DER, environmentalists question allowing flexibility on interconnection standard

by Steve Downer

MMUA continues to participate in a state regulatory proceeding to update Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities. The docket, which opened in 2016, has been undertaken by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. A round of comments ended in early February.

The Commission issued established the workgroup by order in January 2017. The Commission’s Order determined a transition of Minnesota’s Distributed Generation Interconnection Process and Requirements standards to those based on the FERC Order No. 792 Small Generator Interconnection Agreement and Procedures (SGIP/SGIA).

The state-regulated utilities argued that each utility has unique attributes that will require non-uniform implementation standards, and proposed that requirements be addressed in individual utility Technical Specification Manuals (TSM). MRU proposed that each utility file its TSM annually on an informational basis with the MPUC.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (DER) cautioned that individual utility TSMs “could very easily be used to circumvent the public review and approval process used for state technical interconnection standards.” Standards are “intended to provide a consistent, systematic set of requirements that anyone seeking to interconnect to the electric grid can expect to meet,” said DER, which also disagreed with an Xcel proposal that statewide standards not be adopted until utilities adopt individual TSMs. DER agreed with a group of environmental intervenors, which argued that all tariff up

More than a job

Public power leadership a third generation calling for Marshall manager

by Steve Downer

Public power is in Brad Roos’ blood. Roos, general manager of Marshall Municipal Utilities, comes from a long line of what prior generations called “municipal men.”

The Roos pedigree of municipal electric utility leadership extends for three generations. Those generations cover the advent of the first distribution and central station electric service and agitation for municipal ownership, and to the establishment of municipal “Joint Action” agencies. Roos grew up at the knee of men who were intimately involved in these struggles.

His grandpa, Albert Roos, studied as a builermaker in Holland. Albert emigrated to America in the early 1900s. He settled in Orange City, Iowa, a city named after William of Orange and known for its Dutch cultural background. He became an American success story.

One day Albert, perhaps seeing an ad in Popular Mechanics magazine, sent away for books and materials from Chicago Engineering Works, which offered home-study training in Practical Electricity. Albert was intelligent and diligent in his studies, which stressed hands-on work along with theory. Albert graduated from the course in 1924. His diploma hangs in Brad Roos’ office.

Albert’s interest in electricity was not doubt spurred by exci-
Lake requested services from Warroad, including electric service. The agreement to ad-
just the service territory was filed incorrectly (supposedly solely to a wrong email address) in 2013. North Star, in 2017, as part of the state’s digitization of elec-
tric service territory maps, North Star realized that the 2013 agreement was not cor-
rectly filed, so North Star properly filed the parties’ agreement.
The Red Lake Band in February 2017 asked for a delay on map approval until further resolution of the rate surcharge issue with the city. The DER recommended de-
nial of the territory change—without addressing how to “unwind” the agreement some four years later, or how to undo facilities that have been installed and have been providing service.
North Star noted that its rates are higher than the city’s. North Star’s monthly basic service fee for an inter-
ruptible commercial account would have been $2,640; Warroad’s was $267.5 Even with the 15 mill territory sur-
charge, Warroad’s rate was lower than North Star’s.
“Because of all these facts, Red Lake has saved money, and will continue to save money as a customer of War-
road,” stated the cooperative.
It added that, in emerg-
ey, North Star’s nearest repair crew is 40 miles away from the Casino, which could be a significant amount of time in bad weather (a com-
mon cause of outages). The casino is within the city limits and “Warroad would be in a much better position to respond to an outage at the casino and restore power in a timely manner.”
North Star requested the MPUC update the map and noted Red Lake would benefit from lower electric rates and a service from a nearby pro-
vider.

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**DG: Municipal tariffs must address issues included in MPUC order**

**continued from front page**

dates be submitted together for review and approval.
The Minnesota Rural Elec-
tric Association (MREA) sup-
ported the concept of using the proposed standards developed by the MREA, noted that MMUA.
MMUA noted that modifying the generic standards may prove beneficial to municipally-owned utilities. It is possible that success could achieved in implementing the new stan-
dards statewide if municipal utilities are allowed to adopt them in a different man-
ner than the current statute directs. Another approach would be to make the new standards advisory-only with regards to municipally-owned utilities.

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**NEW**
FERC scraps DOE proceeding, launches bulk power systems resilience review

by Paul Ciampoli  
News Director, American Public Power Association

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Jan. 8 said that it was terminating a proceeding it initiated in order to address a proposed rule on grid reliability and resilience pricing submitted to the Commission by Secretary of Energy Rick Perry last year.

FERC in the Jan. 8 order said that it had decided to terminate the initial proceeding because the proposed rule did not satisfy certain legal requirements under section 206 of the Federal Power Act.

At the same time, FERC in its order said that it was initiating a new proceeding to specifically evaluate the resilience of the bulk power system in the regions operated by regional transmission organizations and independent system operators. “In this order, we direct each RTO and ISO to submit information to the Commission on certain resilience issues and concerns identified herein to enable us to examine holistically the resilience of the bulk power system,” FERC said.

The Department of Energy in September 2017 proposed a rule to be issued by FERC that would have required several regional organized wholesale power markets to “develop and implement market rules that accurately price generation resources necessary to maintain the reliability and resiliency” of the country’s bulk power system, and specifically described such rules as establishing electric energy rates that provide for the recovery of costs and a return on equity for certain “eligible reliability and resiliency resources.”

FERC launched a proceeding to consider the proposed rule and it issued a related notice inviting comments.

In initial comments filed on Oct. 23, the American Public Power Association urged FERC to reject the DOE proposed rule. The Association said that while it agreed that the DOE’s proposed rule raised important questions that the industry should study further, the proposed rule did not establish the existence of an imminent threat to the electric grid requiring cost-recovery payments to merchant generators. The Association also told FERC that the proposal was ambiguous and incomplete in many respects, and unworkable as proposed. The Association also submitted reply comments in the proceeding.

New proceeding

FERC decided to launch the new proceeding to take additional steps to explore resilience issues in the RTOs/ISOs.

FERC said the goal of this proceeding is: (1) to develop a common understanding among the Commission, industry, and others of what resilience of the bulk power system means and requires; (2) to understand how each RTO and ISO assesses resilience in its geographic footprint; and (3) to use this information to evaluate whether additional Commission action regarding resilience is appropriate at this time.

“This examination of the resilience of the bulk power system will be a priority of the Commission,” FERC said, noting that each RTO and ISO will need to submit specific information regarding the resilience of its respective region.

Kelly comments on FERC decision

Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the American Public Power Association (APPA), commented on FERC’s order at a Jan. 18 U.S. Energy Association event in Washington, D.C.

“We at APPA were encouraged by FERC’s action,” Kelly said at the USEA’s 14th annual State of the Energy Industry Forum where she participated on a panel that focused on 2018 electric issues.

“We actually have considerable sympathy for the problems” that Perry raised. “In particular, we noted the language that he said that he thought that mandatory capacity markets are substantially flawed.” The Association has made this point for “quite some time,” Kelly pointed out.

“However, we weren’t necessarily enamored of the solution because we saw it as one more Ace bandage on a leg that has multiple fractures and the question is what we really need to do to address this problem” in a more systematic and organic way, she said.

Three Commissioners filed concurrences to the Jan. 8 FERC order.

“What was striking to me was what a broad swath there was between and among these concurrences,” Kelly said. “Clearly different commissioners are in very different places and to me that’s going to make this year extremely interesting.”
Hain receives leadership award; regional water system advances

Scott Hain, general manager of Worthington Public Utilities, recently received the city of Worthington’s Excellence of Leadership award. Hain, utility manager for more than a decade, quickly acknowledged his good fortune to have excellent staff members, who work hard every day and care about the community.

Hain graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1984 with a degree in biology. During summers, he worked for the municipal utility, helping bury electric lines. After graduating from college, he worked for the city’s wastewater department. Soon he was splitting time between the city wastewater department and the municipal water and electric utility. In 1996, WPU hired him as coordinator, working closely with the late Don Habicht, who was then general manager.

The utility staff rarely turns over—generally only for retirements—a sure sign of a productive workplace. It also sports above-average reliability and below-average rates.

But Hain didn’t receive the award just for doing a good job locally. He also serves on the boards of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), a wholesale electric provider) and the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. Lewis and Clark currently provides water to 13 members and construction is ongoing to deliver water to seven more. The water source is a series of wells that tap into an aquifer which is adjacent to the Missouri River.

Gov. Dayton last year declared pipeline funding as a top priority, a position taken in part due to Hain’s diligent lobbying efforts. During the 2017 legislative session, state funding was secured to connect the Lewis & Clark pipeline to Worthington, bringing the city a long sought after, clean, soft water source. Hain made numerous trips to St. Paul, and Washington D.C., over the years on behalf of Worthington and the Lewis & Clark project.

Funding for construction has been provided through federal, state and local grants. Funds for operations and maintenance is covered through rates.

“We cannot thank the Legislature and Gov. Dayton enough for their incredible support to ensure Worthington can finally address its chronic need for additional water,” Hain said.

On a recent drive back from an MRES meeting, the Worthington Daily Globe related, Hain diverted from the interstate and drove along the 15 mile-long pipeline path from Adrian to Worthington. Seeing stacks of pipe and work underway on the $10.8 million project was a powerful moment.

Hain credits many others for their work in seeing the project come to fruition, and he hopes one day to deliver a project repayment check back to the state of Minnesota.

The local award is not necessarily given every year. Hain is the third person to receive it.

Lineworker students, employers meeting set for Feb. 28

There is an opportunity for Electrical Line Worker students and employers to meet on Feb. 28 on the Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Wadena campus. About 50 students from both the Wadena and Baudette campuses will participate. These students will graduate from M State during the first week of May.

The event will be part networking and part interview skills practice. Companies will have an opportunity to promote employment opportunities while students will have a one-on-one mock interview with a hiring manager/HR representative. Here is the plan for the event.

Schedule – Wednesday, February 28
12:15 – Display set-up and mock interview orientation
1:00 – 1:45 – Three 15-minute rounds of mock interviews (Baudette Students)
2:00 – 2:30 Brief introduction of company and employment opportunities to students
2:30 – 4:00 – Six 15-minute rounds of mock interviews.

Your utility is invited to showcase opportunities and to network with students and instructors during this free event. If you are interested in participating, contact Sue Zurn, M State-Wadena, at 218-289-6515.

Gov. Dayton held a roundtable discussion and press conference in Worthington last summer to discuss the timeline for connecting Worthington Public Utilities to the Lewis & Clark (LC) system. Pictured above are, from left to right: LC’s Troy Larson, Worthington City Administrator Steve Robinson, LC Chair (and former MMUA president) ‘Red’ Arndt, Gov. Dayton, Scott Hain, Mayor Mike Kuhle and WPU President Gary Hoffman.
The Kandiyohi city council at its January 16 meeting approved a resolution to sign a final Purchase Agreement from the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative. A franchise agreement ordinance was tabled for approval until the Feb. 5 meeting, pending the sale of the municipal electric utility.

The city of Pierz has joined MMUA as a Regular Member. City hall is located at 101 Main St. Mailing address is P.O. Box 367, Pierz MN 56364. Phone is 320-468-6471. City administrator is Nicole Smude. Superintendent is Bob Otremba.

City representatives from Hermantown, Proctor and Rice Lake met with Duluth officials Jan. 18 at Hermantown city hall to discuss the city of Duluth’s proposed 32 percent (over six years) water rate hike. The Hermantown city council Dec. 18 passed a resolution appealing the rate increase to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The Proctor PUC and city council have both passed a resolution in support of the appeal.

The cities of Hermantown, Proctor and the town of Rice contract with Duluth for water service.

With the retirement of General Manager Al Crowser set for April 30, the Alexandria city council has approved a market compensation study that will examine 35 city positions.


Princeton Public Utilities was among the local municipal electric power plants called upon to generate electricity during an early January cold snap.

Jeremy Sutton has assumed the role of Director of Power Resources for Rochester Public Utilities. He is replacing Wally Schlink, who is retiring on March 14.

Steve Thompson has retired as CEO of Central Minnesota Power Agency Services (CMPAS). Chris Kopel has assumed the duties of interim CEO.

Sauk Centre Public Utilities is in the process of installing automated metering infrastructure for its water and electric services.

The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission, faced with a looming deficit of nearly $5 million, is considering major restructuring. The work started with a review of job descriptions and consideration of a new organizational chart. A voluntary severance package has been produced and submitted to a labor attorney for review.

The reorganization takes into account reduced power plant output, from its current 135,000 megawatt-hours to approximately 30,000 to 35,000 megawatts.

The Brainerd city council approved the purchase of an approximately one acre lot for a new water tower site.

A plow truck struck a utility pole somewhere around 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 7 and caused a power outage in a significant portion of Grand Marais and Croftville. Arrowhead Electric provided two line crews to assist the two-man Grand Marais crew in repair and restoration of the damaged line. Power was restored around 2:30 a.m.

With the temperature at eight below, a large swath of Lake Region Electric Cooperative and Wild Rice Electric Cooperative service territory was without power the evening of Jan. 4. The outage affected the Detroit Mountain Recreation Area, which had to take emergency action to get ski lifts moving. Lifts were immobilized, in the dark, for about 13 minutes, before emergency generators restored service to the ski area.

The outage was pinned on a broken switch on a Great River Energy transmission line near Audubon.
The current MMU office building was completed in October 1994, and is adjacent to a substation.

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An at-home study guide from the time of Albert Roos.

Roos:
continued from front page

thing happening around him—the Orange City municipal electric utility was founded in 1923, one year before Albert earned his degree. Albert was involved in the utility from the start: working on generators, stringing line, calculating bills.

He managed the Orange City municipal electric utility for 27 years, and retired in 1947.

Two years later and 12 miles away in Sioux Center, voters approved a referendum question to create a municipal electric system. The townsfolk persuaded Albert to come out of retirement and manage the system. He agreed to do so, for two years. He put the system on a solid footing, and retired again.

One of Albert’s eight children was Brad’s dad, Allen. After World War II, Allen married and settled in Orange City, where he operated Roos Electric. Allen married Lena in 1949 and the couple had three sons and a daughter. Lena was a teacher. Allen had three sons and a daughter. Lena was a teacher.

In 1959, Allen was named Utilities Manager for Orange City and towards the end of his career also became city manager. He served in both positions, until retiring in 1986. Allen had three sons and a daughter. Lena was a teacher.

If Allen Roos needed something, he got it. “What works and what doesn’t work.”

The current MMU office building was completed in October 1994, and is adjacent to a substation.

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MMU’s supplemental wholesale power supplier—MRES—has seasonal demand charges now, so a move to time-of-use rates is something to consider. MMU recently worked with agri-business giant ADM—its largest customer—and MRES to develop an electric rate to retain the sale of power.

MMU ‘unbundled’ the customer’s rate in the 1990s, creating separate charges for electricity, transmission, distribution and other fees. Rate issues with a large customer, taxpayer and employer can be delicate. Roos credited everybody involved in the process with the highest level of professional integrity.

That integrity has served public power well, from one generation to the next. And it is one thing that will be handed down, if Brad Roos has anything to do with it.
Lake Crystal shows off city hall/library improvements

The city of Lake Crystal held an open house at its newly-renovated and expanded library/city hall on Monday, Feb. 5.

The old 2,686 square foot library/city hall has grown to approximately 6,270 square feet. A 1,641 square foot basement was built under the new addition. The remodeled and expanded building includes city and municipal utility administration, library services, records storage, community room and council chambers.

The building is now compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and includes a lobby/waiting area for residents and guests.

A variety of options were considered, including purchase of a vacant Main Street building. The city council, utilities commission and staff found that a remodel and expansion of the existing facility was the most efficient option to meet the community’s needs. Among the factors considered were accessibility, infrastructure and development costs, location and potential for expansion.

The city hired an architect and a space needs study was completed in early 2016. The study was presented to the city council in August 2016.

Total project cost was $1.46 million, which included construction costs, furniture, fixtures, equipment and finishes, project contingencies and fees. Funding includes $500,000 placed in reserve over the years for the purpose, and a 15-year capital improvement plan bond.

Residents did not see any increase in property taxes or utility rates. Principal and interest payments on the bonds have a maximum annual payment of approximately $86,000. However, the city has paid off several debt issuances in recent years. The levy that was used to pay off those bonds will be used to pay these new bonds.
Kent Sulem has joined MMUA as its Director of Government Relations.

Sulem is an attorney with 25 years of experience working for government entities across Minnesota, and has worked 19 legislative sessions as a trusted and respected lobbyist.

Most recently, Sulem worked for the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT). MAT is a voluntary membership association representing 1,751 of the 1,753 membership association representatives. MAT is a voluntary association of townships, representing the interests of thousands more.

He has also testified for and against bills in numerous legislative committees. Sulem worked 19 legislative sessions across Minnesota, and has reviewed, tracked, summarized and advised on the impact of thousands more.

Prior to joining the townships, Sulem was an attorney with the League of Minnesota Cities, from May 1993 to May 2000.

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Greg Sherman, 77

Gregory A. Sherman, 77, of Volga died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, at Havasu Regional Medical Center, Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Sherman is a former MMUA board member who played a leading role in establishment of the MMUA Training Center in Marshall.

Gregory Alan Sherman was born on March 12, 1940, to Esther (Jensen) Sherman and Wayne Sherman in Arling- ton, S.D. The family moved to Aberdeen, S.D., shortly there- after, where Greg attended school.

After graduating high school, Greg served three years in the U.S. Army. Greg married Mary Ann Harty on Oct. 10, 1964. They have two children, Mark and Pam.

Greg began his career in the electrical power industry as a lineman for FEM Electric Cooperative in Ipswich, S.D. From there he moved to Ar- lington, as the city electrician and then progressed to posi- tions with Brookings Munici- pal Utilities in Brookings and Detroit Lakes Public Utilities in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

He eventually retired as general manager of Marshall Municipal Utilities. Throughout- out his career, Greg served on various boards including the South Dakota Electrical Council, Missouri River Energy Services, Midwest Electric Consumers Association and MMUA.

A memorial service will be held at Holy Life Tabernacle, in Brookings on Tuesday, April 24, at 11 a.m.

Greg is survived by his wife a Mary Ann; son, Mark (Sheila) of Minot, North Da- kota; daughter, Pam (Mark) Fode of Fargo, North Dakota; two grandsons; sister, Bonita Trequdale of Evans, Georgia, and many nieces and nephews.

Greg was preceded in death by two brothers, Duane and Roger Sherman.
MMPA adds 7 megawatts of solar to energy supply mix

The Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) announced Jan. 10 that it has committed to purchasing 100 percent of the renewable power output from the Buffalo Solar facility. The 7 megawatt (MW) utility-scale solar facility, located north of the Agency’s member community of Buffalo, has entered commercial operation and is now providing power to local homes and businesses.

Joseph Steffel, Utilities Director for Buffalo Municipal Utilities said, “We are excited to have this renewable power generation asset in our community.”

The Buffalo Solar facility, comprised of more than 25,000 solar panels, connects directly to the city of Buffalo’s electric distribution system. Power from the facility will help MMPA meet the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard, which requires 25 percent of the Agency’s energy to come from renewable sources by 2025.

Oncu Er, Senior Vice President for Avant Energy, MMPA’s management partner said, “We plan to continue to invest in both renewable energy projects and clean, efficient, natural gas generation projects to meet the future energy and capacity needs of our member communities.”

In addition to the power output provided by the Buffalo Solar facility, the Agency’s renewable energy portfolio includes 122 MW of wind energy from the Black Oak Wind Farm and Oak Glen Wind Farm, 8 MW of bioenergy from Hometown BioEnergy, and renewable energy purchases from other utilities.

MMPA takes a long-term approach to power supply planning that includes assembling a diversified portfolio of owned and purchased generation containing both conventional and renewable resources. This approach allows the Agency to maintain flexibility in the rapidly-changing electric utility industry.

MMPA provides wholesale electricity to its member communities who in turn deliver and sell that electricity to residential and business customers in their communities. The Agency is comprised of municipal utilities in Anoka, Chaska, Elgin, Elk River, Le Sueur, North St. Paul, Olivia, Shakopee and Winthrop.

MPUC to host March 16 workshop on electric vehicles

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) recently opened inquiry into electric vehicle charging and infrastructure (Docket 17-879). The PUC is kicking off the inquiry with a Friday, March 16 workshop on electric vehicles (EVs). The workshop is open to the public.

MPUC staff especially extends an invitation to municipal electric utilities, that may find the information useful as they consider their own plans regarding electric vehicles. The workshop is designed to be a fairly ‘big picture’ look at what’s happening locally and nationally around EVs. This should be a good introduction for individuals who may be unfamiliar with the intersection of utilities and electric vehicles.

One of the morning sessions will feature Dakota Electric and Great River Energy’s work on EVs, while other sessions will have a mix of private, public, and utility sector reps. Attendance by municipal utility members in the workshop is certainly welcomed.

“My hope is that workshop and other portions of the inquiry can provide useful insights for any of the state’s utilities, regardless of whether they are regulated by the PUC,” said MPUC Rates Analyst Hanna Terwilliger.

The workshop is free, but there is a registration page so event planners can track the level of interest and reserve a larger room if necessary. The event registration page will be updated as more details and final speakers are confirmed: www.eventbrite.com/e/electric-vehicle-workshop-tickets-42542402471

On a related note, Volkswagen in 2016 reached a settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requiring Volkswagen to spend roughly $14.7 billion due to violations of the federal Clean Air Act. The settlement funds include $2 billion on zero emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure and programs.

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President Donald Trump has approved tariffs on foreign manufactured solar cells and modules. The recommendations from the U.S. International Trade Commission call for 30 percent tariffs on modules and cells in year one, declining 5 percent annually to 15 percent in their fourth and final year. The tariffs exempt 2.5 GW per year of solar panels but do not exclude solar modules.

The tariffs, according to Public Power Daily, were made following a complaint by solar PV manufacturer Suniva in May 2017. It was joined in the complaint by Solar World Americas.

Suniva, which is majority owned by Chinese interests, has manufacturing facilities in Georgia and Oregon. Solar World Americas is the U.S. unit of a German company and has a factory in Oregon.

Many in the solar power industry criticized the tariffs, fearing they could slow the growth of solar power in the U.S.


The lower taxes could, in effect, give utilities a higher rate of return than allowed by regulators. The new tax law also could allow utilities to recognize deferred tax expenses at a lower rate than when they were incurred.

The MPUC Jan. 9 delayed approval of the Enbridge Line 3 replacement pipeline, as it awaits the report of an administrative law judge, who was asked to review the final environmental impact statement. The final EIS will contain a cultural resources study performed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The MPUC requested the modified report from the ALJ by April 23. The delay calls into question an April 30 decision deadline.

Legislators from both sides of the aisle have weighed in, saying the MPUC has had enough time to make a

Bits & Pieces

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This newsletter contains all the news that is fit to print. Our facebook page contains... well, so much more! see us (and maybe yourself!) at Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association While you are at it, follow us at #MMUAnews
decision. On the other hand, environmental organizations say the April 23 deadline is too short. Some have called the Enbridge request Minnesota's 'Standing Rock' moment, referencing last year's controversy over the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The MPUC Jan. 30 approved a 3.5 percent rate increase for Minnesota Power (MP). The increase is expected to raise company revenues by $13 million.

MP requested an approximately 18 percent increase in November 2016, which would have raised $55 million in revenues.

The increase will take effect later this year. MP's residential customers will not have to pay a 6.5 percent rate surcharge that the MPUC approved last March. The surcharge was to help pay for a 5 percent rate decrease for MP's 11 largest industrial customers. The discount was conceived in a 2015 law designed to bring "competitive" electric rates for large energy customers.

Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest in December sent 19,000 residents of Faribault and Blue Earth counties a letter regarding a proposed 50-mile long, 345-kV transmission line between the North Mankato and Huntley substations.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has yet to determine need and route. The companies target an in-service date of 2021.

The city of Vadnais Heights city council Jan. 2 approved a franchise fee ordinance with Xcel Energy and Connexus. The council established capital funds for deposit of the fees, for road construction and maintenance. The city expects to receive about $300,000 a year from the fees. Residential customers will pay $2 a month for electric and $1.25 for natural gas. Commercial fees range from $3 to $60 for electric and $3.50 to $60 for natural gas.

Residents are currently assessed 50 percent of street repair projects. The city will reduce the commercial road assessment from 100 to 50 percent.

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wants $3 to $60 for electric and $1.25 to $36 for natural gas. Commercial fees range from $3 to $60 for electric and $3.50 to $60 for natural gas.

Residents are currently assessed 50 percent of street repair projects. The city will reduce the commercial road assessment from 100 to 50 percent.
As spring approaches, so does busy time for MMUA training, meeting opportunities

We are entering into a busy time for MMUA training and educational opportunities! Upcoming opportunities include:

**PCB Management & Record-keeping Workshop**
Feb. 27-28 at MMUA, Plymouth
This one will have likely sold out by the time you read this, but if you signed up, don’t forget to show up!

**Lineworker Rodeo Clinic**
March 6-7, at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall
Members of MMUA can attend this complementary training clinic to help you prepare for the 2018 Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo in Wake Forest, North Carolina, or the second annual Minnesota Lineworkers Rodeo, this September in Marshall.

Registration deadline is Feb. 23!

**Legislative Conference**
April 3-4, St. Paul
MMUA’s Legislative Conference is the municipal utility community’s primary opportunity to inform and influence state lawmakers. This year’s event is scheduled for April 3 and 4, late enough to give us an opportunity to respond to any issues that may arise during the session. Our conference hotel is the newly-renovated Best Western Plus Capitol Ridge (formerly Kelly Inn), just a short walk from the Capitol. Register by March 12 for best price!

**Generation School**
April 10-12, Ovacotona
Public Utilities
Generation School offers hands-on training and networking opportunities for generator operators and technicians. Whether a seasoned operator or just starting out in the field, all can benefit. Hands-on training will take place at the Blooming Prairie Power Plant (Fairbanks Morse Engine) and at the New Prague Power Plant (Cooper Bessemer).

Registration rates increase on March 12 with a sign-up deadline of March 22!

**Substation School**
April 17-19, Rochester
Public Utilities
Substation School offers valuable instruction on in-depth topics related to substations. Participants will also get a behind the scene’s tour of Rochester’s newest substation built through a unique partnership with world-renowned Mayo Clinic Health System.

All fees increase $50 on March 19, 2018. Deadline to register is March 29.

**Underground School**
May 15-18, MMUA Training Center in Marshall.

Registration rates increase on March 12 with a sign-up deadline of March 22!

**MMUA’s Legislative Conference**
April 3-4, St. Paul
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Public Utilities
Substation School offers valuable instruction on in-depth topics related to substations. Participants will also get a behind the scene’s tour of Rochester’s newest substation built through a unique partnership with world-renowned Mayo Clinic Health System.

All fees increase $50 on March 19, 2018. Deadline to register is March 29.

**Underground School**
May 15-18, MMUA Training Center in Marshall.

Registration rates increase on March 12 with a sign-up deadline of March 22!

**MMUA schools typically feature a variety of hands-on training. This particular training, in a Marshall Municipal Utilities substation, was part of the 2017 Underground School.**

**Apprentice training tools include transformers**

MMUA Apprentice Lineworker training now includes a complete bank of miniature transformers. Job Training and Safety/Apprenticeship Instructor Mike Taylor is currently making the rounds with the training tool, which is proving very popular indeed. The transformer banks were put together by one of Taylor’s colleagues, Regional Safety Coordinator/job Training and Safety Instructor Bruce Westergaard, Taylor, with 36 years of electric utility experience, works with apprentices around the state. For information, call Mike Willetts at 612-802-8474.

**Watch this space for more details on our premier underground training opportunity!**

**Competent Person & Excavation Workshop**
May 22-23, MMUA Training Center, Marshall
This workshop will be targeted to the public works employees in your city. More details to come!

**APPA Events**
There are also several American Public Power Association (APPA) events that will draw numerous MMUA members.

For more updated information, see the Events calendar at www.mmua.org

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**BE PREPARED WITH FS3’s EXCAVATION VERIFICATION KIT**

FS3’s Excavation Verification Kit Includes:
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**Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo**
April 28 in Wake Forest, North Carolina
Who will shine for the North Star state this year?

**APPA Engineering & Operations Technical Conference**
April 29-May in Raleigh, North Carolina
This is a popular meeting for many Minnesota municipal utility personnel.

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**Contact RESCO for all of your distribution, transmission and substation project needs**
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