



Bruce Carlson
General Manager




Martin Dahl
Minot Manager



Randy Hauck
Member Services Mgr

POWERPOINTS



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

The power of human connections

Highlights

2 Consider a heat pump

Heat pumps save money on air conditioning costs.

2 Electric heat is a bargain

Many VEC businesses are going all-electric.

3 General manager's column

Bruce Carlson shares VEC news.

3 Employees earn honors.

Hauck and Atkinson receive awards.

4 Upcoming events

Plan to join us for the bus tour, caucus meetings, and annual meeting.

65 years of service and...

HERE TO STAY!

We have 50 full-time and 14 part-time employees who keep the lights on for more than 10,600 meters scattered throughout a 4,900 square mile area.

Unlike some utilities, we are not downsizing, closing offices or reducing service. We are not splintering management or taking directions from some distant place. We are your local electric company.



www.verendrye.com

Minot Sash & Door rises from the ashes

by Candi Helseth

In the last two years, longtime Minot businessman Dick Feist has suffered two major losses: the death of his wife in December 2004, and then the fiery demise of his business, Minot Sash & Door, in December 2005. Both were major forces in Dick's life for more than half a century. He and Irene had been married 51 years, and together had raised eight children. In the late 1950s, Dick and his three brothers had begun a commercial operation that included Minot Sash & Door; in 1964, they split the properties and Dick became president and chief executive officer of Minot Sash & Door.

At 72, Dick could easily have justified calling it quits. But his sons, Mike and Myron, and a nephew, Don Wald, operate the business with him. He also had 38 employees who would be without jobs if he closed the doors permanently. In the weeks following the fire, those employees pledged support, city leaders and even competitors offered assistance, and customers whose orders had been destroyed by fire said they would wait rather than reordering elsewhere.

Within one month of the fire, Minot Sash was again doing limited business, and in January 2006, the business relocated to the former Oral Logic building in Verendrye Electric Cooperative territory, just two miles from the original site.

"I was just kind of numb," Dick said. "We had nothing for our employees to do, we didn't know how we could fulfill our customers' orders...and then after the fire, almost all the employees showed up and they began talking about getting going again."

The only available building with sufficient power supply was the former Oral Logic building. Dick called VEC

Operations Manager John Westby to see if the building could handle their large electrical needs. Westby assured him the power supply was adequate, and Mike Feist got busy drawing plans for their new interior space.

"John was very cooperative about giving me information to help us make decisions on electrical work," Dick said. "The main boxes we needed were here, and we tied onto that primary power supply and did a lot of additional wiring to handle the large equipment. We also added a large dust collection system, and have made many other improvements in addition to just replacing the things that were lost in the fire."

About \$300,000 in customer projects, nearly completed or ready for delivery, were destroyed in the fire. Those projects have been rebuilt and delivered. Minot Sash's volume is again near what it was prior to the fire, and they bid new jobs every day. Best of all, Dick noted, all 38 employees have remained with the company.



Dick Feist, second from right, operates Minot Sash & Door with his sons, Mike and Myron, left, and nephew Don Wald. All 38 employees stayed with Minot Sash after a fire destroyed the business in December, 2005.

Heat pumps provide cool air in summer and heat in winter

You may think of heat pumps only in terms of providing winter heat. But heat pumps also provide cooling options for summer's heightened temperatures. And spring is a good time to install a heat pump to lower heating and cooling costs.

When it comes to heating or cooling, it's tough to beat an efficient electric heat pump. Heat pumps are proven, reliable workhorses that function in the same way a refrigerator or air conditioner does. They don't create any heat—they simply move it, or pump it, from one place to another. Since they create no heat, they use very little energy to accomplish their purpose. Because they're electric, there are no fumes, no tank to fill, and no pilot light to go out. Heat pumps are proven to be clean, reliable and safe.

Geothermal Heat Pumps

Environmentally friendly geothermal systems are the most efficient heating and cooling option available today. They offer a single, simple system that uses the earth to heat and cool your business, and they operate at efficiencies of up to 350 percent. The system only requires a small amount of electricity to move heat from the earth to your business.

The earth has a handy property that makes geothermal systems possible: year-round temperature stability. The

earth's stable temperature is warmer than the water and gives some of its heat to it. Likewise, warm water going in would come out cooler. This simple piece of physics is what makes the geothermal system work.

Air Source Heat Pumps

Air source heat pumps take heat from the air rather than the ground. Then the heat exchanger warms the air, and discharges it at a higher temperature.

In the summer, the process is reversed, providing reliable, efficient air conditioning and dehumidifying. Because air source heat pumps operate at efficiencies around 200%, they are less costly to operate than a gas, propane or fuel oil furnace, which typically operates in the 60-80% efficiency range. From an environmental perspective, studies also show heat pumps are preferable to gas, propane or fuel oil due to lowered emissions at the source.

Rebates and Financing

Verendrye offers rebates based on

system size and low interest financing for the purchase and installation of these heat pump systems. Ground source heat pump systems also qualify for a special electric heating rate. VEC member services can help you decide what system would work best for your business. Call our member service department at 852-0406 or toll free 1-800-472-2141.



▶ *Member Services Assistant Rob Orts checks out an air source heat pump.*

Install electric heat before cold weather returns

by Randy Hauck, Member Services Manager

In the past year, several VEC businesses have decided to install electric heat. Spring is a good time to plan ahead and determine how you can save money on heating costs by installing electric heat before cold weather hits again. Contact VEC member services for a free energy audit and site visit. We offer several options that can be used solely or in conjunction with other heat sources, saving you money on those monthly bills.

Verendrye's electric heating rates have remained stable over the past 20 years

with only a 2/10th of a cent change from \$.03/kwh to \$.032/kwh. During this same time period, other heating energy costs have doubled, tripled and some have even quadrupled in price.

Unfortunately, wholesale costs for electric heating energy are increasing. We are also seeing increased costs for delivering, metering and billing heating energy. To offset these increases, we added a \$3 per month facility charge to all heat or off-peak meters in 2007. The kwh rates for heating energy are the same as they were in 2006.

Even with this small increase, electric

heat is still one of your best energy buys. Our heating rates are the same all winter. They do not change from month to month like propane or natural gas. They stay the same—no matter how cold it gets.

If you have any questions or would like to visit with our energy experts about electric heat options, call us at 852-0406 or 1-800-472-2141.

VEC supports economic development and member security

by General Manager Bruce Carlson

Verendrye Electric Cooperative (VEC) is very dedicated to economic development efforts, which benefit both our businesses and consumers. We're proud of our VEC employees who dedicate themselves to business improvement in the area. It was a great honor to watch VEC's Member Services and Marketing Manager Randy Hauck receive the Governor's Choice Award as the North Dakota Volunteer Economic Developer of the Year for 2006. In addition, your Minot Service Area Manager, Marty Dahl, was recently honored with re-election to a three-year term on the Minot Area Development Corporation.

Job creation and increased kilowatt-hour sales that are natural results of successful economic development efforts are especially important as we go into a period of power plant construction and increasing rate pressure.

The next time you visit the Velva and Minot offices, you may notice security cameras have been installed at the reception desks. As part of our Rural Utilities Service (the old REA) Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Restoration Plan, the security cameras were installed to protect the personal data of our member-owners and give front desk employees a sense of security. While I want to stress that these are "your" offices and I encourage your office visits, we live in a day and age when security can no longer be taken for granted.

We also are adding a higher level of electronic security to protect the personal data that you have shared with the office. As part of the 2007 budget work plan, the VEC board of directors has approved another level of computer, telephone and radio redundancy, which will guarantee that cooperative functions would still continue even if the Minot or

Velva offices were not operational for some reason, such as a tornado or fire.

I have enjoyed visits with many of you, and with our legislators, during the 2007 North Dakota legislative session. I want to thank our elected officials for the countless hours you dedicate to the betterment of the rest of the populous. We do appreciate it!

I invite you to stop in any time for a visit. The coffee is always on.

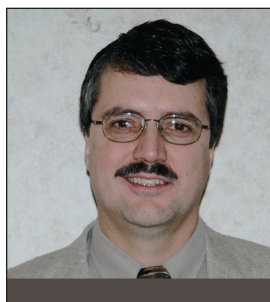


Bruce Carlson



Hauck and Atkinson honored

Verendrye Electric Cooperative Member Services Manager Randy Hauck was recently named Volunteer Developer of the Year, and was among five recipients statewide recognized for helping improve the quality of life in North Dakota.



Randy Hauck

Hauck, who received the Governor's Choice for Economic Development Award, accepted a \$1,000 grant

on behalf of the Velva Development Corporation. Each of the five winners received grants to be appropriated to their local economic development organization.

Maria Effertz-Hanson of the McHenry Jobs Development Association nominated Hauck.

Verendrye Electric Cooperative lineman Burt Atkinson was named Outstanding Apprentice of the Year at the Apprenticeship Training and Safety Conference and awards banquet in Bismarck. Atkinson's selection was based on his test scores, and recommendations and evaluations by peers. VEC

Operations Supervisor Dan Kudrna said the test scores accounted for 70% of the decision, and that Atkinson was selected from a field of six individuals who successfully completed the requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor approved apprenticeship program.



Burt Atkinson

Emerald Court expands

Under the leadership of owners Donna Hilzendager and Bruce Bolyard, Emerald Court provides a home like environment for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and dementia. Opened in 2002, Emerald Court is already undergoing an expansion to include 12 more rooms and a second fully equipped kitchen.

Located in VEC territory on 28th Ave. SE, Emerald Court is not an assisted living facility but is rather a basic care facility regulated by the state to provide a safe environment for these residents who can not live independently. Tami Hilzendager is the manager, and there are 19 employees.



Donna and Tami Hilzendager and Bruce Bolyard

Verendrye Electric Cooperative

1225 Hwy. 2 Bypass East
Minot, ND 58701

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
MINOT, ND
PERMIT NO 284

MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to provide information about your power supplier and generation cooperative, to offer ideas on power quality and conservation, and to suggest ways we can work together for our mutual benefit.

Upcoming events

Celebrate spring on a free bus tour

Join us this year during our annual educational tour of North Dakota power plants Tuesday, April 17. You'll get a guided tour of the state's power industry, free lunch, and a good education on the power plant industry. Tours include the Dakota Gasification Company, Antelope Valley Station and Coteau Freedom Coal Mine. The bus leaves from the Minot VEC office at 7:30 a.m. and returns about 5 p.m. To register, call Randy Hauck or Sandee Michalenko at (701) 338-2855, (701) 852-0406 or (800) 472-2141 by April 13.

Choose your board representative

Verendrye Electric Cooperative board members represent your interests as a VEC business owner, and the April caucus meetings give you an opportunity to have a voice in choosing your director. VEC directors and staff will also address key issues affecting the cooperative. All caucus meetings, to be held at noon, include a free soup and sandwich luncheon. Directors up for re-election this year are Burdette Kittelson, Central District; Blaine Bruner, East District; and Ralph Birdsall, West District.

The names of all persons nominated will be on the ballot at the annual meeting Thursday, June 14.

CAUCUS MEETING SCHEDULE:

EASTERN DISTRICT
Tuesday, April 10, Noon
Drake City Hall
CENTRAL DISTRICT
Wednesday, April 11, Noon
VEC Main Headquarters, Velva
WESTERN DISTRICT
Thursday, April 12, Noon
Tumbleweed Cafe, Berthold

If you aren't sure of your district, call the VEC office at (701) 852-0406 or (800) 472-2141.

Annual meeting scheduled

A chance to win \$3,000 in cash, lots of great door prizes, a free meal that includes dessert, VEC members selling handmade crafts and other items contribute to making the VEC annual meeting a fun event. More importantly, though, your attendance gives you the opportunity to help make decisions about your rural electric cooperative—decisions that can impact you and your business. So mark Thursday, June 14, on your calendar now.

Construction projects begin with

spring weather, remember...

*In North Dakota to protect
property, personal injuries,
and avoid lawsuits...*



*Call Toll Free
1-800-795-0555
Before You Dig!
24 Hours a Day*

VEC VELVA OFFICE:

615 Hwy. 52 W.
Velva, ND 58790-0083
Phone: 701-338-2855

VEC MINOT OFFICE:

1225 Hwy. 2 Bypass E.
Minot, ND 58701-7927
Phone: 701-852-0406

TOLL-FREE: 800-472-2141

PowerPoints is printed by Lowe's Printing, Inc. of Minot. To submit ideas for future issues, contact Candi Helseth, Editor, at 839-0312 or candi@srt.com.