

## Electrification advances Blue Earth Light & Water sells efficient electric appliance

by Steve Downer

The recently-adopted ECO Act of 2021 widens the path for utility electrification efforts, and some municipal utilities are quickly taking advantage of the opportunity.

In a scene that harkened back to the earliest days of the electric utility industry—when utilities routinely sold appliances to build load and even wired houses—a group of local plumbers, electricians and HVAC vendors, along with municipal utility personnel from neighboring cities, June 2 gathered with manufacturer’s and sales representatives to learn more about high-efficiency electric heat pump water heaters.

The group, which covers approximately 10 communities in South Central Minnesota, gathered in the Blue Earth Light & Water (BELW) power



Factory representatives from Bradford White and sales representatives from Ferguson were on hand for install and design information on the AeroTherm Heat Pump water heaters, June 2 at the BELW power plant.

plant.

BELW is the first utility in the state to promote and sell new heat-pump water heaters. It is not new to the field, however, having already supplied approximately 60 percent of the water heaters in its service territory.

BELW is a consumer partnership dedicated to the reliable delivery of energy and water, said General Manager Tim Stoner. It isn’t selling water heaters to make money. The local water supply is high in minerals, and gas-fired water heaters

often have a short life. Making longer-lived, electric water heaters available is a service appreciated by its local customers.

The construction and materials used in the newest type of electric

**BELW: see page 8**



The Barnesville Dollar General store, looking north. The electric distribution lines in this March photograph are municipally-owned. The store was among the disputed properties in the area, long-served by the municipal utility.

## Barnesville, Red River cooperative settle territory dispute

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) June 17 accepted a service territory settlement agreement from Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association (RRV) and the City of Barnesville.

RRV filed with the MPUC an assigned service territory violation complaint against the City of Barnesville and Barnesville Municipal Power in October 2020. The MPUC in November 2020 ordered a contested case hearing to resolve the issue. During the discovery phase of

this hearing the parties reached settlement.

In its initial complaint, RRV requested an MPUC order finding it had the exclusive right to provide retail service within its assigned service area. The annexed area at issue in Barnesville includes a Dollar General and site of a former Dairy Queen and additional property. The city purchased property, adjacent to the Dollar General, for a new municipal liquor store.

RRV, in its complaint, asked that the city compensate and re-

imburse loss of revenue to RRV for the service of electric loads to the Dollar General from 2013 to the present, and for future loss of revenue.

The city is providing electric service to Dollar General and has provided service since the store commenced operations in 2013. However, RRV said the store was “wholly located” in the cooperative’s service territory.

Barnesville said it has served the property, and other sur-

**Barnesville: see page 4 please**

## Municipal power props up grid in emergency

They don’t run often, but municipal power plants continue to play a vital role in the provision of Minnesota electric service.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) June 10 at 5:02 p.m. issued a Maximum Generation Emergency Alert effective for its Central and North Region area(s) including Minnesota.

The reason for the event was because of forced generation outages, above normal temps, and higher than forecasted load.

Municipal power plants across the state were called on to generate during the emergency. These units propped up the electric grid in its time of need, and helped maintain electric service to customers across the state and region.

The grid operator called for the alert based on its short-term load forecast, scheduled interchange, on-line resources, and transmission security requirements.

Following cessation of the emergency later that evening, all suspended transmission, generation and computer maintenance in the affected area were allowed to resume. Previously scheduled transmission and generation outages were allowed to proceed as planned.

Utilities were asked to coordinate with MISO’s Reliability Coordinator regarding resuming or starting affected outages or maintenance.

A Maximum Generation Emergency is designed to guide operator actions when an event has the potential to, or actually does, negatively impact electric grid reliability.

Five other steps are taken before “firm load shed” occurs.

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## Sherco Solar project advances as MPUC grants certificate of need exemption

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) June 3 exempted Xcel Energy's Sherco Solar proposal from the state's certificate of need requirement for large energy facilities with a capacity of greater than 50 megawatts (MW).

Sherco Solar, as proposed, would be Minnesota's largest solar development to date at 460 MW capacity.

The solar proposal straddles the company's Sherburne County (Sherco) generation facility site. Sherco's three generating units have a combined capacity of 2,238 MW, making it the state's largest electric generating plant. (The 876-MW Unit 3 at the plant is co-owned with the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, which owns a 41-percent share.)

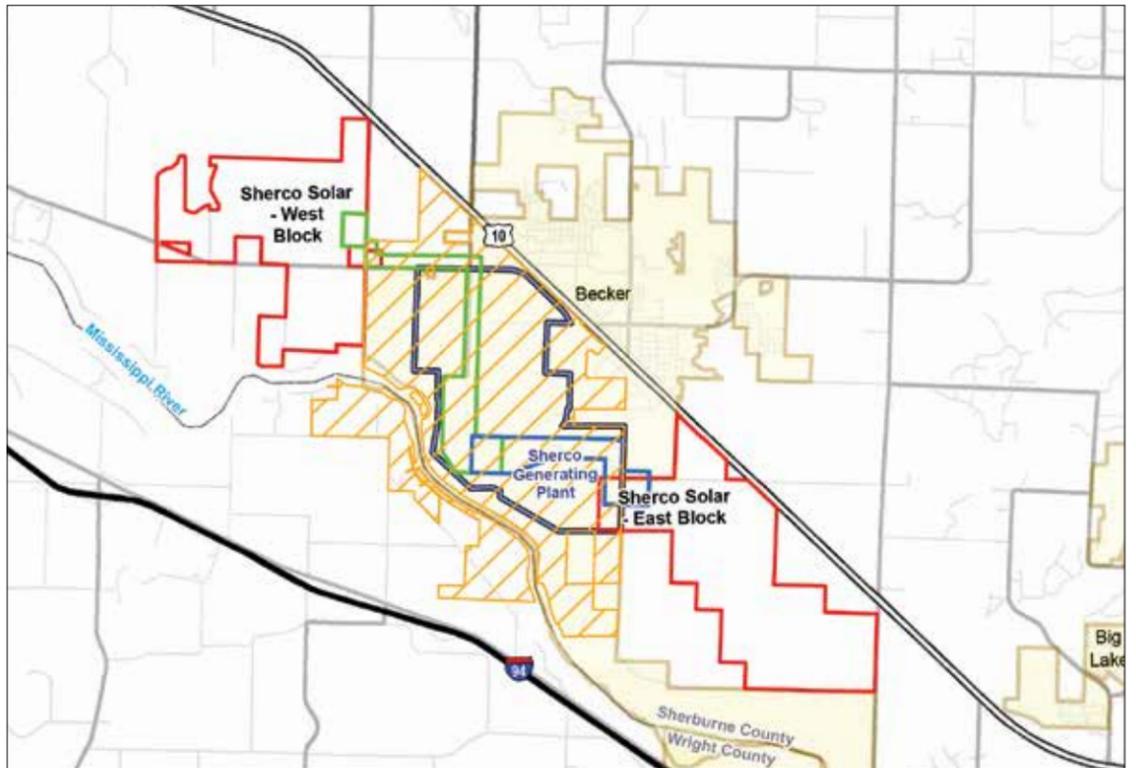
Total installed capital costs for the solar project are estimated to be approximately \$622 million. Xcel requested approval to recover 100 percent of the costs from Minnesota ratepayers through the Renewable Energy Standard

(RES) Rider.

Xcel anticipates beginning commercial operations for portions of Sherco Solar via a phased approach beginning in 2023 to accommodate an in-service date for the entire project by the end of 2024. The project is a joint development between Xcel and National Grid Renewables (NG Renewables).

The project was driven by Xcel's plan to reutilize the Company's transmission interconnection rights as its coal units cease operations. Through a build-transfer arrangement, Xcel will acquire a 230 MW site from NG Renewables (the West Block), which includes 1,654 acres of land, and combine it with another 230 MW project (the East Block), which includes 1,826 acres of land. Both the West Block and East Block will be located on land that is leased by NG Renewables and the Company, respectively.

Sherco Solar requires both site and high voltage transmission line (HVTL) route permits from the Commis-



Site map of the Sherco Solar proposal, showing the West and East block locations.

sion.

Xcel solicited Sherco Solar through the Commission's "Modified Track 2" resource acquisition process, which was developed and approved by Commission order in Xcel's

last Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The company noted Sherco Solar helps meet a significant capacity need identified in its 2020-2034 IRP with renewable resources procured in a manner consistent with the Commission's most-recent IRP Order.

### Local government concerns

The City of Becker raised concerns that Sherco Solar is sited near existing and planned municipal infrastructure, and the project could adversely affect future development. The project could block industrial growth and development and waste benefits expected from state and local infrastructure investments. The City emphasized

that it could lose as much as 75 percent of its property tax base as a result of decommissioning the Sherco coal units, by 2026. The City has been working to strategically replace this loss in tax revenue with revenue generated by private redevelopment, which involves working with nearby municipal utilities and investing in infrastructure. For example, the City is investing more than \$22 million in infrastructure to serve the City's planned business park and \$8 million in developing the capability to serve commercial and industrial development.

Becker Township said **Sherco Solar: see facing page**



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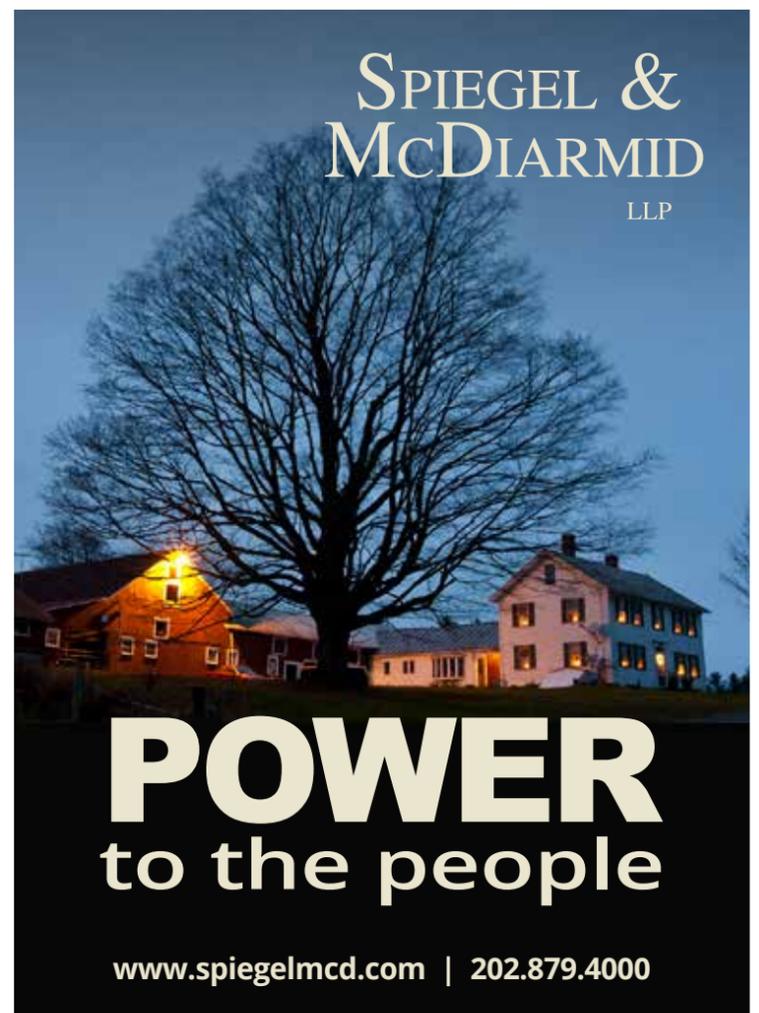
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## MMUA CEO Jack Kegel, SMMPA's EV network honored with national awards

Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021 — Twenty-Two individuals and 11 utilities were recognized for service to the American Public Power Association and the public power industry during APPA's National Conference in Orlando, Florida. Among those honored were MMUA CEO Jack Kegel and the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA).

### Jack Kegel

Kegel was honored with the James D. Donovan Individual Achievement Award. This award recognizes people who have made a substantial contribution to the electric utility industry, with a special commitment to public power.

Under his leadership, the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) has grown from having five employees and a budget of less than \$700,000 to 30 employees and a budget of \$5.3 million. Additionally, Jack has strengthened MMUA's resources in the core association function of government relations. MMUA continues to improve its visibility and credibility with legislators and key state agencies and forged strong working relationships with other industry players, including investor-owned utilities, co-ops, and environmental and consumer advocacy groups. He has led MMUA to become a national leader in safety and training. Since 1999, MMUA has owned and operated a municipal utility training center on an 18-acre campus in Marshall, Minnesota. For many years, MMUA has part-

### Sherco Solar:

*continued from facing page*

Sherco Solar will impact its transportation connections and business park, which could create public safety and mobility hazards. At more than 1,200 acres of land within the township, and more than 3,400 acres overall, the Township stated Sherco Solar "essentially preempts the Town's local land use plan, transportation plan, and zoning ordinance."

Moreover, the project could hinder the transportation of people and goods on the local and arterials roads. The Town Board requested that these public safety concerns be addressed prior to the Commission authorizing the site permit and two route permits.



MMUA CEO Jack Kegel was featured in this congratulatory promotional piece from APPA.

nered with APPA in hosting educational opportunities at the training center and has trained students from around the country. Jack is planning to retire this fall after a 33-year career in public power.

### SMMPA

SMMPA won an Energy Innovator Award, for its Member EV Charging Network.

The Network is a collabora-

tion between the agency, 17 of its member utilities, and ZEF Energy to facilitate the acceptance of electric vehicles and help with the transformation of both the electric utility and transportation industries. SMMPA made the investment in the chargers and maintenance programs, while member utilities located suitable sites and handled the installation. This project will



Chris Schoenherr of SMMPA, left, posed for a picture with the SMMPA network charger in Preston with City Administrator/Preston Public Utilities General Manager Joe Hoffman.

bring fast charging stations to the region and reduce range anxiety by providing EV owners with a quick charge when they are traveling longer distances. SMMPA has developed a blueprint for how to create an EV charging network across members within a joint action agency and

has learned valuable lessons throughout this project. As a result, SMMPA has had several webinars on this project, including sessions on siting and site design, installation and commissioning, pricing and rate setting, and using the portal and various apps.

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## Barnesville:

*continued from front page*

rounding properties, with electricity for generations, and is the only electric service provider who has ever supplied electricity to the property. This electric service pre-dates the 1974 adoption of the Minnesota Public Utilities Act.

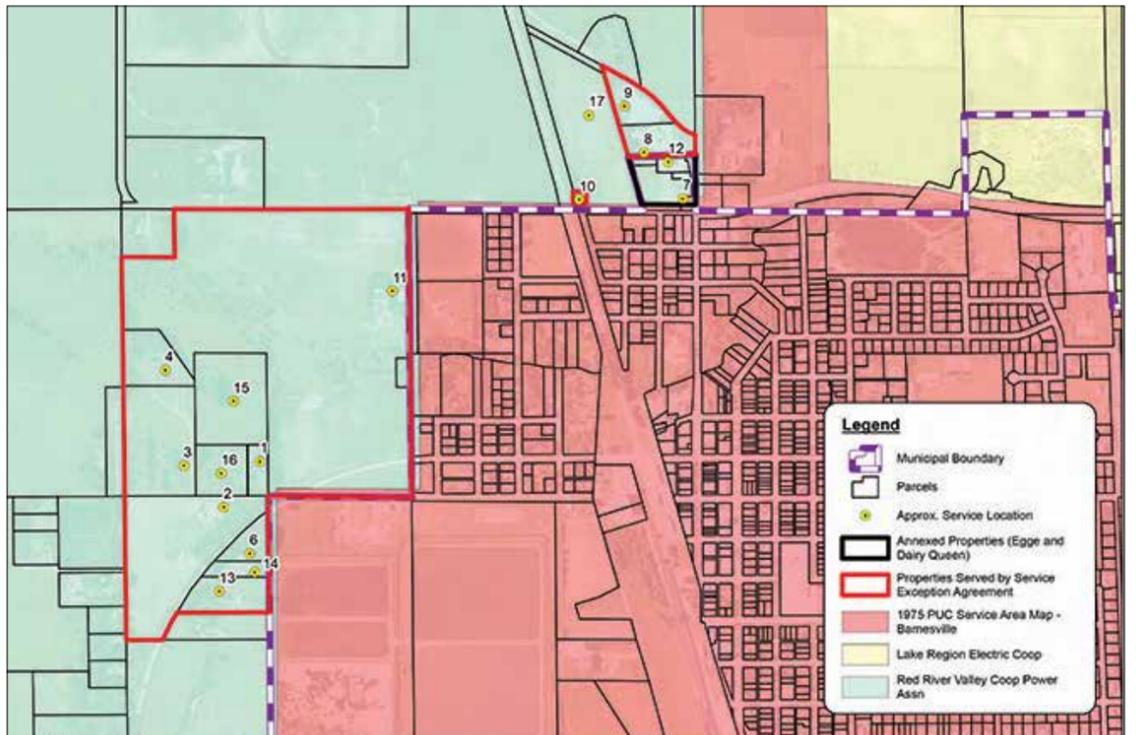
The annexed areas have been in the city since 2013.

Barnesville asserted that the electric utility service area maps published online do not accurately encompass Barnesville's undisputed service to these properties in 1974 when the MPUC as-

signed service territories and asked the MPUC to re-draw the service territory.

The agreement settled several outstanding issues and outlined a path for resolution of other potential issues.

Under terms of the settlement, the City agrees to pay to RRV \$41,850 for all past, present and future electric service to customers on each and all of the disputed properties in an area on the city's north side, including property owned and operated by Dollar General, the former Dairy Queen site, and another property, all contained within land previously annexed by the City.



This map filed with the Barnesville-RRV agreement shows the Dollar General area on the north side of the city. The city will continue to serve the area bordered in red to the west under a service-by-exception agreement. Below: the Barnesville Utilities Department provides services necessary for a growing city.

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In turn, RRV agrees to the re-drawing of the city's service territory to include all annexed property and releases all RRV's rights and interest and claim of assigned service territory to the annexed properties.

The city shall continue to serve existing customers at those properties identified and shall have sole right and responsibility for service.

The agreement addressed another area, on the city's northwest edge, where the city has served several customers, outside of the city limits, since the inception of electric service in the area.

If the city annexes any properties in this area, the parties agree to proceed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.44 and other applicable law to resolve issues of compensation.

If any of the properties in this area outside the city change from residential to commercial use, the city shall provide notice to RRV. RRV agreed that a change in property ownership by an existing customer in this area (see graphic), standing alone, shall not trigger a claim by RRV for compensation from the city for its continued service of the same identified property.

The city and RRV agreed to attempt to resolve issues of compensation related to continued service by the city or RRV requested service of the new commercial customer by good faith direct negotiation. If the parties are unable to resolve said issues, they agree to retain a mutually acceptable mediator and attempt to resolve all issues by mediation, each party bearing one half of the mediator costs. If the parties are unable to resolve all issues through mediation, either party may commence an action with the MPUC under



Section 216B.43, each party reserving all rights thereunder.

A separate service-by-exception agreement (which was already signed by the parties) was ordered to be filed with the MPUC.

The MPUC requested that

the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office update the Commission's maps to reflect the agreement.

The parties are awaiting a final written MPUC order.

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The Wadena Utilities Department held a Ride and Drive Event for electric vehicles May 27 at Burlington Northern Park. Along with the opportunity to drive an electric vehicle, people learned about charging options, met utility employees and enjoyed a free meal.

Following an inconclusive search for a replacement, the City of Willmar has tapped Willmar Municipal Utilities (WMU) General Manager John Harren as its interim city administrator. Harren is expected to serve in the dual roles for a few weeks while the city searches to find a permanent administrator.

In addition, WMU was among the utilities called upon by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator June 2 to generate electricity

## Around the State

in the midst of a lengthy heat wave.

All capacity registered generation was asked to run for four hours that afternoon.

WMU also called for watering restrictions for the second time in recent memory, as it neared water plant capacity. After putting out the call for conservation, usage dropped by a million gallons within several hours.

Meanwhile, the City of North St. Paul electric utility director Brian Frandle was named interim city manager, upon the resignation of the former administrator.



Burlington Northern Park in Wadena was the site of a Ride and Drive event for electric vehicles, May 17. The event was sponsored by the Wadena Utilities Department.

The first damaging storm of the summer struck Moorhead overnight June 7-8. Straight-line winds took down a half-mile of transmission south of the city and crews worked through the night to restore power. Power was back on for most by 3:30 a.m.

An early morning storm June 11 caused flooding and electric outages in Fargo and Moorhead.

With high temperatures and little rain, utilities across the state requested or imposed odd-even watering bans throughout the state. Some cities imposed a ban on watering lawns altogether.

Electric sales, however, were booming. Delano Municipal Utilities reported its peak electric demand was 17.6 MW in early June compared to a 2020 peak of 14.3 MW.

ALP Utilities and neighboring Runestone Electric Association June 10 requested customers conserve energy, particularly from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the midst of high temperatures and electric use.

The two utilities also teamed up to suspend a large American flag over Broadway for the local Memorial Day parade and ceremonies.

ALP Utilities supplied a pole to help a local high school class build a platform for an osprey nest. The Alexandria utility May 7 provided a bucket truck and manpower to erect the nest platform near the school. The project replaced a former nesting site on a communications tower that had been removed.

The East Grand Forks city council June 8 reviewed plans by East Grand Forks

Water & Light to install two electric vehicle charging stations in the city. One, to be located at a motel, would be paid for by the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency. The second would be located in a commercial area.

The public was invited to a June 22 groundbreaking ceremony for the Itasca Clean Energy Solar Plus Battery Storage facility adjacent to the Grand Rapids airport. The project team includes Grand Rapids Public Utilities, the City of Grand Rapids, Itasca Clean Energy Team, Minnesota Power and US Solar.

The project is expected to supply eight percent of the annual electrical energy needs of Grand Rapids, and is scheduled to be complete this fall.

The Fargo Moorhead West Chamber of Commerce held a Midwest Energy Summit June 8 in Fargo. The event addressed energy industry crises, offered perspectives on the Midwest's future energy supply and grid reliability, and how all those issues affect business.

A panel, on the future of power supply and grid reliability, was moderated by North Dakota Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford and included the chair of the North Dakota Public Service Commission; Chris Clark, president of Minnesota and Dakotas Xcel Energy; Mac McLennan, CEO of Minnesota Power Cooperative; and the external affairs director of MISO.

The program included Sens. Tina Smith, D-MN and Kevin Cramer, R-ND.



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## MISO concerns noted in report by National Electric Reliability Corporation

The summer of 2021 is shaping up to be a challenge for electric system operators in parts of the United States, according to the North American Electric Reliability Cor-

poration (NERC) 2021 Summer Reliability Assessment. The report, released May 26, looks at the reliability of the North American bulk power system, June through

September.

Among the key findings: California and Texas are at elevated risk for energy emergencies.

### California

The Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC)-California region is at risk of energy emergencies during periods of normal peak summer demand and high risk when above-normal demand is widespread. Studies indicate 10,185 MWh of energy in the area is expected to go unserved this summer.

Last summer, a wide-area heat event caused energy emergencies and rolling outages. Peak demand projections have increased in many parts of the West, noted the report, and overall resource capacity is lower compared to 2020.

Over 3 gigawatts (GW) of additional resources are expected, most being new solar photovoltaic (PV) generation. These generation plants can provide energy to support peak demand; however, solar PV output falls off rapidly in late afternoon while high demand often remains.

Some planned generation

retirements have been put on hold.

Nearly 600 megawatts (MW) of large-scale battery storage projects will have come on-line this summer in California with an additional 800 MW expected by Aug. 1.

Imports to the area are needed to maintain reliability when demand peaks in the afternoon and ramps up even further for several hours as solar resources draw down. Reliance on non-firm imports to cover high demand or low resource output conditions heightens the risk that operators will need to use energy emergency alerts and trigger the shedding of firm load in above-normal heat conditions.

Increasing demand and lower resource capacity across WECC can mean the availability of surplus capacity for transfer into stressed areas is declining.

Also, government agencies warn of the potential for above-normal wildfire risk beginning in July in parts of the West, which can impact operation of the bulk power system.

*Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)*

With forecasted growth in peak demand and new generation resources primarily coming in the form of variable wind and solar generation, notes the report, the risk of shortages that lead to energy emergencies in ERCOT continues for the upcoming summer.

Furthermore, with a significant portion of electricity supply coming from wind generation, operators must have sufficient flexible resources to cover periods of low-wind output.

On-peak Planning Reserve Margins have increased with the addition of 7,858 MW of wind, solar, and battery resources. However, extreme weather can affect both generation and demand and cause energy shortages that lead to emergencies in the region. With a significant portion of electricity supply coming from wind generation, operators must have sufficient flexible resources (fossil-fueled, dispatchable) to cover periods of low-wind output.

Combinations of high peak

*Reliability: see facing page*

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## With high June temperatures, California and Texas declare energy emergencies

Power grid operators in California and Texas in mid-June responded to soaring temperatures and the resulting spike in power demand.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) declared a grid Restricted Maintenance Operation for noon to 10 p.m. from June 15 through June 18. The directive cautioned energy generators that all available resources were needed, and to defer scheduled maintenance on generators or transmission lines, if possible.

CAISO on June 15 asked consumers to be prepared to conserve energy to help avoid

the possibility of rotating power outages.

CAISO issued a Flex Alert for Wednesday through Friday, June 16-18, calling for voluntary conservation between the hours of 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The grid operator said an abnormally strong ridge of heat was forecast to bring temperatures as high as 115 degrees to California and could last until the weekend, saying, "Because of the extreme heat and nighttime lows expected to cool off only between 78 and 83 degrees, the state's electric grid will be straining to meet evening

demand when air conditioners are in heavy use and solar energy generation is waning."

With a heat wave over much of the western U.S., the ability to import power from other states was reduced.

Farther east, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) issued a call for conservation on Monday, June

14. ERCOT encouraged Texans to conserve power each afternoon during the peak hours of 3 to 7 p.m. through Friday, June 18.

ERCOT said it has been leveraging every resource at its disposal, including activating all available generating units to help serve customer demand before calling for

conservation. Approximately 1,200 MW of power was regained overnight Monday, June 14 when some repairs were completed.

On June 14, ERCOT set a new June record for electricity demand of 69,943 MW, which exceeds the 2018 June record by approximately 820 MW.

### Reliability:

*continued from facing page*

demand and extreme low resource output are exceedingly rare; however, they are plausible and provide industry and stakeholders with insights into potential emergency conditions. In challenging conditions, operators would resort to implementing rotating outages as a measure of preserving the bulk power system.

### MISO

The report notes that both the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and NPCC-New England have sufficient resources for periods of peak demand. However, the above-normal levels of demand in certain forecasts are likely to exceed capacity resources and require additional non-firm transfers from surrounding areas.

In MISO, high resource outages and high demand may require use of load modifying resources (LMRs) and non-firm imports during peak periods. LMRs are an increasingly important segment of MISO resource portfolio.

Above-normal summer peak load and outage conditions could result in the need to employ operating mitigations (i.e., demand response,

transfers, and short-term load interruption).

During the pandemic, MISO load has run 1-2 percent below normal in mild weather and 1-2 percent above normal in hotter weather. During a heatwave, load could trend 1-3 percent above normal due to increased resi-

dential demand.

The report also notes that there is remaining uncertainty in demand projections as governments adjust to changing COVID-19 public health guidelines and conditions and as the behavior of society adapts.

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## BELW:

*continued from front page*

water heaters sold by the utility have either a 6- or 10-year tank warranty. The glass-lined tanks result in longer life and a favorable cost-benefit for the customer.

BELW offers a rebate of up to \$1,066.20 for an 80-gallon unit. The local rebates cut the purchase cost in half. The new water heaters are estimated to pay for themselves in 18 months.

BELW hadn't advertised by June 2 but customers were already purchasing the new water heaters and having them installed. Much of the word-of-mouth is generated by local contractors, who install the units, when fielding calls from customers.

### *Water heating local issue*

Water heating is the second highest energy use in a typical home, according to industry statistics, with the average customer spending \$400 per year. The 50-gallon heat-pump water heater now being sold by BELW has an average annual operating cost of \$115, for a savings of approximately \$300 per year.

With the local rebate, the new water heater pays for itself in a short time, often between one and two years.

For general purposes, the manufacturer estimates savings based on the estimated annual operating cost of a standard 50-gallon electric tank water heater using 3,531 kilowatt-hours per year vs. the 50-gallon heat pump water heater using 958 kWh per year and the national average electricity rate of 12 cents per kWh.

The previous-generation high-efficiency models sold by BELW are all on the utility's load control system. New models will also be load controlled. The utility pays for the load control infrastructure and installation. BELW temporarily interrupts power to water heaters (and air conditioners) for 7.5 minutes per half hour. Customers receive a monthly credit for each device included, up to \$7.00 a month.

### *Highly-efficient service*

Load control is one of many factors that contribute to BELW having a high load factor of 90 percent. (A high load factor means power usage

over the system is relatively constant). BELW also counts line losses of only one percent. These measures indicate that the local electric system is very efficient.

Other factors that contribute to the efficient system are some significant industrial customers with steady, 24-hour a day electric loads and a carefully planned, constructed and maintained electric distribution system.

The decisions and investments that attracted high load factor industrial customers and built a highly-efficient electrical system took place over many decades—BELW as been serving its community for over a hundred years.

Much of the credit for this outstanding performance needs to go to the local five-person local utilities board, one of only two elected municipal utility commissions in Minnesota (the other is in Austin).

The utility enjoys a favorable wholesale power contract as a member of Central Minnesota Power Agency Services.

BELW's outstanding performance has been recognized nationally, as the utility has earned the highest RP3 status from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for operational excellence.

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Sales Tax	\$104.43	\$123.19	\$157.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,520.43</b>	<b>\$1,793.59</b>	<b>\$2,289.66</b>
Rebate	\$708.00	\$835.20	\$1,066.20
<b>Customer Total Cost:</b>	<b>\$812.43</b>	<b>\$958.39</b>	<b>\$1,223.46</b>

The average household spends more than \$400 per year on water heating. A 50-gallon AeroTherm® Heat Pump Water Heater has an average annual operating cost of just \$115. That's a savings of around \$300 per year. **It literally pays for itself in less than three years!**



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(507) 526-2191 [www.belw.org/index.php/contact-us](http://www.belw.org/index.php/contact-us)

BELW is marketing the new energy-efficient water heaters with materials, including that shown above. Below: the utility offices occupy a prominent place downtown. A power plant cooling tower is visible in this MMUA file photograph.



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## Lorry Wille, 75, former Kenyon superintendent, MMUA director

Lorry Walter Wille, 75, of Rochester, died Tuesday, June 1 at Seasons Hospice House, Rochester.

Lorry worked for Kenyon Public Utilities for 32 years as a lineman and later the Superintendent of Utilities. He was instrumental in procuring and installing three new Caterpillar generators in Kenyon.

A well-respected, principled man, he was also an MMUA board member, from 1991-94.

He was born March 30, 1946 in Faribault, Minnesota the son of Walter and Lorena (Boevers) Wille. Lorry grew up on a farm in rural Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School in 1964. On December 9, 1967 he married Jean Halvorson at First Evangelical



Lorry Wille. This photo was submitted to MMUA in 1991 when Wille was elected to the board.

Lutheran Church in Kenyon. The couple made their

home on a farm near Kenyon.

He was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ. Lorry enjoyed woodworking, wood carving, cooking and baking. He made a large amount of flatbread that he gave to friends and family. He was one of only a few Germans who joined Sons of Norway. In 2017, he enjoyed a trip to Germany with his wife and daughter, Lisa.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Wille; three children, eight grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents and four brothers.

Visitations were held in Kenyon at a funeral home and at St. John's United Church of Christ. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 5, at the church, with interment at the church cemetery.

Memorials are preferred to Season's Hospice House, St. John's UCC or to the donor's choice.

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## Outstanding performance by ALP Utilities is being rewarded with growth

by Steve Downer

ALP Utilities isn't big by industry standards, but it is a model for outstanding utility service.

Alexandria Light & Power was established in 1889. To better reflect the scope of its modern services, the name in recent years was changed to ALP Utilities. The utility provides electric, water and business fiber broadband services.

ALP Utilities provides superior service at a low cost, and bolsters the local economy while offering a full suite of customer and conservation programs.

Each of ALP's three utility systems is accounted for separately and financially self-supporting. Wastewater service in the area is provided by the Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District (ALASD).

Municipal bond rating agencies have noticed the utility's outstanding performance. Fitch Ratings in May upgraded bonds issued by ALP to 'AA-' from 'A+' and revised its Rating Outlook to Stable from Positive.

The rating upgrade, said Fitch, "reflects ALP's very strong financial profile, which continues to be bolstered by the utility's very low leverage, sound operating cash flow, and robust liquidity."

ALP General Manager Ted Cash said the rating upgrade was "a testament to the continued hard work by all ALP employees and the Board to strategically focus on the priority of maintaining financial stability and strength. The fact that ALP Utilities continues to be viewed as one of America's premier Public Power Utilities is just another of the many reasons Alexandria is such an outstanding place to live and work."

### Rates

ALP's rates consistently rank below the state average.

The utility serves a strong commercial/industrial sector. Electric energy sales declined slightly last year as industry was hobbled by pandemic-related stay-at-home edicts. Current trends indicate a return to pre-pandemic sales. Customer growth has been slow but steady.

Not surprisingly given the robust commercial and industrial presence in the area, local unemployment is below state and national norms.

ALP has had modest rate increases in recent years but average rates remain below 9 cents/kWh.

The utility's capital improvement plan through fiscal 2025 calls for expenditures totaling approximately \$13



photo courtesy of ALP Utilities

ALP Utilities staff paused for a group photo, in front of the power plant, in June. General Manager Ted Cash is at right.

million. The utility budgets annually to replace overhead electric distribution system with new underground lines. While bonds have been issued to finance this work, the utility plans rate increases totaling five percent through 2025 to finance its capital plan.

ALP has made wise decisions over the years, resulting in a very low-cost power supply.

The utility purchases approximately one-third of its power from the federal Western Area Power Administra-

tion (WAPA), which supplies cost-based hydropower. ALP supplements that supply from Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), a municipal joint action agency.

Approximately 84 percent of energy supplied to MRES members in 2020 was carbon free.

Energy from MRES' share of the coal-fired Laramie River Station (LRS) has declined, reflecting a move into the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) in 2015. However, LRS remained in operation during

the February winter weather event, which mitigated the effect of higher prices within the SPP market.

ALP Utilities also maintains a local power plant under a reserve capacity agreement with Missouri River Energy Services.

### Governance and Reliability

The mayor and city council appoint ALP board members and the city exercises approval of bond issues. ALP rates are set by its board of directors, which consists of five

members. The board includes Mayor Bobbie Osterberg and a strong local citizen and business presence.

ALP's average outage time last year was only 11.97 minutes, compared to the industry average of 139 minutes.

For the third year running, ALP earned recognition as a Reliable Public Power Provider from the American Public Power Association. The recognition is "a testament to the hard work of our staff to ensure that we keep Alexandria powered," said Cash.



Ryan Siemers photo, courtesy of Widseth

Minn. Hwy. 29 doubles as Broadway Street through downtown Alexandria. The road veers right when it nears Lake Agnes, one of many lakes in the area, in the far distance of this picture. This picture was taken upon completion of a 2014 street reconstruction project.

## ALP Utilities powers a thriving micropolitan area rich in natural beauty

ALP Utilities powers a growing micropolitan area thriving in manufacturing, health services, food processing, and more.

The City of Alexandria, located two hours northwest of Minneapolis on I-94, and the surrounding area serve as both a tourist destination and an important industrial center. ALP's service area in-

cludes lake homes and three large industrial parks that are home to several of the city's largest employers.

The municipal electric utility, reflecting its historic role as an area electric provider, serves well outside of the city limits. The municipal utility has also grown to serve areas requesting city annexation.

ALP Utilities also provides

water and business fiber broadband services.

Lakes are a prominent geographic feature of the area. Water quality concerns led to the creation of the Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District (ALASD). The district provides collection system and treatment services to the City of Alexandria and other area cities and townships.

While there are affluent areas around the lakes, median household income levels are below the state average (as are most of the Greater Minnesota cities served by municipal electric and gas utilities).

Alexandria, by all accounts, is a great place to live, work and do business. ALP Utilities is proud to serve its thriving rural community.

## MPUC approves variety of windpower petitions involving Xcel Energy

The Minnesota Public Utilities (MPUC) June 10 acted on three windpower petitions. They included:

### Northern Wind

Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) brought a matter related to its Wind Repower Portfolio. The MPUC approved Xcel's request to repower and acquire the Northern Wind project, granted a variance of the property acquisition rule requirements and set additional requirements.

Northern Wind consists of the 85.5 megawatt (MW) Chanarambie Wind Farm, near Woodstock, and the 12 MW Viking Wind Farm, near

Lake Benton, both of which began commercial operation in 2003.

ALLETE Clean Energy purchased Chanarambie/Viking in 2015, and Xcel has a power purchase agreement (PPA) with ALLETE Clean Energy to purchase the output of the facilities through 2023.

Xcel last year issued a request for proposals (RFP) for repowered wind generation resources. ALLETE submitted two Northern Wind proposals—a 100 MW bid for Chanarambie/Viking only and a 120 MW bid that included Chanarambie/Viking and an adjacent 20 MW Rock Aetna greenfield project.

ALLETE's original proposal was not initially included as part of Xcel's 2020 Wind Repower Portfolio petition. However, in a late-year update, Xcel explained that negotiations were still ongoing with bidders. The docket was kept open.

On January 22, 2021, the Commission approved a five-project, 670 MW Wind Repower Portfolio, which included the Grand Meadow, Nobles, Border Winds, and Pleasant Valley wind facilities, as well as the Ewington Purchase Power Agreement (PPA). Xcel was authorized to bring forward additional cost-effective repowering projects.

Xcel in February filed a Petition for Approval to expand and acquire the 120 MW Northern Wind facility. Northern Wind is a build-operate-transfer (BOT) proposal between the Company and ALLETE Clean Energy. ALLETE will remove the existing equipment and deliver a commercially operational wind farm. ALLETE Clean Energy is also responsible for obtaining all permits necessary for the development, construction, and operation of the wind project.

Xcel will buy out the existing PPAs and purchase the entire repowered and expanded facility for \$210 million, which is the sum of the purchase price for Chanarambie/Viking and Rock Aetna together; individually, the price for the repowering and for the additional 20 MW were designated as trade secret. Targeted Commercial Operation Date is December 1, 2022.

Xcel proposes to recover its costs either in the RES Rider or in base rates over the life of the project.

Since the current Chanarambie/Viking PPAs (totaling roughly 100 MW) expire in mid-December 2023, and the Rock Aetna expansion will provide an additional 20 MW, Northern Wind will add a significant amount of new wind capacity on Xcel's system. The MPUC found in 2017 that it would be reasonable to acquire at least 1,000 MW of wind by 2019—Xcel has exceeded this amount. The Department of Commerce concluded, after analysis, that the proposed Northern Wind project is likely to decrease system costs and is in the public interest.

### Decommission, construction

Prior to taking that action, the MPUC approved as complete an application from Northern Wind Energy Redevelopment, LLC for a Site Permit Amendment to

Decommission the existing Chanarambie and Viking Wind Facilities and construct the 120-Megawatt Northern Wind Facility in Murray County. The MPUC also required a public hearing on the matter.

ALLETE Clean Energy, an independent power producer and parent company of Northern Wind Energy Redevelopment, LLC purchased the 85.5-megawatt Chanarambie Power Partners, LLC wind facility consisting of 57 1.5-megawatt turbines and the Viking Wind Holdings, LLC, wind facilities consist-

ing of eight separate 1.5-megawatt turbines.

Northern Wind proposes to decommission and repower the Chanarambie and Viking facilities by constructing the Northern Wind Project. The new Northern Wind facility would have a proposed nameplate capacity of 120 megawatts. The facility would be comprised of 45 turbines consisting of a combination of 2.5-megawatt, 2.7-megawatt, and 2.82-megawatt General Electric turbines.

There are a number of as-

*Wind: see facing page please*



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# Energy, cultural priorities collide with Big Bend Wind, Red Rock Solar proposal

Is it more important to protect a site sacred to native peoples for millennia, or to preserve the earth's climate for future generations?

That is the crux of the issue facing state regulatory agencies, as the regulatory process proceeds for the Big Bend Wind Project and Red Rock Solar Project, a hybrid renewable energy generation project, which could generate up to a total of 335 megawatts (MW) of electricity (308 MW of wind; 60 MW of solar).

The purpose of the hybrid project, as described by the developer, is to produce renewable energy for purchase by electric utilities or other entities to satisfy Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard under Minn. Stat. §216B.1691, or other clean energy standards and sustainability goals.

The project borders the Jeffers Petroglyphs, 7,000-year-old rock carvings located near Comfrey.

The Lower Sioux Indian Community (LSIC) said the Jeffers Petroglyphs and the Red Rock Ridge are considered sacred historic landmarks and active, sacred locations used for ceremonies and spiritual engagement of the LSIC and numerous other Tribal Nations.

The Upper Sioux Community said the Big Bend Wind Project will have a negative effect on the viewshed of sacred sites, which are culturally and spiritually significant to the Upper Sioux Community and its members.

The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) said, to

meet statutory obligations, a fully independent visual impact analysis (VIA), including standards-based evaluation, and full tribal consultation be completed by the Energy and Environmental Review Analysis unit (EERA) and included in the environmental assessment that will be complete for the proposed projects.

LSIC agreed with the Historical Society recommendations and also expressed concern about noise and the impacts of vibrations on the formations and carvings within the Petroglyphs site and Red Rock Ridge.

MNHS also called for EERA to conduct full consultation with the 11 federally recognized tribal nations in Minnesota, and the seven federally recognized tribal nations "that have been exiled from Minnesota."

### The project

Big Bend Wind, LLC (Big Bend), in November 2020, applied for a certificate of need, a site permit, and a route permit for an up-to 308 megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system and an 18-mile, 161 kV transmission line. Red Rock Solar, LLC filed applications for a certificate of need, and site permit.

The Big Bend Wind Farm is proposed to spread across 43,523 acres of land in Cottonwood and Watonwan counties. Big Bend proposes construction and operation 55 or 54 wind turbines, each more than 500-feet tall.

The Red Rock Solar Project is proposed as an up-to

60 MW solar energy generating system located amid the wind project, in Cottonwood County. Solar energy would be transferred to the grid on the proposed transmission line associated with the wind project. (The transmission line would be located within Cottonwood, Watonwan, and Martin Counties and will interconnect with the Blue Lake - Wilmarth - Interstate Junction 345-kV transmission line in Martin County.)

The Projects would also include a number of ancillary components.

The proposed projects are intended to function as a hybrid project of wind and solar energy generation. The solar project will not proceed without the construction and operation of the wind project, said the developer, due to the cost and expenses associated with the construction and maintenance of the transmission line needed to connect to the grid.

Big Bend Wind, LLC and Red Rock Solar, LLC are indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries of Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC, of Charlottesville, Va.

### The hearing

The applicants had not secured a power purchase agreement for the sale of the energy at the time of the June 17 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission June hearing.

Commissioner Joseph Sullivan proposed, prior to the

### Wind:

*continued from facing page*

sociated facilities. Decommissioning of the two existing facilities would include removal of all 65 existing turbines and turbine foundations to a depth of four feet. Some existing facilities may be retained.

### Mower County

The MPUC also June 10 approved transfer of site permit from FPL Energy Mower County Wind, LLC to Northern States Power Company (NSP). On August 14, 2020, the Commission issued an Order approving an amended Site Permit authorizing FPL Energy Mower County, LLC to repower all 43 project turbines to extend the life of the wind plant, maintaining the nameplate capacity of 98.9 megawatts. On March 23, 2021, Northern States Power Company of Minnesota (NSPM) purchased the Mower County Wind Facility Repower Project, assuming the ownership of FPL Energy Mower County Wind, LLC and its development assets.

meeting, that the draft site permit proposed by the Department of Commerce be modified to eliminate the siting of any wind turbines within eight miles of the Jeffers Petroglyphs site.

In discussion, Sullivan said there was "a lot of technical conversation" regarding the project, but the issue is "fundamentally an equity question."

Sullivan laid out a key and important issue, including the need for full and complete engagement with affected tribal nations, said Commis-

sioner John Tuma, who also talked about the need to balance historical and sacred site preservation with state policy for clean energy supply to benefit future generations.

After discussion, the MPUC issued the draft site permit proposed by the Department of Commerce. The permit application process will proceed and is currently the subject of a contested case hearing before an administrative law judge. The ALJ's decision and MPUC order are scheduled for March 2022.

- by Steve Downer



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Main contact is Larry Rygiel, regional director. He can be reached at 810-931-2011 or lrygiel@hubbell.com

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The City of Clearwater has joined MMUA as a Regular Member.

The city's mailing address is P.O. Box 9, Clearwater, MN. Contact person is Anita Smythe, city administrator/clerk treasurer.

Also joining MMUA, and its Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium, is the Clear Lake/Clearwater Sewer Authority. The Clear Lake/Clearwater Sewer Authority was formed in 1977 to operate a shared sewer system providing services to the communities of Clear Lake and Clearwater. The Sewer Authority is established under a Joint Powers Agreement and operated by a five-member governing board.

Contact information is the same as for the City of Clearwater.

Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP has recently been recognized by Chambers USA and Super Lawyers.

For the eighth consecutive year, Chambers & Partners has recognized Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP as one of the nation's leading law firms in the area of "Energy: Electricity (Regulatory & Litigation) — Nationwide." Chambers also recognizes Cindy Bogorad, David Pomper and Scott Strauss individually as among the top lawyers in that category. Chambers ranks "the world's best lawyers and law firms based on in-depth, objective research" and extensive interviews with clients and colleagues. Their guide is considered the premier survey of attorneys and law firms in the country. You may read the full re-

view on Chambers's website.

In addition, for the year 2021, Washington DC Super Lawyers has again selected Cindy Bogorad, David Pomper, Jeff Schwarz and Scott Strauss as "Super Lawyers," and Jeff Bayne and Latif Nurani as "Rising Stars."

Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters business, is a rating service of outstanding attorneys from more than seventy practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Super Lawyers are selected through a process involving independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

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## MPUC approves EV-charging rates for multi-family and non-residential customers

Considering an electric vehicle (EV) charging rate for multi-family residential or non-residential customers?

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) May 27 approved a petition from Dakota Electric Associa-

tion (DEA), Minnesota's only rate-regulated electric cooperative, to implement a pilot multi-family residential EV service and pilot non-residential EV service.

Customers would need to install a separately metered

service for EV charging, with the metering setup to be approved prior to the installation of the service. Customers would not be required to prove EV registration.

The rate design uses the same time periods as DEA's Residential EV service, and does not have a fixed monthly fee or demand charges. Energy charges include wholesale power costs, distribution line loss, meter costs, and distribution system costs. For the on-peak period, on-peak wholesale energy, capacity, and transmission costs were included.

The multi-family specific rate would be available as a separate, individually metered service to members living in multi-family housing. The building owner would be responsible for installing the separately metered circuit for the new EV Service.

Dakota said, due to the service and meter configurations at multifamily locations, the installation of a separately metered service will likely be similar in cost to submetering charging load.

Additionally, for its two-way meters, implementing

DEA Non-Residential EV Service Rates	
Energy	Cents/kWh
Off-Peak	\$0.0689
On-Peak	\$0.2706
Other	\$0.1137
<i>Off-peak: 9 p.m. to 8 a.m. Mon-Fri, all day, and weekends and holidays.</i>	
<i>On-peak: 4-9 p.m. M-F</i>	
<i>Other: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F</i>	
Multi-Family Residential EV Service Rates	
Energy	Cents/kWh
Off-Peak	\$0.0755
On-Peak	\$0.4420
June-Aug	\$0.1377
Other	\$0.1238
<i>On- and off-peak times same as above.</i>	

additional submetering would have its own costs associated with the administrative and billing processes, which would likely negate cost savings from eliminating the second service requirement.

Dakota said its outreach efforts and assistance in directing building owners towards

applicable rebates for Level 2 chargers would help address any perceived barriers to participation.

### Non-residential

The non-residential EV rate is expected to apply to fleet, employee, and public charging. Dakota did not plan to track rates charged to end-use customers. The Department of Commerce recommended Dakota track end-use rates offered to customers by pilot participants, consistent with what was required in prior pilots offered by Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, and Xcel Energy.

Dakota said it would "provide the relative amount of energy that is purchased in each energy pricing component for both proposed rates."

DEA is promoting the programs as pilots to gain consumption and load data to help refine these initial pilot rates.

The pilots will remain in place until the cooperative's next rate case, likely in 2024, where it could evaluate the next steps for the rates.

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The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on June 22 vacated permits for the 65-mile Spire STL Pipeline. The court rejected 2018 authorizations by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) allowing the \$285 million natural gas pipeline near St. Louis, Mo. FERC authorized the interstate pipeline in 2018. The line is designed to deliver up to 0.4 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas. It began operating in November 2019.

Spire STL entered into a contract with its own affiliate, Spire Missouri, for 87.5 percent of the pipeline capacity.

The court found that FERC failed to sufficiently scrutinize the need for the project.

The federal Energy Information Administration reported June 21 a NYMEX natural gas futures price of \$3.251 per million British thermal units, a steep increase from \$1.637 a year earlier.

The Gage County (Neb.) board voted 5-2 in mid-June to extend a moratorium on wind energy permit applications through the end of the year. The moratorium, in place for more than a year, was designed to provide time for the county to work through its public hearing process and consider a potential application process.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator is forecasting cost growth to average 4.9 percent a year for 2022-2026, according to a June 16 report from S&P Global.

Factors listed as driving increased costs were: A changing generation fleet; more complicated and volatile power market; changing regulatory issues; need for flexible infrastructure to accommodate change; upgraded protection against cyber and other technology threats.

In California, the Public Utilities Commission has directed the state's three investor-owned utilities to obtain 11,500 megawatts of resources as part of the effort to replace the 2,200 megawatt capacity of the retiring Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. More than 3,700 MW of natural gas-fired power plants are also scheduled for

see facing page please

# Professional Services Directory

retirement in a few years.

The utilities, however, are expressing concern given the ability of the state's electric customers to choose their electric provider.

Various proposals also call for varying amounts of fossil-fueled resources, which is problematic given the state's greenhouse gas and renewable energy goals.

The Maine state senate June 17 passed a bill that would create a Public Power utility called Pine Tree Power.

The bill headed to the Governor's desk for signature.

If enacted, the question would go to a referendum. If the voters approve, the public entity would take over service of utilities owned by Iberdrola of Spain and Emera of Canada.

## Classified

### Ads

#### Line Distribution Supervisor

Willmar Municipal Utilities (WMU) is searching for a Line Distribution Supervisor. Willmar has twenty thousand (20,000) residents, and is a regional hub for employment, shopping, and entertainment. WMU owns and operates its transmission and distribution systems, including 7 substations, approximately 228 miles of overhead and 198 miles of underground distribution that delivers electricity to over 9000 meters. The Line Distribution Supervisor reports directly to the General Manager and supervises the Line Distribution and Meter Departments. Minimum Qualifications: Graduate from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in Electrical Engineering or closely related field pertinent to the operation, and five or more years of progressive experience including at least three years of supervisory and administrative duties; or a graduate from an accredited lineman school, possess a Minnesota Journeyman's License, and have fifteen years of experience as a Journeyman, with five or more years of supervisory, management and administrative experience.

All applicants are required to submit an application, cover letter and resume by mail to Human Resources Manager, Willmar Municipal Utilities, PO Box 937, Willmar, MN 56201 or email to [humanresources@wmu.willmar.mn.us](mailto:humanresources@wmu.willmar.mn.us). For more information

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For a complete listing of this position and other openings, please see the News/Classifieds section at [www.mmua.org](http://www.mmua.org)

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1 [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes499051.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes499051.htm) | 2 [www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes499052.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes499052.htm)  
3 [www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes472152.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes472152.htm)

# MMUA unveils Stepping Into Leadership program, beginning this fall

MMUA is proud to announce the Stepping Into Leadership program.

Stepping Into Leadership is an 18-month course. Those registering should fully intend to participate in each session, in sequential order. Space will be limited to 20.

The new Stepping Into Leadership program is designed for both supervisors and leaders in your organization who aim to improve their leadership and supervisory tools and skills. Based on a practical Competency-Based Leadership Development Model and Assessment, the program focuses on self, team and organizational leadership skills and behaviors. The training also incorporates CliftonStrengths® principles that help participants identify and utilize their personal strengths.

Applicants must commit to the entire 54 hours of instruction, scheduled over an 18-month period in a mix of in-person and virtual courses. Classes must be taken in sequential order as listed. Homework, assigned prior to and throughout the program, will maximize the value of the class instruction.

The program begins in October with an in-person meeting at the MMUA headquarters in Plymouth. Subsequent

sessions will be a mix of virtual and in-person meetings.

MMUA presents the program in conjunction with Minnesota State Community and Technical College and Central Lakes College of Brainerd.

*Program instructors are:*

## Dana Hagenson

Dana previously worked in the software industry, in a variety of roles. As a professor at M State, she teaches in the areas of human resources and accounting.

Dana also develops and delivers customized leadership and team and personal development sessions for organizations in various industries.

As a Gallup Certified Strengths Coach, Dana has coached over 1,000 individuals and teams in discovering and harnessing the power of their individual and collective strengths to achieve

both personal and professional strength. She earned an Accounting degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and is a CPA and a Certified Professional in Human Resources.

## Steve Wischmann

Steve is the owner of Horizon Performance Solutions, LLC, a leadership and organizational development consulting company specializing in growing professional capacity and sustained success in people and teams. He retired at the rank of Captain/O-6 after three decades of service in the U.S. Coast Guard. His career included several command assignments, executive positions at the Department of Homeland Security and numerous operational assignments including two high-Arctic NATO support deployments. Steve has an

M.A. in Public Policy and Management with dual concentrations in policy analysis and public management. He served for six years as an adjunct professor at Hilbert College teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in business management and public administration. Steve has extensive background in

providing organizational and workforce development strategies and programs for small businesses and non-profits, corporate teams and government agencies.

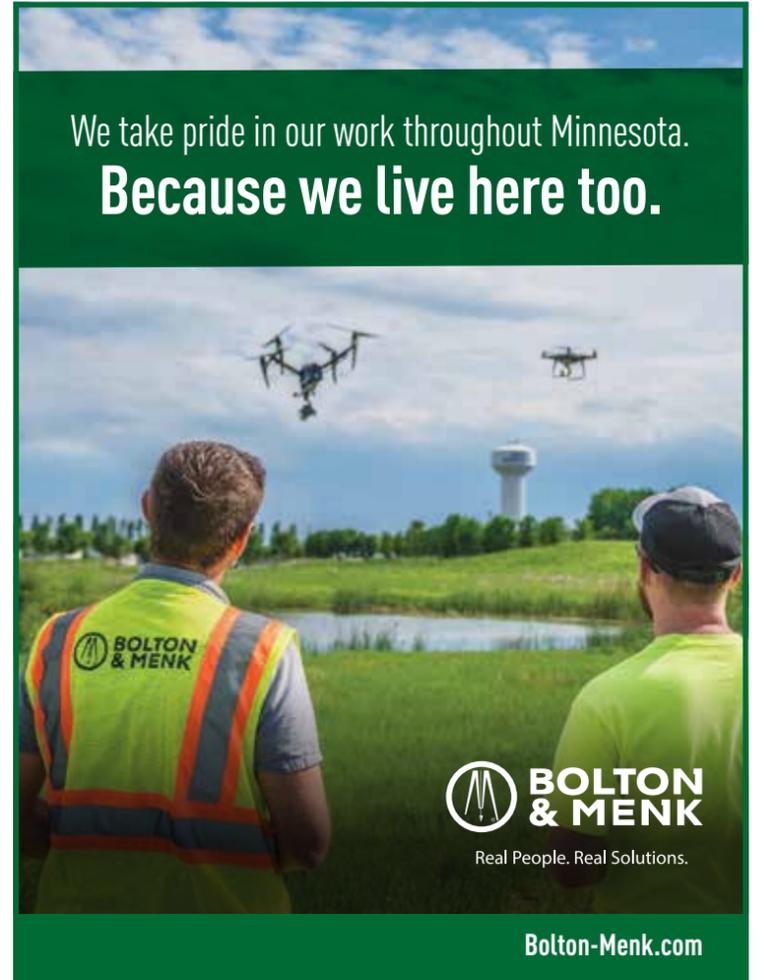
Contact Rita Kelly for more information. Her email is: rkelly@mmua.org



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## Upcoming Events

### Annual Summer Conference

**August 16-18, Cragun's Resort**

Looking forward to getting together again! Register by July 16 for best rate! Registration deadline is July 30. Registration materials have been mailed and are also available on our website or contact rkelly@mmua.org for more information.

#### Monday, Aug. 16

Pre-Conference Events:

Golf "Best Ball Scramble" Tournament Legacy Golf Course

Paul Bunyan Bike Trail — Nisswa Resort Check-In

Welcome Reception & Dinner

#### Tuesday, Aug. 17

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mark Nibaur, MMUA President, Austin Utilities

Finding Your Beat, The Rhythm of Life

Tim Eggebraaten, the 'Off-Duty Chief'

Looking Ahead—A National Perspective

Alex Hofmann

VP Technical & Operations Services, American Public Power Association

A Transmission Vision for the Upper Midwest

Mark Mitchell, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency

The Washington Scene

Michael Nolan, MMUA Washington Representative

DER & Technical Specifications Manual

Bob Jagusch & Bill Black, MMUA

Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Jim de Lambert, Carlson McCain, Inc. and Nicole Blasing, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Tradeshow & Reception

Banquet & Awards

#### Wednesday, Aug. 18

MMUA Business Meeting

Updates from the Dept. of Commerce:

Energy Assistance, Jon Brown, Office of Energy Assistance

Energy Conservation & Optimization (ECO) Act of 2021—What it Means for CIP Representative from the Minnesota Department of Commerce

State Legislative Developments

Kent Sulem,

MMUA and Doug

Carnival, Mc-

Grann Shea Car-

nival Straughn &

Lamb

Issues Round-Up

Jack Kegel, Bob

Jagusch and

Mike Willetts, MMUA



## Save the dates:

**September 14, Minnesota Lineworkers Rodeo**

**September 14-17, Overhead School**

See our website for details! Deadline to register for these events is Aug. 16.