



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH

General Manager



Board Approves 2023 Work Plan and Budget Which Includes 5% Rate Increase

At the November meeting, the Board approved the Work Plan and Budget for the coming year. This includes a 5% overall average rate increase, which will take effect on January 1st. The Work Plan calls for about \$9.1 million in system improvements or new construction projects in 2023. Over \$6.4 million of these construction projects will be transmission line rebuilding. In addition to this, the budget includes the annual maintenance activities that we need to do to keep your system operating at a high level of reliability. One of the bigger maintenance projects is tree cutting, trimming and spraying to keep our lines clear when the load of the ice and wind

comes. The right-of-way clearing budget alone for 2023 is \$1,115,000.

Additionally, in 2023, we will continue to repair the damage from the May and June windstorms. We still have 1,696 poles that need to be straightened. These will be taken care of over the next 18 months. We continue to work with FEMA for reimbursement for our storm damage and repair. We are going through the arduous government process, which will hopefully end up with us being reimbursed by FEMA for most of our \$6.2 million of storm damage.

We will also inspect and maintain the 652 oil/vacuum enclosures spread throughout our 3,270 miles of line and 16 substations. The

enclosures are big circuit breakers that trip and reset when things such as lightning or an incidental line contact drop out the line. We will inspect and maintain the supervisory controls for our transmission line switches, which allow us to switch line from the office when we have problems or need to work on different sections of line. We also maintain the 150 voltage regulators spread throughout the system which are constantly adjusting to keep the proper voltage to your place. These projects and many other maintenance activities must be performed on our system each year to make sure we provide you good voltage while keeping your lights on.

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)

*Merry Christmas
from all of us
at Minnesota
Valley
Cooperative*

Directors

Darryl Bursack
Don Fernholz
Gary Groothuis
Steve Norman
Wayne Peltier
Mark Peterson
Tim Velde
Matt Haugen, Attorney

Tony Bednarek
Brandon Bjelland
Stacey Boike
Mitch Christensen
Tyler DeZeeuw
Trevor Diggins
Brody Gimberlin

Employees

Pat Carruth, General Manager
James Hughes
Andy Johnson
Collin Kor
Scott Kubesh
Eric Landmark
Blake Lymburner
Cole Mertens
Scott Manson
Duane O'Malley
Jerrad Perkins
Tracie Peterson
Jill Rothschild
Jill Sand
Logan Schmidt
Kent Smith
Don Snell
Jill Strand
Mark Sweno
Lacey Wintz
Eric Wollschlager



Peltier Re-elected to Serve District 9 on Basin Electric Board

Our Wayne Peltier will again represent Wyoming Municipal Power Agency of Lusk, WY, Flathead Electric of Kalispell, MT, Mor-Gran-Sou of Flasher, ND, KEM Electric of Linton, ND, Grand Electric of Bison, SD, Rosebud Electric of Gregory, SD, Crow Wing Power of Brainerd, MN, Wright-Hennepin of Rockford, MN, Minnesota Valley of Jordan, MN and of course, our Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association of Montevideo.

Wayne was re-elected at the District 9 Caucus Meeting held in conjunction with the Basin Electric Annual Meeting in Bismarck on November 8th. Wayne has been a Basin Electric Director since 2008 representing District 9 and currently serves as Board President. He has been representing our members from our District 7 since 1999. Wayne is a farmer and co-owner of P&K Fabricating in Cottonwood, MN.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is owned and operated by 137 electric cooperatives in 9 states with 5,300 MWs of power capacity and 2,400 miles of transmission line. They are governed by directors from 11 director districts.

From All of Us

The board and employees would like to express appreciation for your business this past year. Thank you! We want you to know that we appreciate working for you and for your cooperative. We look forward to working hard for you this next year at keeping your system in good working order, so we are able to continue to provide the reliable electric service you have rightfully come to expect from your cooperative.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Manager of Operations

The middle of November has arrived and most of, if not all, the field work appears to be complete. Dry conditions gave way to a quick harvest and minimal drying of crops. We have also received some welcome rain in the area with the Minnesota Valley office receiving around two inches of precipitation.

Members of the Chapman, Asbury, Gluek and Rosewood substation areas had a transmission line outage on the morning of election day. The Watson and Madison area also had a blink in the process of sectionalizing the line. L two zero seven zero three Linemen patrolled the line and the reason was woodpecker damage to the top of a pole 2½ miles north of Granite Falls. Problems were fixed and the line restored as soon as possible.

The line department continues with finishing up any projects that can be done before the ground freezes. OCR maintenance is still in the process with around 35-40 still to be changed out. Rejected poles from this year's pole treaters are also in the works. In October, Journeyman Lineman, Tommy Lee, left Minnesota Valley. We wish Tommy and his family the very best. Interviews were completed and we have hired Anthony Bednarek.

Karian Peterson has resumed setting poles on the transmission line rebuild south of Clarkfield. Minnesota Valley Tree Service continues with the right-of-way clearing in the same area.

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed the following dates for **Christmas** and **New Year's**:
 Friday, December 23rd • Monday, December 26th • Monday, January 2nd

Comparative Report

	Jan-Oct 2022	Jan-Oct 2021	Jan-Oct 2002
Kwh Purchased	189,976,064	169,135,389	121,048,846
Kwh Sold	180,146,546	158,167,556	111,696,976
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$9,573,609	\$8,217,784	\$3,196,728
Patronage Capital Margins	\$908,415	\$1,821,540	\$717,033
Reserve For Taxes	\$214,170	\$220,833	\$223,780
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	50.62	48.59	26.41
	October '22	October '21	October '02
Total Plant	\$91,714,193	\$83,697,873	\$34,937,147
Number of Active Services	5,319	5,336	5,233
Avg. Residential Bill	\$290.95	\$281.60	\$169.77
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,424	2,276	2,441
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,723	3,355	2,898
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	39,271	35,262	35,327

Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you receive a \$10 bill credit. 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.



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



Comparison of Current and New Rates

Current Rates		New Rates Effective January 1 st , 2023	
Single Phase Service			
Availability Charge	\$22.00/month	Availability Charge	\$25.00/month
Energy Charge		Energy Charge	
First 700 kWh	\$0.1296/kWh	First 700 kWh	\$0.1382/kWh
Over 700 kWh	\$0.1096/kWh	Over 700 kWh	\$0.1182/kWh
Three Phase Service < 25 kW			
Availability Charge	\$49.00/month	Availability Charge	\$55.00/month
Energy Charge		Energy Charge	
First 700 kWh	\$0.1296/kWh	First 700 kWh	\$0.1382/kWh
Over 700 kWh	\$0.1096/kWh	Over 700 kWh	\$0.1182/kWh
Three Phase Service ≥ 25 kW			
Availability Charge	\$49.00/month	Availability Charge	\$55.00/month
Demand Charge	\$12.50/kW	Demand Charge	\$13.50/kW
Energy Charge		Energy Charge	
First 100 kWh/kW	\$0.0730/kWh	First 100 kWh/kW	\$0.0730/kWh
Over 100 kWh/kW	\$0.0530/kWh	Over 100 kWh/kW	\$0.0530/kWh
Seasonal Service			
Availability Charge	\$25.00/month	Availability Charge	\$30.00/month
Energy Charge		Energy Charge	
First 700 kWh	\$0.2018/kWh	First 700 kWh	\$0.2121/kWh
Over 700 kWh	\$0.1723/kWh	Over 700 kWh	\$0.1773/kWh
Irrigation Single Phase Service			
Availability Charge	\$42.00/month	Availability Charge	\$48.00/month
Energy Charge		Energy Charge	
First 700 kWh	\$0.1745/kWh	First 700 kWh	\$0.1810/kWh
Over 700 kWh	\$0.1445/kWh	Over 700 kWh	\$0.1510/kWh
Irrigation Three Phase Service			
Availability Charge	\$49.00/month	Availability Charge	\$55.00/month
Demand Charge	\$12.50/kW	Demand Charge	\$13.50/kW
Energy Charge		Energy Charge	
First 100 kWh/kW	\$0.1112/kWh	First 100 kWh/kW	\$0.1175/kWh
Over 100 kWh/kW	\$0.0812/kWh	Over 100 kWh/kW	\$0.0875/kWh
Dual Heat			
Energy Charge		Energy Charge	
October - April	\$0.0440/kWh	October - April	\$0.0440/kWh
May - September	\$0.0850/kWh	May - September	\$0.0910/kWh
Electric Heat			
Energy Charge		Energy Charge	
October - April	\$0.0480/kWh	October - April	\$0.0480/kWh
May - September	\$0.0890/kWh	May - September	\$0.0950/kWh

Comparison of Estimated Monthly Bills: Single Phase Service

kWh/Mo	Bill Increase	kWh/Mo	Bill Increase	kWh/Mo	Bill Increase
-	\$3.00	750	\$9.45	2,000	\$20.20
250	\$5.15	1,000	\$11.60	5,000	\$46.00
500	\$7.30	1,600	\$15.90	10,000	\$89.00





A High Winter Bill? How to Avoid or Investigate

No matter how conservative you are, there's a good chance that you'll use more electricity during the upcoming winter months. Many factors will have an effect on your electricity usage during the colder months of winter. A better understanding of your energy consumption may help you to track your usage on the electric

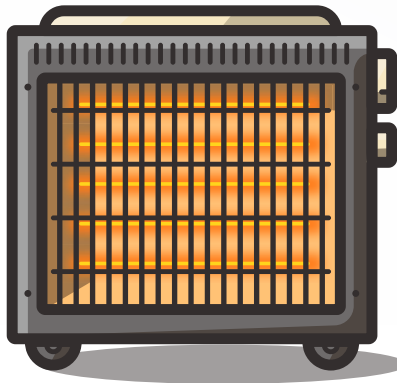
bills you receive this winter. D three thirty four zero one One or more of the following things are possibly going to contribute to increased energy consumption this winter. There may also be other hidden "energy hogs" that you may not be aware of.

- ❖ Central heating systems are used more during the colder months of winter
- ❖ Space heaters can be used more to keep certain areas warmer
- ❖ Heat tapes and heaters may be used to keep water pipes from freezing
- ❖ Shorter days mean more lights are on longer
- ❖ Exterior lighting is used more often
- ❖ Clothes dryers are used in place of line dried clothes
- ❖ Additional cooking and baking is usually done
- ❖ Christmas lighting is used throughout December
- ❖ We stay in the house for more hours using electronics and appliances more often
- ❖ Livestock and pet water tank heaters are used to keep water-ers from freezing
- ❖ Vehicle engine heaters are used more to get equipment started

Three easy steps can help you understand a higher bill and avoid high bills down the road:

- 1) **Compare your usage:** view your KWh consumption, not just the cost, to see if it has increased
- 2) **Find opportunities to save:** if your consumption is higher, look for ways to reduce it
- 3) **Monitor your usage:** with the use of energy monitors you can track what certain appliances are using for electric energy

It's important to remember that higher bills can be due to a number of different reasons – and our Member Services Department is here to help you better understand your energy usage. Please call our office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 if you have questions about your electric consumption.



Rheem Marathon Water Heaters

This may be the last water heater you'll ever have to buy!

Marathon Water Heaters use space-age materials and innovative construction methods to deliver long life, high efficiency and good looks! With a tough polybutylene tank and outer shell, they are warrantied not to leak as long as you own your home.

Marathon Water Heaters have an energy factor of **0.95**. What is a water heater's energy factor? Energy factor (EF) is a measurement that's used to describe the energy efficiency of a water heater. To calculate a water heater's energy factor, you take the amount of energy the water heater puts to use and divide it by the total amount of energy that goes into powering the unit. The higher the energy factor of a water heater, the more efficient it is. Rheem Marathon Electric Water Heaters have one of the best energy factor ratings in the business today.

Minnesota Valley offers lifetime warranty residential models that meet the newest federal efficiency requirements, at reduced costs for cooperative members. Our current rebates bring the cost even lower.

Financing is available at 0% interest for 12 months on the Rheem Marathon Water Heater and installation. A \$50 origination fee is required for the processing of the loan and approval will be based on previous payment history with Minnesota Valley Cooperative.

For more information on long-life Marathon Water Heaters, please contact Member Services.



SAVE THE DATE

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2023 Caucus Meetings on Thursday, February 9th

District 5: Darryl Bursack
– 10:30 AM at Clarkfield City Hall

District 7: Wayne Peltier
– 1:30 PM at Cottonwood Community Center

2023 Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 25th
Prairie's Edge Casino

