






Notes from the GM's desk

It is my pleasure to recognize the electric utility on the Flathead Indian Reservation starting its 27th year of operation as Mission Valley Power. Mission Valley Power is a federal owned electric utility operated and maintained by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes pursuant to a contract authorized under the Indian Education and Self-Determination Act, beginning on October 1, 1988. As I am always advocating Mission Valley Power look to the future, I would like to take time to reflect on the past year. 

This year presented many new challenges, or as my predecessor would say “many new opportunities”. In the midst of one of the largest wildfire fires seasons in recent memory, record drought, and some unbelievable windstorms, Mission Valley Power customers were able to continue to enjoy safe reliable service on the Flathead Indian Reservation. As seasons have allowed some employees to ride off into the sunset; fresh faces have eagerly replaced them with new a desire to succeed. Mission Valley Power has been able to maintain its integrity while continuing to achieve a commitment to excellence. Striving to improve is always a moving target that is accomplished on a daily basis.

This year has also seen new growth in customers throughout the Valley surpassing a 5 year high in new services. Along with the conveyance of Kerr Dam to CSKT from NorthWestern Energy and the State of MT's and CSKT's Water Compact, this entire year has been nothing short of monumental on a local scale. In the big picture, energy purchases for the service area have

 remained at 80% bought from Bonneville Power Association, 19% bought from Kerr Dam, and 1% purchased from small hydro facilities on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Mission Valley Power  customers will **not** realize any change in their monthly bill resulting from CSKT purchasing Kerr dam. CSKT has chosen to keep Mission Valley Power's relationship with Kerr the same as it has always been, (dispelling a large myth that things will change once the tribe owns Kerr dam). Mission Valley  Power customers will see a change in their kWh price due to the energy purchase increase from  Bonneville Power. At 06.6 cents per kWh this is still 03.8 cents cheaper per kWh than the State of Montana average. Additionally, a basic charge (service maintenance charge) increase agreed upon in 2013 went into effect October 1, 2015; this was for residential, pre-pay, and general services without demand.

I am hopeful our dedication to increased communication amongst departments and customers will provide a clear direction for Mission Valley Power's success into the future.


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