



Upcoming board meetings

The Vera Water and Power board of directors meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the District office. Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are posted at verawaterandpower.com. You are always welcome to attend.

If your address ends with an odd number, please start your sprinkler at 2 a.m.

To spread out the peak demand for water, which is between 3:30 and 4 a.m., we are asking those of you with an address ending with an odd number to voluntarily start your automatic sprinkler systems at 2 a.m.

By doing this, we can easily meet the current demand for water with the infrastructure we have. However, when everyone is pumping at the same time, we are placing a huge strain on the system.

If 500 people changed their water schedule to begin at 2 a.m., there is an opportunity to save millions of dollars, or at the very least, delay those expenses by many years without impacts to your watering goals.

Water saver

Bathe your pets on the lawn (with biodegradable soap) to give your grass a drink instead of sending water down the drain.



IF YOU LOSE POWER AFTER A STORM, CALL US IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT THE OUTAGE.

REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR FRIDGE AND FREEZER DOORS CLOSED. FOOD SHOULD STAY SAFE IN AN UNOPENED REFRIGERATOR UP TO FOUR HOURS.

Keep your cool while the power is out

10 WAYS TO STAY SAFE AND COMFORTABLE DURING A POWER OUTAGE

During the dog days of summer, severe weather and other unplanned events can cause unplanned power outages. Sometimes those storms bring damage that can last a long time.

When a power outage happens during hot weather, take these ten steps to maintain comfort and safety until power is restored. Remember to call Vera at 888-774-8272 to report the outage.

1. **During an outage, turn off electrical appliances and unplug major equipment.** This helps protect equipment that could be damaged by electrical surges and prevent circuit overloads when power is restored.
2. **Dress in loose, lightweight clothing.**
3. **Use natural ventilation** to cool homes and consider purchasing battery-powered fans.
4. **Drink plenty of water.**
5. **Keep refrigerator or freezer doors closed.** A half full or full freezer can keep foods frozen 24 to 48 hours. Foods should stay safe in an unopened refrigerator up to four hours.
6. **Use safe alternative food preparation methods.** If you decide to barbecue, always grill outside.
7. **Check on friends and relatives**—especially those with medical conditions or disabilities. These people may need to seek emergency cooling shelters.
8. **Keep a first-aid kit** in your home and one in your car.
9. **Close all drapes and blinds** on the sunny side of your home.
10. **Go to a cool, basement location** if you have one. Also, consider going to an air-conditioned public place.

It's not just a green metal box



Stay safe around pad-mounted transformers. While safe, these transformers are not meant for touching, climbing, or playing. **Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our community. Remind children never to put fingers, sticks, or other objects in the transformer.**

Vera's high-quality drinking water passes the test

Vera's Annual Water Quality Report includes information about your drinking water. We prepare this report to meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment. It's important for you to know that your drinking water meets and exceeds the EPA's strict health standards.

We test hundreds of water samples with a third-party laboratory to be sure your water meets or exceeds all the state and federal standards. These test results are on file with the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water.

Since 1908, we have provided safe, high-quality drinking water from



the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie aquifer to our customers in the Spokane Valley. The Annual Water Quality Report highlights the work we do every day to maintain our high-quality water. The report is posted on our website at verawaterandpower.com.

Interconnection Agreements Required

Considering distributed generations like solar panels, call us first

Thinking about installing solar panels or a windmill? These are grid-connected generation systems. And they allow you to power your home or business with renewable energy. The system must be connected to the grid to keep power flowing when the sun does not shine, or the wind does not blow.



As your local utility, Vera is responsible for maintaining a safe, reliable electric grid to power our community. As more customers install grid-connected distributed generation, we are here to help customers while maintaining the safety of the grid.

In most cases, these systems must be interconnected to feed excess power back into the electric grid.

If you are interested in distributed generation systems for your home or business, please contact us before making

the investment. We want to help you choose a system that includes the safety and power quality components necessary to keep you, Vera crews, and members of the community safe.

If a storm hits and a power outage occurs, distributed generation systems must be able to properly disconnect from the electric grid to ensure line-workers are not injured or electrocuted while restoring power.

An individualized, custom interconnection agreement must be reviewed and signed before your distributed generation system is connected to the electric grid. The agreement is intended to ensure safe, reliable, and quality electric service for all.

In addition to safety concerns, you should contact Vera Financial Analyst Jeremy Keller, jkeller@verawaterandpower.com, to review applicable metering rates.

When grid-connected systems generate more electricity than you can use, the excess electricity is fed back into the grid and used elsewhere. This means your utility bill may be adjusted to reflect the additional power your system provided.

Let's work together to ensure a safe, reliable electric system.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



I want to thank those who adjusted their sprinkler system start times. On really hot days, we saw a difference in our pumping. We are getting a quicker recovery time and a lower pumping total during the peak hours.

Continue to shift start time to 2 a.m.

However, we still need more people to shift their sprinkler starting times because every pump is running in the early morning hours. That means we don't have a reserve pump for an emergency.

Also, with enough participation, we may be able to delay a significant addition to our pumping system which could delay the investment of million dollars.

BPA wholesale power prices stable

The Bonneville Power Administration, from which we purchase 90 percent of our wholesale electricity, announced their price for wholesale power will likely remain stable, and they will not need to adjust their rates to recover additional costs through their "Cost Recovery Rate Adjustment" in October.

Earlier this year, it was thought BPA would need to increase their costs. Since that time, above average water runoff and conservative budgeting allowed BPA to avoid a wholesale electric rate increase.

This is good news because those wholesale electric rates are the single largest cost of providing you electric service.

The next regular BPA rate case in October 2019 has begun. We will continue our efforts, working with our trade groups, to pressure BPA to keep their rate increases as low as possible.

Working around the district

Around the district, our crews are replacing poles and preparing to string new conductors along Sprague between McDonald and Evergreen. This project increases the capacity of the wires giving us more flexibility and options to respond to an emergency. Once we finish the work on Sprague, we will do the same projects on 16th and 24th Avenues in future years.

Thanks for your help in these times. Working together we can reap the benefits of being the neighborhood-owned utility.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Wells'.

Kevin Wells | General Manager