

Determined to compete

ALP Utilities builds on century of service with new name to match its business offerings

by Steve Downer

What's in a name?

For ALP Utilities, quite a lot.

Alexandria Light and Power (ALP) has provided reliable, reasonably-priced water and electric service to its community for 100 years. The utility has a sterling reputation for reliable provision of reasonably-priced services, but it was no longer enough. It had to compete.

Two factors led General Manager Al Crowser and the ALP Board to reconsider their approach to the utility business: the need to sell water service in areas recently annexed by the city of Alexandria; and the need to assert itself in an increasingly competitive business communications environment.

There has long been telecommunications competition in Alexandria and that remains the case today. Other providers include large



Nathan Chan and Megan Chisholm play key roles in ALP Utilities' provision of business communications services. Chan is the fiber network administrator; Chisholm is the utility's marketing and communications person.

multi-state cable and phone companies and an aggressive area telephone cooperative, which also offers business and residential internet service.

Some pieces were in place. Tech-savvy personnel included Network

Administrator Nathan Chan and fiber/electric substation technician Alvin Shuck.

Crowser realized the utility also needed something few municipal utilities have: a marketing and communications person. After a careful

search, ALP hired Megan Chisholm, a native of nearby Henning, who had been working for an area magazine.

Chisholm brought a new perspective. The old ALP name never made much sense to her. Light and power seemed re-

dundant. What about water? And there was a real need to let commercial/industrial customers know the utility provided high-speed business communications.

An entirely new name would have squandered a good reputation, so it was decided to adjust the name to allow for current realities: ALP Utilities. The organization includes ALP Business Communications. Icons were developed for each service and are part of the utility's new logo, which was unveiled two years ago.

Chisholm spent time with customers, finding out what they knew about the utility and letting them know what the utility offered.

Residential customers in recently annexed areas were often confused about the utility's offerings—The ALP name didn't say anything about

ALP Utilities: see page 6

Sewell's path takes him back to municipal generating plants

Bob Sewell retired from the municipal utilities business in 2010 . . . for a couple weeks.

Retirement was fine. But then the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) needed somebody to fill in for 16 weeks as a job training and safety person. IAMU called MMUA Job Training and Safety Director Mike Willetts, to find somebody to fill the temporary position. Willetts called Sewell, an old friend. Iowa is his home state, so Sewell thought he would give it a try.

He liked that work, too.

Sewell's job duties with MMUA have changed over five years, but, in his eyes, only for the better. That's

Sewell: see page 5 please



photo by Jack Kegel

U.S. Senator Al Franken, right, considered points made by Worthington Public Utilities General Manager Scott Hain, left. Listening are Chris Schoenherr of SMMPA and Blooming Prairie Mayor Harold Peterson.

MMUA contingent carries message to Capitol Hill

Any public official will tell you that having people in the room makes a difference. So it surely makes a difference when MMUA brings over 70 people to congressional meetings in Washington D.C., as the association did March 9-12 during the American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Rally.

All told, more than 600 members from public power utilities throughout the nation gathered for the rally.

The meeting includes a num-

ber of different events, from setting public power's national policies to communicating those positions to our elected representatives, their staffs and regulatory agency personnel.

MMUA did the bulk of this communicating on Tuesday, March 10, when the group held a series of meetings with Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, and staff from our House representatives (the House was not in session during our visit, hence the absence of the elected

representatives).

MMUA extends its thanks to our Senators and legislative staffs, members who carried our message during these meetings, all who attended and the cities/utilities that sent them.

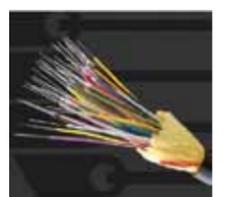
The overarching issue today is the federal Environmental Protection Agency's 'Clean Power Plan,' a major undertaking that seeks significant nationwide reductions in car-

Rally: see next page please

Periodicals
Postage
PAID
at
Twin Cities, MN

**Inside
Stories**

**Lead Counsel
Lauds FCC
on Broadband**
page 3



**Generation,
Substation
Programs Set**
page 8



**Court Rules
Utilities Must
'Buy the Farm'**
page 12



Rally

continued from front page

bon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. This proposed rule presents very serious problems for Minnesota, and during the meetings MMUA and its representatives laid out our concerns in an orderly fashion.

Among the other issues we discussed during the meetings were the need to preserve and protect tax-exempt financing, grid security, and needed reform to protect 'captive' rail shippers.

Along with the various receptions, speakers and presentations, a major rally event is the proceedings of the APPA Legislative and Resolutions (L&R) Committee. This committee meets at the rally, to propose and vote on new policy resolutions. Each APPA member may designate one voting delegate.

Protecting small, municipal utilities from being regulated in a manner that should only apply to much

larger ones through the Regulatory Flexibility Act was one of six policy resolutions put forth and adopted by the L&R Committee members.

The resolution for equitable treatment under the Regulatory Flexibility Act was proposed by members from the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, Kissimmee Utility Authority in Florida and Owensboro Municipal Utilities in Kentucky with additional support from the city of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

While large cities may have 500 employees or more within their municipality—the requirement that knocks a business out of the "small" category under the existing law—only a few of those employees may actually be employed by the utility, said Kevin Gaden, CEO of the Illinois joint action agency.

"This resolution is actually reforming the determination of what is considered a small public power system under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. What it does is ensure that small entities aren't regulated like large entities,"



photo by Jack Kegel

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, center, listened while Rochester Public Utilities' Director of Power Resources Wally Schlink talked. Also pictured is MMUA President and Brainerd Public Utilities Commissioner Bill Wroolie, at right.

Gaden said. "What's happened here is a disconnect between what (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and the Small Business Administration recognize as a small utility."

What should be considered a large utility makes up only about 25 to 30 of the nation's

public power utilities, said Gaden and APPA Senior Vice President of Legislative and Political Affairs Joy Ditto.

MMUA co-sponsored two resolutions: improving problematic coal shipments by rail; and supporting the affordable, reliable deployment of solar power. Other issues

made a priority by the L&R Committee were easing access to unmanned aerial aircraft for utility-related operations; protecting preference customers from the costs of transmission projects; and addressing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's final coal ash rule.

Renewables, gas pace new generation; coal continues retreat

According to the federal Energy Information Administration, electric generating companies in 2015 expect to add more than 20 gigawatts

(GW) of utility-scale generating capacity to the power grid. The additions are dominated by wind (9.8 GW), natural gas (6.3 GW), and solar (2.2 GW), which combine to make up 91 percent of total additions.

Nearly 16 GW of generating capacity is expected to retire in 2015, 81 percent of which (12.9 GW) is coal-fired generation.

The addition of more natural gas, solar, and wind generating capacity follows the pattern of the past several years. Wind additions are largely found in the Plains states; utility-scale solar additions in California and North Carolina. TVA's Watts Bar 2 nuclear facility will be the first new nuclear reactor brought online in the United States in nearly 20 years.



Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

To unify, support and serve as a common voice for municipal utilities

Officers and Directors

President

Bill Wroolie, Brainerd

President-Elect

Troy Adams, Elk River

Secretary/Treasurer

Bob Elston, Sleepy Eye

Directors

Kevin Berg, Hawley

John Crooks, Shakopee

Mark Erickson, Winthrop

Greg French, Virginia

Chuck Heins, Redwood Falls

Chris Olson, Alexandria

Vernell Roberts, Detroit Lakes

Jerry Williams, Rochester

Staff

Executive Director

Jack Kegel, jkegel@mmua.org

Associate Executive Director

Steve Downer, sdowner@mmua.org

Government Relations Director

Bill Black, bblack@mmua.org

Government Relations Representative

Amanda Duerr, aduerr@mmua.org

Director of Engineering & Policy Analysis

Bob Jagusch, rjagusch@mmua.org

Director of Finance

Larry Pederson, lpederson@mmua.org

Director of Administration

Rita Kelly, rkelly@mmua.org

Accounting Assistant

Karen Heiden, kheiden@mmua.org

Administrative Assistant

Susan Coe, scoe@mmua.org

Director of Job Training and Safety

Mike Willetts, mwilletts@mmua.org

Job Training and Safety Instructor

Gary Greenwald, ggreenwald@mmua.org

Natural Gas Circuit Rider

Troy Dahlin, tdahlin@mmua.org

Regional Safety Group Program Leader

Chris Schmitt, cschmitt@mmua.org

Regional Safety Coord./JTS Instructors

Bruce Westergaard,

bwestergaard@mmua.org

Generation Coordinator/JTS Instructor

Bob Sewell, bsewell@mmua.org

Training Ctr. Coord./JTS Instructor

Pete Wyffels, pwyffels@mmua.org

Mgt. Services and JTS Instructor

Rich Maxfield, rmaxfield@mmua.org

Regional Safety Coordinators

Bruce Bousu, bbousu@mmua.org

Al Czczok, aczczok@mmua.org

Mark Hottel, mhottel@mmua.org

Julie Jelen, jjelen@mmua.org

Robin Klug, rklug@mmua.org

Dave Lundberg, dlundberg@mmua.org

Marc Machacek, mmachacek@mmua.org

Ryan Mihalak, rmihalak@mmua.org

Joseph Schmidt, jschmidt@mmua.org

Kevin Thompson, kthompson@mmua.org

Chris Trembley, ctrembley@mmua.org

MMUA The Resource USPS #009836. ISSN: 1080-3750 is published 11 times a year, combining March, by MMUA at 3025 Harbor Lane North, Suite 400, Plymouth, MN 55447. Periodicals postage paid at Mpls., MN and other mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to MMUA The Resource, 3025 Harbor Lane North, Suite 400, Plymouth, MN 55447. Annual subscription rates: \$12 per subscription (included in dues), associate members, \$12 (included in dues). 3025 Harbor Lane North, Suite 400, Plymouth, MN 55447. 763-551-1230, members 1-800-422-0119. FAX 763-551-0459.

APPA President urges FERC to play active role shaping EPA 'Clean Power Plan'

by Paul Ciampoli

American Public Power Association

Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the American Public Power Association, in February said that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should have an "active role" related to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants.

Appearing at a Feb. 19 FERC technical conference at the commission's headquarters in Washington, D.C., Kelly urged the commission "not to be chopped liver." She said that the commission needs "to have an active role in this process because you, under the Federal Power Act, have important responsibilities," such as ensuring the reliability of the bulk power system. FERC needs to "play a vital role in shaping the rule before it is issued."

The technical conference was the first in a series of conferences that will examine a number of issues related to the EPA proposal for existing plants. Kelly was one of several power industry participants to discuss electric reliability considerations tied to the EPA proposal.

She said that FERC should also support the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) ongoing analysis of the EPA's proposal. In a statement filed at FERC in relation to the technical conference, Kelly said that the commission should also

Washington Report



support any recommendations that NERC may offer in its report, which is due this spring.

In addition, the APPA president and CEO told FERC commissioners that FERC should support the inclusion of a "reliability safety valve" in the final rule.

In her prepared statement and opening remarks for the technical conference, Kelly also said that FERC should:

- Support APPA's recommendations to EPA for changes to the proposal to give states more time and more discretion in implementing the final rule.

- Continue to seek improvements and efficiencies in coordination between the natural gas and electricity sectors.

- Expedite approvals for new infrastructure necessary to implement the final rule.

- Provide guidance to the states and other stakeholders on how to reflect public policy requirements associated with state implementation of the final rule in the regional and interregional transmission planning required by FERC Order No. 1000.

Kelly also said that FERC needs to take another look at Regional Trans-

mission Organization (RTO) market structures in the context of the EPA proposal. "We have felt" for some time that current mandatory capacity markets in certain RTOs "do not do the best job of supporting and developing the new resource mix we're going to need to meet this rule and that's going to become apparent very soon," the APPA president and CEO said.

FERC will convene several regional technical conferences in February and March related to the EPA's proposed plan in Denver, Colorado, Washington, D.C. and St. Louis, Missouri.

In late January, FERC Chairman Cheryl LaFleur said that the commission will have an "essential role to play" as the EPA's proposed plan to reduce emissions from existing power plants is implemented.

"I believe that we as a nation can achieve real environmental progress, including on climate change, but only if we're willing to build the infrastructure – both gas and electric – and build the energy markets to make that possible," LaFleur said in a Jan. 27 speech at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., that focused on the EPA's plan.

Both infrastructure and market changes "will be necessary if the values of reliability and cost are sustained as we make progress on the environment, and that's where FERC comes in," she went on to say.

"I think we will have responsibili-

ties across three areas—infrastructure, markets and to be an honest broker for the discussion," LaFleur said.

The EPA proposed the rule to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing plants by 30 percent by 2030 in June 2014 and a final rule is slated to be released this summer.

APPA in December 2014 submitted comments to the EPA on its proposed rule to regulate carbon dioxide emissions under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. While APPA agrees that the electricity sector needs to reduce CO2 emissions, it cautioned against the dangers of the proposed rule trying to do too much too quickly.

"This rule, as proposed, aims to make unprecedented changes to the way energy will be generated and used in this country," Kelly said when APPA submitted its comments to the EPA. "These changes will ripple over the next several decades, so they must be made carefully and collaboratively. In our comments, we've laid out constructive changes to make the proposed rule more likely to work in the real world and fulfill its intended purpose."

APPA pointed out in its comments that the proposed rule's requirements go beyond what is legally permissible under section 111(d) and conflict with the authority of other federal, state, and local government entities.

Lead counsel in telecom case lauds FCC for removing protectionist provisions

by Jim Baller

Baller Herbst Stokes & Lide

On July 24, 2014, the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga, Tennessee (EPB), and the City of Wilson, North Carolina (Wilson), petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to remove certain state laws that impose barriers to broadband investment and competition. The FCC on Feb. 26 granted the petitions.

Baller Herbst Stokes & Lide, lead counsel to Wilson and EPB in their proceedings before the FCC, applauds the Commission for removing the protectionist provisions of North Carolina and Tennessee law that have prevented Wilson and EPB from investing in advanced com-

munications capabilities and bringing competition to areas outside their current broadband internet access service areas, including unserved and underserved areas.

As FCC Chairman Thomas Wheeler stated at the Feb. 26 hearing, "You can't say you're for following Congress's explicit instructions to remove barriers to broadband investment and then turn around and endorse restrictions on such investments. You can't say you're for competition and then turn around and deny local governments the ability to provide competitive services. As they say in North Carolina, 'That dog don't hunt.'"

Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires the FCC to ensure

that broadband is being deployed on a reasonable and timely basis to all Americans. If the FCC determines that advanced communications capabilities are not being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely manner, Section 706 requires the FCC to "take immediate action to accelerate deployment . . . by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and by promoting competition."

In removing the provisions of North Carolina and Tennessee law that prevented Wilson and EPB from expanding their networks, the FCC is acting in accordance with the dictates of Section 706 and is paving the way for many businesses and resi-

dents of North Carolina and Tennessee to gain access to Wilson's and EPB's state-of-the-art fiber networks and services.

"This is an important moment for communities in North Carolina, Tennessee, and other states that have barriers to local investments in advanced communications networks," said Jim Baller, senior principal of Baller Herbst Stokes & Lide.

"Not only has the Commission confirmed that it has authority to remove such barriers, but it has also compiled a massive record documenting the critical role that local Internet choice can play in fostering strong, vibrant communities and in ensuring that the United States

will remain a leading nation in the emerging knowledge-based global economy."

"Communities across the nation have recognized that advanced communications networks can drive and support parallel progress in just about every area of traditional local responsibility, including economic development, education, public safety, health care, transportation, government service, environmental protection, and much more.

"That's why so many communities are now seeking prompt, affordable access to advanced communications capabilities, by working with willing incumbent carriers, entering into public-private partnerships with new entrants, establishing their own networks, or developing innovative new strategies that may work for them.

"Barriers to local internet choice, such as the North Carolina and Tennessee laws that the Commission has removed today, are bad for America's communities, bad for the private sector, particularly high-technology companies, and bad for America's global competitiveness."

**MCGRANN
SHEA
CARNIVAL
STRAUGHN
& LAMB
CHARTERED**

www.mcgrannshea.com

Providing Legal Counsel to Minnesota Municipalities in:

- Energy and Utility Matters
- Administrative Proceedings
- Legislative Representation
- Municipal Law
- Litigation
- Municipal Bonds
- Economic Development
- Real Estate Law
- Construction Law
- Environmental Law

Contact: William McGrann, Doug Carnival or Kaela Brennan

800 Nicollet Mall, Suite 2600, Minneapolis, MN 55402-7035
Telephone: 612-338-2525 ■ Facsimile: 612-339-2386

Around the State



Pete Moulton has been named **City of St. Peter** public works director. Moulton had served previously as water utilities superintendent before being named interim public works director. He oversees electric, environmental services, parks, refuse and recycling, stormwater, streets, wastewater and water services.

City of Caledonia Accounts Receivable/Utility Billing Clerk **Joyce Guillaume** is retiring at the end of March. City policymakers and staff expressed gratitude and appreciation for her more than 51 years of dedicated service to the city.

Marion Hintze, **Spring Valley Public Utilities** office manager, recently retired after 37 years. She oversaw billing of water and electric accounts and started the job on Dec. 15, 1977. Ink and paper were used years ago, then came a billing machine and then computers. Meter reading technology in Spring Valley changed too, from paper and pencil to handheld units to radio read. She will miss her co-workers, reported the local paper, and the customers she worked with over the years.

The **Willmar City Council** March 2 approved an average rate increase for its three classes of electric customers of 4.5 percent. Water rates will increase 20 percent. The increase came as a recommendation from the Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission, which held a public hearing on Feb. 9.

The water rate increase is being driven by needed repairs at the utility's ageing treatment plant. The electric rate increase is driven by increased power supply and transmission costs and a need for capital improvements, including a new substation. The increases followed receipt of a consultant's cost of service study.

More increases may be necessary in 2017-18 to make necessary system improvements and maintain the utility's financial strength.

With the ground frozen and little snow on the ground, the **Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission** extended the contract for a tree trimming crew to



MMUA JT&S Committee meets, plans

The MMUA Job Training and Safety Committee met Feb. 10 at the MMUA Plymouth headquarters. The group met primarily to plan for the 2015 MMUA Overhead and Underground schools. Committee members include, front row, left to right: Marty Meixell of Fairmont Public Utilities, Trent Hawkinson of Brainerd Public Utilities, Mark Fuchs of Elk River Municipal Utilities, Joe Moore of Moorhead Public

Service, Mike Willetts and Jack Kegel of MMUA. Back row, left to right: Jeff Bechthold of Missouri River Energy Services, Doug Ehnstad of Watertown (So. Dakota) Municipal Utilities, Steve Fieck of Rochester Public Utilities (RPU), Russ Nelson of Austin Utilities, Roger Moltzan of Detroit Lakes Public Utilities, Pete Bennett of RPU, John Egan of Sauk Centre Public Utilities and Pete Wyffels of MMUA.

clear rights of way in the city. It costs roughly \$1,000 a day to keep the two employees, a bucket truck and chipper working.

The **Austin City Council** Jan. 5 approved increasing the Austin Utilities payment in lieu of tax (PILOT) agreement, as the utility readies to build a new \$18.6 million central administrative facility. The PILOT increase is designed to offset the cost of higher rates to the city. The project would house all of Austin Utilities operations and customer service functions. The city will issue the debt for the project.

The utility will sell its downtown office space to the city, which occupies half of the utilities building. The

city will pay \$275,000 for the space and give the utility four acres of land.

The utility has raised rates, an average \$8.18 per month for residential customers and one to three percent for commercial customers. Gas rates increased 3.5 percent and water rates 6.9 percent.

Blooming Prairie Public Utilities has been in its current location for 84 years, but Feb. 9 it acquired some new office space. The city council that night approved the sale of the former Blooming Prairie Ambulance Commission building to the utility for \$70,111. The utility will relocate three offices to the building while keeping some workers and storage at

its current building.

The city has owned the ambulance building since the 1980s. The Ambulance Commission decided to construct a new building in December 2012. Last spring, the Blooming Prairie Economic Development Authority approved the issuance of a \$990,000 public facility bond to fund the project. The bond will be paid for through taxes, ambulance association contributions and water and storm sewer funds.

North Branch public officials recently discussed utilities and growth projections with the local paper. City staff noted that the city experienced rapid growth and a 2003 study found that

would continue, meaning utilities needed to be upgraded.

A new sewer plant had already been built, and a new water treatment facility and upgrades to the municipal electric system had already been planned, as the systems were aging and were unable to accommodate growth.

The investments were made but the years of 100-plus housing starts stopped. Growth is back to 30-35 new homes a year but the bond payments are ramping up. The good news is the city is positioned to accommodate growth—and that growth would help minimize rate increases.

TRANSFORMERS

DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION

T&R ELECTRIC
SUPPLY COMPANY, INCORPORATED
BOX 180
COLMAN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57017
"THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE" ©

Modern Rewind Facilities
More than 61 Acres Inventory
Prompt Delivery—Coast to Coast

CALL TOLL-FREE
800-843-7994
FAX 605-534-3861
E-Mail: t-r@t-r.com
Internet: www.t-r.com

BUY - SELL - RENT

Complete Outdoor Substations, Circuit Breakers, Regulators, and Switchgear

Sewell: Full career has brought him back to roots, focusing on generation plants

continued from front page

because Sewell now spends approximately two-thirds of his time in municipal electric generating plants.

Sewell has first-hand experience as a lineman and diesel power plant operator. He also has experience as a water superintendent, water plant operator and water distribution technician. All that work had its good points, but Sewell really liked the power plants.

He started as a power plant operator. He managed the Milford, Iowa municipal utility system for 23 years. Prior to that, he worked for the municipal utilities in Hopkinton and West Bend, Iowa. Sewell had worked in the utility business for 33 years, 27 of those years as a manager.

While they still exist, it is no longer common to find municipal utility personnel dedicated solely to electric generation. The downside of that is, the less you perform a certain task, the less proficient you may become at it.

Recognizing this, MMUA and the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) worked together to create two programs to help municipal electric utilities operate their local electric generating plants more safely and efficiently.

The first program is called Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and the second is simply Generation Consulting. Programs are of little help without knowledgeable people to work them. Sewell, MMUA Generation Coordina-

tor/Job Training and Safety Instructor, provides that expertise.

He works with local utility staff to develop written preventive maintenance schedules and documented operating procedures, customized for each plant. An up-to-date written preventive maintenance schedule, including a comprehensive inventory of critical equipment, qualifies a utility for a 10 percent rate reduction on their property coverage rates, through the O&M program.

Sewell noted that the program helps a utility save money on equipment replacement cost and maintain a staff of skilled, confident and safe equipment operators.

As a former manager, Sewell knows saving money on insurance is important. But what really motivates him is getting into the plants, getting to know them and the people that run them, and talking about ways to operate a plant most safely and efficiently.

The Generation Consulting program follows from the O&M program and involves an annual audit of the electric generating plant, through the LMCIT, conducted by Sewell. The audit also provides an opportunity for utility staff to discuss a variety of generation-related issues with an outside expert.

Sewell has experience with a variety of engine generator sets. He not only knows how engines and electrical systems work, but can find his way around a board room or



text and photo by Steve Downer

Bob Sewell started in the municipal utility industry as a power plant operator. He picked up line work, water and wastewater operations and management along the way, but never forget where he came from. Today he helps municipal utilities across the state as the MMUA Generation Coordinator. This picture was taken in the Glencoe Light & Power electric generating plant.

council chamber.

Sewell served on the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities Board (IAMU) of Directors, and was past president when he 'retired.' He also served on the IAMU Legislative and Regulatory Committee, and chaired the Electric Safety Committee.

Sewell was also a member of the North Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors

for 25 years. He received the American Public Power Association's "Seven Hats" award while working at Milford.

But the 'hat' he is wearing now might be the favorite of his career.

The MMUA/LMCIT partnership has greatly helped many utilities better understand the critical environment of the generation station and equipment, said MMUA Job Training and Safety Director

Mike Willetts.

"We are pleased to be working with somebody as knowledgeable, well-known and well-respected as Bob Sewell," said MMUA Executive Director Jack Kegel. "We expect the work he is doing now will help with the maintenance and operation of public power generation facilities for many years to come."

MMUA's Schmidt earns Certified Safety Pro status

MMUA Regional Safety Coordinator Joe Schmidt has completed all requirements for a Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) certification. This highly respected certification is awarded by BCSP to individuals who meet eligibility criteria and experience in the safety, health and environment (SH&E) discipline, and have passed an examination.

Safety issues have become more complex and today's safety professional must continually be better qualified. BCSP credential holders are among the most highly trained, educated and experienced individuals in the safety field. Having achieved a BCSP certification shows that the individual has mastered the core competency re-

quired for professional safety practice.

BCSP's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Turnbeaugh, CSP, CET, said, "It is critical to maintain competent individuals within the SH&E industry because of the impact they have on the safety of workers and the public."

A certificant must recertify every five years to maintain a certification.

BCSP is a leader in credentialing for safety, health and environmental practitioners. BCSP establishes standards for and verifies competency in professional safety practice and evaluates certifiants for compliance with recertification requirements. BCSP also operates paraprofessional SH&E certifications that provide additional



Joe Schmidt

career paths for safety practitioners.

Schmidt started work with MMUA in October 1998. Prior to that he worked for the Minnesota DNR as a Regional Safety and Health Officer. He received his bachelor's degree from Mankato State University.

Utility coordinating councils weigh in on EPA's 'Clean Power Plan'

Regional entities such as the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) are the right groups to review reliability impacts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan,

panelists said at a Feb. 25 conference.

Representatives from WECC and public power utilities, federal power administrations, public service commissions and other groups

in the West spoke before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at its regional technical conference on the EPA's proposed rule.

The final rule is expected in June.



Providing Services in Civil Engineering, Water, Wastewater, Transportation, Water Resources, Landscape Architecture and Land Surveying.

Fourteen offices serving the Upper Midwest
www.bolton-menk.com



DESIGNING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

ALP Utilities

continued from front page

water. With approximately 2,400 newly annexed, potential water customers along its system this was more than an oversight, it was money on the table.

The utility initially focused on getting new construction customers to hook up to municipal water. Chisholm is now going back to existing customers, to inform them of the benefits of ALP Utilities water service. A growing trend toward connecting shows the strategy is working.

Chisholm also works with Alexandria businesses, to let them know about communications offerings.

"We used to be the best-kept secret in town," Crowser said.

Chisholm agreed that the utility "hadn't really marketed" the fiber service. "Customers just kind of came," she said.

When ALP provided wireless internet service, many people told her that ALP was the provider people just naturally went to.

"Nobody (at the utility) had the mindset, 'We'll have competition,'" she said.

But many businesses, in

the current environment, didn't know the fiber offering was available.

It's not hard to market, she said. It's just not a common thought that the utility offers business internet service.

ALP Utilities differentiates itself by offering fast and reliable service, equal upload and download speeds, 24/7 Alexandria-based support, and no contracts. Costs are affordable. Changes to connection speeds are made promptly.

"We guarantee speeds," said Chan, an Alexandria native who left the local clinic to join the utility in 2011. "Once they hit the internet, it's out of our control, but with the fiber, you get what you pay for."

"We market it, but I guarantee you, a lot of it is word of mouth," Chisholm said. ALP makes sure to deliver the service it is selling. Reliability is expected. When others falter (and some have in spectacular fashion), those businesses often seek out the municipal.

There has been a lot of noise about municipal involvement in telecommunications. ALP took a deliberate route that may have appeared to be the path of least resistance at the time. It has been profitable, Crowser noted. Given a steady erosion of customers connected to cable TV and telephone landlines, the ALP path also appears promising.

"We just supply the pipe," said Crowser. He notes that you can download a movie or an 'app' for voice service. "All you need is a big pipe."

And that is one of the things ALP Utilities is in the business of providing.



Nathan Chan and Megan Chisholm of ALP Utilities enjoy their work, and provide business communications service with smiles.



ELEMENTS OF YOUR SUCCESS

Vision. Value. Passion. Integrity. Relationships. Attitude.

These elements make up the structure of AE2S. What does that mean to you? Extreme client service, trusted relationships, a shared vision for your future, and passion for every project. They all translate into your success.



Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)
Offices located throughout the Upper Midwest and Rocky Mountain Region

www.ae2s.com



WATER ENGINEERING
WASTEWATER ENGINEERING
WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROLS
FINANCIAL SERVICES
ASSET MANAGEMENT
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING



RESCO

Rural Electric Supply Cooperative

RESCO, a member-owned cooperative, is one of the largest full-line distributors of high-voltage electrical products in the Midwest

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

1-800-346-3330 | info@resco1.com
www.resco1.com

P.O. Box 160 | Moorhead, MN | 56561

DGR ENGINEERING



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
- Sectionalizing and Coordination
- Arc Flash Analysis



Rock Rapids, IA 712-472-2531 | Sioux City, IA 712-266-1554 | Ankeny, IA 712-472-2531 | Sioux Falls, SD 605-339-4157

www.dgr.com

Trusted. Professional. Solutions.

Residential electric prices leap upward

Residential electricity customers in most areas of the country experienced large increases in retail electricity prices during 2014, with the average U.S. residential price increasing 3.1 percent over the previous year, according to a March report from the federal Energy Information Administration. The increase represents the highest annual growth rate since 2008.

Regional wholesale electricity markets, at a national level, experienced higher prices. Other reasons commonly cited for higher retail electricity prices are the increased investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure, rising requirements to generate electricity from renewable energy sources, and utility investment in demand-side efficiency.

GET A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR YOUR UTILITY TRUCKS

We service all makes and models



- ANSI and Dielectric testing
- Boom, bucket, and fiberglass repair and refurbishment
- Hydraulic repair
- Paint facility
- Preventive maintenance
- Structural repair
- DOT Inspections

For scheduling, pick-up, and repair, call 763.323.4236.

UTILITY TRUCK SERVICES

UtilityTruckServices.com

ALP Utilities continues to successfully navigate shifting broadband seas

Municipal telecommunications has been a hot-button topic in Minnesota since the advent of the internet. With the Federal Communications Commission recently asserting its authority to strike down what it considers restrictive state laws, the issue is drawing national attention.

Minnesota statute 237.19 requires a 65 percent approval in a referendum for a municipality to operate a telephone exchange within its own borders. Because of this law, Minnesota is often cited as a state with unreasonable restrictions on municipal telecommunications.

Alexandria Light and Power (ALP) has been success-

fully negotiating these shoals for 20 years. ALP partnered with Runestone Electric Association (REA) in 1995, to offer REA-ALP dial-up service. Though an argument could be made that it wasn't necessary, the municipal utility obtained a Certificate of Niche Authority to provide telecom services from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). That turned out to be a positive: the MPUC was cooperative and complimentary of the municipal's efforts.

As technology advanced, REA-ALP offered a wireless internet service. The REA-ALP partnership eventually dissolved, ALP discontinued the dial-up offering and sold

the wireless service to a competitor. ALP did continue selling fiber internet service to businesses.

The state certificate allowed ALP to provide service in the area. REA had facilities outside the city which REA-ALP served. ALP retains service to an REA facility.

ALP Utilities also interconnects and buys and sells bandwidth back and forth with numerous others, and is currently building a "data hut" to co-locate facilities with other providers. ALP Utilities competes with these other providers, said Network Administrator Nathan Chan with a smile, but more bandwidth in the community

is a positive

Throughout the course of its history providing internet service, the utility has diligently developed a fiber optic backbone, which connects its headquarters to key facilities. The fiber network expanded throughout the city over the years as more facilities were connected. Soon, other entities were clamoring to be connected and ALP, ever the good citizen, offered some of its surplus capacity.

The utility's first fiber customer was the school district. ALP fiber now passes most major institutions and businesses in the city. The utility has approximately 80 fiber customers, with several others eagerly awaiting a new

construction season and fiber service.

ALP never borrowed any money to build its fiber system, said General Manager Al Crowser. The service has been profitable, and good for the community.

ALP has lost customers because it didn't offer phone service, but it has no intentions of becoming anything other than a common carrier of digital information.

Chan said the fiber appears to be "future proof."

"You can go to a VOIP (voice over internet protocol) provider to get local phone service and we'll provide our customers the bandwidth needed," Crowser said. "We're sticking with this."

Schoenherr joins SMMPA to lead agency, government relations

Christopher P. Schoenherr joined the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) Jan. 26 as the Director of Agency and Government Relations with a primary responsibility of developing and managing relationships with members, legislators, legislative leadership, regulators and governmental agency staff.

In addition, he oversees communications, human resource functions, demand side management initiatives and non-operations center computer systems. Schoenherr replaces Larry Johnston, who retired from SMMPA after a distinguished career spanning nearly three decades.

Prior to joining SMMPA, Schoenherr served as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Administration for Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. He was Chief Energy Advisor and responsible for a wide variety of government operations.

Prior to his appointment in the Walker Administration, Schoenherr was employed by Alliant Energy and held various positions in communications, regulatory affairs, customer relations and account management. He joined Alliant Energy in June 2000 and was located in both Madison, Wisc., and Washington, D.C.

Schoenherr spent the first 20 years of his career at We Energies in Milwaukee, Wisc., where he was involved in investor relations, system and project development, government relations, communications, infrastructure siting and strategic planning.

On his arrival at SMMPA,

Schoenherr said, "SMMPA has an excellent reputation in the energy business and I am honored to join such a respected organization. I look

forward to working with the SMMPA team to bring value to our members and the communities we are all privileged to serve."

FLEXIBLE BENEFIT ADMINISTRATORS, INC.

Insurance plans for MMUA members

Licensed Insurance Agency and Third Party Administrator

'Providing programs and services to fill all of your employee benefit needs'

Justin Kroeger phone 320-864-3525 Charles J. Kroeger
Justin@flexiblebenefitadmin.com www.flexiblebenefitadmin.com

ENERGY is your **BUSINESS**

Our energy is focused on your supply chain.

For more than 60 years, our employee-owners have supported you by providing the products you need and the services you've come to expect.

Your success is our priority. Contact us today.

BSE BORDER STATES
Supply Chain Solutions™

borderstates.com | 1.800.676.5834

FS3^{INC}

Equipment with REEL life experience!!!



Custom Truck Mount



Deluxe Winder



Self Loading Multi-Bunk

INNOVATIVE Restoration Equipment

Increase efficiency and leave your competition in the dust!



Hydra-Bucket



Skid Loader Hydra-Rake



3pt. Hydra-Rake

WWW.FS3INC.BIZ | PH: 877-274-7223

MMUA announces programs for upcoming Generation, Substation schools

MMUA recently announced its programs for two upcoming trainings: the Generation School, to be held April 14-16 at multiple locations, and the Substation School, to be held April 21-23 in Shakopee.

Generation School

MMUA's annual Generation School will feature expert instructors and hands-on training in the Madelia and Fairmont municipal power plants. The school will also feature a vendor's show at the Holiday Inn Fairmont.

MMUA is partnering with American Public Power Association on this school, along with our host utilities. This school has training for well-seasoned operators or for those just starting in the generation field.

The program begins Tues-

day, April 14 at the Fairmont Energy Station, with: Arc Flash and Why We Do Infrared Inspection of Critical Electrical Systems, by Greg Wollan of American Training & Inspection.

The rest of the afternoon will feature a tour of the Fairmont Energy Station, conducted by Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency staff. This time will also give the municipal operators time to talk and compare notes.

The Product Show/Reception will be held that evening at the Holiday Inn Fairmont.

Reading or being told about a procedure is one thing, but it isn't likely to make perfect sense until a person actually performs a task with a piece of equipment, and that is why Wednesday will concentrate on hands-on training with a



MMUA schools focus on bringing hands-on training to municipal utility personnel. This scene from a previous Generation School, held at the Glencoe Light and Power plant, proves the point

variety of engine types in the power plants.

At the Fairmont plant, Chris Farabee of Farabee Mechanical will lead his group through a Fairbanks Morse vertical drive removal, reinstallation and maintenance.

Selected topics will also be covered on Cooper Bessemer equipment.

Rex Stormer of EXLINE will lead his group through dual fuel engine turbocharger basics. The group will disassemble and reassemble a turbocharger and discuss what problems to look for and examples of those particular problems.

In Madelia, Steve Lang from the Fairbanks Morse factory will share his knowledge, focusing on blower inspection/maintenance.

Thursday brings the group

together at the Fairmont Energy Station.

The day starts with a session on Station Power Batteries/Chargers, presented by Todd Buehler of GNB Industrial Power and Doug Busho of DC Power Solutions LLC. The focus is on safe maintenance, when to equalize, and how to get the most life out of batteries.

MMUA Job Training and Safety Director Mike Willetts will discuss arc protection in the power plant setting and flame-resistant clothing. Job briefings and personal protection equipment will be covered, as well as information transfer and other significant topics.

Operators should have some knowledge of the larger issues affecting their futures, so MMUA Director of Engi-

neering and Policy Analysis Bob Jagusch will bring the group up to date on the EPA 'Clean Power Plan' and Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine rule.

There will be a final chance to get questions answered or explore particular topics, as the assembled speakers will participate in a roundtable discussion to end the program.

Substation School

The annual MMUA Substation School is set for April 21-23, at the city of Shakopee Fire Station 1.

MMUA is partnering on this workshop with APPA, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and Shakopee Public Utilities. This school includes a wide variety of training with five different presenters.

Jeff Kranz of Rochester Public Utilities opens the program Tuesday with a look at the industry's best practice regarding Substation Inspections and Maintenance.

The Tuesday afternoon training ends with an interesting Jordan Transformer tour.

Paul Schlies of Energis High Voltage Resources opens the program Wednesday with a presentation on Substation Equipment Symbols, IEEE Numbers, Substation Design and Switching.

Gary Roskos of Sebesta Inc., follows that with a look at Substation Design Concepts and Equipment Selection. This class will give a good foundation on the many aspects of substation design considerations. This session will be geared toward specific participant needs and will include discussion of specific hazards of the substation environment.

Thursday's half-day program will focus on Substation Demolition and Replacement by Joe Adams, Shakopee Public Utilities. Adams will lead the group through an actual project: demolition of a combination Xcel Energy/SPU substation and the construction of a new, modern, high-tech sub, solely owned by SPU, including challenges, design, equipment and arc flash considerations.

For more complete information on these informative schools, see the full programs in the 'Calendar' section at the MMUA website.

A number of businesses recently joined MMUA as associate members. They include:

Ellingson Companies
56113 State Hwy 56,
West Concord, MN 55985
Phone: 507-527-2294
Toll Free: 800-527-2294
Fax: 507-527-2296
Web: www.ellingsoncompanies.com
Contact: Amber Eustice,
Marketing Manager, aeustice@ellingsoncompanies.com
Directory category: Construction Contractors
Ellingson Companies is a third generation, full-service construction company spe-

**Associate
Member News**

cializing in trenchless technologies. Our specialty is in utility installation and offer a variety of services including: horizontal directional drilling, pipe plowing, cured-in-place pipe repair, pipe ramming, pipe bursting, slip lining and vacuum excavation.

Novel Energy Solutions
25785 Stewart Valley Drive,
Minnesota City, MN 55959
Phone: 715-790-9129
Fax: 507-932-3623

Web: www.novelenergy.biz
Theresa Hebert, Accounts Manager, theresa.hebert@novelenergy.biz
Novel Energy Solutions is a full-service solar energy and lighting efficiency company. NES will develop, install and finance solar electric PV systems to commercial, agriculture, government, non-profit and consumer customers with unique and innovative payment options. Solar energy has never been more affordable and NES can simplify the process for clean energy systems.
category: Energy Producers & Marketers

Utility Sales Associates
930 East Oak Street. Lake in the Hills, IL 60156
Phone: 800-253-6248
Fax: 800-459-8078
Cell: 651-888-1809
Web: www.utilitysales.net
Robb Ziegler, Manufacturers Rep, robb.ziegler@utility-sales.net
Utility Sales Associates was founded in 1991 and represents quality manufacturers all over the Midwest, from Nebraska to Ohio.
category: Equipment & Supplies

LADCO Services, LLC
7820 Galway Cove,
Eden Prairie, MN 55347-1071
Phone: 952-913-3465
Fax: 952-975-0097
John Locher, Owner, jlocher100@earthlink.net
LADCO Services has 30 years of experience in the planning and evaluation of utility conservation and load management programs. The firm has assisted Minnesota electric and gas utilities with the planning, reporting and evaluation of their Minnesota Conservation Improvement Plans (CIP) since 1998. LADCO also offers strategic advice to utilities with respect to operating their programs in a way to minimize costs and rate impacts to their customers.
category: Conservation & Efficiency

O'Shea, Ltd
330 West 47th Street, Ste 203, Kansas City, MO 64112
Phone: 800-669-0903 Fax: 816-531-6569
Email: oshea4@mindspring.com Web: www.osheaemergency.com
Bill Houlehan, President
O'Shea, Ltd is an emergency service company. We can supply you with any equipment you need, during any type of disaster. O'Shea can also provide 1,600,000 water-activated flood prevention bags, should there be a water pipe break.
category: Equipment & Supplies

Power Product Services
510 Boulder Drive, #411,
Duluth, MN 55811
Phone: 720-416-3850
Toll Free: 800-424-1925
Fax: 720-859-4626
Web: www.powerproductservices.com
Eric Laliberte, Regional Sales Mgr, eric@pps-usa.net
Power Product Services, Inc. is a turnkey DC power installation and service company. PPS provides and installs batteries, power bays, inverter systems, cabling and other equipment/materials/service involved in DC power plants. PPS technicians have experience with both new installations as well as complete power bay replacements where hot cuts are required. We work with manufacturers such as Emerson Network Power, Exeltech and GNB Industrial Power to provide the best possible solution

for your DC power requirements.
category: Electric Services

USIC Locating Services, LLC
2632 Happy Valley Road,
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Phone: 608-335-8945
Fax: 317-663-0708
Web: www.USICLLC.com
Edward Dubuc, Business Development Mgr, edwarddubuc@usicllc.com
USIC is North America's leader in providing cost-effective and high-quality utility locating services that protect utility companies' valuable underground infrastructure. We promote a culture centered around safety, quality, efficiency, and reliability, while providing our customers with superior solutions for their utility locating needs.
category: Utility Locating

The Springsted Group

An Independent Financial & Management Advisor to Minnesota Municipal Utilities

Public Finance • Operational Finance
Capital Improvement Planning • Debt Planning
Quantitative Studies • Economic Development
Investment Services • Executive Search
Organizational Management • Human Resources
Strategic Planning • Intergovernmental Facilitation

380 Jackson St., Suite 330 • St. Paul, MN 55101 • 800.236.3033

Los Angeles • Denver • Kansas City • Cleveland • Dallas • Des Moines • Milwaukee • Richmond

Dave A. Berg, PE - Principal
'Dedicated to providing personal service to consumer-owned utilities'

Cost of Service Studies
Utility Rate Design
Contract Negotiations
Utility Education
Expert Testimony
Feasibility Studies

dave@davebergconsulting.com
15213 Danbury Ave W
Rosemount, MN 55068
(612)850-2305
www.davebergconsulting.com

Edward J. Johnson
Origination and Wholesale Markets

414 Nicollet Mall, MP-7
Minneapolis, MN 55401

p: 612.330.5620
f: 612.330.6556

xcelenergy.com edward.j.johnson@xcelenergy.com

PROVEN POWER SOLUTIONS

SALES. SERVICE. RENTAL.

- Prime, standby, and emergency power
- Diesel, natural gas, and low BTU gas
- Mobile and stationary units
- Switchgear and rotary UPS systems
- Portable air compressors and chillers
- Emergency service available 24/7/365
- Preventive maintenance programs on all makes

Shakopee, MN
8050 County Road 101 East
888.320.4292

www.zieglercat.com/power

Professional Services

Classified
Ads



Accountants and Consultants

CLA CliftonLarsonAllen
Advisory ▶ Outsourcing ▶ Audit and Tax

St. Cloud/Brainerd Doug Host Mary Reedy	Austin/Mankato Craig Popenhagen Bradley Carlton	Minneapolis Dennis Hoogveen Chris Knopik
--	--	---

888-529-2648 | CLAconnect.com
©2015 CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

DGR ENGINEERING Providing Quality Engineering for over 60 years!

- Aviation
- Electrical Power
- Civil / Survey
- Water / Wastewater

Trusted. Professional. Solutions.

Rock Rapids, IA 712.472.2531	Sioux City, IA 712.266.1554	Ankeny, IA 515-963-3488	Sioux Falls, SD 605.339.4157
---------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------

email: dgr@dgr.com - website: dgr.com

Attorneys

McGRANN SHEA CARNIVAL STRAUGHN & LAMB CHARTERED

Proudly representing municipal clients

800 Nicollet Mall, Suite 2600
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(t) 612-338-2525 (f) 612-339-2386
www.mcgrannshea.com

DBC DAVE BERG CONSULTING, LLC

David A. Berg, PE – Principal

15213 Danbury Ave W
Rosemount, MN 55068
(612)850-2305
www.davebergconsulting.com

Cost of Service Studies
Utility Rate Design
Contract Negotiations
Utility Education
Expert Testimony
Feasibility Studies

dave@davebergconsulting.com
'Dedicated to providing personal service to consumer-owned utilities'

SPIEGEL & McDIARMID LLP

1875 Eye Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
www.spiegelmc.com

Phone: 202.879.4000
Fax: 202.393.2866
info@spiegelmc.com

WSB & Associates, Inc. solutions | design

wsbeng.com

(888) 541-4800

Electrical Equipment and Suppliers

TRANSFORMERS DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION

T&R ELECTRIC THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE

Modern Rewind Facilities
More than 61 Acres Inventory
Prompt Delivery—Coast to Coast

Complete Outdoor Substations, Circuit Breakers, Regulators, and Switchgear

BUY - SELL - RENT

CALL TOLL-FREE 800-843-7590
FAX 605-534-8361
E-Mail: t-r@tr.com
Internet: www.tr.com

Equipment Manufacturers, Suppliers, Service

PRODUCTS you NEED
SERVICE you EXPECT

Where you need us, when you need us, with 11 Minnesota locations to serve you.

Contact us today.

BSE BORDER STATES Supply Chain Solutions™
borderstates.com | 1.800.676.5834

Engineers and Engineering Firms

AES₂

Think Big. Go Beyond.
ADVANCED ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

www.ae2s.com

FS3 INC. SUPPLY

SALES SERVICE

Utility Construction Materials & Equipment Tools & Safety Products

9030 64th Street NW
PO Box 989
Annandale MN 55302

(320) 274-7223
FAX (320) 274-7205
WWW.FS3INC.BIZ

HDSUPPLY
ALWAYS ON THE JOB.®

We help build your City and keep it running for today & into the future!

For all of your AMI/AMR Water & Electric Metering and Supply needs.

Call us at: 952-937-9666 Online at: www.hdsupply.com

BOLTON & MENK, INC.
Consulting Engineers & Surveyors

Providing Services in Civil Engineering, Water, Wastewater, Transportation, Water Resources, Landscape Architecture and Land Surveying.

Fourteen offices service the Upper Midwest
www.bolton-menk.com

HELP WANTED

Laboratory Operations Director

Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission. RESPONSIBILITIES: perform and supervise all functions required of a state certified laboratory for the analysis of wastewater, provide direct instruction to operating personnel, prepare laboratory/regulatory reports and maintain records. QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum Bachelor of Science degree in biology, environmental sciences, chemistry, engineering or closely related physical or biological science. Applicants will be required to obtain MPCA WWTF Operator's Certificates, Class C, B, A within four years of employment. Please visit www.grpuc.org for a complete position description, wage and benefit summary. APPLICATION PROCESS: Applications are available on the web site or by contacting the Minnesota Work Force Center, 1215 SE 2nd Ave, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, 218-327-4480, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Return completed applications to the Work Force Center. Persons selected for an interview will be required to submit a cover letter, resume, and references. CLOSES: April 17, 2015. Equal Opportunity Employer

Wastewater Treatment Facility Maintenance Foreman

Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission. RESPONSIBILITIES: Responsible for supervising, providing technical assistance and coordinating the efforts for the work of one or more crews engaged in the construction, maintenance and repair of the wastewater treatment facilities systems. Including the preparation of periodic reports, planning, preparing and administering the maintenance management system, and assisting in preparation of department budgets and long term capital investment plan. QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum high school graduate/GED equivalent and successfully completed vocational training through an accredited trade school or technical college in an industrial machinery or equipment maintenance curriculum, or provide documented training in maintenance of industrial machinery or plant equipment and have five (5) years documented experience relating to industrial construction, maintenance and repair. Please visit www.grpuc.org for a complete position description, wage and benefit summary.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Applications are available on the web site or by contacting the Minnesota Work Force Center, 1215 SE 2nd Ave, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, 218-327-4480, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Return completed applications to the Work Force Center. Persons selected for an interview will be required to submit a cover letter, resume, and references. **CLOSES:** April 17, 2015. Equal Opportunity Employer

Public Works Director

The City of Mora is accepting applications for the position of public works director. This full-time position is responsible for professional level management of the city's and utilities' infrastructure. Minimum requirements of a Bachelor's degree in a related subject and five years of related work experience; or an Associate's degree and nine years of experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to perform the essential functions of the position. For more information and required application packet contact: City of Mora, 101 Lake Street South, Mora, MN 55051-1588. Website - ci.mora.mn.us Telephone - (320) 679-1511; E-mail callman@cityofmora.com. Position opened until filled. Applications received by Monday, March 30th will receive priority. Applications by fax or e-mail will not be accepted. The City of Mora is an equal opportunity employer.

Water/Wastewater Superintendent

The City of Le Sueur seeks applicants for the position of Water/Wastewater Superintendent. This position will plan, coordinate, direct and monitor the operations of the Water Utility and the Wastewater Utility. The 2015 salary range for this position is \$65,500 - \$75,250 including an excellent benefits package. Applications will be accepted until 4 pm on Friday, April 3, 2015. All applicants must submit a completed City application, along with a resume and cover letter. Applications and a complete position description are available at the City's website: www.cityoflesueur.com. Applications must be mailed to City of Le Sueur, 203 South Second Street, Le Sueur, MN 56058.

Superintendent

The Sauk Centre Public Utilities Commission is accepting applications for the position of Superintendent. This position will be responsible for the operations of the Electric, Water and Wastewater Departments. The Utility has 2,270 Electric customers, and 1,670 Water-Wastewater customers.

Professional Services

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

1-800-346-3330 | info@resoco1.com | www.resoco1.com
P.O. Box 160 | Moorhead, MN | 56561

Proven Power Solutions
Sales. Service. Rental.
888.320.4292

Energy Services

Delano Municipal Utilities - Energy Services
Paul Twite (763) 972-0557 ptwite@delanomn.us
CIP / DSM Program Deployment & Management
Residential and Low Income Assessments
Industrial Energy Assessments / Green financing solutions
Customer Engagement
Technical and Predictive Maintenance Services:
Infrared Analysis
Compressed Air Studies
Vibration Analysis
Power Quality Testing
Energy Logging, Measurement and Verification

There are 13 full-time employees. The population of Sauk Centre is 4,317. A new water treatment plant was built in 2000 and a new wastewater treatment plant in 2010. The requirements for this position are: Must have at least 5 years of Superintendent-General Manager or other supervisory experience in the Utility Field of Electric, Water or Wastewater or has an accounting degree and has a strong background in supervising and communication. Applications and copies of the job description are available at our office at 101 Main Street/P.O. Box 128 Sauk Centre MN 56378. Applications are due by April 30, 2015.

Purchasing Specialist

Elk River Municipal Utilities is accepting applications for a full time Purchasing Specialist. This position's responsibilities include coordinating materials and equipment purchasing for the electric, water, and technical services departments, and assisting with inventory control and maintenance. Two years of purchasing and inventory-related experience with an understanding of accounting related processes required. Prior experience with utility

accounting and/or billing functions preferred. Please visit our website at <http://www.elkriverutilities.com/pages/employment-opportunities> for a full job description. Salary range is \$17.20 to \$24.57 per hour with excellent benefits. Resumes must be postmarked or received by March 27, 2015. Please submit resume to: Elk River Municipal Utilities, Attn: General Manager, 13069 Orono Parkway, P.O. Box 430, Elk River, MN 55330.

Planning/Public Works Technician

The City of Victoria is seeking an individual who is eager to learn about land development, code enforcement, zoning, infrastructure and natural resource management as a Planning/Public Works Technician. This position will provide administrative and technical support to the community development and public works departments. Key tasks include: providing in person and over the phone customer service, permit processing, coordinating the code enforcement process and completing special projects. Qualifications: Associate's degree (completed or in progress) in planning, urban studies, natural resource management or related field;

Finance

**Debt Issuance
Rate Studies
Strategic Planning**

**Capital Improvements Planning
Economic Development
Alternative Energy Financing**

45 South 7th Street, Suite 2000 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
(612) 851-5900 / (800) 851-2920 www.northlandsecurities.com/public_finance
Member FINRA/SIPC

A complete array of financial and management advisory services

*Planning & Strategy
Funding & Implementation
Managing & Performance*

Springsted

Public Sector Advisors
www.springsted.com
800.236.3033

Truck Repair and Testing

UTILITY TRUCK SERVICES
Let factory-trained mechanics handle all your fleet's annual maintenance and repairs.
• Boom and bucket repair and refurbishment
• Hydraulic and structural repair
• ANSI and Dielectric testing
• After repair center
• DOT inspections
For prompt scheduling, pick-up, and repair, call 763.323.4236
www.UtilityTruckServices.com

one year of experience working in a planning or public works environment is desired. Bachelor's degree preferred. Additional experience may be substituted for education. Position is part-time and anticipated at 25 hours a week. Hiring range is \$14.00-\$18.00 DOQ. For the job application and more information visit www.ci.victoria.mn.us or City Hall, 1670 Stieger Lake Lane, Victoria, MN 55386. Submit applications and resumes by March 31, 2015 at 4:30pm.

Lineperson or Apprentice Lineperson

Lake Crystal Municipal Utilities is accepting applications in the Electric Department for the position of a Lineperson/Apprentice Lineperson. Applicants must be a Journeyman Lineperson or have the ability to work towards becoming a Journeyman Lineperson. Applicants must have a valid MN Class A CDL or the ability to obtain one within 6 months. Pay range \$22.30 to \$31.86 depending on qualifications. Job description and applications are available at City Hall, 100 E. Robinson St, Lake Crystal MN 56055 or on-line @ www.ci.lake-crystal.mn.us Position will be open until March 31, 2015.

For a complete and up-to-date listing, including these additional job openings, see www.mmua.org:

Water Works Operator
Willmar Municipal Utilities

Temporary Groundworker, Electric Department
City of Pierre, South Dakota

Electrical Engineer
Marshal Municipal Utilities (MMU)

Locator
Moorhead Public Service (MPS)

Building Code Official/Zoning Administrator/Engineering Technician
The City of Breckenridge,

WANTED to BUY

Digger Derrick truck
Mountain Lake Municipal Utilities is looking for a late model Digger Derrick truck, with a lifting capacity of 10,000-12,000 lbs. at the 10' reach. If you have one for sale, call Superintendent Ron Melson at 507-427-2999, ext. 6, or 507-822-0212.

Minnesota Supreme Court rules CapX 2020 utilities must 'Buy the Farm'

The Minnesota Supreme Court March 4 ruled in the case of landowners in the path of the Brookings, S.D. to Hampton, Minn., electric transmission line, apparently forcing Great River Energy (GRE) and other utilities participating in the CapX2020 project to buy their entire farm.

The case involves a 218-acre farm in Redwood County. The plaintiffs rent the farm land, which did not contain a home or buildings. GRE acquired an 8.86 acre easement for the line. The farmers argued that Minnesota's 'Buy the Farm' law required the utility to buy the entire farm. The utility objected and said the relationship between the size of easement required and the property involved made exercising the 'Buy the Farm' provisions unreasonable.

The Supreme Court said the size of the purchase isn't a factor in applying the law, which was enacted in 1977, following civil unrest against construction of the UPA-CP (forerunners of GRE) high voltage direct current power line.

"Great River's proposed interpretation of the Buy the Farm statute adds factors to the statute, is inconsistent with the statute's language, and is unsupported by our case law," Chief Justice Lori Gildea wrote in the opinion. She added that the utility's complaints are better directed to the Legislature.

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The CapX2020 projects provide needed transmission capacity to support new generation, including renewable energy. The projects include four 345 kV transmission lines and one 230 kV line.

This is the largest development of new transmission in the upper Midwest in nearly 40 years. The CapX2020 lines are projected to cost more than \$2 billion and cover nearly 800 miles. The four CapX2020 projects in Minnesota have impacted about 2,000 landowners, of which an estimated 40 percent are farms.

The CapX2020 transmission lines will help meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by



text and photos by Steve Downer

Recently-constructed electric transmission facilities are a common sight across Minnesota, through the efforts of the CapX2020 project participants. At left in this picture is the Brookings-Hampton line, east of Marshall. This line was built, in large part, to carry wind power into Minnesota.

2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

The Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV line will expand access to wind resources by adding about 700 MW of capacity to the transmission grid. That line, along with other projects, has the potential to add nearly 2,000 MW of wind capacity to the transmission grid. It is estimated Minnesota needs about 5,000 MW of renewable energy to meet the RES, one of the nation's most aggressive renewable energy laws.

A spokesperson for CapX2020 said it respects the Supreme Court's decision and is reviewing the decision to determine what guidance it provides.

The Supreme Court decision follows on the heels

of a lawsuit by New Prague-area organic dairy farmers, who also invoked the "Buy the Farm" law when part of a CapX2020 power line crossed their property.

The CapX2020 utilities argued that the law didn't apply because their transmission structure would take up less than an acre on the 132-acre farm and that a total purchase would be unreasonable. But the August 2014 Scott County district court ruling said "Buy the Farm" does apply because the power line's presence affects the whole property, which had an estimated value of \$1.4 million.

The parties negotiated a resolution to all issues involved in the proceeding.

It doesn't get any better for Minnesota municipals—APPA National Conference coming to Minneapolis June 5-10

The 2015 APPA National Conference & Public Power Expo takes place June 5-10 in Minneapolis. Conference sessions help you connect to the future as the global energy landscape is changing more rapidly than at any time in the last 40 years, with consequences for markets, geopolitics, and the planet.

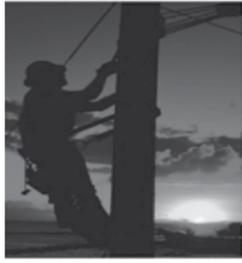
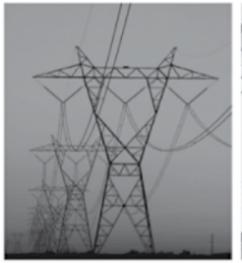
Among the general session speakers is Michael Levi, senior fellow for energy and the environment at the Council on Foreign Relations, shares insights on energy trends shaping the future of the electricity industry. He offers his groundbreaking analysis of what the changes in American energy mean for the economy, national security, and the environment.

Dr. Levi is an expert on climate change, energy security, arms control, and nuclear terrorism. He has testified before Congress and presented expert scientific evidence to the National Academy of Sciences on climate change and nuclear security. His essays have been published in Foreign Affairs, Foreign

Policy, Nature, and Scientific American. His op-eds have appeared in numerous national publications.

Discounted early registration hotel room rates are available (through May 15) and available if you act quickly.

A PROVEN PROVIDER of innovative electrical solutions.
AN INDUSTRY LEADER leading a changing industry.
A SUPPLY CHAIN PARTNER who'll be there for you.


irby

Tool & Safety

- Supporting Rural Utility Systems since 1935
- Full-line Supplier of Utility Products
- Most Extensive Offering of Utility Technical Support Services
- Superior Emergency Support Staff

irby

Tool & Safety

- Tool Supply and Repair
- Rubber Insulating Equipment
- Certified Testing Services
- Arc Flash and FR Clothing Systems
- Custom Grounds and Jumpers

Eagan, MN
763.588.0545

Fargo, ND
800.742.8054

IRBY ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTOR

WE ARE COMMITTED TO BEING YOUR UTILITY PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS PROVIDER.

www.irby.com

HDSUPPLY

WATERWORKS

HD SUPPLY METERING

- **Turn-Key Projects**
Solutions tailored to need as defined by utility requirements, geographic realities and industry best practices.
- **Project Financing**
Access to historically low interest rates.
- **Revenue Benefit Analysis**
What is the true cost and savings of an advanced metering system? The results may surprise you.
- **Technology Consultation**
Our product and metering technology experts stand by to assist you in designing the best possible solution for your utility.
- **Meter Audits**
The rules are changing. With extended flow characteristics of new meters it is often possible to resize meters for higher efficiency, low-flow registration and better revenue capture.
- **Multi-Utility Solutions**
One metering system to read electric, water, and gas - now, that's efficient!

Proud Corporate Sponsor of the MMUA

Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

hdswaterworks.com

24 Hour Emergency Service
Online Services