

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

Phone: (406) 883-7900 or (406) 675-7900 Fax: (406) 883-7919 Pay by Phone# 1-855-957-8797 After Hours Emergency Number: (406) 833-7972 www.missionvalleypower.org

#### Main Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday Lobby hours: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Drive-Chrough is open till 5:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Power is a federally-owned electric utility, operated as a non-profit organization and managed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation pursuant to a contract authorized under Public Law 93-638, the Indian Education and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 450).



#### Frees About MVP-2024

Number of Employees as of 9/30/2024 - 70

Number of Meters on our System - 21,224

Miles of Power Line

Distribution Overhead (OH): 2,033 Distribution Underground (UD): 308 Transmission Overhead: 150

#### Poles & Transformers

Total Number of Poles (Distribution & Transmission): Total Number of Overhead Distribution Transformers:

#### MMP's Average Load

Just over 87 a MW. Peak usage exceeds 132MW in the winter, and exceeds 69MW in the summer.

Where Does Your Power Come From?

95.5% from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) 4.5% from Energy Keepers Inc. (SKQ- formerly Kerr Dam)
.1% from small hydro (Boulder)

#### **Management Team**

Zachary Conko Camel, General Manager

406-883-7905

**Bradley Kucera, Engineering Manager** 

406-883-7944

Jeanne West, Support Services Manager

406-883-7911

Craig Morigeau, Superintendent of Operations & Construction

406-883-7942

Arnold Sorrell, Safety & Environmental Compliance Officer

406-883-7946

Front & Back Cover **Photo by Pascal Adams** 

# essage from achary Conko Camel, General Manager



#### Dear Valued Gustomers,

As we reflect on another year filled with challenges and achievements, I am filled with immense pride for our dedicated team and the resilient community we serve. The energy landscape is evolving rapidly, and together, we have navigated these changes with unwavering commitment and innovation.

Over the past year, we have faced obstacles that tested our resolve, from extreme weather events to the ongoing transition toward sustainable energy solutions. However, through collaboration and hard work, we have not only met these challenges but have also positioned ourselves as leaders in the utility sector. Our commitment to reliability, safety, and customer satisfaction has never been more substantial.

I am particularly excited about our progress in modernizing infrastructure. By investing in strengthening our infrastructure, we are paving the way for a more sustainable future. Our efforts to enhance grid resilience ensure that we can meet the evolving needs of our customers while upholding our commitment to environmental stewardship. This commitment will benefit our beautiful Mission Valley community for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we will continue to light the way toward a brighter, cleaner, and more sustainable future.

MVP, Bringing Power to the People!

Zachary Conko Camel Ceneral Manager P.O. Box 97 Pablo, MT 59855 Ph.(406) 883-7905 MVP Office

# VP Utility Board

Utility Board members are appointed by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council for three year terms. The Board and General Manager recommend major changes to the Tribal Council who, in turn, review and present those recommendations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for final approval.

Cindy Benson and Gordon Fyant have served on the Board since 1997 and are valuable resources of the utility industry for both historical trends and in planning for the future. Teresa Wall-McDonald was a board member from 2015-2017 and was reappointed in 2022. Dan DePoe, a local businessman, joined us in 2022 as well. Mike McKee was appointed in 2023 with a background in banking. All members are long time residents of the Mission Valley. Mission Valley Power is privileged to work with experienced Board members.

Utility Board members can be reached by calling our offices at 883-7900 to make an appointment.



TIERESA WALL-MCDONALD, CHAIR MEMBER SINCE 2022



DAN DEPOE, SECRETARY
MEMBER SINCE 2022



CINDY BENSON MEMBERSINCE 1997



GORDON FYANT MEMBERSINGE 1997



MIKE MCKEE
MEMBER SINCE 2023

Mission Walley Power
Utility Board

### VP Consumer Council

The Consumer Council consists of seven members who must live within MVP's service area. At least one appointee of this group, but no more than two, must be a tribal member. Two members represent Lake County, one represents Sanders County, one represents Missoula County, and three are "members at large".

This Council serves as a liaison between customers and utility staff regarding either complaints or praise. They also provide feedback to the utility and Board prior to establishing new or changed procedures or policies that affect customers, as well as rate changes. Consumer Council members can be reached by calling our offices at 883-7900 to make an appointment.



Brian Johnson BigSam, Chair James Raymond, Vice-Chair Missoula County Representative Lake County Representative (Tribal Member)



Mark Warner Member-at-Large



Greg Schock, Lake County Representative



Barbara Amato Member-at-Large



Member-at-Large



Isaak and PJ at Kerr Sub Photo by Jay Fyant

Mission Valley Power

Consumer Council

# Customer Service Dept.

### Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024

- Our department still works hard to keep disconnects down and provide the best quality customer service.
- Our new and improved website is up and going, more information and user-friendly.
- Upgrades have been made to the SmartHub portal where customers make payments and view accounts.
- Both Tribal and State LIHEAP applications are available for customers at our offices.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Walk-in Transactions	19,391	16,122	13,938	15,532	17,560
Mail & Drop Box Transactions	80,874	76,743	46,778	43,004	39,411
Web Payments	16,661	17,878	17,137	17,166	17,200
Auto-Pay Checks/Cards	32,960	37,353	37,763	42,621	47,546
Web Pymts no sign-up	15,520	15,645	16,375	16,007	14,924
Pay By Phone	23,071	23,979	22,600	25,374	26,215
Kiosks	1,835	2,136	2,353	2,522	2,921
Smart Hub	11,705	13,025	14,022	17,971	19,807
Valley Banks Payments	3,844	0	1,416	1,553	1,417
Final Notices Mailed	20,074	19,587	15,152	17,614	16,301
Disconnect Report List	5,123	4,237	3,785	4,159	4,322
Red Cards Delivered	415	751	690	502	569
NSF/Broken P/A Red Cards	144	165	158	0	13

# VP Pilot Program

#### **MVP/DHRD Workforce Pilot Program**

MVP implemented a new technical training program in July of 2024, in partnership with DHRD and utilizing only available federal training funds, no rate payer funds. This one-year program is designed to guide selected participants to become successful Groundmen or Electrical Instrument Mechanics (EIM) in the power utility industry. The program includes hands-on experience, technical knowledge, and mentorship to help participants excel in their roles.

Upon completion of the training and passing certification exams, participants will be equipped with the necessary tools to succeed in the power utility industry. The goal is to connect them with various employment opportunities, including the chance to compete for highly coveted apprenticeship positions at Mission Valley Power.



Micheal Fisher, Kaden Blixt and Tristan Garcia Installing Fire Mesh. Photo by Leon Wieder



Pictured left to right: Paul Haynes, Michael Fisher, Jon-Anthony Henry, Isaak Brown, Kaden Blixt, Jackson Kallay, Micah Askan

This program has, among other things, allowed MVP to implement an important and innovative fire mitigation project. Trainees assisted crews in installing Fire Mesh™ on about 500 power poles in key areas prone to fire risk, such as Hot Springs and a section of the West Shore. Fire Mesh™ is the most widely used fire barrier in the utility market today. This patented technology allows utilities to protect their new and in-service wooden structures from fire damage. It works by expanding in the event of a fire to shelld the wood from the heat and flames, lasts for a minimum of 25 years, all while preserving the integrity of the poles by allowing proper air flow and posing no environmental hazards to vegetation or wildlife. This project has allowed trainees an opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills, and for the utility to carry out a much needed fire mitigation task to strengthen the system infrastructure that may not have been possible without the extra man-power.

### ngineering Department

### Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024

- In May, MVP contracted with Utility Engineering, LLG (UE) to utilize a design-build approach for implementing planned improvements at three high priority substations identified as less than satisfactory condition or having the capacity to meet future potential growth (Kerr and West Shore Substations as well as Finley Point and Charlo Substations).
- Initiated approximately 452 Work Orders, including 421 customer and 31 MVP Projects. 457 Work Orders were completed including remaining work initiated the prior year.



GeorTesting
at Finley
Point
Substation
Photo by
Bradley
Kucera

#### **Transmission Projects -**

Material and equipment procurement/receipt has been completed in 2024 for upgrades of lines and infrastructures from the Ronan West to Charlo Substations. Installation will proceed throughout 2025



Meter Change by Derrike BigSam Photo by Dale BigSam

#### **Net-Metering** -

• 109 Total Customers with Planned Projects, 87 Active customers: for a total Amount (kW): 686.34 kW. That's a 198.84 kW increase from last year (FY2023).

#### **Additionally Notable Progress -**

- In September a new Engineering Manager (Bradley Kucera) was hired to add accountability, consistent direction, and to take a proactive approach to identifying and addressing NEPA implications of proposed actions for the utility. In addition, MVP is now in compliance with BIA Assessment findings regarding Professional Certifications.
- Also in September, MVP initiated a proactive approach for identifying and addressing NEPA implications of proposed actions to engage appropriate stakeholders during the planning stages to avoid costly time delays and streamline implementation of necessary actions.

### perations & Construction Dept.

### Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024

- Continued PCB transformer testing; 411 new transformers processed. 54 were tested and repaired. 93 were recycled. Prepared and installed over 16,000 new TWACS meters and retired 16,000 Turtle meters, continuing until all meters are upgraded to TWACS in FY2025. Removed 2 transformers from Kerr Substation for new construction. Recycled 4 total substation transformers with Kerr History. Maintenance costs for FY24 were \$352,554.00 in materials and approximately \$3,346,494.95 in labor.
- Completed 366 New Customer Services.
- Outage summary for the fiscal year: Responded to 410 outages that affected 26,231 customers with the average outage lasting 2 hours and 40 minutes. July and August were the 2 months that produced the most outages for FY 2024. High winds, trees, and lightning were the contributing factors of these outages.
- Replaced 5,190 feet (1 mile) of primary cable and 6,519 (1.23 miles) of secondary cable. The
  underground cable used for new services consisted of 92,272 feet (17.47 miles) of primary
  conductor and 34,082 feet (6.45 miles) of secondary underground conductor used during
  installation of new services.
- Area light maintenance: Made repairs to 24 area lights. 10 area lights were installed.



- Continued MVP apprentice program. MVP has 4 apprentice linemen that are in their 3rd year of a 4-year apprenticeship, plus 2 of the 3 apprentice line clearance tree trimmers have completed their 2-year apprenticeship, with the 3rd completing in October 2024.
- 2,900 poles were inspected in the annual test & treat utility pole inspection program, 189 were replaced.
- A total of 348 wooden poles were set in FY 2024. This number breaks down to 9.36 miles of new poles used for new services and 9.94 miles of new poles used to replace the old structures.
- MVP has received 2,612 underground locate tickets.
- Continued tree trimming and/or removal in powerline right-of-way, clearing 1,814 spans of wire totaling about 96 miles. 308 chip loads of which 127 were delivered to customers. Foremen III and/or Servicemen have responded to 219 tree issues.

### nergy Efficiency & Conservation Department

General Manager, Zachary Conko Camel, and Lyle Neiss, the Conservation Technician for MVP, met with the superintendent and board members of the Charlo School District to present them with an energy efficiency rebate check for \$78,741.25. Mission Valley Power (MVP) is proud to partner with the school district in promoting sustainability and reinvesting in the community. As they cultivate a culture of energy conservation and environmental responsibility for future generations, MVP is honored to support their efforts.

This marks the third rebate check the school district has received in the past six months, totaling \$117,220.05 in conservation rebate payments. These three energy efficiency projects are expected to generate annual savings of 422,450 kWh, equating to approximately \$31,810 in capital. At this pace, the school district will soon see a full return on its investment. Remarkably, the energy saved is enough to power 35 medium-sized homes for a year, based on an average usage of 1,000 kWh per month.

At Mission Valley Power, we believe education is the cornerstone of a sustainable future. By partnering with the Charlo School District, we aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become energy conservation leaders and understand the importance of resilience. The school district has also successfully completed commercial lighting and

window projects in the past. Their management team has effectively developed a template to address their needs while ensuring these costs do not burden the community.

Mission Valley Power is committed to providing innovative energy solutions that promote sustainability and reduce environmental impact. Through community engagement and investment in local initiatives, we strive to uphold our mission of "Bringing Power to the People."



Charlo School Board, (incl. MVP Employee Daniel Cahoon) and GM Zachary Conko Camel Photo by Lyle Neiss

### nergy Efficiency & Conservation Department

### Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024

MVP Gustomers worked to save 951,592 kilowatt hours of electricity.

For every \$1.00 MVP spends on Energy Conservation, BPA returns \$22.14 in our service area.

The Energy Conservation Programs that resulted in the greatest kWh savings were:

Measure	kWh Saved	Units	
Comm. Projects	183,840	3 Projects	
Commercial Lighting	199,889	3 Projects	
LED Lights & Fixtures	18,000	180 Units	
Insulation (floor, wall & ceiling)	22,720	2,272 sf	- H. E.
Ductless Heat Pump	300,000	60 Units	
Alr Source Heat Pump	20,000	4 Units	
DHP Electric FAF Conversion	110,000	22 Units	energy
Heat Pump Water Heaters	4,000	2 Units	NEDOVICE STATE
Irrigation	18,024	9 Systems	NERGY STAR
Windows	26,369	1,055 sf	500
Appliance	34,750	46 Applianc	es
Manufactured Home	10,000	2 Homes	
Home Electronics/Office Equip.	4,000	14 Units	The second

There were 2 Energy Star / Northwest Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes placed in MVP's service area during FY24, a minimum of 15% more energy efficient than Montana State Building Code.

\$147,632 was returned to MVP customers for Energy Conservation Measures during FY24.

The following projects used BPA Engineers during FY24: Flathead Lake Cherry Growers & Waste Water Projects.

#### **Energy Saving Tips**

- Change your light bulbs to LEDs.
- · Wash your clothes in cold water if possible.
- If your dryer has a moisture sensor that will automatically turn off when they are done, use it to avoid over-drying.
- Turn off heated dry on your dishwaslrer and air dry instead.
- Air seal your home. Sealing cracks, gaps and leaks and adding insulation can save up to 10% on home heating and cooling costs.
- Clean or replace all filters in your home regularly. Dirty filters rnake your system work harder and run longer than necessary.
- Install a smart thermostat so it can adjust the temperature automatically and help you save energy. Set your thermostat to 78'F in the summer and 68'F in the winter - every degree of extra heating or cooling will increase energy usage 6% to 8%.
- Set your refrigerator temperature to the manufacturer's recommendation to avoid excessive cooling and wasting energy.
- When you're at home, dress in warm clothing in the winter and cooler clothing in the summer to stay comfortable without making your heater and AC work harder.



### Cafety & Environmental Compliance Department

### **Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024**

- Mission Valley Power's safety department continued to strive for Zero Accidents/Incidents in FY24. These
  efforts put forth by Mission Valley Power Employees resulted in a 2nd place finish in the annual NWPPA
  (Northwest Public Power Association) 2024 Engineering and Operations Conference held in Tacoma
  Washington. New General Manager Zachary Conko-Camel was in attendance as a guest speaker on the
  General Managers panel and was available to accept the award on behalf of MVP. Mission Valley Power
  had only 1 OSHA recordable injury with 1 day of lost time from work.
- MVP is dedicated to electrical safety and awareness and has continued the tabletop safety demonstrations
  offered to schools, fire departments, police departments, and any other organizations that request this
  service. MVP conducted 10 of these training presentations and hopes to schedule more this coming year.
  Contact MVP Safety Department to schedule a presentation (406-883-7946).
- All hazardous conditions and access issues are continually being reviewed and updated.
- Continued support to Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) and Lake County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
- All safety forms and policies are reviewed for accuracy and compliance issues.



Mission Valley Power Employee Group Photo by Brent Burland

# VP Maintenance Report

### Maintenance Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024

Mission Valley Power is dedicated to maintaining the infrastructure of our entire system to ensure reliability for our customers. This requires a balance of resources allocated to fund both substation maintenance outlined in the 2021 BIA Condition Assessment and overall system maintenance. In FY2024, these maintenance measures were completed:

- 10 ea. Nova Substation reclosers were purchased for \$240,000.00. This will negate the need for future testing and oil maintenance as they are "vacuum breakers." An additional \$14,000.00 in miscellaneous deferred maintenance materials were also purchased in FY2024.
- All existing substation transformers were oil tested for health and safety by the testing company, SD Meyers- \$13,500.00.
- Kerr Substation transformer demolition and disposal as part of the substation rebuild- \$20,600.00.
   Estimated disposal costs for transformer bushings, PCB and NON-PCB units. \$5,000.00.
- Test and Treat annual contract to determine condition of poles and extend longevity of viable poles-\$90,000.00.



Kerr Substation Work Photo by Jay Fyant

### **Labor Costs for Maintenance\***

System Maintenance, \$3,346,494.95

Deferred Maintenance, \$128,356.88

\* Tracking of maintenance related labor has only been implemented for a portion of the Fiscal Year due to a transition in work order procedures. The Maintenance labor number is the estimated total based on the average monthly totals during the time period it was tracked.

### Qupport Services Department

MVP Proposed a rate increase early in the Fiscal Year but it has not been approved as yet. Due to the uncertainty created by the delay, the budget will stay roughly the same for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025.



Pascal Adams
Photo by Shawn
Blixt



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Pho	to by	Jay	<b>Fyant</b>	

BUDGET (	COMPARISON	
REVENUE	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget
Treasury/Other Interest	\$40,000.00	\$100,000.00
Sales Revenue	\$41,904,000.00	\$41,904,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,100,000.00	\$1,300,000.00
BPA Reimbursement (Admin)	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Deposit Refunds	\$150,000.00	\$120,000.00
Total Revenue	\$43,294,000.00	\$43,524,000.00
EXPENDITURES		
Payroll	\$8,006,000.00	\$8,415,000.00
Fringe	\$2,240,000.00	\$2,400,000.00
Defined Benefits	\$1,100,000.00	\$1,100,000.00
Construction Projects-Engineering	\$3, <mark>209,220.00</mark>	\$3,683,500.00
Construction Materials-Warehouse	\$1,401,000.00	\$1,570,000.00
Contract Crew/Pole Testing	\$95,000.00	\$95,000.00
Capital- General Plant	\$455,700.00	\$40,700.00
Transformers (Line) Reclosers	\$1,642,200.00	\$532,000.00
Automated Meter Reading	\$800,000.00	\$400,000.00
Computers	\$86,500.00	\$56,000.00
Conservation Programs (MVP)	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Maintenance-Dist/Trans	\$390,600.00	\$448,900.00
Operating/Administrative	\$3,061,900.00	\$3,148,260.00
Administrative User's Fee	\$550,000.00	\$725,000.00
Operating Reserve	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Purchased Power	20,030,000.00	\$20,650,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$43,293,120.00	\$43,519,360.00
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	\$880.00	\$4,640.00

# Pinancial Highlights

FISCAL YEAR 2024

THE METALT SOUTH STEAMS

INCOME

TREASURE/OTHER INT

BPA REIMBURSEMENT - ADMIN \$27,179.00

SALES REVENUE \$41,836,367.00

MISC. REVENUE \$2,283,628.00

REFUNDABLE DEPOSITS \$126,570.00

TOTAL CASH RECEIVED \$44,445,581.00

**EXPENDITURES** 

PAYROLL \$11,322,555.00

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION/WAREHOUSE \$5,668,851.00

GAPITAL - GENERAL PLANT \$290,334.00

MAINTENANCE MTRLS-DIST/TRANS \$352,554.00

GENERAL OPERATING/ADMINISTRATIVE \$3,624,269.00

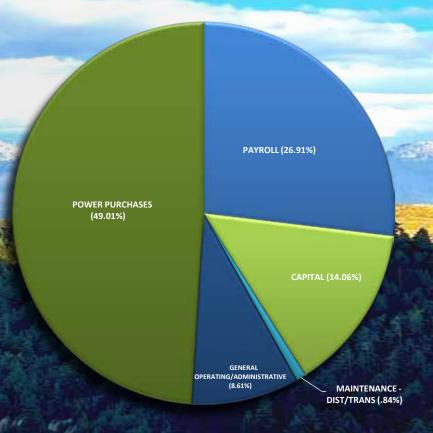
OPERATING RESERVE \$200,000.00

POWER PURCHASES \$20,524,374.00

TOTAL CASH EXPENSED \$42,082,937.00

NET INCREASE TO OPERATING RESERVE \$2,362,644.00\*

### **Expenditures**



\*The net increase of \$2,362,644 was the result of a combination of factors. MVP experienced supply chain delays that left allocated dollars unspent prior to year end. There was also an aid to construction policy change recommended by the Utility Board and approved by the Consumer Council. This policy change removed a credit and assessed 100% of the cost of new system construction to new customers. Additionally, significant improvements were made to the estimation process that increased the accuracy of aid to construction assessed charges to customers. The unallocated funds collected will be dedicated to the emergency reserve and to the \$68 million deficit in repair and replacement costs for capital assets including the Kerr Transformer replacement, the West Shore substation upgrade, upgrade of the Finley Point Substation, etc.

### 1,564 ustomers & Revenue 23 1,108 **Customers per Rate Class** 3,284 **■** Residential (70.56%) Small Commercial - Single Phase (1.58%) **Small Commercial - Three Phase (1.80%)** 412 **Small Commercial - No Demand (14.31%) Irrigation (4.83%)** Street Light (.1%) 16,186 Area Light (6.82%)



### **Donations for FY2024**

CSKT - 2nd Annual Bear Tracks Bridge Powwow	\$500.00
Veterans Honoring & Powwow Association	\$500.00
Mission Food Pantry - Holiday Donation	\$400.00
Bread Basket - Holiday Donation	\$400.00
Polson Loaves & Fish Pantry	\$400.00
Hot Springs Food Pantry - Holiday Donation	\$400.00
Jocko Valley Food Pantry - Holiday Donation	\$400.00
St. Luke Community Healthcare Foundation	\$250.00
Ronan Wrestling Booster Club	\$500.00
Lake County 4-H Sponsorship	\$100.00
Arlee Rehabilitation Center Sponsorship	\$200.00
Charlo-Moiese Volunteer Fire Dept 30th Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction	\$250.00
Arlee Volunteer Fire Dept - Annual Benefit Auction & Pancake Breakfast	\$250.00
Polson Youth Baseball-Tball, Rookies, Minors Team Sponsorship	\$250.00
Montana Lineman's Rodeo Association-31st Annual Lineman's Rodeo	\$500.00
Katrina Ann Marie Stevens; Elite Dream Team Sponsorship 2024	\$200.00
Ronan School District No 30 - Class of 2024 RHS Senior Trip	\$250.00
Polson High School Senior Graduation Event- 2024	\$250.00
Two Eagle River School	\$400.00
Arlee Celebration Committee	\$500.00
Standing Arrow Celebration Committee	\$500.00
Flathead Lakers - Poker Paddle Sponsorship	\$250.00
Flathead Lakers - Business Membership Sponsor - Bull Trout	\$250.00
Nk'wusm Salish Language Immersion School-Graduation Celebration	\$200.00
Valley Banks Community Scholarship - VBCS Golf Scramble	\$100.00
Ronan School District No 30 - 2024-2025 Sports Calendar/Sponsor Renewal	\$100.00
Salish Kootenai College Scholarship Fund-Golf Scramble Hold Sponsorship	\$350.00
Helping Hands Fund C/O Push Play Project	\$500.00
Mission Valley Animal Shelter	\$300.00
Mission Valley Live - Performing Arts Series Sponsorship	\$250.00
	\$9,700.00



Leon Weider at the 2024 National Lineman Rodeo



Kerr Substation Work Photo by Jay Fyant

