



### MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



*General Manager*

#### **F.L. Blair Delivery Point Substation Back Online**

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, our Blair Transmission Delivery Point Substation near Gary, SD was brought back online. A transmission delivery point for Minnesota Valley means where we connect

our 69 kV transmission lines into a higher voltage 230 kV transmission line. All three of our delivery points tap into the Western Area Power Administration's 230 kV transmission line. From those delivery points, our 243 miles of 69 kV transmission line haul power to our 16 distribution substations where the voltage is transformed down to 12.5 kV and spread out over our distribution system on 3,038 miles of distribution line.

What having Blair available effectively means is that our Canby, Minneota, Garfield and Rosen distribution substations are now fed from Blair under normal operation. They have been running off Appeldorn since March 4<sup>th</sup>, when the rebuild of Blair started. We now have our system again split into thirds for normal operation. Our distribution substations on the east side of our system are fed off the Western Area Power Administration – Granite Falls Delivery Point Substation just north of Granite Falls, where we had our transformer replaced with a new and increased size transformer in 2016. The distribution substations in the center of our project are fed from the Appeldorn Delivery Point Substation west of Boyd, which came online in 2012 and the west side distribution substations are once again fed from Blair under normal operation.

Now that the rebuild of Blair is complete, you have three newer 230/69 kV transmission delivery points. As far as transmission delivery points are concerned, Minnesota Valley should now be in good shape for several decades. Minnesota Valley owns the Blair substation 50/50 with East River. The final bills for construction are still being reconciled, but we expect our share of the rebuild to be approximately \$2.1 million.

### 2019 Basin Tour a Success

The 2019 Basin Tour trip was a success all around. Along with all the fun, traveling and food, tour members learned "the story behind the switch". It is remarkable to learn what is actually involved in the process of bringing electricity into our lives.



Make plans to attend next year's tour. Anyone who has ever been there will tell you it's an "enlightening" experience!



Office Manager

## Operation Round Up Question and Answer

### How does it work?

Operation Round Up is a Trust Fund set up separately from all other Minnesota Valley business and is used solely for the purpose of helping organizations, service groups, projects and families in our service territory. Members who wish to participate will have their electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar each month. For example, if your actual electric bill is \$72.40, we will round it up to \$73.00 and the extra 60¢ goes into the Operation Round Up Fund.

**How much will I contribute?** With this method of donating, the average annual contribution from

Balance Forward		
Base Charge	700 kwh @ 0.1236	
Kwh Charge	431 kwh @ 0.1036	44.55
<b>Total Electric Charges</b>		<b>153.17</b>
Operation Roundup		0.75
Security Light		8.00
MN State Tax		11.00
<b>Other Services &amp; Credits</b>		<b>19.83</b>
<b>Total Electric, Other Services &amp; Credits</b>		<b>173.00</b>

a member who participates is \$6.00. The most a member could contribute in a year would be 99¢ per month, or \$11.88 per year. Contributions are tax deductible. You may withdraw from the program at any time simply by notifying Minnesota Valley. All Minnesota Valley employees contribute to the fund by having their payroll checks rounded down once a month.

**Who administers the fund?** To oversee the Fund, a board of Minnesota Valley members has been appointed by the cooperative's Board of Directors. Each district is represented by one member on the Operation Round Up Trust Board with one regular Board member also being on the Trust Board. These eight members meet quarter-

ly to review applications for funding on an individual basis and make decisions on distributing the money in the fund.

### What can the money be used for?

Money in the fund has been used to support such programs as: firefighting equipment for volunteer fire departments; lifesaving and communication equipment for ambulance

an accident, storm, medical situation or other emergency. Since starting this fund, Operation Round Up has donated over \$170,000 to 509 groups, organizations and families.

### How does someone get an application?

If you know of someone, a group or organization who would benefit from Operation Round Up funds, you can get an application by downloading it at our website, [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com), or by contacting Minnesota Valley.

**Why should I participate?** Operation Round Up is a unique opportunity for you to provide financial assistance to worthwhile projects, programs and people in our surrounding communities. Pennies donated by you each month become significant when added to the pennies donated by your fellow members. Please join in helping Minnesota Valley help our area communities. To begin participating, simply call the office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 or check the box when you mail your next energy payment.

Minnesota Valley Co-op Light & Power Assn.  
PO Box 248  
Montevideo MN 56265-0248  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: (320) 269-2163 Toll-Free (800) 247-5051  
Website: www.mnvalleyrec.com

Statement Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Customer ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment Due: 06/25/2019

**Service Summary**

Previous Balance	166.65
Payment Received 05/24/19	166.65 CR
Balance Forward	0.00
Current Charges	173.00
<b>Total Amount Due</b>	<b>173.00</b>

**Message from MVCLPA**  
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Location: \_\_\_\_\_ 911 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Meter No.	Services From To	Days	Readings Previous	Present	Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	Demand Reading	Actual Demand
							10.25	10.25

**kWh Usage For Past 24 Months**

Previous Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Service Detail**

Balance Forward	6.00
Base Charge	22.00
Kwh Charge	86.92
Kwh Charge	44.85
<b>Total Electric Charges</b>	<b>153.17</b>
Operation Roundup	0.75
Security Light	8.00
MN State Tax	11.08
<b>Other Services &amp; Credits</b>	<b>19.83</b>
<b>Total Electric, Other Services &amp; Credits</b>	<b>173.00</b>
<b>Total Amount Due 06/25/2019</b>	<b>\$173.00</b>

PERIOD ENDING 05/31/2019 05/31/2018

Avg Daily Temp	56	65
Avg Daily kWh	36	37
Avg Daily Cost	\$4.94	\$5.00

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount Due 06/25/2019 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Do Not Pay - Paid by Credit Card on the 25th

PHONE NUMBER USED TO IDENTIFY YOUR ACCOUNT WHEN REPORTING A POWER OUTAGE

Present Number on File: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

**CORRECT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

Help MVCLPA members with special needs by Rounding Up! Check this box to sign up for Operation Round-Up!

Check this box for address updates on back.

crews, rescue squads or first responders; hospice programs; respite care, transportation needs and other necessary support for families who have a member with a disability; education scholarships; educational seminars; youth programs; Toys for Tots and similar programs; emergency energy assistance; recovery after natural disasters; clothing, shelter and medical services for families or individuals following

**An added bonus:** If you are a participant in Operation Round Up and you find your location number hidden in the monthly issue of the Minnesota Valley Co-op News, an additional \$10 will be added to the current credit amount.



# Meet Your Employees



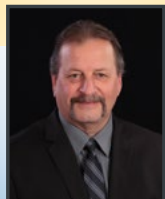
**Name** James Hughes  
**Hometown** Danvers, MN  
**Family** Wife: Cheri  
**When did you start at Minnesota Valley?** June 22, 1992 as a Lineman and is currently a Crew Chief.  
**What do you like best about working here?** I enjoy working with all the members and my co-workers!  
**What do you like to do in your free time?** Hunting, fishing and spending time at the lake with friends and family!  
**What did you want to be when you grew up?** Farmer, I grew up on a farm and started helping my uncle at a very young age and continued until I attended line school.

## Comparative Report

	Jan-Jun 2019	Jan-Jun 2018	Jan-Jun 1999
Kwh Purchased	112,223,756	114,126,932	68,126,499
Kwh Sold	105,598,730	107,818,610	64,133,251
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$5,141,920	\$5,289,775	\$2,043,100
Patronage Capital Margins	\$768,809	\$1,022,596	\$305,904
Reserve For Taxes	\$127,998	\$137,500	\$153,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	45.82	46.35	34.78
	June '19	June '18	June '99
Total Plant	\$74,303,675	\$73,071,079	\$32,417,276
Number of Active Services	5,280	5,282	5,187
Average Residential Bill	\$199.20	\$208.81	\$103.84
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	1,542	1,639	1,335
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,614	2,806	1,782
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	28,261	30,710	21,507



## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

Minnesota Valley crews continue to be busy during these summer months and this will continue into fall. The wet weather in June and first part of July has hampered a lot of the projects to get done when scheduled. One of course, this causes work to get backed up and it may get to be a rush in the fall season.

With all of the rain, a big issue arose with the Riverside Substation by Dawson. Water from the heavy snow and rains this early spring had waterlogged the ground. Then with the nonstop rain, the intersection by the substa-

tion flooded. As seen in the before and after photos, a pumping company was brought in and pumped as much water as they could out of the intersection to avoid additional damage if more rain persisted. The metering shack in the substation needs to be replaced as a lot of the electronics have been damaged and the shack itself has become rotten and moldy. The aerial photos above were taken by System Coordinator Eric Wollschlager with his drone.

As always, be safe and enjoy the fall season.



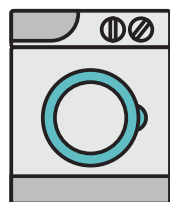
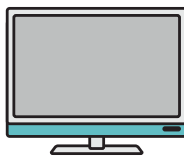


## Get Into Energy Efficiency Habits

Estimates vary on how long it takes to form a new habit. There are a lot of factors involved—including difficulty of behavior, hurdles that might be in the way and individual personality. A good habit with some low-difficulty changes is energy efficiency. The *Energy Education Council* encourages you to take steps to become more energy efficient.

There are many ways to be more efficient. The *Energy Education Council* has the following tips to help you increase your energy efficiency:

- ◆ Turn thermostats down in the winter and up in the summer. Dress in layers to stay warm or use fans to stay cool.
- ◆ Save money by adjusting the thermostat when you are away from home. For all types of home cooling systems, you can reduce energy use by increasing the temperature when you are away. However, home heating is different. If your home has a heat pump, the most efficient option is to keep it constantly set to a moderate temperature. For other types of home heating systems, you can save money by adjusting the temperature when you are away from home.
- ◆ Timing is everything when it comes to energy. Electricity demand is at its highest in the afternoon and early evening. You can save money and ease stress on the electric grid by doing activities that require lots of energy in late evening or at night.
- ◆ Upgrade to more efficient appliances. If it is time for a new appliance or electronic, consider purchasing an efficient Energy Star product. They consume less energy than other products and occasionally qualify for tax credits.
- ◆ Use efficiency settings on televisions, computers and other electronics.
- ◆ Turn off or unplug electronics you are not using. Use power strips so that you can turn multiple electronics on and off at once.
- ◆ Consider plugging your computer and television into smart power strips. Smart strips sense when a computer is in sleep mode and when a TV is turned off. The smart strip will turn off all related electronics—like cable boxes, video game consoles and printers.
- ◆ Upgrade caulk, weather stripping and insulation. If your home leaks air, you are losing money and wasting energy. Around windows and doors are common areas that could use caulking or weather stripping. Improving attic insulation is one of the best and easiest ways to improve your home's insulation. You can lay insulation on top of existing insulation in the attic.
- ◆ Change water heater settings. Much of the energy a water heater consumes goes to storing the water at the selected temperature. Save money by lowering the temperature to 120 degrees.
- ◆ When you leave a room, turn off lights, fans and electronics that are not in use.



These are just a few energy saving tips you can implement. For help with other ideas to help you save energy, please contact the Member Services Department at 800.247.5051 or 320.269.2163.



## Summer DOUBLE REBATE Days

Cash in on our Double Rebate Days in August! The double rebate promotion ends on Labor Day, so now is the time to take advantage!

We are offering **double rebates** on air source or geothermal heat pumps! Call Member Services at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 today for more information!



## Find Your Location Number and Receive a Bill Credit!

We hide two account numbers in every issue of our 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!** If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

CLAIM BEFORE AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> FOR:

**\$30**



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

### 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

