

SAFETY MORE THAN A PRIORITY

A Statewide Viewpoint

BY TOM WALCH CEO

Many organizations stress the importance of safety for their employees. How many times have you heard a company spokesman say that safety is a “priority?” For Grand Valley Power, safety is more than a priority — it is a bedrock, foundational principle. Everything we do begins with safety, for our workers and for the general public.

This approach is necessary because the core of our workforce is engaged in one of the most hazardous jobs out there. They can't just give safety lip service — they have to live it. Under the best of circumstances GVP linemen use heavy, complex equipment to move big loads, wearing cumbersome gear while they work on critical infrastructure 40 feet or more above the ground. Their workplace may be adjacent to a busy highway, in a remote mountain forest or dusty desert canyon. Their technical, detailed work must often be performed in close proximity to energized electric lines.

While this work is challenging, consider the degree of difficulty added when circumstances are not so good. Western Slope weather extremes can require our linemen to work in searing heat or frigid cold. Rough terrain and inaccessible poles may dictate that they climb poles instead of using a bucket truck. They may be called away from their families late at night, after completing a full day of work, and be required to put in more time to restore power in outage situations. Big outages usually involve bad weather. When this happens, darkness, wind and rain make the daunting task of working high in the air near high-voltage lines even more dangerous.

The Grand Valley Power team is proud of the results it produces: great service for our consumers, a resilient and reliable

distribution grid and conscientious environmental stewardship. We continuously strive to deliver value to all we serve, and we take pride in being leaders in our communities. But the results we are most proud of come in the safety arena. In 2018, Grand Valley Power produced a blemish-free safety record. That means no Occupational Safety and Health Administration recordable incidents, no lost-time accidents and no incidents that required job restrictions or transfers. When you take into account the conditions that many of our team members confront on a daily basis, this accomplishment is nothing short of remarkable.

There are many contributors to our success. We benefit from excellent safety resources provided by the Colorado Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Grand Valley Power Board of Directors has the foresight to allocate funding necessary to ensure that our team has adequate manpower, tools and training to get the job done safely. The management team ensures that resources are used wisely and provides the leadership necessary to support a culture of safety. But make no mistake, the real credit for our success goes to the folks on the front lines. All the tools and training and resources in the world are not enough if they are not put into practice. So, team members must know what they're doing, and they have to do it right every time. They must communicate openly and effectively.



TOM WALCH

Most importantly, they must have each other's backs. The 2018 results indicate that our team is on the right track. Even so, we know that we can't let our guard down for even an instant. Because of the nature of our business, an accident is always a heart-beat away.

Please join me in congratulating our workforce on their stellar 2018 safety record!

COMMENTS TO THE CEO

You are a member of a cooperative and your opinion does count. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please let me know by writing to Ask the CEO, P.O. Box 190, Grand Junction, CO 81502, or send an email to me at twalch@gvp.org. Check out our website at gvp.org.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to the members, consumers and public. Regularly scheduled board meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building 10 days before each meeting and posted on the GVP website. If anyone desires to address the board of directors, please let us know in advance and you will be placed on the agenda.

2019 Budget Approved

The Grand Valley Power Board of Directors approved the 2019 budget at the December board meeting. The budget is the road map for the year, and management will use it to guide the business. Conditions and situations may vary that could potentially change the budget during the year, and during that time the budget may be amended. The following is a comparison of the 2018 budget, the estimated actual results for 2018 and the 2019 budget.

	2018 Budget	2018 Est Act	2019 Budget
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	32,606,894	32,814,846	33,143,147
Purchased Power	17,856,540	18,287,741	18,470,703
Transmission Expense	51,362	69,725	73,710
Distribution Expense: Operations	2,772,114	2,560,790	2,682,380
Distribution Expense: Maintenance	953,869	931,372	984,215
Customer Accounts Expense	1,365,007	1,279,382	1,303,675
Customer Service & Information	345,455	349,857	413,720
Administrative & General	2,482,589	2,418,195	2,597,270
Total Operations & Maintenance	25,826,936	25,942,062	26,525,673
Depreciation & Amortization	2,613,813	2,514,274	2,686,400
Tax Expense: Property	725,000	775,000	790,500
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,572,136	1,686,130	1,767,743
Interest Expense: Other	200	200	200
Amortization of RUS Premium Payoff	0	52,868	52,868
Other Deductions	213,454	210,870	211,186
Total Cost of Electric Service	30,951,539	31,181,404	32,034,570
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins	1,655,355	1,633,442	1,108,577
Nonoperating Margins: Interest	50,000	32,000	35,000
Nonoperating Margins: Other	12,500	27,590	12,500
Capital Credits & Patronage Dividends	125,000	231,000	250,000
Total Patronage Capital or Margins	1,842,855	1,924,033	1,406,077



Vice President Mark Gardner (middle) from Whitewater Building Materials receives the credit check.



Superintendent Dr. Diana Sirko and Board President Tom Parrish (middle) from School District 51 receive the credit check.



Senior Pastor Kirk Yamaguchi (middle) from Canyon View Vineyard Church receives the credit check.



Director Evonne Stites (left) from Collbran Job Corps receives the credit check.

YOU GET THE CREDIT

Visit gvp.org/capital-credits to learn more about your co-op credits



One of the biggest benefits of being a part of a co-op is being invested in our business. As a member of Grand Valley Power, margins (or capital credits) are allocated to each household or business in proportion to their contributions to revenue during the year. These margins are allocated as capital credits and, depending on the health and equity of the cooperative, credits are retired and paid to members in the form of a check.

This winter, our Grand Valley Power Board of Directors retired over \$1,000,000 to our members. We met with four of our largest consumers in December and presented their capital credit checks. They were (from left to right, top to bottom): Whitewater Building Materials, School District 51, Canyon View Vineyard Church and Collbran Job Corps.

ENHANCED METER CORNER

BY MEMBER SERVICES



Grand Valley Power's metering upgrade continues. This month, let's focus on some installation questions.

How long will this project take to complete?

Grand Valley Power will be upgrading meters now through 2020. This may seem like a long time, but GVP is ensuring that the meters are installed as quickly and safely as possible and are in complete operating order.

How will I know when my meter is being upgraded?

Grand Valley Power will send all members a notice in the mail approximately 30 days before a visit to your home or business. GVP will also follow up again two weeks before the visit by mail and the day of the upgrade by knocking on your door. You can visit the installation map at any time to locate your home or business to see if your location has been scheduled yet. GVP will update this as the upgrade continues. Visit gvp.org/EnhancedMeters for the most up-to-date map.

Will I lose electrical service during the installation?

Most consumers will experience a brief outage, and this is expected to last for less than 10 minutes. You may need to reset electronic clocks and other devices after power is restored.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

Board of director elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on August 8, 2019, at Colorado Mesa University. Directors whose terms expire in

2019 are Sylvia Spangler, Rod Martinez and Carolyn Sandeen-Hall. More information about the incumbents and election information will be forthcoming in the months

ahead. You can also visit gvp.org/director-elections to read more about GVP's election policy.

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 8
2019 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

GVA
GRAND VALLEY POWER
Empowering Lives with Holistic Service
A Toolex Energy Cooperative