



MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Minnesota Legislative Session Leaves Energy Status Quo
State legislators could not come to an agreement on much of anything in the area of electric energy. We were trying to reform the current Conservation Improvement

Program (CIP) requirement to make it more cost effective and practical. Unfortunately, the House and the Department of Commerce (DOC) tied our CIP modernization reform provision to an ultimatum that we support the House/Governor's clean energy first and 100% carbon free provisions. That was never an option for us and we declined to agree. The House gave that ultimatum to all interested parties who wanted something this year in the energy bill. The good news is neither the Senate or House version of clean energy first passed, nor did the 100% carbon-free standard. There were countless other bad policy provisions that were proposed that would have either caused onerous regulation or raised costs for our members that did not make it to the finish line.

One big-ticket item left that did not pass was a \$500 million capital investment bonding bill that had been agreed to in principal by the Governor, House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader. However, due to the lack of support from three-fifths of the members in each body of the legislature

required for passage, the public works and infrastructure bill now will wait until the 2020 session. While neither party accomplished everything they wanted to this session, at least the session wrapped up without the specter of a government shutdown looming, as was the case back in 2011. Many of the policy issues, that were not advanced this session, will be back up for consideration during the 2020 session.

It is summer and we expect rough weather. When the lights go out, rest assured our crews are working safely and swiftly until your lights come back on. To help them out, when our trimming crews from Minnesota Valley Tree Service come through and ask permission to trim trees back from the lines, please let them take what they need. The payoff for you and your neighbors will be a better chance of having lights during and after ice storms and heavy windstorms. Trees in or near the power lines will knock out and knock down power lines in the right conditions. This can add hours or days to power restoration efforts. Maintaining proper right-of-way clearance is one of the most effective steps we take around here to keep your power reliable.

Have a great summer!

A Swimming Danger That's Invisible but Deadly: Electric Shock Drowning

Safety conscious parents insist their children wear life jackets around deep water, but parents and others need to be aware of a different kind of potentially deadly swimming danger: electric shock drowning. Electric current can unsuspectingly lurk in lakes or pools or anywhere electricity can bleed into water. Its effects can range from a tingling sensation to paralyzed muscles to death.

In 2016, a 15-year-old girl died when a ladder in the water near her family's Alabama lake house carried an electric charge from a faulty light switch. In 2017, a 10-year-old girl died in a New Jersey lagoon after touching an electrically-charged metal boat lift rail. Those are only two of the

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Electric Shock Drowning (continued from page 1)

many known or suspected cases of this lesser-known type of drowning called Electric Shock Drowning or ESD.

Electric shock drowning can happen when electricity from a dock, boat, pool, hot tub or marina escapes into the water due to faulty wiring or equipment. As swimmers enter electrified water, their muscles can become paralyzed and cause them to drown or they can suffer internal injuries or cardiac arrest. F two fourteen zero one What's more, someone, not aware that electricity is flowing through the water, could jump into the dangerous waters to try and rescue the person in distress and end up falling victim themselves.

The majority of electric shock drowning deaths have occurred around marinas and docks with AC electrical power, both public and private (according to the Elec-

tric Shock Drowning Prevention Association). Never swim in or near marinas, docks or boatyards.

If you see what you think is an electric shock drowning:

- 1) Turn the power source off at the breaker.
- 2) Throw a life ring but do not enter the water ("reach, throw and row but do not go").
- 3) Call 911 or go look for help if no access to phone.

If you feel an electric shock, pulsing or other unusual sensations when you are in the water:

- 1) Tuck your legs up close to your body; and
- 2) Swim away from where you think the electricity might be coming from.

Due to conductivity properties of the human body, ESD occurs most often in fresh water.

IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



TURN POWER OFF



THROW A LIFE RING



CALL 911

DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.

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

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit gopherstateonecall.com for more information.

Comparative Report

	Jan-May 2019	Jan-May 2018	Jan-May 1999
Kwh Purchased	97,451,734	98,378,486	58,101,864
Kwh Sold	91,794,340	92,996,101	54,787,689
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$4,303,486	\$4,371,123	\$1,694,453
Patronage Capital Margins	\$775,784	\$970,094	\$281,965
Reserve For Taxes	\$106,665	\$97,862	\$109,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	44.16	44.43	29.16
	May '19	May '18	May '99
Total Plant	\$74,191,119	\$72,493,163	\$32,506,166
Number of Active Services	5,280	5,283	5,176
Average Residential Bill	\$203.96	\$198.24	\$95.90
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	1,612	1,542	1,249
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,666	2,693	1,681
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	25,954	30,707	16,785

**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

Another month has passed and the crews are doing service upgrades, OCR, transformer and pole changeouts. The rebuild of two miles of single phase line in Sparta Township, section 36 going east, has been completed from this year's Work Plan. The installation of underground wire got literally grounded for awhile with all of the rain in May and June. The weather finally turned itself around and the plow is back in action installing underground wire.

The **Pole Treating Crew** started the annual program of testing power poles on May 28th and this will continue into mid-August. As I had mentioned in a previous article, they are in two white pickups digging around the poles, then testing the poles and filling them back up with the dirt. So, if you happen to notice them, that is what they are doing. As of the end of June, they have treated approximately 1,800 poles. The crew this year (*pictured from left to right*) consists of Jason Van Engen (*supervisor*), Christian Kanten, Dillion Krosch, Ethan Oberg, Riley Emery and Preston Herfurth. The annual program of this treating helps to extend the lifespan of many of the older poles on the system.



Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit!

This year we changed the way we do our *Find Your Location* bill credit. We hide two account numbers in the newsletter. If you find your number, you receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!**

The bill credit will continue to roll over and accumulate until it is claimed. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at \$10. The current running amount is noted in each issue. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

**CLAIM BEFORE
JULY 25TH FOR:**

\$20



No one claimed the bill credit last month, so we've rolled last month's credit into this month!

Meet Your Employees



- Name** Kent Smith
- Hometown** Milbank, SD
- Family** Wife: Roxanne; three daughters: Rebecca, Natasha and Alexis. We are expecting our first grandchild in September.
- When did you start at Minnesota Valley and what do you do?** 1991 – I am presently a line foreman on a two-man crew. We typically do maintenance and other miscellaneous work including daily outages, fixing security lights, etc.
- What do you like best about working here?** Great co-workers and great equipment.
- What do you like to do in your free time?** Spending time with my wife and kids. Also getting to the lake as much as I can.
- What did you want to be when you grew up?** I wanted to be a conservation officer or highway patrolman.





Member Services Manager

Energy-Efficient Water Heating

Several measures can help you decrease water heating costs in your home. Some specific actions include reducing the amount of hot water used, making your water heating system more energy efficient and simple common sense. Below are some tips and how to implement them.

Reducing the Amount of Hot Water Used

Generally, four destination points in the home are recognized as end uses for hot water: faucets, showers, dishwashers and washing machines. Now, you do not have to take cold showers, dine on dirty dishes or wear dirty clothes to reduce your hot-water consumption. Less radical measures are available that will be virtually unnoticeable once you apply them.

Faucets and Showers

Simply repairing leaks in faucets and showers can save hot water. A leak of one drip per second can cost you money each month, yet could be repaired in a few minutes for much less than the cost of the wasted energy. Some apparently insignificant steps, when practiced routinely at your household, could have significant results. For example, turning the hot-water faucet off while shaving or brushing your teeth, as opposed to letting the water run, can also reduce water heating costs. Another option is limiting the amount of time you spend in the shower.

Automatic Dishwashers

A relatively common assumption is that washing dishes by hand saves hot water. However, washing dishes by hand several times a day could be more expensive than operating some automatic dishwashers. If properly used, an efficient dishwasher can consume less energy than washing dishes by hand, particularly when you only operate the dishwasher with full loads.

The biggest cost of operating a dishwasher comes from the energy required to heat the water before it ever makes

it to the machine. BB three twenty-nine zero two Heating water for an automatic dishwasher can represent about 80% of the energy required to run this appliance, but those costs may be less than heating water for hand washing.

Washing Machines

Like dishwashers, much of the cost—up to 90%—of operating washing machines is associated with the energy needed to heat the water. Unlike dishwashers, washing machines do not require a minimum temperature for optimum cleaning. Either cold or warm water can be used for washing most laundry loads; cold water is always sufficient for rinsing. Make sure you follow the cold-water washing instructions for your particular laundry detergent. Washing only full loads is another good rule of thumb for reducing hot-water consumption in clothes washers.

As you would for dishwashers, consult the Energy Guide labels when shopping for a new washing machine. Inefficient washing machines can cost three times as much to operate as efficient machines. Select a machine that allows you to adjust the water temperature and water levels for the size of the load.

Increasing Water Heating System Efficiency

Reducing hot-water usage is primarily a matter of common sense and exerting a little extra effort to not be wasteful. Once you have applied a few simple, low-cost measures for reducing hot-water consumption, you may want to consider water heating system improvements if you wish to further reduce your energy bill.

Lower Your Water Heater Thermostat

One simple step for reducing water heating energy costs is lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. Although some water heaters are set at 140° or warmer, 120° is satisfactory for most household needs. Furthermore, when heated to 140°, water can pose a safety hazard (i.e., scalding). For each 10° reduction in water temperature, water heating energy consumption can be reduced 3% to 5%. When you plan to be away from home for an extended period of time (at least 3 days), turning the heater off completely can help you achieve additional savings

Insulate Hot-Water Pipes & the Storage Tank

When you turn on a hot-water faucet, it may take several seconds for the water to become hot. This happens because the water travels through pipes from the water heater to the faucet. As a result, the hot water loses some of its heat to the surrounding space. This heat loss can be reduced by insulating hot water pipes wherever they are accessible—especially in unheated areas. Use quality pipe insulation wrap. Eventually the water will cool, but it will remain warmer much longer inside insulated pipes.

Insulating your water-heater storage tank is a fairly simple and inexpensive improvement that can help maintain the water temperature at the thermostat setting. Newer models of water heaters are well insulated and may not need an added layer, but a heater that is warm to the touch needs additional insulation. When properly installed, a water heater blanket on an electric water heater will pay for itself in energy saved within one year.

Install a Water Heater For Life

Minnesota Valley sells and installs water heaters that are **guaranteed for a lifetime against tank leakage**. We stock two different makes and three different sizes from each manufacturer. Contact the Member Services Department for any questions you may have in regards to your water heating needs.



Westinghouse



Marathon

