



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Our Commitment to Safety

Working with electricity is dangerous...period. That is why Minnesota Valley spends a lot of time, energy and

money on safety training for our employees. We devote an average of 40 hours per employee per year to safety training. Linemen receive much more than the average.

We treat our investment in safety as a top priority for not only our employees, but the public. We make it a priority to educate children about electrical safety in particular. Each year, we ask elementary schools in our area if we may come in and provide safety demonstrations to their third and fourth graders. We gear towards that age group because our industry feels that it is the age at which we have the best chance of getting our message across. As well as schools, we give demonstrations to 4-H clubs, fire departments, scout groups and any other organization interested

in learning more about electrical safety. We spend quite a bit of time and money on general electrical safety messages with the entire public in our service area, as well. We not only feel public education about electrical safety is important; we feel it is our duty.

The foundation of our employee safety initiative is a continuing education program for our line department personnel. These "safety meetings" are coordinated and taught by loss control instructors from our statewide trade association and our cooperative owned insurance company, Federated. Typically, the line department has 8-10 half-day safety meetings per year with the instructor. We also send our line crews to at least one trade meeting each year that includes safety courses. Special employee certification training is also provided each year in First Aid and CPR.

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)

October is National Co-op Month

Since 1930, October has been officially designated as *National Cooperative Month*. Each October, Minnesota Valley joins cooperatives across the nation in promoting and celebrating our shared cooperative principles and values.

As a cooperative, we follow the seven principles of:

- 1) *Voluntary and Open Membership*
- 2) *Democratic Member Control*
- 3) *Members' Economic Participation*
- 4) *Autonomy and Independence*
- 5) *Education, Training and Information*
- 6) *Cooperation Among Cooperatives*
- 7) *Concern for Community*

Rural electric cooperatives were created to serve their communities. Having local ownership and control allows Minnesota Valley to focus on the priorities of our members.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Caucus Meetings

Thursday, February 5th, 2026

District 7: Wayne Peltier

– 10:30 AM at Cottonwood Community Center

District 5: Darryl Bursack

– 1:30 PM at Clarkfield City Hall

2026 Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 21st

Prairie's Edge Casino



We have a formal Safety Committee that reviews and updates our Job Procedure Manual. This seventy-page document covers general and detailed safety rules aimed at keeping our people safe. The committee is responsible for communicating the document to all employees at least once a year.

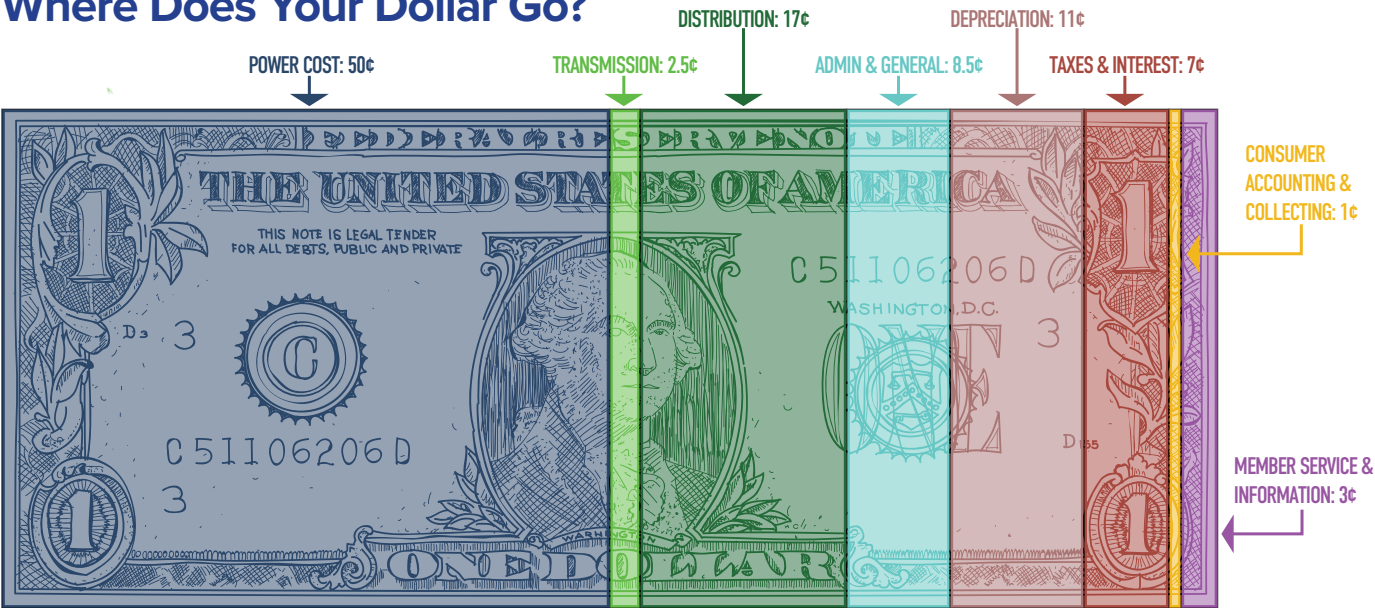
Every three years, Minnesota Valley goes through a process called the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program or RESAP. This is a program through our National Association. This program culminates in a panel of safety professionals going through our building, trucks, equipment and documentation. The documentation alone is very extensive. It must prove that we have been complying with the regulations and reporting requirements of OSHA, MNDOT, USDOT, EPA and MPCA rules. They also watch our people work out in the field on the jobsite. At the end of the day, they determine if our overall commitment to safety passes their standards. Along with the candid assessment, they let us know about areas that we could improve on to help strengthen our safety program.

We invest not only in the human side of the safety equation, but also in the equipment necessary for

our employees to conduct their work in a safe manner. Maintaining equipment in prime working condition is critical. Each day our linemen go through a visual check of their equipment. They depend on non-conductive (dielectric) tools such as protective rubber gloves, sleeves and fiberglass hot sticks to insulate them from the lethal force of electricity. Our vehicle fleet is also subject to on-going scrutiny. The fleet is highly maintained and inspected annually by a MNDOT certified inspector. The bucket trucks and diggers are also subject to annual dielectric testing.

Working with electricity is one of the most dangerous occupations one can take up. Not just for the fact that electricity is dangerous by nature, but most of the time linemen are working with electricity when the weather is "just plain old nasty." This compounds the danger. Throughout your cooperative, you have a dedicated group of people here. They know their job is to provide you, the member-owners, with the best possible electric service they can. To help them to that end, you, the members of Minnesota Valley, provide them with very good trucks, equipment and educational opportunities. More importantly, you provide them with your commitment to their safety.

Where Does Your Dollar Go?



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs. If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.

Source: energy.gov



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // TODD BOLKEMA

Engineering & Operations Manager



With all the rain this summer, accessing some of our lines has been a challenge. One recent outage required some ingenuity. There was a broken crossarm on a line north of Watson where we could not walk to the pole and getting a truck or track unit there was out of the question. Our mechanic, Scott, provided a boat and a ride to the other side of the river where Eric and Mitch climbed the pole and installed a new ten foot crossarm to restore service (see picture). It is days like that when we appreciate how physically demanding it can be to work as a lineman.

Our new substation north of Gluek, in the northeast part of the service territory, is progressing well. The steel structures are mostly assembled and the large transformer was moved onto the concrete pad with a crane by our contractor Karian-Peterson. The Member Services electricians are installing the wiring and control equipment. Our linemen are installing the oil retention barrier around the transformer and circuit breaker. We are expecting to be able to energize the substation by the end of the year, but there is a lot of work left to accomplish if we are going to make that goal.

On the north edge of Madison, Karian-Peterson installed a new laminate switch pole to connect to the new line north on county road 19. This will replace the switches that are north of Caterpillar on highway 75 north of Madison. Those switches will be removed next year along with the overhead line that goes through the fields north of the switch. Having the new line next to the highway, will allow for better accessibility resulting in quicker restorations should a problem occur on that line section.



Our three year safety inspection went well. A two thirty-five zero four A We had representatives from Traverse, Renville-Sibley, Wright Hennepin, Runestone, Lyon Lincoln and our statewide association of cooperatives here to examine our work practices, talk to our employees, inspect our trucks and look over our facilities. They found that we are doing many things right and they left us with a few items to improve upon. We appreciate our cooperative peers volunteering to help us work safer here at Minnesota Valley.

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

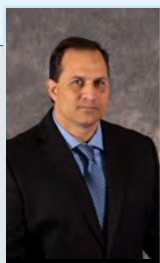
	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2005
Kwh Purchased	155,195,294	149,636,768	103,917,446
Kwh Sold	146,862,220	142,194,498	96,822,855
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$8,805,448	\$7,710,984	\$2,788,732
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,126,605	\$1,080,248	\$340,289
Reserve For Taxes	\$226,664	\$176,000	\$116,800
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	56.74	51.69	26.84
	August '25	August '24	August '05
Total Plant	\$110,781,856	\$101,603,158	\$40,200,197
Number of Active Services	5,320	5,309	5,257
Avg. Residential Bill	\$270.13	\$226.26	\$117.08
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,731	1,611	1,529
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,253	3,179	2,205
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	33,322	33,412	27,144

No one found their number last month, so we've rolled last month's amount into this month! If you find your number, claim by the 25th of October to be eligible for:



MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH

Member Services Manager



Furnace Inspections

It is that time of the year again. We are experiencing those chilly mornings and some of us may have already turned our furnaces on for the heating season. 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 is 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 Members Services Department since a complete furnace inspection usually requires a professional technician. Call and arrange for a qualified technician to schedule a furnace inspection. Annual tune-ups have as important of 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.

Your Heat Meter can Save you Money

In our last newsletter issue, we urged members to check their heat meters to make sure the power was on. If a heat meter does not have power, it will not register the KWhs used by your electric heat source. Your heat is on a "submeter" that registers how much credit you will receive on your bill. Therefore, if your meter is turned off, it could be costing you money. Please verify that your heat meter is on and registering KWhs so you get the credit you have coming.



Financing is Available

Minnesota Valley offers low interest loans for energy conservation practices like weatherization, installation of windows, doors and insulation. Minnesota Valley also offers loans for the purchase and installation of electric heating and cooling products. The loan funds may be used for air to air heat pumps, ground source heat pumps, electric heating equipment and central air conditioners. One thirty-four zero four B Poor electrical wiring sometimes can be a contributing factor in fires in our homes. These loan funds are available to replace old wiring that you may not feel comfortable with.

Conditions of the loan are that you must be a member of Minnesota Valley REC, have a good credit rating with Minnesota Valley and submit a credit application to our office. All applications are completely confidential and can be processed within a matter of days. A very reasonable rate of 5% simple interest is charged.

A qualifying member is eligible for one or any combination of the loans described above up to an aggregated total of \$15,000. Whatever loan you are interested in please contact the Member Services Department for more information on these excellent programs. They can be reached during normal business hours at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



**WANTED...new members for
Operation Round Up - Your
small change adds up to a lot.**



Minnesota Valley members who choose to participate in Operation Round Up agree to have their monthly energy bills rounded up to the next highest dollar amount. For example, if your actual electric bill is \$72.40, the cooperative will round it up to \$73.00 and the extra 60 cents goes into the Operation Round Up Trust Fund. This fund is set up separately from all other Minnesota Valley business. The small amount of change donated by each member, combined with the change of fellow members, makes a big difference in our community!

Call us at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to sign up today!

Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
800.247.5051

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