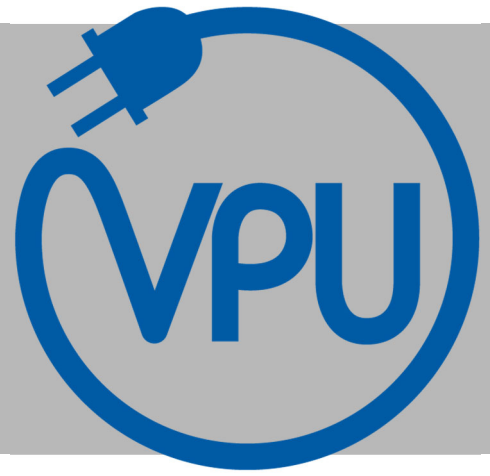


The VPU Newsletter

July 2026

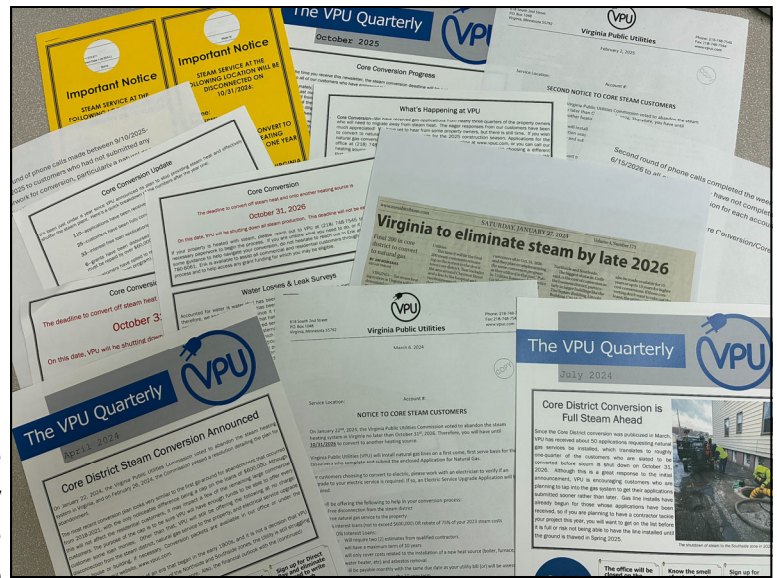


Core Steam Conversion

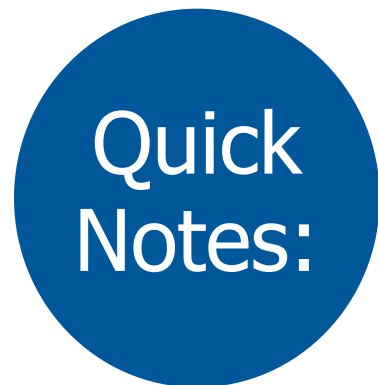
The deadline to convert off steam heat and onto another heating source is

October 31, 2026

On this date, VPU will be shutting down all steam production. This deadline will not be extended.



We still have a handful of customers who have not communicated with us, and we have many more who are still in progress. If you have steam and have not contacted us, please do so immediately. If you have steam and are in the process of converting, please be sure to work with your contractor to get the conversion completed or have your contractor setup a temporary heat source prior to the discontinuation of steam production. VPU can no longer support substantial steam losses, and so, the valve will be shutoff on October 31, 2026.



The office will be closed on the following dates:

September 7
November 11
November 26 & 27
December 24 & 25
December 31
January 1, 2027

Know the smell of natural gas!

If there is a faint smell, call the VPU at (218) 748-7540.

If in doubt, exit the building & call 911!

Sign up for Direct Pay and eliminate the need to write a check each month!

Forms are available in the VPU office or on our website at www.vpuc.com.

Power Distribution Center

In prior newsletters, we have mentioned the electrical preparation that needs to be completed before the steam plant is closed. On May 6th, VPU took delivery on a new distribution center (or E-House) to complete major equipment upgrades necessary to the City's electric distribution system. This building was set on a concrete slab that was poured last fall near the south side of the old power plant. The power distribution center sits behind a new transformer and switchgear, both of which were installed in recent years, and it houses all the equipment to replace the old feeders that were de-energized when generation ceased in the power plant.

This summer, VPU crews have been working to re-route the electrical feeds from the old power plant into the distribution center, with the goal of having the work completed by fall of 2026. Once it is energized, the electrical capacity will nearly double for the City distribution system, and the switching options will increase drastically. This will give our line crew more options for power restoration during outages, which should not only reduce the number of outages but also the duration of them.

VPU is also pleased to announce that we have been awarded \$177,194 by Minnesota Department of Commerce Minnesota Electric Grid Resiliency program for this project. Projects that receive grants under this program must either increase the resiliency of the electrical grid, develop or improve carbon-free distributed energy resources, or improve an applicant's ability to add load growth that is the result of strategic electrification and transportation electrification.



Annual Survey

The Head of the Lakes Natural Gas Group is currently conducting their annual public awareness survey. The goal of this survey is to evaluate and improve on the distribution of natural gas safety information. Please take a

few minutes to complete the survey using this QR code.



Surveys completed by August 31, 2026 will be entered to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

Communication Changes

Moving forward, VPU is planning to reduce the number of newsletters from quarterly to semiannually. We still expect to share the same amount of information but will be looking for more meaningful ways to do so, such as email, text or social media communications.

Water Service Line Inventory

We are still trying to reach roughly 1,000 customers to determine what type of material their water lines are. If VPU has not been to your home yet, please call us at (218) 748-7540 to schedule a 15-minute appointment to allow access. Thank you in advance!