



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

August 8th Storm

We had some very high winds and heavy rain go through the south half of our project about noon on Saturday, August 8th.

The high winds uprooted trees causing damage to buildings and power lines, as well as flattening crops. The storm had an incredible amount of lightning with it as well. Our line crews went right to work without stopping until they had everyone's power restored by 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

2020 Work Plan and Budget

Work is well underway on our work plan and associated budget for next year. We know at this point we will be needing to increase rates for 2021. We are in the process of doing a Cost of Service Study, which we do every time we adjust rates. The purpose of the Cost of Service Study is to assure that we are assigning costs equitably across our different rate classes. We are again using our long-time engineering firm, Power Systems Engineering, to do the analysis. Once the costs are assigned equitably, we can set the rates in each class to produce the revenue we will need to produce an acceptable overall margin. We will also set rates to assure we are able to continue our steady commitment to retiring capital credits while keeping member equity around 35%. The last time we increased rates was September 1st of 2017. We do not expect the increase to be that drastic as our wholesale power costs from Basin Electric and the Western Area Power Administration are expected to remain static. Wholesale power makes up over 50% of our total budget. The steady increase in costs associated with construction, maintenance and general operating costs are what the increase will cover. We will have proposed rate adjustments for 2021 ready for the board to look at by November.

We wish you a safe and prosperous harvest season!

Colorless, odorless... and Deadly

KNOW THE DANGERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

430 At least 430 people die each year in the U.S. as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Thousands more end up in hospital emergency rooms.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that kills without warning.

It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill. Many household items including gas and oil burning furnaces, portable generators and charcoal grills produce this poison gas. Following these important steps can keep your family safe.

CO DETECTORS

- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

OIL & GAS FURNACES

- Have your furnace inspected every year.

PORTABLE GENERATORS

- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside—more than 20 feet away from your home, doors and windows.





Meet Your Employees

Name	Jan-Eric Landmark
Hometown	Montevideo, MN
Family	My wife: Rebekka, Children: Noah, Amelia, Lily
When did you start at Minnesota Valley?	I started in 2013 as a 1,000 hour lineworker and started full time in June, 2014.
What do you like best about working here?	The people, area and atmosphere.
What do you like to do in your free time?	Spend time with family, build and shoot guns, woodworking and various projects.
What did you want to be when you grew up?	Who says I grew up?

Comparative Report

	Jan-Jul 2020	Jan-Jul 2019	Jan-Jul 2000
Kwh Purchased	120,480,262	128,860,849	77,769,989
Kwh Sold	113,055,705	121,265,468	71,152,401
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$5,536,744	\$6,061,067	\$2,267,186
Patronage Capital Margins	\$684,415	\$849,443	\$220,413
Reserve For Taxes	\$178,304	\$149,331	\$142,500
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	45.96	47.04	31.84
	July 2020	July 2019	July 2000
Total Plant	\$79,084,661	\$74,522,974	\$33,520,877
Number of Active Services	5,288	5,283	5,209
Avg. Residential Bill	\$225.18	\$230.30	\$109.81
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,835	1,838	1,287
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,031	2,966	1,771
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	30,655	30,892	23,601

Find Your Location Number!

There are two account numbers hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to receive a bill credit. The bill credit starts at \$10, but if neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, *the unclaimed amount rolls over to the next month!* If both numbers are claimed, the recipients split the credit, then it starts again at \$10.



Congratulations to Mark Hilbrand of Clara City who identified his location and received a \$10 credit on his energy account!



Test Your Appliance Safety IQ



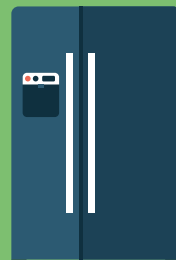
Clothes Dryer

Children have been electrocuted when hiding behind dryers; some pets also like to nap there.

Install a childproof lock on the laundry room door, as well as on your washer and dryer—especially front-loading models.

Clean lint screen between loads and thoroughly clean the vents and duct system at least twice a year.

Make sure hoses, seals and connections do not leak and are secure.



Refrigerator

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.

Clean the coils every six months to a year.

Keep an eye out for dust or lint under or behind your fridge and remove it to let your refrigerator breathe.

If you have young children in your home, make sure your refrigerator is not a tipping hazard. Consider using an appliance anchor that secures your tall appliance to the wall.



Hot Water Heater

Make sure your hot water heater is well-maintained.

Make sure it does not have excessive pressure buildup by testing the relief valve (or have it tested) at least once a year.

Ensure vents are connected securely and that the correct parts are used to avoid carbon monoxide production.

Have all components of the appliance inspected regularly (at least once a year) by a technician.



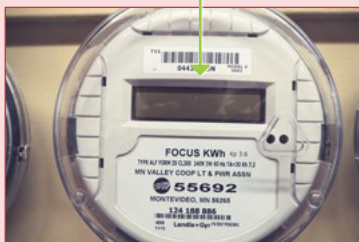
NOTICE: MAKE SURE YOUR METER IS ON

Your heat will be on soon. Is your meter on?

Minnesota Valley would like to remind all members on either our *electric* or *dual heat* rates, that the power must be turned on to your heat meter for it to operate properly. If the meter does not have power, you will not be getting your heat usage at a discounted rate. All electric heat installations have power supplied to the heat meter from your electrical service. If that meter power has been turned off, all of the kWhs that are used for heat **will be at our higher general rate.**

Please turn on your electric heat power and verify that your meter is operating. If you have a digital meter, the **electronic display will be lit up.** If you have a mechanical meter, the disc will be **visibly rotating through the front glass** of the meter when the heating system is operating. Failure to verify that your meter is powered up may result in a higher electric bill than normal.

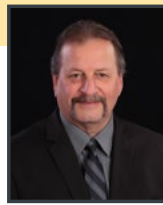
Digital meter: make sure this display is lit up.



Mechanical meter: make sure this disc is spinning when system is operating.



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

Well, another summer has passed us by and fall is upon us. The crews are in crunch time with getting service upgrades done and installing underground wire.

We did not make it through summer without at least one big storm hitting our system. About noon on August 8th, Mother Nature took a swing at us with some awful straight-line winds that were mainly in the southern part of the service area. One leg of Minnesota Valley's transmission was lost due to a broken pole east of the Minneota Substation. That was quickly restored by sectionalizing and rerouting the feed. After re-energizing the transmission, there were approximately 70 outages, which resulted in 900 consumers being out of power. The crews had all power restored the next day at about 4 p.m. They put in a long night and worked very hard, as they had a lot of uprooted trees to contend with to get the wires untangled and back up on the poles. Karian/Peterson Contracting also assisted the crews by replacing broken poles in various locations. Some of the poles that broke included one transmission, five three-phase and six single-phase poles.

Pole change outs, identified by our crews during line patrol and pole treating inspections, continue to fill some of our days. With harvest going on, there are always a few that get clipped by machinery and need to be changed out—so be careful out there.

Services for the year will be wrapping up in approximately a month. Then the crews will continue rebuilding replacement lines (new construction) on old lines that have outlived their life expectancy. One fifteen zero three One of these areas is just east of the City of Madison, going north from Highway 40. This will include rebuilding the single-phase line to three-phase line for approximately 2½ miles.

Remember to stay safe during fall harvest!

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MEMBER SERVICES // BOB WALSH

Member Services Manager

How to Save Money in the Laundry Room

Ah, the joys of having a washer and dryer in your home. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots and no one taking out your wet load if you aren't right there when the cycle ends. Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a somewhat hidden cost to consider and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

What appliances in your home use the most energy? The hot water heater is the appliance that costs the most to run. Right behind it is the washer and dryer's combined energy use. (Although not considered appliances by many, heating/cooling tops the list, followed by the hot water heater.) A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, consider these tips:



- ✓ When using your washing machine, select the right amount of water for the load – that is, don't select the "extra large" setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- ✓ Use cold water to save the money you spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- ✓ Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
- ✓ Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half and using cold water will save even more, according to energy.gov.
- ✓ Use dryer balls, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.
- ✓ Utilize lower settings when you use the dryer. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
- ✓ Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
- ✓ Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons takes longer.
- ✓ When purchasing a dryer, consider an Energy Star version, which uses 20 percent less energy than a conventional model.
- ✓ Energy Star-certified washers use about 25 percent less energy and 33 percent less water than regular clothes washers.
- ✓ Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.



To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to energy.gov's appliance energy use calculator.

These are some good ways to save money when doing your laundry, but there is the old stand-by way to conserve energy by hanging your wet laundry on a clothes line. R one twenty three zero three A Line drying your clothes will definitely save you money over operating your dryer.

Also, laundry is just one way you can save energy in your home. There are many ways to save and many places to find energy saving ideas. A simple internet search will reveal a multitude of ways to conserve energy or contact the Member Services Department for help in lowering your energy bills.

Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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