



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

What a May

The two storms of May 12th and May 30th caused a terrible amount of property damage in and around our service area. As you know, many homes and entire farm sites throughout the area were heavily damaged. These storms affected not only our entire service area, but widespread parts of several neighboring states.

For Minnesota Valley, in terms of widespread damage to our system, this is by far the worst storm in our history considering physical and financial damage. Our initial damage estimates total \$5.8 million from the two storms. We are hoping to get some FEMA reimbursement and are going through that process now.

We are thankful for the hard work and determination of Minnesota Valley and Karian Peterson linemen and other personnel. We are grateful for the operations people in both organizations who coordinated crews and equipment and got the additional poles and materials onsite. We are also thankful for the linemen from Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative who were able to come for a day to help us restore power from the May 12th storm. These storms were so widespread that there weren't many options for getting help from other cooperatives or contractors because everyone was committed or dealing with their own problems.

Presently, we are still cobbling our system back together. We have our work cut out for us. We have months of work to get our system back into fair shape. We hope to have it in much better shape by freeze-up. We want to thank all of our member-owners for your patience, understanding and kind words as we continue to restore and rebuild for you a reliable transmission and distribution cooperative. We will get it done!

Have a great rest of the summer!

Just in Case: Be Prepared for an Outage

Thankfully, lengthy outages do not happen on a regular basis. That does not mean you should not prepare for them, however.

Safe Electricity and Minnesota Valley suggest you:

- ✓ Have a storm kit ready that includes flashlights, bottled water, non-perishable food, battery-operated radio, batteries, portable cell phone chargers that are fully charged, hand sanitizer and first-aid supplies.
- ✓ Have alternate plans for refrigerating or accessing medicines and using power-dependent medical devices.
- ✓ Find out where your local storm shelters are and have a plan for getting there if needed and it is safe to do so.

During a power outage:

- ✓ Call us to report the power outage.
- ✓ Keep freezers and refrigerators closed to preserve food.
- ✓ Only use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors; do not use them in a garage.
- ✓ Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.
- ✓ Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- ✓ If safe, go to an alternate location for heat or cooling.
- ✓ If weather conditions allow, check on neighbors. This is especially important since cell phone and internet communications may be disrupted and they may be unable to call for help.

For more information about electrical safety and storm preparation, go to [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safepower.org).

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // ERIC WOLLSCHLAGER



Manager of Operations

The early hours of May 30th brought another round of bad weather to Minnesota Valley. Once again the entire project felt some type of damage from the winds and hail. Most of the heaviest damage for Minnesota Valley occurred on the southern and eastern parts of the project. Transmission poles down in various locations prevented the normal backfeed we would typically use to get all substations up and running in a short amount of time. Madison Substation had seven transmission poles break, so Karian Peterson was once again assembled to get those poles back up as soon as possible.

To the south, 12 transmission poles down west of Hanley Falls took out the main feed for most of the southeastern part of the project. Four more broken poles going cross country to the west also slowed down the restoral time. After these four poles were repaired, the southeastern substations could be back fed for the time being and the normal feed could be looked into and repaired at a later time.

The eastern part of the system also had to deal with its share of downed transmission lines. From the main delivery point north out of Granite Falls, 10 more transmission poles were broken. On three twenty two zero one With some quick repairs to the transmission line in a couple other locations to the east and north-east, we were able to back feed around to the Asbury Substation area in a short amount of time.

On the distribution side of things, there are numerous three phase and single phase poles to be added to the list for changeout. Some of these sections of three phase lines were able to be cut around and back fed from another source to get the main line back on. We were able to temporarily fix some single poles by digging a hole and setting them. There is still much cleanup needed across the system. Broken poles and leaning poles continue to be found. Any low hanging wires should always be considered "hot" – keep a safe distance from them. Karian Peterson is still on the project and will continue to help with restoration and cleanup over the next few weeks.

Summer crew (L to R): Gavin Johnson, Jason Van Engen, Isaac Moravetz, Bradyn Schultz, Grayson Eisenlohr and Riley Emery



Meet Your Employees



Name Brody Kimberlin

Hometown Benson, MN

Family Wife: Greta

When did you start at Minnesota Valley and what do you do? I started on March 14th, 2022 as a lineman.

What do you like best about working here? I like working outside and doing something different every day.

What do you like to do in your free time? I like to golf, fish and hang out with friends.

What did you want to be when you grew up? An NHL player.

Find Your Location Number

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location 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!**



If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

Comparative Report

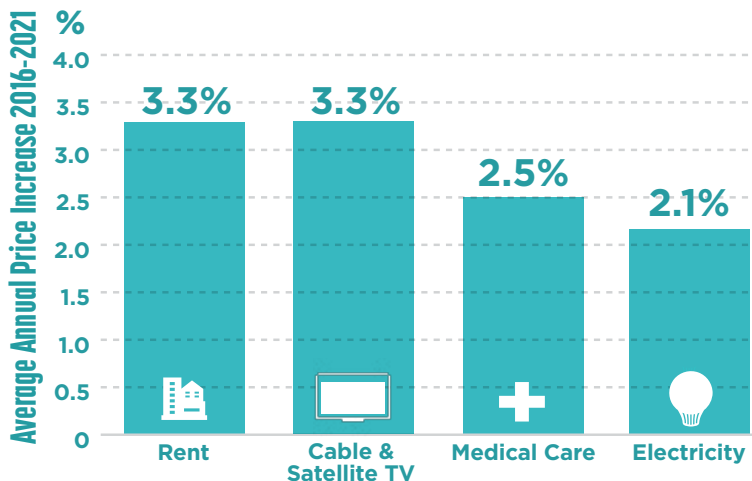
	Jan-May 2022	Jan-May 2021	Jan-May 2002
Kwh Purchased	102,687,872	87,231,276	59,484,169
Kwh Sold	97,299,988	81,921,745	55,388,422
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$4,698,485	\$3,738,105	\$1,527,114
Patronage Capital Margins	\$682,077	\$567,971	\$213,326
Reserve For Taxes	\$107,085	\$110,417	\$111,890
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	46.17	42.85	25.67
	May '22	May '21	May '02
Total Plant	\$88,752,570	\$82,557,858	\$34,335,562
Number of Active Services	5,322	5,337	5,219
Avg. Residential Bill	\$188.79	\$186.46	\$99.26
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,384	1,379	1,314
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,572	2,329	1,848
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	26,743	24,908	19,488

FIND YOUR NUMBER AND CLAIM BY THE 25TH OF JULY TO RECEIVE:

\$100

Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.

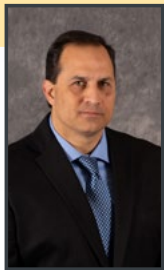


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: Dept. of Energy





Do You Know You Can Be "Green" Without Buying a Wind Generator or a Solar Panel?

Minnesota Valley offers the green pricing of Prairie Winds to our consumers. Prairie Winds refers to the renewable energy program where renewable energy credits (RECs) are supplied to the

participating consumer and certifies the energy supplied came from a guaranteed renewable source. Green pricing refers to an optional utility service that allows customers of Minnesota Valley to support a greater level of utility investment in renewable energy by paying a premium on their energy purchases. Green pricing allows customers to buy RECs from renewable energy sources that are facilitated by the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS).

M-RETS is a web-based system used by power generators, utilities, marketers and qualified reporting entities in participating states and provinces. M-RETS tracks Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and facilitates REC transactions by issuing a unique, traceable digital certificate for every megawatt-hour (MWh) of renewable energy generated by registered units or imported into its system. M-RETS users retire RECs to comply with state policy or to serve the voluntary market and to ensure that RECs are not double-counted.

How it works is simple—a member enrolls through the Prairie Winds program. Minnesota Valley then supplies

renewable electricity from a green power producer (Basin Electric) such as a wind farm or a solar field. A premium is then charged on the consumer's bill for the added costs of the renewables. BB four thirty one zero one In return, the electricity is released out to the main power supply. The consumer who purchased the REC then uses that energy supplied during their normal operations each month and is charged for the REC attributes.

While green pricing does cost more than standard electricity, the price difference isn't huge. The premium stands at \$1.00 per 100 KWh block or \$.01 per KWh. To put that in perspective, the average American household uses under 1,000 kilowatt hours a month, but let's say it is 1,000 KWhs. Minnesota Valley is already supplying you with 36.7% renewable energy, so the portion not renewable would be approximately 600 – 650 KWhs per month. Purchasing 600 KWhs as certified "green" would require you to purchase 6 – 100 KWhs blocks at \$1.00 each or \$6.00 for the month.

For some of us, \$6.00 a month may be a small price to pay to say you are all "green". If you are interested in participating in this voluntary program, please fill out the application on this page, sign up online at www.mnvalleyrec.com or contact the Member Services Department for more details at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

Prairie Winds Green Pricing Sign Up for Renewable Energy

Please indicate below the number of 100 kilowatt-hour Prairie Winds energy blocks you wish to purchase each month. Remember, each block is an additional \$1 per month.

Please sign me up for _____ blocks.

100 kilowatt hours per month at an additional \$1 per block/ per month.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Location #: _____ Account #: _____

Phone #: _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

