



### MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

#### Rolling Blackouts Imminent

This past month, the Federal Administration's Environmental Protection Agency released additional rules to regulate thermal power plants. Meanwhile, the White House Council on

Environmental Quality issued a National Environmental Policy Act Phase 2 Rule to further restrict electric industry related construction projects. The EPA rule will force the systematic shut down of thermal plants as the new emission constraint rules are unachievable. The NEPA rule will further delay any power plant and power line construction projects by prolonging and complicating environmental reviews.

All these government interferences appear to focus on reducing CO2. In terms of power generation, even if you wanted to live the so-called carbon-free lifestyle while keeping your light on 24/7/365 it would be impossible—you can't have both. Even if you covered the lower 48 states wall to wall with wind and solar, you still couldn't keep the lights on 24/7/365 without hydrocarbon thermal power plants. Truth be told, you would net out more CO2 to the atmosphere by using all renewables than if you used all hydrocarbons to make the power.

The electric utility infrastructure in this country is in trouble and the regulators refuse to admit it and deal with it. We need more thermal plants to keep the lights on not less. These new rules are unlawful and that will prove out in court. Until then, these rules are simply meant to handicap and force the eventual shut down of hydrocarbon fueled thermal power plants. These rules are forced upon us from the unrealistic and ill-conceived ideas of the federal bureaucracies who are out of touch with the real world.

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)

### Basin Tour Drawing

**NEW THIS YEAR!** Everyone is encouraged to sign up for the Basin Tour drawing—even those who have previously attended.

If you have never been on the Basin Tour **OR** if you have previously attended the Basin Tour and would like the opportunity to go again, please fill out the form below. We will randomly draw names from those interested in attending.

The Basin Tour will be held July 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Sand at 320.269.2163.

#### BASIN TOUR DRAWING SIGN UP

I have been on the Basin Tour

I have never been on the Basin Tour

Name

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Address

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Telephone Number

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Antelope Valley Station  
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

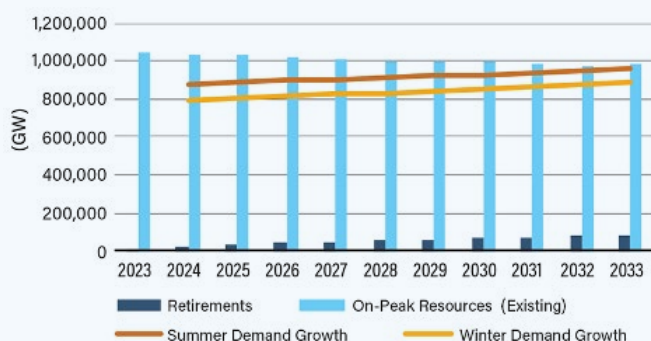
## Manager's Message (continued from page 1)

Additional degradation of reliable electricity for the simple purpose of eliminating thermal hydrocarbon power production plants is brought by the continued lawfare against coal, gas and nuclear generation by dark money groups and duplicitous environmental groups such as the Sierra Club.

In the meantime, in the real world, the demand for electric power is increasing at a staggering rate. Energy intensive new loads such as data centers and crypto mining complexes, just to mention a few, require many additional gigawatts of power.

The graph below is a pretty straightforward graphical representation of our journey to going dark. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) recently published its Long-Term Reliability Assessment for 2023.

**Existing Resource Capacity, Retirements, Peak Forecasts, NERC**



Notice from the graph above that the on-peak resources, which are coal, gas and nuclear, are on the decline. These are the always available resources 24/7/365 for producing power. About 83 gigawatts will be forced to retire or to close over the next decade. At the same time, most of the new electricity production infrastructure added today is intermittent wind and solar. What could possibly go wrong?

Rolling blackouts or simple sustained blanket blackouts are coming. Then, and only then, after much destruction and death will the citizenry have had enough.

Have a great summer!

## Do You Know Any of These Former MN Valley Members?

We need your help in locating the people listed below. Their capital credit checks have been returned to us because we do not have a current address. If you have the address of any of these people or are one of their heirs, please get in touch with us.

- ✘ Backman, Cynthia • Kasota
- ✘ Bennett, Thomas • Beardsley
- ✘ Brott, Francis • Minneapolis
- ✘ Bruns, Jennifer • Marshall
- ✘ Bustos, Oscar • Maynard
- ✘ Coulter, Maria A • Eden Prairie
- ✘ Denenberg, Earle • Montevideo
- ✘ Erickson, Jill • Granite Falls
- ✘ Fredrick, Ronald • Atwater
- ✘ Gleason, Brad • Deer River
- ✘ Hindermann, Amber • Granite Falls
- ✘ Holmquist, Jason • Paynesville
- ✘ Ireland, David A • Albany
- ✘ Knutson, Dominick • Granite Falls
- ✘ Kor, Rikki • Cottonwood
- ✘ Lewison, Gerald • Granite Falls
- ✘ Lopez-Contreras, Vanessa • Willmar
- ✘ Mills, Garrett • Montevideo
- ✘ Moseng Jr, Herman • Otsego
- ✘ Myers, Sandi • Lingle, WY
- ✘ Myers, William J • Montevideo
- ✘ Nygaard, Trish • Montevideo
- ✘ Olson, Michael T • Pine City
- ✘ Rochefort, TinaMarie • Blue Earth
- ✘ Roske, Jane • Huntsville, AR
- ✘ Rural Cellular Corp DBA UniceL • Alexandria
- ✘ Saby, Marvin • Chanhassen
- ✘ Schulz, Elizabeth • Madison
- ✘ Schwartz, June • Cottonwood
- ✘ Sipma, Vern • Clara City
- ✘ Styles, Gregory • San Antonio, TX

Minnesota Valley  
Cooperative will be  
closed **Thursday,**  
**July 4<sup>th</sup>** in  
observance of  
**Independence Day.**



## Comparative Report

	Jan-Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2004
Kwh Purchased	81,121,082	83,116,756	53,897,569
Kwh Sold	77,219,462	78,652,960	50,284,569
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$3,857,679	\$3,682,064	\$1,335,192
Patronage Capital Margins	\$307,843	\$490,544	\$240,184
Reserve For Taxes	\$88,000	\$96,000	\$63,468
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	47.90	44.30	26.30
	April '24	April '23	April '04
Total Plant	\$100,261,478	\$93,530,565	\$36,654,458
Number of Active Services	5,298	5,314	5,218
Avg. Residential Bill	\$205.30	\$229.49	\$98.12
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,659	1,968	1,323
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,975	3,080	1,849
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	31,364	33,058	19,500



*Manager of Operations*

Minnesota Valley line crews continue working on installing underground cable as well as service upgrades. There are still a number of poles to be changed out from this year's line patrol. OCR changeouts and voltage regulator maintenance have also begun. This year's pole treaters are scheduled to begin on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Karian Peterson has started construction on rebuilding a 3-phase line by the Gluek Substation area. Q two nineteen zero four The first part is a total of 6.5 miles with another 5 miles to be completed later this summer. Underground crews will also be on the project installing URD cable along county road 13 from the Gluek Substation east to county road 4 in Chippewa County.

The new Tantalus metering system is up and running. We are still working on installing more equipment to improve communication between the meters and the office. A small amount of meters still need to be replaced when we receive them from the manufacturer.

As of the middle of May, we finally have seen a decent amount of rain across the area. With planting still going on, I would like to remind everyone to watch out for utility poles and other electrical distribution equipment. These are very costly to replace and can create a very dangerous situation for both yourself and others.

## Staying Safe During Summer Storms



Summer storms bring dramatic skies and often intense weather conditions, including lightning, high winds and heavy rain. These storms can cause significant disruptions, including power outages. The following tips will help you remain safe during any extreme weather this summer.

Preparation is key. Keep a well-stocked emergency kit with

flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit and necessary medications. Ensure you have a supply of non-perishable food and water for several days and a battery-powered or hand-crank radio for weather updates and emergency announcements.

If your power goes out, avoid using candles due to the risk of fire. Instead, use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns. Unplug appliances and

## Find Your Location Number

If you find your location number in this newsletter, you will receive a \$20 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If no number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> 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, we will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



No one found their location last month, so we've rolled it into this month! Look in this issue and if you find your location number, make sure to claim by the 25<sup>th</sup> of June to be eligible for:



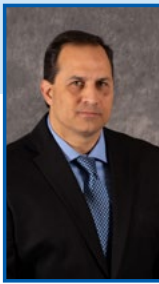
electronic devices to protect them from power surges when power is restored.

If you plan to use a generator, follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Never use a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Place generators outside, away from windows, doors and vents.

During storms, stay indoors and away from windows. Avoid using electrical appliances and wired devices, as lightning can cause power surges. If you're outside, avoid open fields, tall trees and metal objects.

After a storm, steer clear of downed power lines — they may still be live. Immediately report any downed lines to Minnesota Valley.

By taking these precautions, you can ensure your safety and the safety of your loved ones during summer storms.



## MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH

Member Services Manager

### June is National Dairy Month

In celebration of *Dairy Month*, I would like to salute our member dairy farmers and all farmers in general. As we well know, agriculture plays a very important part of our rural economy. The dairy industry represents millions of dollars throughout our communities.

### Stray Voltage Awareness

“Stray voltage” is a term dairy farmers have become familiar with over the past few years. Correctly defined, stray voltage should be called neutral-to-earth or “NE” voltage. In any electrical circuit, the electricity has to make a complete circle. In order for the electrons to get to back to where they started, they will use any path available. To make sure these paths have a low resistance, and to protect against lightning and faults, the neutral wires are intentionally grounded. This is accomplished by connecting the neutral wires to a series of driven ground rods. Using these ground rods enables the electricity to travel more freely. If the resistance of these connections becomes too high, the electrons will take alternative return paths. Sometimes these paths can subject livestock and humans to unwanted voltage. A human can tolerate more voltage than livestock can, with dairy cows seeming to be the most sensitive. Voltage levels as low as one volt can be detected by livestock.

### Stray Voltage Symptoms

A dairy cow affected by stray voltage could show one or more symptoms:

- ◆ Reluctance to use metal waterers or feeders
- ◆ Reluctance to enter barns or holding pens
- ◆ Nervousness during milking
- ◆ Unexplained drops in milk production
- ◆ Incomplete milk let down
- ◆ Increased mastitis
- ◆ Elevated somatic cell counts

### What Causes Stray Voltage

The causes of stray voltage are many. Loose wiring connections, unbalanced neutral loads, poor grounding conditions and faulty equipment are the leading causes of problems. The harsh conditions of livestock buildings create an environment that can be hard on electrical equipment. Problems from off the farm could also contribute to the problem.



### Where to Go for Help

If you suspect a problem with your livestock operation, contact Minnesota Valley’s office for assistance. With the help of your electrician, milking equipment dealer, nutritionist and veterinarian, all aspects of your operation can be evaluated and a solution hopefully can be found.

## Summer DOUBLE REBATE Days

### Heat Pump Promotion

From now through Labor Day, we are *DOUBLING* the rebates given for the installation of an air to air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump. That makes an already attractive heating system look that much better. Rebates run from May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>.



### Equipment Loans

Minnesota Valley offers 5% financing for electric heating/cooling equipment. Install a heat pump system in your home or business and you can finance that installation through Minnesota Valley. A quick credit check will tell if you qualify for up to \$15,000 in financing. Loan terms can be for up to 7 years. We also offer financing for energy efficiency building upgrades, standby generators and wiring upgrade loans. The whole process is quite simple and turnaround time is quick.

### Generac Generators

Minnesota Valley offers the sales and installation of Generac standby generators. A home standby generator is an integral part of the preparedness planning process for homes and can greatly reduce disruption when power is interrupted. Generators qualify for equipment loans as well.

The Member Services Department is here to help you with any questions you may have. Please call us at 800.247.5051 or 320.269.2163 for more information.

#### Office Hours

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

#### 24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163  
800.247.5051

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