Granite Falls. Then we switch back to all three delivery points and will hold that configuration until spring.

It is not that we couldn't configure our system to have Appeldorn and Blair haul us through a heavy drying and heating period, but we didn't want to take any chances. The weak transformer in Granite Falls should have less load on it through a heavy drying season because we have our system split in thirds not halves. If we do run into trouble, we have more options with three delivery points than two. Anyway, we are now planning on having our new tub placed there in the spring when our system loading will be much less and we can easily run with two delivery points. We expect that to take about a month.

On behalf of Minnesota Valley, we hope you enjoy the rest of the fall season and we wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Security Lights...

A Small Price to Pay for Home Safety and Security

As you drive around the countryside at night, security lights dot the skyline. Each security light you see is adding safety and protection to the farm or home it illuminates. A well-lit yard or residence provides:

- ❖ **Safety:** to avoid injury when you are out in the yard after dark.
- ❖ **Security:** to help deter prowlers, discourage vandalism and welcome you home to a lighted yard.
- ❖ **Productivity:** lighting extends the work day beyond sundown.

Minnesota Valley rents two sizes of security lights to its members— a 150-watt size used at most homes and farms for a cost of \$8.00 plus tax per month and a larger 400-watt size, at \$15.00 plus tax, usually used in large farm yards or for commercial businesses. The monthly charge includes the light installation, disposal of old bulbs, maintenance and repair. Rented security lights are not run through your meter.



Comparative Report

	Jan-Sep 2014	Jan-Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 1994
Kwh Purchased	156,117,695	153,096,834	99,806,658
Kwh Sold	147,970,594	145,392,334	91,410,055
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$ 7,197,983	\$ 7,260,571	\$ 3,236,145
Patronage Capital Margins	\$ 1,290,950	\$ 791,841	\$ (25,014)
Reserve For Taxes	\$ 230,770	\$ 249,002	\$ 212,173
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	46.11	47.42	34.37
	September '14	September '13	September '94
Total Plant	\$ 63,566,449	\$ 62,084,584	\$ 24,653,390
# Of Members Receiving Service	5,268	5,258	5,172
Average Residential Bill	\$ 158.49	\$ 166.31	\$ 88.41
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	1,299	1,393	1,262
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,404	2,416	1,687
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	25,656	28,781	20,517

Get a \$10 or \$20 credit!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your number, you will receive a \$10 energy credit or \$20 if you are an Operation Round-Up participant. Call the office to claim your credit.

There were no winners from last month's issue. Keep looking!



What to Do if Your Power Goes Out

As we prepare for another Minnesota winter, we all hope that Mother Nature will spare us and we won't have any power outages. But if we do, be assured Minnesota Valley will work to restore your service as quickly as possible. Extreme weather conditions and prolonged outages are difficult for all of us and our working together will make it a much more tolerable time. We appreciate your patience and cooperation both with us and the CRC answering service. By following these steps, you can help us restore your power as quickly and easily as possible.

- 1) Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2) Check with your neighbors to see if their lights are out.
- 3) Call Minnesota Valley at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.
- 4) Be able to provide the LOCATION NUMBER for the account without power when reporting an outage. This number is printed on your monthly energy bill. Please report anything that may be helpful to our crews such as lines or poles down, sparks on poles, trees or branches on lines, etc. Always think of downed power lines as being energized.
- 5) If you are experiencing low voltage (a brownout), unplug anything with a motor like refrigerators and freezers and all electronic equipment.
- 6) During a major power outage, turn on your battery operated radio for news concerning the outage and weather. We will usually broadcast messages on *KDMA-AM/ KMGM-FM* in Montevideo, *KLQP-FM* in Madison, *KMHL-AM/ KKCK-FM* in Marshall and *KQIC-FM/ KWLM-AM/KDJS-FM* in Willmar.

STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES!

Tips for Staying in Your Home Without Power

Minnesota Valley offers these tips should you happen to be without power for an extended period of time. If a storm produces extreme weather conditions and efforts to travel come to a virtual standstill, you will need to be prepared to stay in your home until conditions improve.

- Keep a good supply of food on hand.
- Stock up on drinking water - fill your bathtub with water for flushing and other uses.
- Prepare alternate heating sources ahead of time and ventilate properly. Close off any unneeded rooms.
- Get lanterns, candles and flashlights ready for use.
- Be sure battery operated radios are handy and have fresh batteries.
- Camping equipment can be used for many purposes when you are without power.
- Dress in layers and wear a hat.
- During severe winter storms, be sure to check your furnace vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- If snow is piling up around your home, check your exits every hour or so and clear them if necessary.
- Most importantly, stay in your home. It is the safest place for you to be in a winter storm.



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • JOHN WILLIAMSON



Manager of Engineering & Operations

Everyone's nerves should be resting a little easier now that the crops are pretty much all harvested. Marketing the grain, however, is another aspect that may keep you up at night at times.

Power outages also seem to cause a few sleepless nights for us when they occur. At 8:45 p.m. on October 6th, we lost one of our three delivery points, which was feeding five substations. This ended up affecting 1,900 consumers. The

problem was a broken phase wire on our 69,000-volt transmission line. AA three thirty five zero three We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you or your company.

Other things going on here at your cooperative are the installation of underground primary distribution lines until freeze-up, pole change outs, overhead rebuilds and normal maintenance through the winter months. Enjoy your fall and stay warm!





Crank Up the Heat

It's that time of the year again. It sure seems like we were just running the air conditioner, but now we have to start turning up the heat. Today you face many decisions about types of heating systems and which fuel source is the right choice. How much heat do you need? How does a particular system work? I could go on with hundreds of potential questions you may have. At Minnesota Valley, we work with heating systems daily and think electric heat is an economical, safe and easy way to heat. Electric heat has changed drastically in the past few years. You can still get the conventional baseboard heaters, but you can also install a state-of-the-art heating and cooling system. You will find the many different types of electric heat listed below. If you're in the market for a new heating system, please contact either Minnesota Valley REC, your local electrical contractor or a HVAC contractor.

- **Baseboard Heaters:** The old standby of heating for years.
- **Cove Heaters:** This type of radiant heat is conveniently located near the ceiling of the room.
- **Ceiling Radiant Heaters:** Many types of ceiling radiant heaters are available.
- **Radiant Ceiling Cable:** Typically installed above the sheetrock of the room.
- **Fan Forced Space Heaters:** Made in almost any shape or size.
- **Fan Forced Central Heaters:** Commonly called electric furnaces or plenum heaters.
- **Hot Water Heating Systems:** Also known as boilers.
- **Underslab Heating:** Heating your cement slab is becoming an increasingly popular form of heat.
- **Air To Air Heat Pump:** A heat pump system is not only an efficient energy saver, but its reliability makes it an all season heating and cooling system.
- **Ground Source Heat Pump:** The ground source heat pump utilizes water as a medium for heat transfer.

Come and Get It

You should be able to find just about anything to meet your heating needs with the above list. Minnesota Valley is here to help you with this season's heating requirements. Please contact us for help with planning your heating system or lining up installations through our many qualified local electrical and HVAC contractors. All permanently installed electric heat qualifies for either our Electric Heat rate or Dual Heat rate. These rates make electric heating a very reasonably priced heat source. Call now for all of the details!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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The Danger of Carbon Monoxide

The start of another heating season brings with it an increased threat of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless gas that causes thousands of deaths each year in North America. Breathing in carbon monoxide is very dangerous. H one zero two zero four A It is the leading cause of poisoning death in the United States.

Carbon monoxide is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels, including coal, wood, charcoal, oil, kerosene, propane and natural gas. Products and equipment powered by internal combustion engines such as portable generators, cars, lawn mowers and power washers also produce CO.

Minnesota law requires that every residence have a CO detector. These detectors can save lives by detecting a high level of CO in the air. Please make sure that you have a fully operating CO detector in your residence. Watch for flu-like symptoms when operating a fuel-burning appliance. If the CO detector activates, be sure to get everyone out and to a safe place. Have a safe heating season.



Vapor Barrier Instructions

Check to make sure your insulation is installed properly. Vapor barriers should always face the warm side of the wall or ceiling. Be sure that the barrier is in between the sheetrock and the insulation. The main function of the vapor barrier is to stop the warm, moist air in your home from entering the cold interior space inside of your wall cavity. This will cause condensation inside the wall cavity, which can cause deterioration of building materials and allow mold to form.

