



POWER NOTES

The newsletter of Mission Valley Power, 36079 Pablo West Road, P.O. Box 97, Pablo, MT 59855-0097

July/August 2008

NEW HOURS, NEW WORK DAYS AT MVP

After considering all the energy costs we face today, Mission Valley Power announces a four day work week with ten hour days.

Mission Valley Power (MVP) is trying this work schedule to provide customers with the opportunity to do their business before or after their work shift. The time change would allow a greater opportunity for most contractors to interact with MVP during the summer months.

Days we will be open are Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Our first day of operation on ten hour shifts will be July 8th. This is a Tuesday, and follows a designated holiday for our organization. July 21st is another designated holiday for us. So, for those two weeks we will be open only three days per week. It is our intention to operate with this schedule through October 3, 2008.

Mission Valley Power believes this will allow customers a new time to access and interact with MVP. We believe cost efficiency and effectiveness will be gained. The cost savings will be shared with the customers by maintaining our low rates, and doing our part in saving energy.

Remember: You can contact us by phone at 883-7900 during our work schedule, make payments at all drop boxes, Valley Banks locations within our service area, or contact us at 883-7972 for after hours emergencies. If you have questions, call MVP

at 883-7900.

Drop Box Locations: Ronan - lobby of Mission Mart & Harvest Foods; Polson - Eagle Bank drive-thru, CS&KT Natural Resources Bldg. on Main Street, First Interstate Bank drive-thru, lobby of Super 1; and outside all MVP Offices.

Have a Happy and Safe Summer!

Please Be Patient - New Computer System

As of June 1st, Mission Valley Power is online with new computer software known as iVUE. The conversion has been successful overall, and has only presented a few "glitches" during the conversion.

Consequently, MVP bills have taken on a different look. MVP staff is working to format a bill that will be "user friendly". It is anticipated that the new format is around the corner. Again, in mid-fall, another bill format is forthcoming.

One tremendous advantage of the new system is the format of paying your bill online. The method of payment is much quicker and offers a different view of your bill that is more simplistic.

When you call our offices, we ask for your patience as we look up your records. While the new system is a tremendous upgrade for the utility, personnel are still learning the in's and out's of new software!

Hot Weather Energy Saving Tips

- * Clean air conditioner filters.
- * Drain water heater of sediments.
- * Clean refrigerator and freezer coils.
- * Open windows at night and close during the day to keep a cool house.
- * Close blinds or drapes during the day.
- * Use cold water for washing clothes.
- * Store almost full plastic jugs of water in the freezer to take up empty spaces.
- * Use clotheslines for drying clothes.
- * Turn your water heater setting to 120 degrees.
- * Use energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs - they don't give off heat like regular incandescent bulbs do. Remember, save receipts from buying those compact fluorescent bulbs (must be Energy Star rated) and fill out an MVP form and we'll credit your account at the rate of \$2.50 per bulb!

Don't forget MVP's excellent conservation program of obtaining credit on your MVP account by purchasing energy efficient water heaters, replacing old windows and retrofitting with new energy star windows with a minimum U value of .320, retrofitting wall insulation and retrofitting ceiling insulation. Now is an excellent time to install insulation in walls and ceilings of those older homes. Read more about it on our website or call and have a conservation package mailed to you.

Go to MVP's Website for Energy Conservation Tips & Information:
www.missionvalleypower.org

More On Conservation Credits

With the rising cost of fossil fuel, you might want to consider switching out your propane or oil furnace to an all electric heating system.

The Air-to-Air Heat Pump (AAHP) is one option to consider. Mission Valley Power offers an incentive for the installation of the AAHP.

Air-to-Air Heat Pumps or Air Source Heat Pumps vary in size and capability, depending on the home in which they are installed. Number of square feet, existing levels of insulation in walls and ceilings, and location and condition of existing ductwork are all deciding factors in the installation of an AAHP.

In order to receive the conservation credit from Mission Valley Power, both ductwork and installation of the unit must be performed by a Performance Tested Comfort Systems (PTCS) Certified Installer. The unit must have a SEER rating of 14 with HSPF 8.5 and the home must have electric resistance back up heat. Mission Valley Power has a list of local Certified Installers. This list may be obtained by visiting our office or calling 883-7910 or 883-7900.

The conservation credit varies from \$450-\$1,080, depending on the unit. A Montana State Tax Credit of 25% of energy efficient upgrade cost, up to \$500, may also be available.

Look Up! Be Aware

When you are lifting objects,



hauling equipment, moving silos, operating dump trucks or earthmoving equipment, or moving irrigation pipe, all within reach of an overhead powerline – Look up and be aware! Contact with an overhead powerline is dangerous!

And before you embark on any big digging projects – tree planting, ditch digging, anything underground –

Call Before U-Dig:
1-800-424-5555 or 811

Irrigation Tips – Make sure your irrigation equipment is in good working condition this season. Good running equipment will help reduce your irrigation usage bill.

If you want to reduce your irrigation costs, it's effective to convert to a pivot system. But if you want to move any power lines during this process, remember, that you, the customer, bear 100% of the cost of moving those lines. In the long-term, it will save money on irrigation, but moving poles and lines is costly – very costly.

Drop Box Payments

-If you ever use the drop box, this is important!

If you use any of our outlying drop boxes (those not next to the Pablo, Hot Springs or St. Ignatius offices) or any other drop box location,

please be advised that your payment could take up to 48 hours to be posted to your account. It may take longer if a



weekend is involved. For example, if you place a payment in a grocery store drop box on a Friday afternoon, we pick up the payment sometime late Monday afternoon and it is posted to your account on Tuesday. If you are close to your due date, bring your payment into an office or at an office drop box!

Call Before
U-Dig
1-800-424-5555
Or
811

MVP Department Phone Numbers:
Customer Service: 883-7900 or 675-7900
Operations: 883-7940
Engineering: 883-7950
After Hours Emergency: 883-7972
Website: www.missionvalleypower.org

Pay your bill online by visiting our website. You only need your meter number! You can pay by check, VISA or Mastercard!

