Minnesota Valley Co-op News
Volume 87 • No. 7 • July 2025

Manager's Message // Pat Carruth

General Manager

Still Cleaning Up From May/June 2022 Storms

We have another outside contractor in straightening about 1,100 poles that were leaned out of plum from those storms of three years ago. FEMA has finally agreed to fund portions of that project. Michels Power is the contractor doing that job. They have a couple of crews on our project presently and will finish by fall. When they are done, we expect to close out with FEMA and get our final reimbursement in this fiscal year. The total damage to our system from those storms was about $6.2 million and it took almost six days to get the last member's lights back on. Anyway, it will be good to get the damage from those terrible windstorms finally closed out.

Our Basin Electric Moving on With Always Available Generation

Our Basin Electric will build a new natural gas-fired electric power plant near Epping, North Dakota that will be operational in five years.

The nearly $4 billion project, called the Bison Generation Station, will produce about 1,470 megawatts of electricity — one of the largest electric generation projects in the cooperative's history.

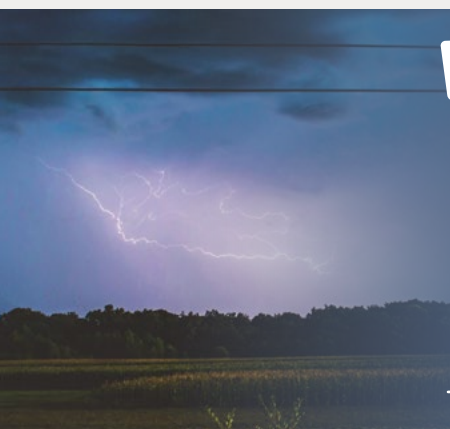
Comprising two units of roughly 700 MW each, the facility will help meet electric load growth in the Basin member footprint from industrial work, manufacturing, data processing, residential customers and small businesses, including farms and ranches.

Pending regulatory approval, site grading will begin later this year, with foundation construction scheduled for 2026. At peak construction in 2027, the project is expected to employ roughly 1,000 workers. Once completed, the facility will provide approximately 50 full-time positions for operations, maintenance and administration.

Commercial operations are set to begin in 2030. This will be the largest power plant solely owned by Basin Electric.

Meanwhile, Basin is bringing on our Pioneer Station Unit 4 near Williston this summer for another 600 MWs of gas-fired electric power generation.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is owned and operated by Minnesota Valley and 139 other rural electric cooperative systems in nine states: Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.



Coming Soon! Outage Notifications

We are working on adding a new feature to keep you updated when the power goes out (or is about to). You will soon receive notifications about planned outages, unexpected interruptions, real-time updates and when service is restored. Alerts will be sent straight to your email and mobile number on file, always keeping you updated.

Receive Notifications for:

- Planned Power Outages
- Power Outages
- Restoration Updates
- Notice When Power is Restored

Engineering & Operations // Todd Bolkema

Engineering & Operations Manager

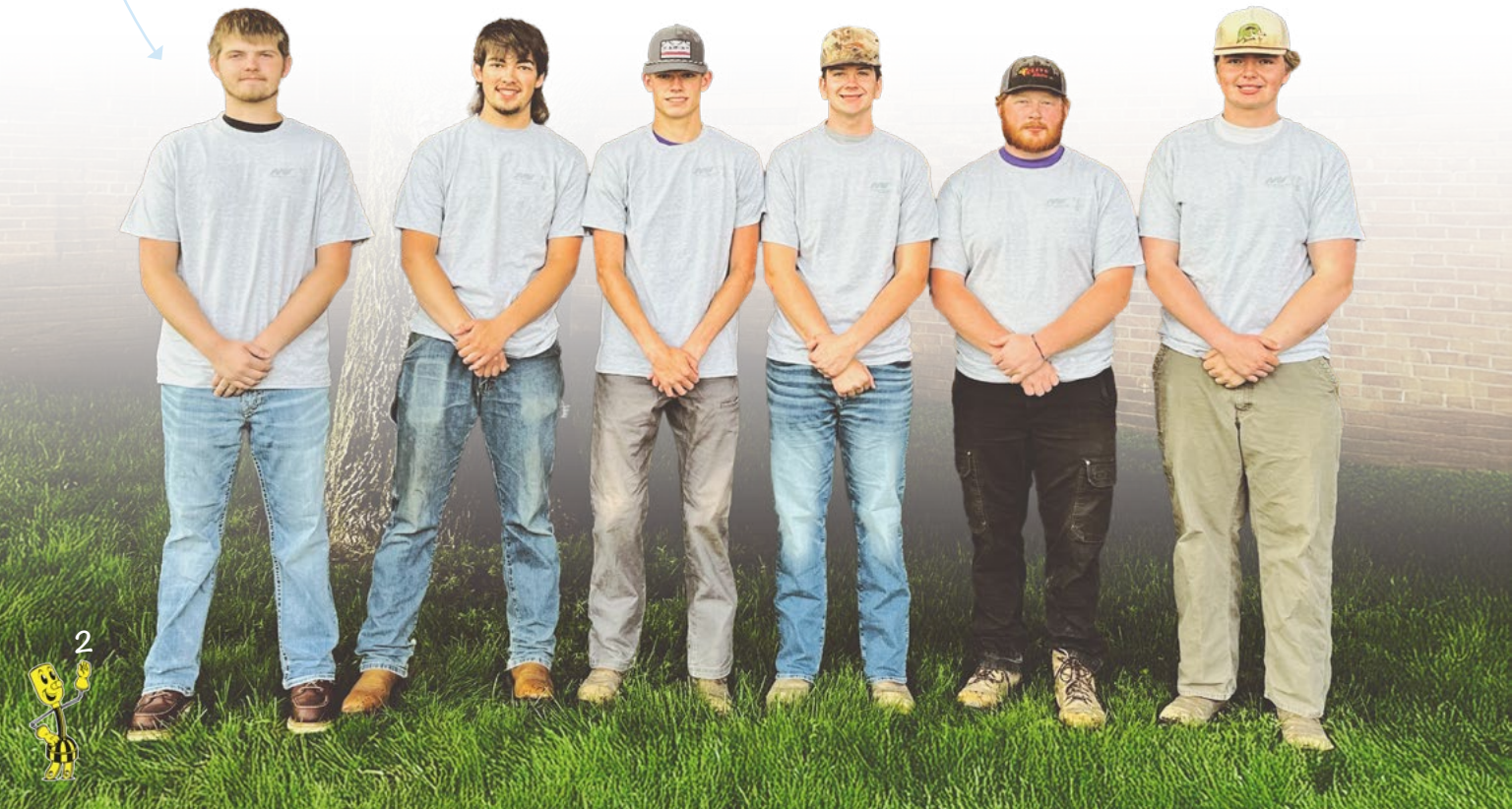
On May 11th, a Lisbon Substation transformer bushing flashed over and caused an outage – that is the large insulator on the top of the transformer. There are three companies that are engaged to give us quotes for the complicated repairs. We will replace all three bushings to keep a matched set on that transformer and keep the others we removed as spares. They can be used in the future on our other similar transformers. Lisbon currently has our trailer mounted spare installed and carrying load reliably. If you drive by that substation south of Montevideo on old Hwy. 59, you will see both transformers inside the fence. A spare substation transformer is a very expensive asset to keep around, but necessary in the case of a Sunday afternoon outage like this.

Our six summer pole inspectors started on Monday, June 2nd. There are three crews of two inspecting the condition of our poles in the Gluek, Dawson and Asbury areas. The crew includes Carter Malstrom, Noah Erickson, Alex Rodeberg, Carson Spray, Ben Dehne and James Seeman. The goal is to inspect 6,000 poles this summer, which would be about 10% of the system. We could contract this work out to a pole inspection company, but hiring young people from the local area keeps our cooperative dollars here in the community.

Every year, our linemen do refreshers on safety training and procedures. With all the work we do on overhead lines, there is always the possibility of an incident that would require a rescue from an aerial location like the truck bucket or top of a pole. In the pictured simulation, the lineman climbs the pole to rescue the orange human-like figure. Their job is to quickly secure and lower the person so they can get medical aid.

East of our Madison Substation, we are changing the line from overhead to underground in preparation for a rebuild of the 69 kilovolt line there. Our contractor, Karian Peterson, is done installing the new underground line and our guys have been making up the junction boxes, risers and splicing the cable. Our linemen are also removing the overhead line from the transmission poles.

Work continues at the new Torvik Substation in the northeast area of our service territory. The concrete foundations have been poured. We will soon be moving forward with the underground conduits, grounding grid and oil spill containment system. K two fifteen zero four This is all in preparation for the new dairy loads in that area. The new substation will greatly improve the grid strength and stability of that area.



Take Cover When a Storm is Brewing

Sometimes a storm pops up or changes direction without any warning, while other times it is forecasted days in advance and follows its predicted course. In either case, knowing what to do *during* and *after* a storm can help to keep you safe.

DURING THE STORM

- Never seek shelter under an isolated tree, tower or utility pole, since lightning tends to strike tall objects.
- Stay away or immediately leave elevated areas such as hills or ridges.
- Get away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including wires and fences *(...and golf clubs! Approximately 5 percent of annual lightning deaths and injuries in the United States happen on golf courses according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)*
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Pick a safe place in your home, away from windows and doors, for family members to gather during a thunderstorm.
- Know the difference between a *watch* and a *warning* for extreme weather such as a tornado or severe thunderstorm. A watch means that the weather is possible in and near the area. A warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is more serious than a watch and means that there is imminent danger to life and property.

AFTER THE STORM

- Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Never touch (or use) electrical appliances, cords, wires or switches while you are wet or standing in water.
- Never go near a downed line and warn others to stay away. After a storm, a downed power line could be covered by standing water or debris. If you see a downed line, call 911 and a crew will be dispatched to de-energize the power and address the problem safely.
- If you encounter a downed power line while driving or after an auto accident, do not get out. Instead, call 911 to report the downed line. If you must exit your vehicle after an accident because of a fire or smoke, make a solid, clean jump out, landing with both feet together. Then make solid hops with your feet together, hopping as far away as you can.
- If your home has been damaged by a flood, turn off the power to your house if it is safe to do so. (Do not turn power off at the breaker box while standing in water or in damp conditions.)
- If the wiring, electrical system or appliances have been damaged by water, have your home inspected by an electrician; also, have appliances serviced by a qualified technician before using them.

Comparative Report

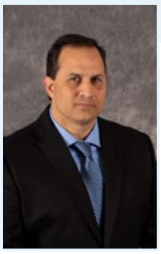
	Jan-May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2005
Kwh Purchased	100,905,619	97,033,995	66,223,668
Kwh Sold	96,065,232	92,185,545	61,734,974
Cost Of Purchased Power	$5,405,015	$4,714,003	$1,669,814
Patronage Capital Margins	$642,762	$402,724	$345,731
Reserve For Taxes	$141,665	$110,000	$73,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	53.57	48.86	25.21
	May '25	**May '24**	**May '05**
Total Plant	$109,909,749	$100,755,974	$39,294,490
Number of Active Services	5,306	5,300	5,239
Avg. Residential Bill	$225.95	$208.22	$101.63
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,401	1,424	1,347
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,849	2,824	1,900
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	30,272	26,370	20,463

Congratulations to Glenda Reiffenberge who found her number last month and received $10! If you find your number, claim by the **25th of July** to be eligible for: **$10**

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.

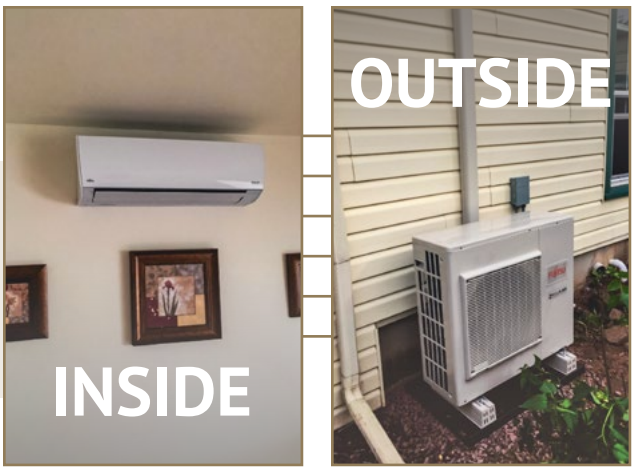
Member Services // Scott Kubesh



Member Services Manager

Ductless Minisplit Air Conditioners

Ductless minisplit air conditioners (minisplits) have versatile applications in residential, commercial and institutional buildings. They are commonly used in multifamily housing and as retrofit add-ons for homes with non-ducted heating systems like hydronic, radiant panels and space heaters. Minisplits are also an excellent choice for room additions and small apartments where extending or installing ductwork for a central air conditioner is impractical.



How Minisplit Systems Work

Like central systems, minisplits have two main components: an **outdoor** compressor/condenser and an **indoor** air-handling unit. A conduit, housing the power cable, refrigerant tubing and a condensate drain, links the outdoor and indoor units.

Advantages of Minisplits

- ✓ **Small Size and Flexibility:** Minisplits are compact and flexible, allowing for zoning and cooling individual rooms. Some models support up to four indoor units connected to a single outdoor unit, enabling efficient cooling tailored to specific areas.
- ✓ **Easy Installation:** Installing a minisplit system is simpler than installing whole-house air conditioning systems. M four seventeen zero three It typically requires only a small hole through a wall for the conduit. The outdoor unit can be located up to 50 feet away from the indoor unit, offering flexibility in placement.
- ✓ **Energy Efficiency:** Without ducts, minisplits avoid the energy losses associated with ductwork in central forced air systems, which can account for more than 30% of energy consumption for air conditioning.
- ✓ **Design Flexibility:** Indoor air handlers can be suspended from ceilings, mounted flush into drop ceilings, hung on walls or be floor-standing. They have sleek, high-tech designs and often come with remote controls for easy operation.
- ✓ **Dual Functionality:** Unlike other cooling systems, heat pumps can run in reverse to provide heating during colder times of the year. With a minisplit heat pump, you can efficiently cool your home in the summer and heat your home during the winter, all with one system.

Consider a ductless minisplit system for flexible, energy-efficient cooling in your home or business. For more information or a quote on a Minisplit system, please contact our Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

Summer Double Rebate Days • Summer Double Rebate Days • Summer Double Rebate Days

DOUBLE REBATES!

Don't miss this incredible deal! Now through Labor Day, we are offering **double rebates** on heat pumps!

Call our Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 for more information!

BEST PRICE!

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering
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Minnesota Valley Co-op News
Published monthly by:
Minnesota Valley Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Website
www.mnvalleyrec.com

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P.O. Box 248
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