The Moose Lake Water & Light municipal power plant was built in 1933 and improved numerous times throughout the years. The most recent improvement is across the street, at the North Substation.

**Municipal plant remains hub of progress**

More than meets the eye with utility service in Moose Lake

by Steve Downer

Eighty-five years after it first began providing electricity, Moose Lake Water & Light continues to improve the lives of its customers. While there is more to it than meets the eye, the hub of that service delivery remains at the corner of 4th and Douglas—the municipal power plant.

Across the street from the plant is the North Substation, which is the scene of a substantial improvement project. A new control house, controls and underground feeder lines are in place. The project was estimated to cost $2.7 million, but hard work and diligence by the utility staff kept the price tab down to just under $2 million.

The old control house went into service in 1979. Replacement parts were difficult if not impossible to find. The facility had to be replaced. Substation transformers are adequate for now and are expected to be so for another five to 10 years.

Superintendent Hailan Schmeling and his four-man crew did a substantial portion of the work themselves. Most of the saving came from diligent work ahead of time, including putting over blueprints with the project engineers. There was a lot of pre-planning and very few change orders. Schmeling said if an issue did come up, work-arounds were often developed.

One change that was approved included a little more green space between a sidewalk and the substation fence. With conductor going underground, the utility wanted room to dig it up, if need be. The city gardeners will landscape the area to lessen the industrial look.

Once the decision was made to place feeder lines from the Moose Lake Water & Light Municipal Plant to the substation. The project was sited on approximately 40 acres near Owatonna, a SMMPA member community. Electricity from the solar plant is planned to be operational by late June 2017, will feed into the same substation connected to the Owatonna Energy Station, a 38.8-MW natural gas-fired, internal combustion power plant under construction on the western edge of Owatonna and expect to be online in fall of 2017.

Approximately one mile of line will be built to connect the solar plant to the substation. Energy will flow into the Owatonna Public Utilities electric distribution system.

SMMPA and our members have been looking forward to having a large solar park to expand our already significant renewable energy portfolio, and we thank everyone who worked hard on this project to get us to this point,” said Dave Geschwend, SMMPA’s executive director and CEO.

“Coronal is thrilled to partner with SMMPA and the Owatonna community on this exciting project,” said Ben J. Alingham, senior project developer for Coronal Development Services. “We commend SMMPA for taking a leadership role in energy procurement strategy that is both environmentally and economically sound.”

According to Coronal, once operational the 1emond Solar Center will produce enough electricity to meet the needs of approximately 775 homes per year.
Dispute: Exception agreement, accuracy of electronic service territory maps come into play

1961, and that the additional

the Donaldson Station since

said that Otter Tail has pro-

additional pumps being

the Donaldson Station. The

pipelines that pass through

lic documents.

continued from front page

No information in regards

to possible compensation, if

any, was available in the pub-

dic documents.

Exhinde operates seven

pipelines that pass through

the Donaldson Station. The

additional pumps being added to the Donaldson Sta-

tion are part of a company expansion project. Exhinde

said that Otter Tail has pro-

vided service to Exhinde at

the Donaldson Station since

1961, and that the additional

pumps being installed are

simply an expansion of ser-

vice that has been continuous

for some 54 years. Otter Tail said this is the fourth ex-

pansion of service at the

Donaldson facility since 1961 when it began provid-

ing service to the facility. Ot-

ter Tail said it has a substi-

tion in the midst of the Exhinde op-

eration. Otter Tail said its posi-

tion was supported by statutory

and MPUC orders recogniz-

ing the requirement of service to a single customer only from

a single utility and by PKM's

prior consent.

PKM had alleged that Ot-

ter Tail Power is in violation

of the exclusive service area

provisions of Minn. Stat. §§

216B.37 to 216B.43. PKM said it

had the exclusive right to

extend electric service to the

Donaldson Pump Station. It

said the additional Donald-

son equipment is being con-

structed as a new stand alone

facility.

Exhinde supported Otter Tail’s request that the PKM

complaint be dismissed. The MPUC had ordered a

contested case hearing and a

lengthy record had been com-

piled in the dispute, by the

office of administrative hear-

ings. Testimony, rebuttal and

substantive testimony had been taken and exhibits filed

and the contested case was

closed Feb. 12. The parties

sought dismissal of the com-

plaint on Feb. 24.

Exception validity questioned

Among the reasons MPUC

staff said the record needed to be developed included

whether PKM had consented,

in writing, to Otter Tail previ-

ously providing service to the

Donaldson pumping station. A 1967 statement, said Ot-

ter Tail was a signed six years

after it began service to the

facility.

The exception agreement

was not noted in the MPUC

service area boundary map. Commission staff said it

“cannot recommend grant-

ing PKM’s complaint solely

because the Commission-

approved service area maps
do not reflect OTP’s service”
to the pumping station. The

electronic map was adopted as the official map “without prejudice to any utility” noted

staff. The electronic map

was identified as a relevant

factor; however, among other factors which could help the

Commission reach a decision.

As part of its order dismiss-

ing the complaint the MPUC

also directed its staff to issue

annual reminders to all utili-

ties to file not only service

boundary changes, but ex-

ceptions and “engage utili-

ties and the Department in a

discussion about filing excep-

tions as new mapping pro-

ducts are introduced that

more easily allow exceptions to be

added to maps.”

Energy Assistance available until July 1: crisis benefit expanded

The snow may be gone but

many Minnesotans are still

digging out from under win-

ter heating bills. The Energy

Assistance Program (EAP)

helps low-income households

pay their bills.

EAP has an opportunity to

serve more households and

offer additional benefits to

households already served this

year. This is because pro-

gram participation is down

due to energy and fuel prices

remaining low, and mild

weather.

With money available, EAP

is taking action to deliver

additional services to more

households, including:

• Extending the deadline to

receive applications from

May 31 to July 1, 2016 (for

this program year only); and

• Increasing the maximum

‘crisis’ benefit from $500 to

$1,000 per household when

experiencing an energy emer-

gency (e.g. shut off or threat

of disconnect).

The EAP office reports

that 70 percent of house-

holds eligible for EAP have

not yet applied for help. With

funds available EAP wants

to reach out to eligible Min-

nesotans who have difficulty

paying their energy bills and

encourage them to apply.

Households that include

children under the age of six,

people with disabilities, vet-

erans, and seniors are espe-

cially encouraged to apply.

For a printable flyer to help

spread the word, go to the

Energy Assistance Program

section on the MMUA web
site.

EAP encourages MMUA

members to perform outreach

to the people you serve, and

tell them what services are

available.
What is truth?

You can read what you agree with, or use MMUA as balanced information source

Editor's note: the following piece originally appeared as a blog entry in the News section at www.mmua.org.

I recently received two pieces of mail that gave me pause as a resident of an MMUA-member city. They also made me consider why it is increasingly difficult for different people to solve complex problems and what I could possibly do about it.

One letter, dated May 4, came from a Minnesota conservation group. Like many appeals, most would agree with the way at least one of the main points was put: reducing mercury pollution in Minnesota lakes. Two other bullet points contained language more problematic in my view. Get involved, listen carefully and speak respectfully. You can contribute to a reasonable discussion. Those already involved, thank you. To many others on the sidelines, it is clearly time to get started.

— Steve Doerner

1.) Petitioners, including the American Public Power Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, contend that EPA has exceeded its authority and failed to consider the cost burdens and lack of viable technology to meet the Clean Power Plan requirements. A federal appeals court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in September. (Which is quite a discussion.)

Another statement gleaned from a company looking to make a buck: “It is meant to appear highly paid and highly tactical.”

People used to agree on facts but disagree on policy. Now facts themselves seem in dispute. You might well disagree.

Instead, determine facts. As best you can. Onenergy issues, start by familiarizing yourself with MMUA’s position on current issues. Go to the Public Policy section of the MMUA website. From there any policy statements are linked for both Federal and State issues.

Then you can just sit and gripe. Get involved. Listen carefully and speak respectfully. You can contribute to a reasonable discussion. To those already involved, thank you. To many others on the sidelines, it is clearly time to get started.

Editor’s note: The following information was gleaned from various American Public Power Association communications.

The D.C. Circuit Court Monday, May 16, issued an order, on its own motion, vacating a May 2016 judgment in the Section 111(d) case from June 2 and 3, 2016. To Tuesday, September 27, 2016 before all of the judges on the D.C. Circuit, not just a three-judge panel. The granting of en banc review by the D.C. Circuit is very rare, said observers and the fact that the court did this on its own accord shows the significance of the case. Overall, the American Public Power Association viewed this step as a positive development.

House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI). Energy & Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield (R-KY), and Oversight & Investigations Chairman Tim Murphy (R-PA) May 13 sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding EPA’s Clean Energy Incentive Program and 2) guidance on trading to comply with the Clean Power Plan.

The letter sought answers from EPA on how these activities are not in direct violation of the stay issued by the U.S. Supreme Court that puts implementation of the Clean Power Plan on hold until the Supreme Court decides on its legality.

In light of recent developments, the members concluded that the agency’s decision to move forward with the so called regulatory structure to implement the Clean Power Plan presents several obvious concerns continuing to develop a suite of derivative rules and guidance issues questions about whether the EPA is complying fully with the Court’s stay order.

What about legal authority the agency has to proceed with such actions, about how these actions affect the equities of states and stakeholders, as well as about the potential increased use of taxpayer resources.

Carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. power plants totaled 1,025 million metric tons in 2015, the lowest since 1993 and 21 percent below their 2005 level. The Energy Information Administration reported on May 13.

The federal agency, which is part of the Department of Energy, said that total CO2 emissions from the electric power sector declined even as demand for electricity remained relatively flat over the previous decade.

The EIA said recent capacity additions have increased natural gas and renewable energy, while instrument capacity have been mostly coal units.

In 2015, warm winter temperatures reduced the demand for electricity. Leased the need to bring marginal generators online, and lowered natural gas prices. EIA said adding that during seven months of 2015, electricity generated from natural gas exceeded coal generation.
Solar Energy continues to gain momentum, with various companies and entities exploring new projects and initiatives. The Resource

Peaking units owned by a range of intermediate and peak shaving, and waste-to-energy, and sources such as wind, biodiesel, and waste-to-energy, and an array of intermediate and peaking units owned by member utilities.

MRES solar project
Construction work is slated to begin in mid-July on a solar energy project to be located at the Pierre Regional Airport. The project is a joint effort by the City of Pierre, Geronimo Energy, Edina, and Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), which is headquartered in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Geronimo Energy has experience in developing similar projects, including approximately 1,500 MW of wind and solar projects that are either operational or under construction. Geronimo Energy has existing power purchase agreements with the company for the output of two wind energy facilities in the State of Minnesota. Geronimo Energy is pleased to have the opportunity to work with MRES on another renewable energy project, said Geronimo Energy Chairman Noel P. Rahn. “We look forward to the start of construction this summer, as well as to the project providing an economic boost to the local South Dakota communities in the form of tax revenue and jobs.”

The Pierre solar project will be the first renewable energy project for MRES to be located in South Dakota, as well as its first experience in solar energy. MRES is a wholesale electric supplier to the City of Pierre, along with 50 other communities in the states of South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota. The project will be interconnected to the City of Pierre’s distribution system, but the output of the solar project will be purchased by MRES as part of its wholesale power supply mix.

RS Fiber expands network in Renville, Sibley counties
Winthrop, MN – RS Fiber Cooperative (RS Fiber) has begun the 2016 construction season with plans to expand the fiber-optic broadband network that was activated last year in parts of Renville and Sibley Counties.

During the project’s initial construction phase last year, the network’s backbone was built to RS Fiber facilities in MMUA member cities of Brownton, Winthrop, and Fairfax. Antennas were added to furnish service via tower-mounted antennas. The network currently consists of eight towers.

When the entire FTTP project is completed in 2017, the network will bring high-speed internet service to 10 cities and 17 townships in Renville and Sibley Counties.

In addition to the FTTP network, RS Fiber also began construction of its rural broadband service, RS Air, which delivers internet service via tower-mounted antennas. The network currently consists of eight towers.

The BS Fiber Cooperative is a community-driven effort to deliver a high-speed fiber-optic connection to Sibley County and portions of Renville, Nicollet, and McLeod Counties.

Renewables to expand
Renewable capability will rise by 100 gigawatts over the next 15 years as a result of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation concludes in a report released on May 19. The NERC’s assessment states that the EPA’s rule will be implemented as outlined in the final version of the Clean Power Plan that was issued in August 2015.
Nominations now being taken for variety of MMUA individual and utility system awards

**Public Service Award**
This award is given to a local, state or federal elected or appointed official who has been a strong supporter of MMUA and its members.

**Eligibility:** Any publicly elected or appointed official who has a long record of service to an MMUA member utility.

**Criteria:** Nominees should have:
- a long professional life dedicated to the achievement of excellence in the municipal utility industry;
- a strong record of involvement in MMUA and efforts on behalf of the betterment of the industry on a statewide basis.

**Innovative System Award**
This award is given to an individual whose activities have been a strong supporter of MMUA and its members.

**Eligibility:** Any individual who has performed long and well at the local level, or who may not have the level of involvement with MMUA to merit a lifetime membership.

**Criteria:** Nominees should have:
- made substantial contributions to public power;
- made contributions with lasting impact.

**Distinguished Service Award**
This award is given to individuals who perform outstanding service in support of the association and its goals.

**Eligibility:** Individuals who demonstrate leadership on various issues.

**Criteria:** Performance of outstanding service in support of the association's or its goals.

**Community Service Award**
This award is given to an individual who has performed long and well in support of a municipal utility at the local level.

**Eligibility:** An individual who has a long record of service to an MMUA member utility.

**Criteria:** An individual who has achievement or sustained performance that:
- was widely recognized in the public power field;
- made substantial contribution to the public power system;
- improved service to its communities;
- represented an earnest, continued effort on the part of the system.

Nominate now. Forms are in the "About" and then "Awards and Recognition" section of the MMUA web site.

**System Innovation Award**
This award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to public power in the areas of customer service, energy efficiency or renewables, technology or other areas.

**Criteria:** The utility must be an MMUA regular member system.

**Eligibility:** An individual who may not have the level of involvement with MMUA to merit a lifetime membership.

**Criteria:** Nominees should have:
- achieved or sustained performance that:
  - was widely recognized in the public power field;
  - made substantial contribution to the public power system;
  - improved service to its communities;
  - represented an earnest, continued effort on the part of the system.

**Eligible for**
- Board members who will be up for re-election for a second three-year term, and there will be an opening for a policymaker.
- Current board members include: City of Sleepy Eye Manager Greg French, and Elston, Virginia Department Public Works Director Bob Elston, Virginia Department.

Deregulation than in increased more in states that
The report found that retail rates have remained fairly flat since 2013, but have increased more in states that have deregulated than in states that have.
MMUA holds annual Underground School May 17-20 at Training Center

MMUA held its annual underground school May 17-20 at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. Attending were nearly 70 participants from 32 municipal utilities in Minnesota, three in South Dakota and three Minnesota cooperatives. Our partners in presenting the school were the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and American Public Power Association.

Kit Welchlin, Welchlin Communication Strategies, started the school with a Tuesday, May 17 general session. His topic was crucial to safe and efficient operations: Human Performance, Situation Awareness and Communication. Bookending the school was a general session on Friday, May 20 titled Commercial Drivers License and Requirements, led by Dave Busse, Minnesota State Patrol. This session addressed load inventory and Commercial Drivers Licensing, as well as various other topics.

The bulk of the school consisted of four hands-on training classes held on the training field.

Class 1: Proper Cable Identification, Testing and Grounding Methods was led by instructors Nick Hall and Mark Johnson, of Rochester Public Utilities.

Class 2 was Performing and Preparing General Switching Orders for Tying Circuits on Your Grid, led by instructors Todd Keshc and Mark Larsen, Rochester Public Utilities and Joe Moore of Moorhead Public Service.

Class 3 was Underpinning Systems Maintenance and Repair, was led by James Monroe of New Ulm Public Utilities, Wade Williams of Fond du Lac Public Utilities, and Brad Olson of Brainerd Public Utilities.

A breakout session on Table Top Drilling and Terminations was held throughout May 18-19 in the Training Center building. This session was led by Jim Stephens of 3M and Bill Bumgarner, Austin Utilities.

The May 19 training activities concluded with a fun, annual drill.

Students at the Underground School had time to discuss the latest in construction techniques and safe work practices at their utilities.

Above, students worked in an underground cabinet as part of the underground system maintenance and repair portion of the school.

Risk Management Program revisions expected in December

Joe Schmidt, CSP
MMUA Regional Safety Coordinator

There is currently a proposal to revise the Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations. Many members have developed an RMP in relationship to the quantity of highly hazardous chemicals in use at water treatment plants or other municipal operations.

President Obama signed executive order 13650 in response to several incidents involving RMP regulated facilities. Some of these incidents involved water treatment plants and the related chlorine releases. Thus the executive order created action that needed to be addressed by the EPA, involving chemical process safety.

The revisions to the RMP regulations that are applicable to utility operations include revisions to the accident prevention, emergency response and availability of information portions of the RMP. Accident Prevention Revisions

Facilities would be required to conduct a root cause analysis as part of an incident investigation of a catastrophic release or an incident that could have reasonably resulted in a catastrophic release. Facilities would be required to contact with an independent third party to perform a compliance audit after the facility has a reportable release.

Emergency Response Facilities would be required to coordinate with local emergency response agencies at least once a year to ensure that resources and capabilities are in place to respond to an accidental release of a regulated substance. Facilities must be required to conduct notification exercises annually to ensure that their emergency contact information is accurate and complete.

There are also proposals related to conducting full field exercises every five years and an annual table top exercises.

Availability of Information Facilities would be required to provide certain basic information to the public via easily accessible means such as a web site.

There are also proposals making technical corrections to various provisions of the rules. It is anticipated that the final rule revisions will be published in December 2016. Exactly how this may affect member Agencies is not yet clear. However it is anticipated that there will be some changes required to RMP’s already established. Facilities that are required to implement a RMP may also be required to have a Process Safety Management (PSM) plan for OSHA. Additional information may be obtained from the EPA’s website or your MMUA safety coordinator.

Attendees compared notes.
Lineworker Rodeo Mystery Event, which demonstrated safe working practices and a little speed.

Evening activities included a May 17 pizza reception and, at the participant’s expense, May 18 golf or sporting clay shoot.

MMUA extends a hearty ‘thank you’ to the following companies and utilities that provided assistance (equipment, materials and/or instruction):

- 3M
- Austin Utilities
- Baroid
- Border States Electric Supply Co.
- Brainerd Public Utilities
- Ditch Witch of MN & IA
- Fairmont Public Utilities
- JT Services
- Marshall Municipal Utilities
- MN Dept of Public Safety
- Moonhead Public Service
- MRES - I wuena
- New Ulm Public Utilities
- Okonite
- RDO Equipment Vermeer
- Rochester Public Utilities
- Titan Machinery
- Welchlin Communication Strategies

Identification and preparation of underground cable was a significant part of the Underground School.

Art Gatchell, left, and Al Fischer of MMUA’s ‘safety team’ kept a close eye on the proceedings.

MMUA Annual Summer Conference
Aug. 15-17, Cragun’s Resort, Brainerd

MMUA will hold its 85th annual Summer Conference, beginning Monday, Aug. 15 at Cragun’s Resort in Brainerd.

A golf tournament and bike ride will be held Monday afternoon. That evening, the group gets together with a welcome reception and outdoor bbq.

Tuesday’s agenda features a variety of speakers on the hot topics of the day. The day gives way to a popular trade show followed by the evening banquet and awards ceremony.

Wednesday is a half day, devoted primarily to MMUA business. There will also be general session speakers and a look at state legislative developments.

MMUA’s popular golf tournament will be played on Cragun’s Legacy Championship golf course. The shotgun start will be at 1:00 pm, with check-in at the golf course beginning at noon. All golfers need to pre-register as an individual or as a scramble team on the MMUA registration form. Walk-ins will not be allowed. You do not need to be registered for the conference to play in the tournament.

Individual golfers will be assigned to a team. We will try to accommodate requests. When registering with a team, please confirm with the group in advance to make sure they are golging and that they are not already registered with another team.

Bike ride participants should meet at MMUA’s table in Cragun’s lobby by 12:30 or meet at TrailBlazer Bikes in Nisswa. The ride will follow the black-topped Paul Bunyan Trail. Bikes and helmets will be available for rent or you can bring your own. Please register in advance for the ride. We will also take registrations the day of the ride. To rent a bike, please call TrailBlazer Bikes at 218-963-0069. You will pick up and pay for your bike rental at the bike shop prior to the start of the ride.

Associate member opportunities!
The MMUA Summer Conference offers many opportunities for Associate Members to get involved! Associates are invited to sponsor events. host a table at our trade show or rub elbows with members at a hospitality suite. We will also consider your unique ideas!

Sponsorships Available (assigned on a first-come basis)
- Co-sponsor a Refreshment Break
- Co-sponsor Hors d’oeuvres at Tuesday Reception
- Sponsor Beer of Beers at Receptions (Monday or Tuesday)
- Sponsor Beer Cups with a logo (Monday or Tuesday)
- Sponsor Prizes for Golf Tournament
- Sponsor Beverage during Golf Tournament
- Sponsor Golf Balls for Tournament

A sign with your company name or logo will be posted at the event and the conference program. Please let us know if you are bringing cups or golf balls.

Hospitality Suites
To host a hospitality suite call Maria Zachary at 218-825-3852 or email mzachary@cragun.com. Cragun’s does not allow you to bring in food items from outside the resort.

Watch your ‘inbox’ for more details! Register by August 2, 2016. Questions? Contact Rita Kelly at 763-746-0707 or rkelly@mmua.org
The city of Breckenridge celebrates new city hall; water system improvements next

The new Breckenridge city hall is a modern, attractive building. Affection for the old building remained, however, and the citizens kept the old doorway (at left in the picture), which will be used as part of a landscaped area.

The old city hall was an impressive structure but the foundation was crumbling; there were fist-sized cracks in the wall and repair costs were estimated to add up to more than $800,000.

In the spring of 2015 crews began knocking down the turn of the 20th century brick and mortar building. City officials were temporarily moved across the parking lot into the old law enforcement center. Once the demolition was done, work began in earnest on constructing the new $1.64 million energy-efficient and structurally-sound city hall. The new building is located where the old city hall parking lot used to be. The city staff moved into the new building in December 2015. The city dedicated the building with an open house Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015. Refreshments were served and guests took informal tours of the building. City officials were on hand and commemorative postcards handed out.

Rogers Avelsgard, city director of public service, oversaw the city hall project. Avelsgard oversees utilities, streets and parks, and much of the city outside service. As the building inspector at the time, the city hall project seemed to naturally fall under his care. Avelsgard is not sentimental about seeing the old building go. It was most cost effective to move out, he said, demolish the old building and build a new one.

There was discussion over a new site, but the council decided city hall should remain in what remains an impressive downtown area.

The decision to replace the building came in 2013 just before Avelsgard joined the city. Completing that project was a challenge but there is no time to rest.

There are problems with the water system. Valves are beginning to fail at an alarming rate. In April, crews attempted to repair a leaky water main valve and isolating the problem. Nine more valves sprung leaks. Bolts that hold the 30-year-old valves together are failing.

The local soil, great for agriculture, is corrosive to certain metals, including the bolts on the water system valves. The pipes appear to be in good shape. A maintenance schedule is in place to replace the valve bolts if possible. Otherwise the valves will need to be replaced at a cost of $6,000 per valve.

A bigger problem is the 1930s-era water treatment plant. It has issues of its own. Repair of some equipment is virtually impossible. A failure “could be catastrophic,” Avelsgard said.

Staff from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Public Facilities Authority recently visited, toured the facilities and discussed financing for a new water treatment plant. Cost is estimated at $13 million (a lot of money for a city of approximately 4,000 hardy souls and some 1,800 water customers.)

The city went out for bids once. They came in high and were rejected. The water supply itself is adequate, with two wells sunk into an aquifer.

The price of water will increase, but Breckenridge does boast some of the lowest electric rates in the state. Contributing to that along with an efficient local operation, is power supplied from the Western Area Power Administration and Missouri River Energy Services. Local policymakers including the five-member Breckenridge Public Utilities Commission are thankful for the steady electric supply situation.

There are certainly other issues to work through. If they can negotiate those problems as well as their predecessors did with electricity, the city will remain well positioned for the future.
Around the State

emissions than a diesel engine. They also reduce noise emissions by 80 percent. Natural gas burns cleanly so it results in less wear and tear on the engine and extends the time between tune-ups and oil changes.

Three organizations held a free one-hour seminar on the benefits of solar energy and presented potential investment options. March 24 at Owatonna Public Utilities. The city of Brainerd has proposed to issue 15 year, general obligation, utility revenue bonds totaling $10.7 million to pay for a water and sewer extension to the Brain- erd Lakes Regional Airport. Most of the project funding is planned to come from a city of Baxter local option sales tax. State bonding funds are also being sought. The Brain- erd Public Utilities Commission is examining potential rate impacts. The project is in the construction phase.

The Brainerd Public Utilities Commission recently invested in a new high-capacity terminating system to increase internet speeds. PUC services include electricity, water, sewer, natural gas, cable TV and internet.

Two municipal utilities received local news attention for their conservation efforts. The Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission recently presented rebate for $3,536 to a local clinic for a lighting upgrade.

Rochester Public Utilities (RPU), teamed with a local nursery and the city Parks & Recreation Department to host the 14th Annual Arbor Day Celebration on Friday, April 29. The free community event featured a variety of activities and displays including: A tree giveaway (while supplies last), a free lunch of hot dogs, corn on the cob, chips, cookies and soda. Tree experts were on hand to answer questions on tree planting and care, along with many other vendor displays. Children enjoyed Smokey Bear, balloonists, a scavenger hunt, temporary tattoos, bean bag toss and much more. This event was chosen by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as the official state of Minnesota Arbor Day event.

Member News

Solar and Wind Energy Consultants LLC 5015 35th Ave S, #130 Minneapolis, MN 55417 Phone: 612-720-0013 www.solarwindsite.com/sa- ley Joe Han son solaraevandconsulting@yahoo.com

Solar and Wind Energy Consultants is a solar p.v. contractor. The company installed the Moonbeam Public Service Acreage project, and was the first solar contractor in the United States (CA379618, 1979). We offer 20 and 40 kilowatt p.v. equipment as turnkey installation. Specializing in high performance solar edge systems. 99 percent efficient inverters with optimizers—each module individually monitored.

Utility Energy Systems has been providing SNG solutions and service since 1994!

John Nuckolls
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www.utilityenergysystems.com
Sales. Service. Rental.

Need Peak Shaving? Reducing pipeline capacity needs?

Our team understands the importance of working on ideas from the first stages of a feasibility study all the way to final inspection. Some of our specialties include:

- Distribution
- Transmission
- Substations
- Generation
- System Planning
- Rate Studies
- Relaying and SCADA
- Mapping and GIS
- Synchronization and Coordination
- Arc Flash Analysis

Assosciate

Solar and Wind Energy Consultants LLC 5015 35th Ave S, #130 Minneapolis, MN 55417 Phone: 612-720-0013 www.solarwindsite.com/sale- y John Han son solaraevandconsulting@yahoo.com

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- Synchronization and Coordination
- Arc Flash Analysis

In 2015, GRS received the Circle of Excellence Award from PSMS Corporation, Inc., a world-renowned engineering consulting firm. This award is presented to firms who have demonstrated outstanding service to their clients and the engineering profession. GRS is proud of our work and of our commitment to excellence in every project we undertake.

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HELP WANTED

Electric Line Worker
The Wells Public Utilities of Wells, MN, population 2,247, is seeking applications for the position of electric line worker. This position involves a variety of skilled line work in the operation, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground distribution systems and the operation of a variety of specialized related equipment and vehicles. Line Worker experience is preferred. Must possess a class B CDL or obtain one within six months. This is a full-time position with excellent fringe benefits. Successful candidates will be required to be on a rotating on-call schedule and must be able to respond within 20 minutes. Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience. Request an application and send application and resume to the Wells Public Utilities, 101 1st St SE, PO Box 96, Wells, MN 56097, (507) 553-3119. Position open until filled with a priority deadline of June 30, 2016. EOE

Apprentice Lineman
The City of Flandreau, South Dakota is accepting applications from interested and qualified individuals for the position of Apprentice Lineman. Under general supervision, this position assists in the operation and maintenance of the City’s electric facilities and equipment. Applicant should have knowledge of the operation and maintenance of a municipal electric utility. Applicant should have knowledge of electrical theory, systems and equipment as well as the ability to analyze problems and draw logical conclusions. Applicant must be a high school graduate or possess a GED certificate and completion of Power Lineman Trade School or at least one year of line experience. Must have a valid South Dakota driver’s license and the ability to obtain a SD CDL within 60 days of hire. Applications may be obtained on-line at www.cityofflandreau.com or they may be picked up at the City Office at 1005 W. Elm Avenue, Flandreau, South Dakota 57028. Position will remain open until filled. The City of Flandreau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Line Supt/Plant Manager
Bloomington Public Utilities

see next page please
Journeyman or Apprentice Lineman (Electric)

This full-time position is responsible for performing skilled tasks associated with construction, maintenance, and repair of electric overhead and underground distribution lines, transformers, cabinets, insulators, fuses, and other associated equipment. Qualified applicants must have an associate degree or equivalent work experience in the electrical field; or equivalent work experience in a related field; or equivalent work experience in power line program and/or equivalent work experience performing lineman work. CDL driver’s license required. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Excellent benefits package, including SDRS pension, health, dental, vision and life insurance, 457 plan, paid sick leave and vacation. A completed application and resume, including salary history, references and a cover letter, are required. Job description and application form are available online at www.MPSutility.com.

Water Plant Supervisor

Moorhead Public Service Utilities (MPS) is accepting applications for a Water Plant Supervisor. This position has the overall responsibility to direct and control staff and equipment of MPS Water Treatment Plant. The supervisor maintains the Water Plant Computer-Aided Facilities Management (CAFM) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, supervises water pumping stations, and finished water pumping stations and reservoirs. This position is directly responsible for the implementation of the Water Treatment Plant’s work plan, productivity evaluation, policy enforcement, and ensuring safe working procedures and conditions. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor’s degree with curriculum in chemistry or civil sanitary engineering, three years of operating experience and laboratory work at a surface water line softening water plant, a Class 0 Water Supply Operator’s license and a driver’s license valid in the state of Minnesota. Desired qualifications include an advanced degree, equaling a Master’s degree, in engineering or science, two years of ozone disinfection experience, a Class A Water Supply Operator’s license, and PE designation. The 2016 salary range for this position is between $54,750 and $88,422 monthly. Benefits include pension, health, and dental insurance. For more information on to request an application packet contact HR Coordinator Diane Gruber at 218-361-7800. Option 4. Applicants MUST complete an MPS Application for Employment to be considered for employment with MPS EOE. Onsite Deadline: Friday, June 10, 2016.

Community Dev. Director

The City of Melrose, MN is seeking a applications for a Community Development Director. This position is responsible for development and planning activities for the City of Melrose with a focus on city planning. The ideal candidate will be energetic and motivated, and possess excellent communication, interpersonal and presentation skills and will be required to exercise initiative as well as collaborate well with others. Candidates will be detail oriented. Some evening meetings and travel are required. Salary: Range $53,926 – $72,875 per year. For more information on or to contact HR Director Diane Gruber at 320-256-4278, dgruber@cityofmelrose.com, or the City’s website www.cityofmelrose.com. Submit completed applications with resume to the City of Melrose. 225 1St NE, Melrose MN 56352. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. June 8, 2016.

Project Manager

Utilities Plus Energy Service (UPES), a municipally-owned electric service provider, is looking to fill several growth positions within our service group. Qualification may include some or all of the following: BS in Electrical Engineering, Graduation from a 2-year Power Distribution School, knowledge of and experience to test complex relay’s. Knowledge of and experience to test electrical distribution and transmission equipment. Ability to lift 70 lbs; 8-10 years field experience in Power Distribution and Transmission. Work description. Assemble proposals and quotations. Supervise field testing crews; Some field testing a must be required. Project Manager start from field to finish various projects. E-mail resume to jobs@upesplus.com.

FOR SALE

The City of Windom, Municipal Utilities has for sale a Delta 12 24 x 24 x 12 bucket liner. SK, IV insulated. Contact Cheryl or Brent at 507-831-6151.

FOR SALE

A for up-to-date and complete list please see the ‘News’ and ‘Classifieds’ sections at www.mmu.org.

June 2016 The Resource/11
Moose Lake
continued from front page

There was no walk around to digging through rock common in the area (Moose Lake is the agate capital of Minnesota) while the crew is busy this summer placing some distribution lines underground in part to improve reliability, the utility's electric distribution system remains 75-80 percent overhead. That is due in large part to the rocky ground.

The system is seeing some growth, including most notably a new combined elementary to high school. Lines in this area will be placed underground. The old school building will probably be demolished. Thankfully both locations are in the utility's electric service territory.

The upgrade project started with an electric system study in 2000.

Among various other recent projects, in 2003 the power plant received a $2.25 million upgrade, including three new Caterpillar 2,250-kilowatt engine-generator sets, one in the downtown power plant (where switchgear was also upgraded) and two engines adjacent to the substation by the Minnesota Correctional Facility. The engines meet the Minnesota Correctional Facilities. Future development supports two large state facilities. Future development and the new school will use power from that substation.

With that bond paid off in 2013, the utility started budgeting for the control house project. A rate study calls for a rate increase which will be implemented in steps.

Along with new controls and relays, the utility installed a new SCADA system and the water and Light fiber optic community backbone, which includes the utility, city hall, street and sewer services, the library and downtown area. (The utility also installed and operates a wireless system.) Utility workers have used laptops in the field for over a decade. The utility provides its own Voice Over Internet Protocol telephone service. The utility sponsors a public computer kiosk and provides wireless internet access.

Among the other projects the utility crew is working on this season are installing 1200 streetlights and undergrounding and looping some electric distribution lines.

The system is very reliable and power outages to any of the over 1,000 customers served by the municipal power plant are very rare. The utility has a total of seven full-time employees and a three-person public utilities commission that oversees the overall operation.

Overshrinking support, fierce opposition to municipal utility
The utility was created in 1929, when voters, by a margin of 115 to 8, authorized the city council to proceed with a municipal utility feasibility study. The study continued until 1931, when the council ordered plans for the municipal power plant.

The first building contract was awarded in 1931 and voters approved the construction by a vote of 286 to 90. This was the largest vote total of any election in Moose Lake history to that point in time. Legal maneuvering by the incumbent power company failed to stop the municipal effort. Construction began May 1, 1933.

The municipal power plant was operational by Aug. 21, and within a month all local residents of Moose Lake were on the new system. The private power company then removed its poles and wires. The plant was paid for through earnings. That continues to be the case today.

Moose Lake was connected to the electric grid in 1979, when a 69,000 volt line from United Power Association connected to the power plant substation. The power plant went on a standby basis at that time.

Another power plant addition was completed in 1993 and the building was remodeled at that time.

It is due in large part to the rocky ground.

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