



# POWER NOTES

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

(406) 883-7900

March/April 2010

## New Hours Beginning March 22nd

**MVP will return to its summer construction hours of four-10's beginning March 22nd through October 17th. Office hours will be 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We will be closed on Fridays.** Customers may still pay at drop boxes and Valley Bank locations. In case of emergency, you may call 883-7972. We can be reached 24/7. **We will return to five-8's on October 18th**, when office hours will be 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



## Ductless Heat Pump Program

Your electric heating system may need an upgrade. Install a ductless heating/cooling system and receive a \$1350.00 rebate from Mission Valley Power! Why upgrade? You could save 25% to 50% on your energy bill, depending on the characteristics of your home. An ultra-quiet fan evenly circulates air throughout the room/s eliminating hot and cold spots. Installation is quick, simple and relatively inexpensive which means little or no disruption in your home. The systems come standard with air conditioning. If your primary heat source is electric resistant heat (such as baseboard heating or wall units) and you have a qualified ductless heat pump installed by a certified installer, you are eligible for the rebate. After April 1st, homes that have forced air electric heat will not be eligible for this rebate.

## Inspection of Ductwork

You may be visited by inspector/contractors who are offering to inspect your ductwork free of charge. These inspectors are not employees or subcontractors of MVP, but are working with MVP implementing a Bonneville Power Administration energy efficiency program.

## Which Heating Furnaces Qualify for Rebates?

**Three types.** Air Source Heat Pumps with specifications of 14 SEER/8.5 HSPF; Ductless Heat Pumps; Ground Source Heat Pumps. All qualifying types must be installed and tested by a certified PTCS installer. Although you may have purchased a new and efficient furnace, unless it meets certain specs, you are not eligible for a rebate. MVP is unable to recommend a certain brand or installer and is also unable to give you a cost estimate. Your best bet is to contact a certified installer and MVP can provide you with a list of installers in the area.

## What's Your Address?

**Is your physical address the same as your mailing address?** If not, please notify us by phone or on your bill stub or through our website at [www.missionvalleypower.org](http://www.missionvalleypower.org). On your bill, the "Service Description" should show your *physical* address. Please let us know. Thanks!

## Keep an Eye Out for Bird Nests

Usually some time in April, birds begin building their nests and preferred locations are the tops of power poles. Nesting atop poles is dangerous for two reasons: it is unsafe for the birds; it may cause a power outage. Some birds are on the endangered species list and MVP can't move their nests once they are fully constructed and eggs are found in them. **Please let us know if you see any nests being built.** We'd like to reroute their summer home before any problems come up!



## Budget Billing

May is an **excellent time to enroll in our Budget Billing program.** It's a great help in planning your household budget! You pay the same amount every month. Call or come by to enroll!

## Burning Season is Here

**MVP reminds all customers to use extreme caution when burning around valuable and costly equipment** such as poles, guy wires, on the ground transformers, and switching pads that may accidentally become involved in fire. If so, the customer is responsible for all costs associated with repairing or replacing this equipment. If a pole catches fire, although it may not be completely destroyed, the intense heat from the fire pulls the wood preservative out of the pole. This shortens the life of the pole.

## Plan Ahead for Spring Planting

Be sure to plan ahead when planting shrubs or trees this spring. We tend to fill in bare spaces with the largest shrub or tree to enhance or to block a view. With no prep planning, sometimes power lines can be blocked. If a tree grows into a power line, trimming will be necessary in order to maintain the high voltage clearance necessary for safety. Don't let your labor of love fall to unwanted trimming. Be sure to know how high and how wide your shrub or tree is expected to be at maturity. If you are close to a power line, please know this: **we have a 10 foot right-of-way (ROW) on either side of the outside wire of the power line for overhead lines. We have a 5 foot ROW on either side of underground transformers, switch cans and buried lines.** If you have any questions about your plants interfering with our lines, please give us a call at 883-7900 or our Safety Office at 883-7946, or check out our website at [www.missionvalleypower.org](http://www.missionvalleypower.org). Look at our Operations Manual and review the section on Tree Trimming.

### Suitable for Planting Near Power Lines

**Trees:** Crabapple - Apple - Cherry - Amur Maple or Acer Ginnala - Rocky Mountain Maple - Showy Mountain Ash

**Shrubs:** Arborvitae - Caragana \* - Chokecherry \*\* - Red Osier Dogwood \*\*\* - Serviceberry

\* Caragana grows all over this valley. It is very rapid in growth, extremely thorny and serves as an excellent barrier for dusty roads, for privacy, and is well known for hummingbird habitat.

\*\* Chokecherries grow wild along many roadsides here. If not obtained from a nursery, make certain that you are planting a chokecherry, as it resembles less "safe" shrubs.

\*\*\* Red Osier Dogwood grows very well in moist, damp areas and also provides a privacy barrier.

## More About Saving Money

We can't tell you enough about MVP's Conservation Program! There are numerous ways to add credits to your account or even receive a check made out directly to you. For purchase of certain Energy Star appliances, a \$50.00 credit will be placed on your account. Appliances that are eligible for a \$50.00 credit are: air conditioners—both room and central; dishwashers; dehumidifiers; refrigerators/freezers, and water coolers. Clothes washers must have a MEF (modified energy factor) of at least 1.8. to receive a \$70.00 credit. Water heaters with an energy factor of .93 for 64 gallons or less and those with a minimum energy factor of .91 for over 64 gallons qualify for a \$60.00 credit. And the State of Montana is offering appliance rebates around April 10, 2010. Go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and click on the Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program for Montana. Or go to [www.mt.gov](http://www.mt.gov). Then search within that site for Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program. Here's a short review of what the state offers.



### Montana's Energy Star Program

Beginning around April 2010, Montana will begin providing rebates for Energy Star qualified appliances. This program will continue as long as funding lasts. Check Montana's website for further news about the program and for application forms as they become available, probably around mid-March. Dates here are not exact. Covered Appliances:

Montana contemplates the following ENERGY STAR qualified appliance categories and rebate amounts:

- Clothes washers - \$100 rebate
- Dishwashers - \$50 rebate
- Freezers - \$70 rebate
- Refrigerators - \$100 rebate

### Frequently Asked Questions About Montana's Program

#### Q: Who is eligible for the Appliance Rebate Program?

A: Any Montana resident is eligible for the program, including those who rent their homes. The program is intended primarily for families, with not more than one rebate per appliance category allowed for each household. The Appliance Rebate Program does not apply to rental property owners or commercial enterprises.

#### Q: Will the rebates be retroactive to a purchase made prior to April 2010, the start of the program?

A: No. Rebates are not retroactive prior to the start of the program eligibility period.

#### Q: Can I take advantage of the rebate program in combination with rebates from the manufacturers and/or my local utility?

A: Yes. The Montana Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program may be claimed in addition to rebates offered through manufacturers and/or local utility rebate programs.

<i>MVP Phone Numbers</i>	
<i>Main Office:</i>	883-7900
<i>Customer Service:</i>	883-7900
<i>Engineering:</i>	883-7950