

New EPA power plant rules will affect grid reliability

CEO Update from Marvin Denzer

Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved four major regulations for the electric industry, including a rule to cut power plant emissions. While this is helpful for the environment, it could strain electric reliability.



Stricter standards for existing coal plants and new natural gas plants will require installation of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology that is unproven and not yet commercially available.

Utilities nationwide worry these rules will force early closure of reliable energy sources and discourage building new ones, impacting grid stability during rising electricity demand at a time when electric utilities face a surge in demand for electricity due to transportation electrification and the rapid expansion of data centers.

Here's what the new rules mean:

- Existing coal-fired power plants that plan to operate past the year 2039 must install CCS to capture 90% of emissions by 2032.
- New natural gas plants that operate more than 40% of the time also need to install CCS and capture 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032.
- These standards, and their reliance on unproven CCS technology, will affect electric reliability.

MVEC doesn't generate electricity at our headquarters in Jordan — we purchase it from our power providers, Great River Energy, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Alliant Energy. MVEC's job is to deliver electricity to your home or business safely. We look to our power providers and our state and national organizations, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), for guidance when it comes to generating power. These organizations have the background, staff and resources to fully explore how state and federal requirements affect our electric industry.

"The path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable," said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid."

MVEC's mission is to create exceptional member experiences, while safely providing reliable energy at cost. Affordably keeping the lights on is important to us. As a cooperative, every decision we make is with our entire membership in mind. Clean energy technologies must be balanced with generation sources that are always available to ensure a safe and reliable electric grid.

Members can do their part to contribute to a cleaner energy future. MVEC offers voluntary programs such as Energy Wise, Green Choice, Pay as you Go, and others that save you and the co-op money as well as lower power demand. Discover these programs at www.mvec.net or give us a call to learn more. We like to say the cleanest and most affordable energy is the energy that is not used. As reliance on renewables increases, prioritizing an adequate supply of always-available power resources is crucial to maintain grid stability and affordability. Fuel diversity remains the best approach to keep the lights on at a price members can afford.

One more very important note:

To our local farmers still conducting their spring planting: stay safe out in the fields. Know the height of your equipment and the location of overhead power lines on your property. If your machine or truck contacts a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab. Stay in the vehicle and call 911 to have MVEC de-energize the power source.



Make it a great, safe month,
Marvin

Additional resources and board meeting highlights available 24/7 at www.mvec.net



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MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Highlighting Operation RoundUp's donations last year was a pair of bike helmet and safety events in Le Sueur County. The events took place in Le Center and a Cleveland Elementary School Program where nearly 60 helmets were distributed to students and attendees who did not own or wear a bike helmet previously. Additional helmets were purchased for the county's Safe Roads Coalition, which also spreads the word about bike safety and traffic laws as well as proper riding etiquette.

- **Aspire Artisan Studio:** \$1,500 for mobile class materials
- **Belle Plaine Backpack Program:** \$500 for food
- **BrainPower in a Backpack:** \$500 for food
- **Burnsville HS Hall of Fame:** \$300 for Hall of Fame event
- **Cannonville Community Church:** \$500 for school supplies
- **Central Elementary School:** \$465 for field trip transportation
- **City of Montgomery:** \$1,000 for Music in the Park
- **Cleveland Fire Department:** \$3,000 for UTV equipment
- **Foster Adopt MN:** \$2,000 for back-to-school supplies
- **Green Isle Irish Baseball:** \$3,000 for outfield viewing area improvements
- **Green Isle Lions:** \$500 for Community Connect Meal
- **Green Isle Lions:** \$500 for National Night Out supplies
- **Jordan Area Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Le Center Ambulance:** \$2,500 for new tourniquets
- **Le Sueur Co. 4-H:** \$1,000 for livestock barn lighting
- **Lonsdale Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Peace Center:** \$1,000 for backpack program
- **Rotary Club of Le Sueur:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Savage Arts Council:** \$1,000 for literature development
- **Scott County 4-H:** \$1,200 for firearm and conservation range fees
- **Shakopee Schools AED Project:** \$2,500 for maintenance
- **Sibley Co. FoodShare:** \$1,862 for garage door opener
- **Sibley Co. FoodShare:** \$500 for food
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace:** \$5,000 for new bed materials
- **St. Patrick Athletic Assn:** \$3,200 for dugout netting and padding
- **Treasures in Town:** \$500 for Project Connect vouchers
- **True Friends of Eden Prairie:** \$1,000 to repair camp sidewalk
- **U of M Foundation:** \$650 for Children's Garden and Le Sueur Co. Master Gardener Program

Operation RoundUp second-quarter donations

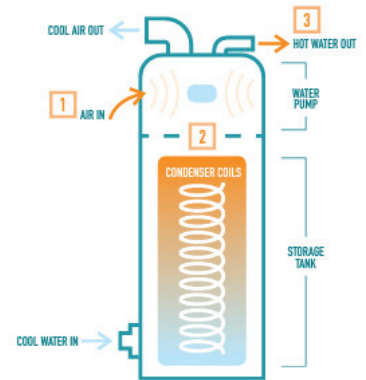
The ORU Trust Board disperses funds quarterly. Deadlines to apply are 4 p.m. the first day of February, May, August, and November. Contact Operation Round Up Coordinator Kiley at kileyh@MVEC.net or call 952-492-2313.

2024 Second Quarter Total Donations: \$37,177

Take advantage of latest Heat Pump technology, rebates

The yellow EnergyGuide label on the water heater in your basement may show an efficiency rating of somewhere between 95-98 percent. But what if you could double that rating?

200 percent efficiency may not seem plausible in day-to-day activities, but with heat pump technology, it's a very real possibility.



Why Heat Pump Water Heaters?

Heat pump water heaters represent a significant advancement in energy-efficient home appliances. Unlike conventional electric water heaters that generate heat directly, heat pump water heaters extract heat from the surrounding air, making them far more efficient. This method can reduce energy consumption for water heating by up to 60 percent, translating into lower utility bills and a smaller environmental footprint.

- 1 Fans pull warmth from the air into the heat pump.
- 2 The heat is transferred to water in the storage tank.
- 3 Hot water is now ready to use, and cool air is ducted out.

MVEC is so confident in heat pump water heaters, the co-op recently installed a hybrid model at its Jordan headquarters.

"This should allow us to thoroughly test the new technology and get to know these new models inside and out," said Energy Services Specialist Mike Rohr. "There's plenty of benefits to heat pump technology and we'll have some proof of that to show members."

\$600 Rebates now available

To encourage our members to adopt this energy-efficient technology, rebates are now available.

Members who purchase and install a heat pump water heater model will be eligible for a \$600 rebate. Conditions include:

- Does not require EnergyWise enrollment
- This is for a member-purchased unit. MVEC does not sell this product to members. There are no make or model restrictions to qualify.
- Other state and/or federal rebates may be available upon purchase.



Contact MVEC energy specialists today or email miker@mvec.net to discover how you can take advantage of these rebates and enjoy the benefits firsthand!



For summer saving tips regarding appliances, thermostats, cooling units, fans and more, visit mvec.net/energy-tips.

Consider home weatherization projects this summer

3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort *and* savings.



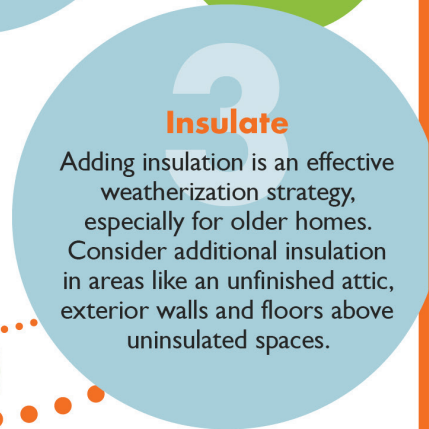
1 Caulk

Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



2 Weatherstripping

Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.



3 Insulate

Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

Electric Safety poster contest winner!



Safety is not just a word; it's a way of life here at MVEC. In our ongoing commitment to fostering safety awareness, we asked some of our youngest members to come up with new artwork for the co-op by creating safety posters for us to share.

This month we're featuring seven-year-old Aria's timely 811 safety message for those getting ready to dig a summer landscape project.

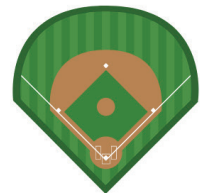


FREE
YOUTH BASEBALL CLINIC!

Twins
COMMUNITY FUND

DATE

Saturday,
July 13th



FIELD

Jordan Baseball Field
200 Hope Ave
Jordan, MN 55352

HOST

Minnesota Valley
Electric Cooperative

TIME

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Registration is required: www.mlb.com/twins/play-ball



Meet MVEC's \$1,500 scholarship winners!

MVEC has awarded eighteen \$1,500 scholarships to area seniors, an increase from \$1,000 awarded in previous years. An additional \$1,000 scholarship was funded by our wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Shakopee's Nadia Rylance was selected as the Basin winner.

Five winners from each of the co-op's three voting districts were randomly selected from a total of 151 entries received. New this year were three at-large scholarships, drawn among high school seniors in attendance at MVEC's Annual Meeting.

MVEC's scholarships are funded with unclaimed Capital Credits — money that

otherwise would be forfeited to the state.

MVEC also announced its 2024 Youth Tour representative, Chanhassen's Ava Joos. The junior joins high school students from across the country for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. in June.

Below are the 2024 recipients, their high schools and intended colleges.



Alex Jackson
Chaska HS
University of Iowa



Allison Savina
Shakopee HS
SDSU



Ava Parker
Prior Lake HS
University of Iowa



Brady Westall
New Prague HS
Northern State -
Aberdeen



Brandon Einberger
Burnsville HS
University of St.
Thomas



Carter Hjelmsberg
Southwest Christian HS
Dordt University



Eli Viskocil
Tri-City United
DCTC



Ethan Pfingsten
Prior Lake HS
NDSU



Halle Browning
Chaska HS
Case Western Reserve
University - Ohio



Henry Novak
New Prague HS
MSU-Mankato



Henry Pedersen
Chanhassen HS
Macalester College



Jack Berger
New Prague HS
MSU-Mankato



Kali Erickson
St. Peter HS
U of W-Eau Claire



Lauren Zanto
Zanto Academy
DCTC



Elizabeth Coleman
Southwest Christian HS
University of St.
Thomas



Luke McHugh
Burnsville HS
NDSU



Porter Knowles
Chanhassen HS
Minneapolis College



Roger Knowles
Chanhassen HS
U of M-Twin Cities

Basin Electric Award



Nadia Rylance
Shakopee HS
University of Kansas

Youth Tour Representative



Ava Joos
Chanhassen HS

Congrats to
the class of



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