

MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Legislative Visits Part of Minnesota Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting

The Minnesota Valley Board went to Saint Paul for a few days in March for our statewide association's annual meeting. While at our association's meeting, our board met with area elected representatives to discuss issues we believe are important to rural Minnesota and our cooperative's mission to provide reliable, low-cost electric energy. As you might know, Minnesota has a zero-carbon electric energy by 2040 law. This, of course, is driving the retail price of electricity up as our forced investment in wind and solar must be added to the rate base. Electricity prices across the nation are increasing an average annual rate of over 6%, which is about double the inflation rate. One of the lower carbon tools that could be used to meet this fantasy goal would be to use more nuclear power in the state to keep the lights on at night and when

the wind isn't blowing. Minnesota currently has the strictest nuclear moratorium in the nation, which has been in place for 30 years. We, of course, are working to help get this nuclear ban lifted, which will take several years of process in Minnesota.

The purpose of our statewide association is primarily three-fold. First, to provide safety instruction for member systems. We try to schedule about eight safety meetings per year for our linemen. Secondly, to coordinate other education and communication opportunities for the employees and directors of member systems. Most of our employees and directors attend at least one industry-related meeting each year. Finally, to provide coordinated and unified legislative lobbying on a statewide level.

Enjoy this special 4th of July and *Happy 250th Anniversary* to our United States of America!



Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed **Friday, July 3rd** in observance of **Independence Day**.

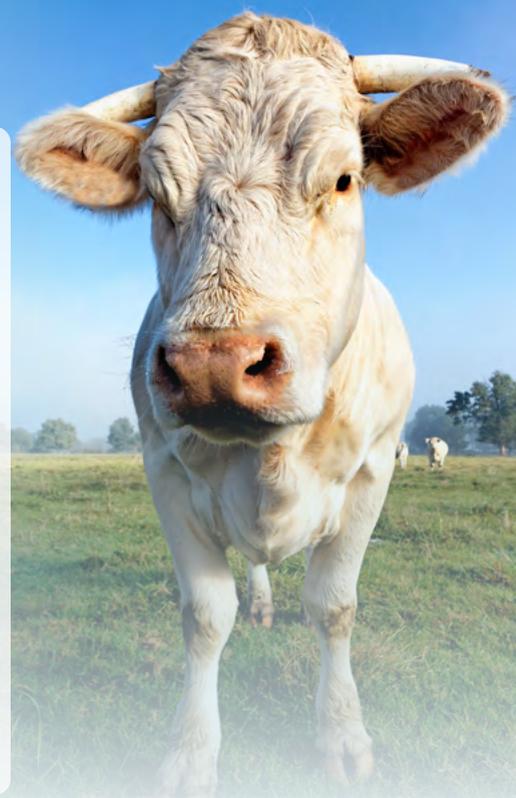
Safe Digging is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**



Left to Right: Directors Gary Groothuis, Steve Norman, Senator Gary Dahm, General Manager Pat Carruth, Directors Darryl Bursack and Mark Peterson

National Dairy Month



National Dairy Month, celebrated each June, recognizes the many important contributions of the dairy industry to our health and economy.

Whether it is milk, cheese, yogurt, butter or ice cream, Americans appreciate their dairy products – not just for the taste, but also the many essential nutrients they provide. Throughout the world, over 6 billion people consume milk and the products made from it.

“Dairy has played an important role in America’s history since before the Revolutionary War, but it was not until the early 1900s that the U.S. dairy industry began to change

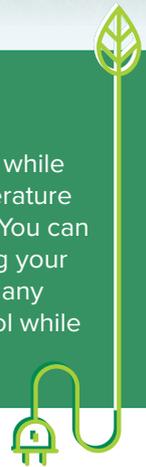
dramatically,” according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s website.

“Many scientific advances and processes radically changed the industry, including pasteurization, the development of the centrifugal separator that removes milkfat and allows the manufacturing of more dairy products and the Babcock test that determines milk fat content. When it comes to dairy products, our country has a rich history.”

Minnesota Valley would like to take this opportunity to recognize our area dairy farms and all who help them run smoothly – thank you for all you do!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you’re away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you’re never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you’re away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.



Comparative Report

	Jan-Apr 2026	Jan-Apr 2025	Jan-Apr 2006
Kwh Purchased	86,917,459	84,811,015	65,101,843
Kwh Sold	82,753,777	80,948,878	61,180,317
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$5,245,977	\$4,500,770	\$1,619,013
Patronage Capital Margins	\$813,971	\$269,129	\$348,732
Reserve For Taxes	\$143,333	\$113,332	\$58,400
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	60.36	53.07	24.87
	April '26	April '25	April '06
Total Plant	\$113,129,601	\$109,344,010	\$41,434,752
Number of Active Services	5,346	5,315	5,256
Avg. Residential Bill	\$261.70	\$223.79	\$103.31
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,716	1,651	1,414
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,253	3,011	2,388
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	35,716	32,701	24,937

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 June for:



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // TODD BOLKEMA

Engineering & Operations Manager



In May, we marked four years since the 2022 storms that knocked down many poles and leaned another 1,740 poles. Through the efforts of many in your cooperative, FEMA agreed to reimburse the costs to bring the system back up to pre-storm conditions. May, of this year, also marked the completion of a year-long project to straighten the 1,740 poles that had been leaned over by the storm. Michels Power from Neenah, Wisconsin won the bid and spent the last 12 months digging beside the poles, pushing them straight and filling the other side with rock so they stay straight. While it is a relief to finish this project, it is also a reminder to keep our Emergency Recovery Plan nearby because we know there are storms in our future and you depend on us to get the power flowing quickly afterwards.

Spring is a time of thawing and planting, but it is also a time of burning. High winds on May 4th

whipped a fire across the fields and up two of our poles near the South Dakota border. Unfortunately, these poles were near our Garfield Substation and carried three phases of hot wires – making them more difficult to change out. E four twenty-seven zero three If you're burning this summer, please do your best to control the fire and if you burn any poles, let us know.

There are a couple of larger projects that our contractor Karian Peterson will be tackling this summer. They are upgrading a three-mile section of distribution line south of Watson Highway 212. The three-phase line will improve the phase load imbalance condition on the feeder and substation. In addition, the larger conductor size will improve voltage conditions and allow for a future feeder tie to the south and west. The second project is to upgrade four miles of our 69 kilovolt transmission line from the Lisbon Substation south to the point of previously upgraded transmission line. This project will improve capacity as the existing line was constructed in 1964.

When our Minnesota Valley linemen aren't doing maintenance and new services this summer, they are rebuilding lines that need to be replaced after decades of service. The replacement lines are designed with shorter span lengths so they are less susceptible to ice outages and with new conductor that is stronger and improves voltage.

If Your Power Goes Out

We all look forward to summer weather, but summer storms can bring high winds and lightning which can mean problems with your power lines.

If your power goes out, please follow the guidelines below. Minnesota Valley crews will work to get your power back on as quickly as possible.

And always remember to stay away from downed power lines!

- First check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Check with your neighbors to see if their lights are out.
- Call Minnesota Valley at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.
- 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. **STAY AWAY** from downed power lines!
- If you are experiencing low voltage (a brownout) unplug anything with a motor including TV, DVD/VCR, refrigerator, freezer, microwave, computer and any other electronic equipment.

Crews replace two damaged three-phase poles near the Garfield Substation after high winds and a fast-moving grass fire swept through the area on May 4th.



MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH



Member Services Manager

Heat Pump Double Rebate Days

In last month's newsletter, we again kicked off a rebate program for the installation of heat pumps. From now until Labor Day of 2026, 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. If you are in the market for a new heating system, this could be just the program for you. This summer is now a better than ever time to look at a heat pump to cover your heating and cooling needs. This rebate could amount to what the operating cost of your new heat pump would be for its first year of operation.

Equipment Loans

Minnesota Valley offers 5% financing for electric heating 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 and wiring upgrade loans. The whole process is quite simple and turnaround time is quick. Contact the Member Services Department for more information.

Electric Heat Rates

Minnesota Valley has been offering reduced electric heat rates for years. These rates will make an already

**SUMMER
DOUBLE
REBATES**
MAY 1ST — LABOR DAY
DOUBLE YOUR SAVINGS

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



economical heating and cooling system much cheaper to operate. A separate metering system is installed on your electric heating equipment so any electricity used for that equipment is at a cheaper heating rate. Please contact our heating experts to supply you with more information and explain what your savings can be.

What better reasons do you need? The time is now to take advantage of summer rebates, loans and electric heat rates. Join one thirty-four zero four You can have a new heat pump system working to save you heating dollars before the summer is done! Contact us now at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to learn more.

Minnesota Valley invited students from Yellow Medicine East to tour Big Stone Power Plant just outside of Big Stone City, SD on April 29th, 2026.



Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
800.247.5051

Minnesota Valley Co-op News

Published monthly by:
Minnesota Valley Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Website

www.mnvalleyrec.com

Address

501 South 1st Street
P.O. Box 248
Montevideo, MN 56265

4



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.