‘Madelia Strong’

Community works together to bounce back from devastating downtown blaze
by Steve Downer
Jim Maras got the call at 3:15 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 3. Buildings were on fire on Madelia’s main street.

“By the time we got there, it was out of control,” said Maras, the general manager of Madelia Municipal Light and Power.

It was a surreal scene, with heavy snow, howling winds and buildings engulfed in flames. The wind spread the flames but the heavy snow (10 inches fell during the storm) protected other nearby roofs.

Had roofs not been covered with snow, “It would have spread across the street,” Maras said.

Heat was intense. Explosions drove shards of glass through the window of a bank across the street. The flames could be seen for miles.

The fire destroyed eight buildings, most of the north side of one block. Other buildings, still standing, may need to be torn down.

The main electrical panels in the burning buildings were “going off like fireworks,” Maras said. The primary electrical line serving the buildings is on the north side of an alley. The northwest wind blew it away from the overhead electrical lines serving the buildings.

The local line crew cut down the triplex overhead services, to protect the rest of the system and customers. As the flames spread, the crew moved and dropped more services.

As day dawned, rubble smoldered and light snow fell. The electrical crew was back on the scene. A Madelia-owned 69,000 volt transmission line was buzzing loudly.

Insulators were covered with a quarter inch of ice and soot. Moving quickly to forestall any larger problems, the crew took steps to take the line out of service but keep overhead services.

Madelia’s Main Street was quiet Feb. 17, two weeks after a devastating early morning fire that destroyed eight businesses outright and forced the shutdown or relocation of others.

Madelia: see page 7 please

‘Demand response’ payments OK’d federally but not yet in Minnesota

by Steve Downer

The U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 25 ruled the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) acted within its authority to set rates for “demand response” payments to large electricity users that reduced electric use.

In 2009, a coalition of companies, including EnerNOC, asked the FERC to establish market rules that would put the value of demand response on equal footing with compensation for generation. The resulting rules, supporters argued, would encourage customers to be more engaged in energy markets, promote efficiency, and facilitate the broader adoption of demand response.

In Order 745, issued by FERC in 2011, the commission set forth rules on compensating demand response resources in the energy markets run by regional transmission organizations and independent system operators. FERC said that demand response resources participating in an energy market run by a regional transmission organization (RTO) or independent system operator (ISO) must be compensated at the full locational marginal price (LMP) as long as the demand-response resource passed a ‘net benefits’ test. That test will be passed when demand response resources are proven to be a cost-effective alternative to the next highest-bid generation resources, for purposes of balancing the energy market.

The American Public Power Association and a number of other electricity groups told the Supreme Court that FERC lacks jurisdiction under the Federal Power Act to regulate demand response.

Demand Response: see page 4 please

National Leaders

Minnesotans continue to play prominent roles on APPA Policy Makers Council

Gary Nansen of Detroit Lakes and Carol Laumer of Willmar have been named to the American Public Power Association (APPA) Policy Makers Council (PMC).

“We are excited to welcome Laumer and Nansen as members to the PMC and look forward to working more closely with them during their tenure,” said Forrest Sholars, APPA’s Grassroots & PAC Manager. “I am confident that, working together, we can give public power an even stronger voice on Capitol Hill.”

Laumer and Nansen were selected to represent our region for a three-year term. Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz continues to serve on the PMC and is chair.

The PMC is made up of 40 locally elected and appointed officials from public power communities across the country. Its mission is to assist APPA in moving legislation forward that is important to the public power electric utilities nationwide.

The commitment of Laumer and Nansen to public power and full locational marginal price (LMP) as long as the demand-response resource passed a ‘net benefits’ test. That test will be passed when demand response resources are proven to be a cost-effective alternative to the next highest-bid generation resources, for purposes of balancing the energy market.

The American Public Power Association and a number of other electricity groups told the Supreme Court that FERC lacks jurisdiction under the Federal Power Act to regulate demand response.

Demand Response: see page 4 please

MMUA held its annual Basic Metering Pre-Conference and Meter School Feb. 16-19 at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The popular school featured a mix of hands-on and classroom training. Here, Aaron Nelson and Steve Hillenbrand of Willmar Municipal Utilities and Lincoln Hooper of St. Peter Municipal Utilities (from left to right) took a break from their training. For more on the school, see page 6.
Farmers Cooperative subsidiary to provide natural gas service in three cities

by Steve Downer

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Feb. 26 approved a Firm Gas Transmission Agreement between Greater Minnesota Transmission (GMT) and United Natural Gas (UNG), a subsidiary of United Farmers Cooperative (UFC).

GMT will construct approximately 36 miles of new transmission line from its new proposed town border station located on the Hutchinson Gas Transmission intrastate pipeline, near Lafayette. GMT will construct a mainline to transport gas from its town border station to interconnection points with UNG. UNG will operate a distribution system to provide service to the Lafayette, Klossner, and Courtland areas (near New Ulm).

The pipeline will be constructed with mostly 4-inch and some 6-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. All of the HDPE pipe for the project is designed and will be tested and installed to operate at 100 psi. The pipeline will initially operate at 90 psi.

UNG will procure its own gas supply and construction facilities to make retail service available. UNG proposes to purchase its natural gas supply at the Northern Border Pipeline/Hutchinson interconnection. In addition to paying GMT’s transportation rates, UNG will pay Hutchinson’s transportation rates.

Terms of the agreement are substantially similar to those in previously-approved contracts for transport near Twin Valley/Mahnoon, Cannon Falls, Prairie Island, Barnesville, and Ulen, as well as to the proposed contracts for transport to the Beltrami/Forest area and to Red Lake Falls.

The financial terms reflect pricing based on the estimated cost to complete the new construction to transport gas to the new interconnects with UNG, with costs being recovered through both demand charges and commodity charges. UNG is solely responsible for the costs associated with the project.

Pursuant to state law, GMT had to obtain the Commission’s approval of any contract establishing the rates, terms, and conditions of service and facilities being provided by an intrastate pipeline in order for such a contract to be effective.

If UNG wishes to be not regulated by the MPUC, it must file a request for a small natural gas utility franchise exemption. Each participating municipality must issue the utility franchise license for UNG to provide natural gas services in its community.

Chief Justice Roberts denies request to ‘stay’ Mercury and Air Toxics Standards

While the U.S. Supreme Court’s stay on the Environmental Protection Agency’s ‘Clean Power Plan’ has grabbed most of the industry headlines, other issues are also in play. Among those issues is the EPA’s Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule.

A group of 20 states on Feb. 24 petitioned the Supreme Court to stay implementation of the MATS rule. The following day, Chief Justice John Roberts asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide a response to the states’ petition by March 2.

Chief Justice Roberts then, on March 3, denied the request to block enforcement of the MATS rule.

On June 29, 2015, the Supreme Court had determined that EPA had acted unreasonably when it deemed costs irrelevant in making the “appropriate and necessary” finding supporting the rule.

The death of Justice Antonin Scalia earlier this month, observers had noted, could hurt the states’ chances of getting a stay.
Editor’s note: Seventeen governors, including Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, Feb. 16 signed what was titled the Governors’ Energy Accord. Much of this accord deals with electric issues. A shortened version of this accord is included here.

American prosperity has always depended on embracing new ideas and technologies. By deploying renewable, cleaner and more efficient energy solutions, we can make our national economy more productive and resilient. These technologies help to diversify energy sources that power our economy and reduce dependence on foreign energy sources while securing cost-effective ways to integrate renewable energy into our electrical systems.

We recognize that now is the time to embrace a bold vision of the nation’s energy future. And to do so, states are once again poised to lead. We join together, despite unique opportunities and challenges in each state, to embrace a shared vision of this future.

Our states will diversify energy generation and expand clean energy sources. Expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy in a cost-effective way strengthens our states’ economic productivity, reduces air pollution and avoids energy waste. Integrating more of these clean energy sources into our electricity grids can also improve the flexibility and stability of these grids. Promoting energy savings through efficiency policies is the fastest, most reliable and often cheapest way to meet our energy needs. Technologies that capture solar, wind, hydroelectric and geothermal power have become viable and cost-effective to integrate into our states’ energy portfolios. These technologies are already providing energy to millions of Americans while reducing energy waste and air pollution. Amidst decreasing costs of renewable energy, and rapid advances in efficiency throughout entire energy systems, our states will determine the policies for economic, health and environmental benefits.

Our states will modernize energy infrastructure. Modern distribution and transmission grids are required to give consumers more control over their own energy use, increase electricity reliability, and integrate more renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies into our energy systems.

Our states will encourage clean transportation options. Hundreds of thousands of electric vehicles, and tens of millions of vehicles using alternative fuels, are driving on American roads, and fuels such as natural gas, biofuels and hydrogen are increasingly available to power vehicles. By supporting needed infrastructure development, incentives and policies when appropriate, our states will encourage expanded use of these new technologies.

The governors also pledged that their states will: plan for this energy transition; work together to make these transformational policy changes; and help secure a stronger national energy future.

The governors also said federal agencies must work closely with states to tailor technical support, funding and research and avoid presupposing the best types of assistance.

MMUA staff and member representatives advanced the public power agenda at the American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Rally, held March 7-9 in Washington, D.C.

Meetings with senators and congressional staff highlighted the meeting (more on these in next month’s edition). Our main issues include the EPA’s Clean Power Plan, Community Solar, Distributed Generation, Energy Capacity Markets and Tax-Extend Financing. If you would like to find out more about these issues, go to our website.

Our ‘Day on the Hill’ was March 9, when we hosted our senators and House staff. MMUA staff explained generally to our delegation members how certain laws and regulations affect utilities in Minnesota. The members themselves shared their stories of how these issues affect municipal utilities.

Early in the day March 8, the APPA Legislative and Resolutions Committee considered eight resolutions. MMUA and Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) jointly sponsored a resolution in support of Legislative to Address the Technical Flaws in the Source Energy Meth- odology Used by the Department of Energy and Environmen tal Protection Agency.

MRES is also among the sponsors of a resolution in support of Improving the Hydropower Licensing Process.

The time in Washington also included leadership meetings, seminars and a welcome reception.
Demand Response continued from front page

customers or aggregators for curtailing electric consumption, because Congress re-

served that authority to state and local regulators who are responsible for retail matters. APPA joined in the brief with the Electric Power Sup-

ply Association, the Edison Electric Institute, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and various oth-

er groups. A number of hurdles re-

main for demand response advocates, however.

FERC limited its rule on allowing outside aggrega-

tors from soliciting custom-

ers of utilities that distribute less than 4 million megawatt hours annually. And, as far as those utilities are con-

cerned, FERC allows the state or local regulating agency to determine whether it will al-

low outside aggregators. (In response to this, many city councils and utilities commissions in municipal utility cit-

ies have adopted ordinances prohibiting demand response aggregating on their utility systems.)

The Minnesota Public Util-

ities Commission (MPUC) has ruled on the issue several times. In 2010, it prohibited bidding of demand response

into organized electric mar-

kets by aggregators of retail customers (ARCs). On Aug. 31, 2012, it allowed expansion of “cost-effective” demand re-

sponse investments by state-

regulated utilities, including permission to work with ag-

gregators of retail customers (ARCs) “where so doing can expand demand response par-

ticipation, cost-effectiveness, or both.”

Arguing to allow the aggre-

gate demand response in Minnesota were EnerNOC, U.S. Energy Services and the Large Industrial Group. Vari-

ous environmental groups also filed comments, as did the investor-owned utilities.

In joint comments, the utilities noted that “limited information exists regarding the effects of ARCs on prices, reliability, nonparticipating customers, utility operations, and utility-administered de-

mand response programs.”

ARC participation is most commonly found in states with deregulated retail elec-

tricity markets, noted the utilities, who said Minnesota already has “very robust lev-

els of utility demand response participation . . .” Because of this, the utilities said, al-

lowing ARCs into Minnesota markets must be carefully considered “because addi-

tional demand response ben-

efits are uncertain but imple-

mentation costs are virtually guarantee.

The environmental groups asked for comments from the utilities concerning the ability

for demand response to play a role in integrating renewable generation by contributing to ancillary services. These groups, along with EnerNOC, argued that demand response resources could play a larger role in balancing the inter-

mittent nature of renewable energy generation.

The MPUC said it “would not modify its prohibition against ARCs from bidding demand response resources into MISO at this time. The uncertainty surrounding possible negative effects of ARC market participation re-

mains, and there is not yet a concrete proposal that would permit the Commission and the interested parties to ob-

serve and evaluate the effects in a controlled scenario.”

Among MISO states, it noted, only Illinois permits ag-

gregators of retail customers (ARCs) to participate.

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Xcel granted variances from state billing error rules

Editor’s note: Xcel Energy has recently requested and received permission for vari-

ances from state billing error regulations in this area when considering their own policies. In addition, the circumstances around the particular errors may be instructive for other utilities to consider.

The Minnesota Public Util-

ities Commission (MPUC) Feb. 12 approved two var-

iances. In the first case, ‘Customer A’ contacted the company, Aug. 14, 2015, after discover-

ing there were not receipts for their (load manage-

ment) Saver’s Switch. The customer requested a Saver’s Switch in May 2007, but the installation was canceled by the third party electrician because the customer’s gate was

locked and the electrician could not access the property. The customer later granted access to the electrician the Saver’s Switch was installed in July 2007.

The Saver’s Switch order was canceled in the compa-

ny’s system, but completed in the field by the third party electrician. No paperwork was provided to the company confirming the installation; therefore, Xcel was unaware that a Saver’s Switch had been installed. The error was corrected on October 9, 2015, and Xcel requested to credit the customer back to July 3, 2007, the date the Saver’s Switch was installed.

The second case also in-

volved a mix-up with load management switches. In Oc-

tober, 2015, it was discovered that a third party electrician must have erred in 2010 when he concluded that two switches had been removed from the Company’s system. The error was corrected and the company requested to credit the customer back to June 1, 2010—the start

of the Saver’s Switch control season, and the first bill cycle that was affected by the re-
moval of the Saver’s Switches from the customers’ systems. Because the period over which these errors occurred exceeded the three-year time-

frame identified in Xcel’s Electric Rate Book and the MPUC’s Billing Errors Rule, a onetime variance to the rules and tariff provisions was required to provide an additional credit to the affect-

ed customers.

In October 2015, the com-

pany applied for a variance in three cases. One credit variance totaled over $4,000, another over $2,400 and for a total of over $15,000.

In each case, discovery of the error followed a high bill complaint.

In the most unusual case, the company received a complaint, the company exchanged me-

ters and discovered that ‘Cus-


tomer C’ and another cus-


tomer located in another city were being charged for each

Demand response incorporated into MISO wholesale markets

While the prospects for demand response remain some-

what murky in Minnesota, the Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO) has been working to incorporate demand response into wholesale electric markets.

MISO provides open-access transmission service and monitors the high voltage transmission system throughout the Midwest and South and in Manitoba, Canada, and op-

erates one of the world’s largest real-time energy markets.

MISO said it has, over the past five years, been working through the ‘Demand Response Working Group’ to incorpo-

rate Demand Response Resources (DRRs) into its market. “DRRs participate in our market and help lower the cost of energy for all consumers.” DRRs can qualify as planning resources to be used to meet a Mar-

ket Participant’s Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) require-

ments.

MISO notes on its website that with Order 745, “the FERC set out a rationale describing the market conditions under which reductions in load provide net benefits to the energy market.” Pursuant to that Order, MISO developed a methodology to determine the required monthly price threshold.

Among MISO states, it noted, only Illinois permits ag-

gregators of retail customers (ARCs) to participate.

Variance: see facing page
Policy Makers: continued from front page

their experience with the political process will be a great asset to the PMC, said APPA.

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Nansen is a Professional Civil Engineer with diversified experience in engineering and municipal consulting, serving as the appointed Detroit Lakes City Engineer since 1992. He has more than 32 years of experience in planning, design, management and supervision of municipal projects. He was principle

Varience: continued from facing page

other’s usage due to their meter numbers being switched in the billing system. The meters were corrected in the system which lowered Customer C’s consumption substantially, due to the fact that the customer located in the other city owns a hot tub and heated pool. The other customer was back-billed for the allowable one-year period.

In the other two cases, customers were overcharged due to an incorrect application of a rate schedule.

Minn. R. 7820.3800 governs errors related to electric bills, and provides in part:

When a customer has been overcharged ... as a result of incorrect reading of the meter, incorrect application of rate schedule, incorrect connection of the meter, application of an incorrect multiplier or constant or other similar reasons, the amount of the overcharge shall be refunded to the customer... the utility shall calculate the difference between the amount collected for service rendered and the amount the utility should have collected for service rendered, plus interest, for the period beginning three years before the date of discovery...

If the date the error occurred can be fixed with reasonable certainty, the remedy shall be calculated on the basis of payments for service rendered after that date, but in no event for a period beginning more than three years before the discovery of an overcharge...

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Community Development
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Energy
Environmental
FundStar™
Land Development
Lighting Design
Mining
Planning
Right-of-way Services
Surveying
Transportation
Wastewater
Water

Policy Makers:

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MMUA held its annual Basic and Advanced Meter Schools at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The Basic Meter Pre-Conference was held Feb. 16-17 and the Meter School Feb. 17-19. A total of 44 students attended the Pre-Conference and 60 the Meter School. Thirty-four Minnesota municipal utilities and one South Dakota municipal participated, along with 10 electric cooperatives.

The Basic Pre-Conference was aimed at personnel with little metering experience. Topics included Single Phase Meters, Meter Safety, Mounting Meter Sockets, Single Phase Socket Wiring, Troubleshooting and Power Theft.

The Meter School used a combination of self-corrected exams, interactive classroom and hands-on training to present and reinforce the instruction. A favorite of the school is a troubleshooting challenge, where instructors create problems or re-create problem scenarios encountered by the utility and students work through issues to solve the problem. Questions and answers were an ongoing part of the school.

Flexibility was also built in, to allow students to progress at a pace that fit their abilities.

Instructors included Larry Chapman of Chapman Metering, along with a number of his staff people. They were joined by Scott Murfield, who has 30 years in the electric utility business and holds certifications for Journeyman Lineman, Journeyman Electrician and Loss Control Professional. Most recently, he was Regional Safety Coordinator for MMUA until his retirement.

The class included an evening Metering Product Show at a Marshall hotel, and a variety of classroom and hands-on training.

Stray voltage ruling stands

The Minnesota Court of Appeals Feb. 22 affirmed a jury decision in a lawsuit over stray voltage that awarded Pine River dairy farmers $6.3 million in damages.

The appeal was filed by Crow Wing Power, which was found negligent in October 2014.

The damages awarded to the complainants makes theirs the largest verdict in a stray voltage case in Minnesota history.
Main street in Madelia as it appeared in happier times, April 15, 2015. The appearance of its main thoroughfare, with not one empty storefront, has been a point of pride for Madelians.

Clean-up costs will be shared based on square footage. There were no deaths or injuries. Cause of the fire had not been determined as of this writing. Along with Madelia Fire Department personnel, crews were on the scene from Butterfield, Hanska, Lake Crystal, La Salle, Lewisville and St. James.

Relief effort underway

The Madelia Chamber of Commerce noted that there “has been an overwhelming outpouring of support” in the wake of the fire. Several organizations are involved. Madelia Strong, a local non-profit, has contributed and is working with Region 9 Area, Inc. and the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). Most of that work by the business people is actually to help other businesses, he noted.

Emergency generators

The American Public Power Association (APPA) March 3 reminded its members that owners of emergency generators used in emergency demand response programs, or operated to respond to local reliability, electrical grid voltage, or deviation issues, are required to submit an electronic report to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by March 31, 2016.

On May 1, 2015, the D.C. Circuit vacated provisions of the reciprocating internal combustion engine (RICE) rule allowing RICE engines to operate for up to 50 hours per year to mitigate local transmission and/or distribution limitations in a local area or region. The DC Circuit subsequently granted EPA’s request for a voluntary remand of these provisions to EPA. APPA Regulatory Affairs and Engineering Services staff continues to work with stakeholders to explore approaches that would allow limited emergency operations for reliability reasons, as EPA moves toward issuing a new proposed rulemaking. We anticipate EPA will issue a draft rule in the Spring of 2016. APPA plans to comment on the proposed rule once it is issued.

The report form can be accessed through EPA’s Central
Austin Utilities effectively tells customers about logo change

Austin Utilities is preparing to move into a modern new facility located in Austin's industrial park just north of I-90. The utility has also unveiled a new logo. The old logo was around as long as anybody could remember. Even veteran staff members aren’t sure how it originated. The utility is excited about its new building, new logo and its new tagline – Connections for Better Living. “As a municipal utility, we believe this is at the heart of our business,” said an article in a utility newsletter. “Not only making connections through our electric, natural gas and water services, but also connection charges to the customer.

Growing demand in Rochester is spurring a $44 million, 13.1 mile expansion of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) natural gas pipelines. The improvement will meet an increase in demand created in part by $6 billion Destination Medical Center plans. The project is designed to meet an almost 20 percent increase in demand during the next 10 years.

The proposed route mostly follows existing roads and pipeline. MERC has applied for 13 air permits and 13 wastewater permits. The project will be interconnected with the Shakopee Public Utilities Commission.

Rates are increasing in Shakopee for residential sanitary sewer, storm water drainage and electricity. The wastewater increase is due to an increase in treatment costs. The residential electric increase involves the monthly service rate increasing from $8 to $9 per month. Commercial and industrial electric customers will see a monthly increase, which will vary depending on customer class.

The City of Windom Municipal Utility Commission has approved an electric rate increase of 3.5 percent. The rate change followed receipt of an electric rate study. Among the reasons for the change: loss of a large customer, increased wholesale power costs and capital expenditures, including a substation improvement project.

The Brainerd Public Utilities Commission has approved an economic development rate, which gives large users a rate discount during their first five years as BPU customers. The rate applies to general service demand and large light and power class customers. The costs of the discount will be divided among the other customers in the specific rate classes. The rate discount is expected to benefit BPU by bringing in new customers and improving load factor.

The Jackson City Council has approved a rate class for electric customers whose peak demand exceeds 40 kilowatts, but whose usage is for sports facilities at which lighting is only used after 6 p.m. (off-peak hours). The rate was set at $0.17 per kilowatt-hour with a $24 monthly service charge. The new rate class was recommended by the local public utilities commission.

The Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission has approved an amendment to the master development plan for the master development rate, which gives large users a rate discount during their first five years as BPU customers. The rate applies to general service demand and large light and power class customers. The costs of the discount will be divided among the other customers in the specific rate classes. The rate discount is expected to benefit BPU by bringing in new customers and improving load factor.

The City of Windom Municipal Utility Commission has approved an electric rate increase of 3.5 percent. The rate change followed receipt of an electric rate study. Among the reasons for the change: loss of a large customer, increased wholesale power costs and capital expenditures, including a substation improvement project.

The Brainerd Public Utilities Commission has approved an economic development rate, which gives large users a rate discount during their first five years as BPU customers. The rate applies to general service demand and large light and power class customers. The costs of the discount will be divided among the other customers in the specific rate classes. The rate discount is expected to benefit BPU by bringing in new customers and improving load factor.

The Jackson City Council has approved a rate class for electric customers whose peak demand exceeds 40 kilowatts, but whose usage is for sports facilities at which lighting is only used after 6 p.m. (off-peak hours). The rate was set at $0.17 per kilowatt-hour with a $24 monthly service charge. The new rate class was recommended by the local public utilities commission.

The Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission has approved an amendment to the master development plan for the master development rate, which gives large users a rate discount during their first five years as BPU customers. The rate applies to general service demand and large light and power class customers. The costs of the discount will be divided among the other customers in the specific rate classes. The rate discount is expected to benefit BPU by bringing in new customers and improving load factor.
The company is located at 155 W Nationwide Blvd, Suite 500, Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-583-6406 / Fax: 614-583-1611

American Electric Power Energy Partners, Inc.
Established in 1906, American Electric Power ranks among the nation’s largest generators of electricity, owning nearly 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity as well as the nation’s largest electric transmission system. AEP Energy Partners, Inc. (AEPEP) is a subsidiary of AEP and one of the nation’s leading power suppliers. AEPEP’s main emphasis is to serve the municipal and cooperative wholesales segment. AEPEP offers numerous power supply products, including full and partial requirement contracts. AEPEP can craft power supply contracts to match our customer’s specific needs. Contact: Vince Findley, Managing Director, Energy Marketing vfindley@aepes.com

The company has been providing SNG solutions and service since 1994!

Possible solutions and service include:

- Utility Energy Systems
- AEP Energy Partners
- AEPEP

Contact: Vince Findley, Managing Director, Energy Marketing vfindley@aepes.com

Don’t have capacity to serve that new customer?

Utility Energy Systems
952-767-7464
www.utilityenergysystems.com
Sales. Service. Rental.

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians has signed an agreement with the Winkelman Building Corp., Innovative Power Systems Inc. and the Olson Energy Corp., for a three-phase solar development. According to information from Red Lake officials, the first phase consists of developing between $20-$30 million in solar energy installations on various buildings, including Seven Clans Casinos in Red Lake, Thief River Falls and Warroad, as well numerous other facilities. Phase two of the project will focus on the development of solar energy farms on ceded lands, equating to 40-100 acres of solar panels. Also envisioned is solar energy training for a future workforce, and a plan to develop a plant, which will produce solar equipment for general as well as specific jobs for the Red Lake Nation.

Around:
continuing from facing page
agreement with Essar Steel and the city council. The agreement allows Essar to split a $300,000 service fee and the city council. The agreement allows Essar to split a $300,000 service fee that it owes the city annually into quarterly payments.

The city of Menomonie is among the utilities that have approved replacing a number of street lights along Hwy. 61 with light emitting diode lights, which are expected to last longer and use less electricity.

Adrian Public Utilities is among the utilities that communicate regularly with its customers. In a recent newspaper article, finances and improvement projects were discussed. The article also pointed out that in the decade between 2005-2014, purchased power costs increased 113 percent.

No local rate increase is planned for 2016, but it appears the same cannot be said for 2017.

The Mahnomen city council held a special work-shop session Feb. 16 at which Otter Tail Power Company made a presentation regarding its request for renewal of the city’s electric distribution franchise. City officials have met with representatives from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to discuss a grant application to conduct a feasibility study for a municipally-owned electric utility.

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

John Nuckols
John@UtilityEnergySystems.com
612-298-6710 Cell
651-763-8868 Office

The company has recently been joined by a number of new associate members. These include:

Anister, Inc.
Anister, Inc. is a premier distributor of electrical products servicing the utility, industrial, contractor and OEM industries. Product offerings include transformers, line hardware, wire and cable, connectors, MRO products as well as a wide variety of tools. Contact person is Chris Bollinger, Manager of Alliance Development, Central. He can be reached at Cell: 816-806-8537 Email: chris.bollinger@anister.com
The company is located at: 4000 Kansas Ave Kansas City, Kansas 66106 Branch 3442 Office: 913-202-6945

Associate Members

City of Plankinton
102 South Main St Box 517 Plankinton, SD 57368 Phone: 605-942-7926 / Fax: 605-942-7021 www.plankinton.com Contact: Vern Hill, Utilities Superintendent Direct: 605-942-7767 vern@plankinton.com
City of Wessington Springs Electric Dept.
101 Wallace Ave South Box 443 Wessington Springs, SD 57382 Phone: 605-539-1691 / Fax: 605-539-0249 Contact: Roger Larson, Electric Superintendent wessprsd@heartlandpower.org
City of Austin
1504 Main St Box 296 Austin, TX 78701 Phone: 512-948-8800 Contact: Austin Utilities Board www.austinwater.com Contact: Seth Hooker, Utilities Director Direct: 512-948-8400 / Fax: 512-948-8479 Seth@AustinUtilities.org

City of Red Lake
200 North Main PO Box 265 Parker, SD 57051 Phone: 605-297-4443 / Fax: 605-297-2419 www.parker10.org Contact: Adam Jans, Finance Officer financeofficer@parker10.org

Mahnomen city
Met with representatives from various buildings, including Seven Clans Casinos in Red Lake, Thief River Falls and Warroad, as well numerous other facilities. Phase two of the project will focus on the development of solar energy farms on ceded lands, equating to 40-100 acres of solar panels. Also envisioned is solar energy training for a future workforce, and a plan to develop a plant, which will produce solar equipment for general as well as specific jobs for the Red Lake Nation.

March 2016 The Resource/9
Training Ctr. Coordinator (Journeyman Lineman)
If Lineworker safety and training is your passion and you want to take your skills to the next level, here is your opportunity. The Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association is accepting applications for Training Center Coordinator. The MMUA training center is located in Marshall, MN with the primary focus of high voltage lineworker and natural gas technical training. Responsibilities are to supervise day to day operations, plan and organize training activities, work with committees, vendors and suppliers. The training center coordinator may be asked to travel to electric utilities located in the northwestern and south central parts of Minnesota to facilitate technical electrical training. Applicants must possess a strong background in power linework, OSHA compliance and possess strong teaching skills. Applicant must have strong technical lineworker and organizational skills. Salary DOE. Application deadline March 11. Apply to: Mike Willetts, MMUA, 3025 Harbor Lane N., Suite 400, Plymouth, MN 55447.

City Administrator
City of Rushford (1,786), located in Southeastern Minnesota, is accepting applications for the position of City Administrator. Full service community: airport, ambulance, fire, police, library, EDA, electric, water and sewer utilities. Responsibilities include serving as chief administrative officer, economic development and carrying out the directives of the City Council. Collaborative, consensual building management style for communication between the City Council, department heads and boards, commissions and contractors. Minimum qualifications: bachelor’s degree with coursework in public administration, planning, community development, business, finance or a related field and five years of professional public sector experience in administration, planning, community development, business, finance or a related field. Master’s degree in one of the above fields may substitute for two years’ experience. Salary range $59,881 to $90,324. DOQ, plus benefits. Contact Rushford City Hall, PO Box 430, Rushford, MN 55971 at 507-864-2444 for application and/
or information on selection process. Application and supporting documentation also available at www.rushford.

Director of Finance
Willmar Municipal Utilities is seeking a self-motivated individual for the Director of Finance position. The Director of Finance (DOF) position performs a variety of complex supervisory, professional, administrative, and technical tasks which involve all aspects of the financial, accounting, and HR functions of the utility. Minimum Qualifications: Graduate from an accredited four-year college/university with a degree in accounting, finance, or a closely related field or a two-year degree with at least ten (10) years of experience in the utility industry with proven technical and administrative abilities with progressively greater responsibilities. Prefer advanced education such as CPA or MBA, but applicable experience will be a major component of the selection process. For additional details, see www.wmu.willmar.mn.us. Direct all correspondence to Beth Mattheisen at mattheisen@ wmu.willmar.mn.us.

Business Manager-Utilities
The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of New Ulm, MN (pop. 13,500) is currently seeking a full-time Business Manager—Utilities who will be responsible to the Mayor and directly oversee the operations of our five utility divisions: water, steam, wastewater treatment, electric distribution, electric, and natural gas. Our utility, with an annual budget of $42M, requires demonstrated leadership, organizational, communication, and personnel management skills, as well familiarity with the technologies associated with the utilities industry. A Bachelor’s degree in business administration, public administration, engineering, or a closely related field and extensive supervisory and managerial background in government or private sector utility environment are required. This position provides a compensation range of $113,080.60 to $118,705.60 and an excellent benefit program. New Ulm, “the City of Charm and Tradition,” is nestled just 90 miles southwest of the Twin Cities in the heart of the Minnesota River Valley. New Ulm is the county seat of Brown County. Residents enjoy a sound economy with a variety of industries and a solid agricultural base. The City is remarkable for its excellent public and parochial schools, a private college, a vibrant retail presence, comprehensive medical care, and numerous recreational opportunities. Major employers in New Ulm include Kraft Foods, 3M, New Ulm Medical Center (Allina Health), Independent School District 88, J & R Schugel Trucking, and the Department of Natural Resources. Other prominent companies include ILPEA Industries, Associated Milk Producers, Hy-Vee, and MRCI Vocational Rehabilitation. Submit resume and completed application to: Human Resources Office, 100 N. Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073 or email personnel@ci.new-ulm.mn.us. To learn more, download an application, and for the full job description visit us at www.ci.new-ulm.mn.us or call 507-359-8236. Application deadline is 4:30 PM on March 11th. EOE

Public Works Director
City of Hermantown seeks a full-time professional Public Works Director. Advanced technical work overseeing the Public Works Department. Position performed under the direction of City Administrator. Departmental supervision over personnel. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor’s degree from four-year college or university; two to four years related experience or equivalent combination of education and experience. Knowledge of municipal street, water and sewer facilities, occupational hazards and necessary safety precautions; review and analyze plans and specifications for the construction of public facilities; formulate safe operational policies and procedures; ability to maintain records and technical reports; supervise work of subordinates; establish effective working relationships with elected officials, developers, inspectors, contractors and the general public. Starting salary $72,905 plus fringe benefits. City job application and resume. Applications are available at hermantownm.
com and Governmental Services Building, 5105 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811 (218) 729-3600. Applications will be accepted until a job offer has been made. E.O.E.

Temporary Groundworker
Salary: $17.00/hr.
May 1st - October 15th
Open until filled.
DUTIES: Ability to follow oral or written instructions; Safely assist crews in the installation, maintenance and trouble-shooting of underground distribution, street light and traffic light systems; Ability to do heavy manual labor, including operating shovels, jackhammers, manually pulling wire, etc.; Ability to operate heavy equipment such as diggers, trenchers, bucket trucks, etc.; Install cabinets, conduit and cables in underground trenches, etc.; Make electrical terminations both primary and secondary; Work well with City employees, workers from other utilities, customers and the general public; Work overtime in times of demand; Adhere to all City policies, procedures and safety regulations.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
High school graduate or GED; Completion of 1st year of vocational training in the field of Power Lineworker or at least one year experience in power line maintenance and construction. Must have a valid Class A CDL with airbrakes. Possess physical strength, flexibility and mental capacity to safely perform the duties of the position. Please complete electronic application - www.cityofpierrre.org

For a complete and up-to-date listing, see the News/ Classifieds section at www.
mnu.org

February 2016 The Resource/11
The American Public Power Association (APPA) will hold its Engineering & Operations Technical Conference April 19-21 in Minneapolis. The three-day event will be held at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency on Nicollet Mall.

The national meeting will have a decidedly local flavor. Former Rochester Public Utilities General Manager John Miner, will present on several topics, including Maintenance of High Voltage Electrical Distribution Systems. Miner is currently president of Collaborative Learning, Inc.

MMUA’s Bob Jagusch and Larry Koshire, retired General Manager, Rochester Public Utilities, will speak on Environmental Then and Now: It’s Not Your Parents’ Power Company. You are invited to join this discussion of current and future regulations and how they impact the evolution of our industry.

You will also have an opportunity to shape one of public power’s most critical resources: The APPA Safety Manual. Engage in robust dialogue with members of the Safety Manual “SMRT Force” committee, including Mike Willett, MMUA Director of Job Training & Safety. Your ideas will help inform the update of the 16th edition of the APPA Safety Manual.

No current meeting would be complete without a look at the Clean Power Plan and how it might change the way utilities do business. Doug Scott of Minneapolis, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Great Plains Institute, will be among those discussing the implications of the CPP with experts and colleagues. Get up to speed on federal and state implementation plans. Hear how other states and regions are preparing for the new performance standards.

Public power utilities continue to see employees they’ve trained—with much effort and cost—leave for higher paying jobs in other sectors of the industry. How can you stop the exodus? Get some ideas during a session on Best Practices in Workforce Development and Retention, led by Troy Adams, General Manager, Elk River Municipal Utilities. Discover how other utilities are managing workforce issues and trying out new ideas to retain valuable staff.

Big renewable generation projects by larger utilities offer the opportunity to bring new processes and capabilities to the table. The session will include presentations by Scott Magnussen, Superintendent, Brainard Public Utilities and Ray Walhe, FE, Director, Power Supply & Operations, Missouri River Energy Services.

For a complete program and information, see the APPA website.

Legislative Rally — Tuesday, April 19

MMUA’s Legislative Rally is the municipal utility industry’s big opportunity to inform and influence state lawmakers. The 2016 Legislative Session will be unique in many ways. The State Capitol (without running water and restrooms) is closed to the public; the only legislative activities that will take place in the Capitol building are House floor sessions. It is also the first session when the new Minnesota Senate Building will be open—Senate floor sessions will be held in a temporary chamber in the new building.

With the disarray of construction, new facilities, and a short session, it’s especially important that MMUA make an impact. A strong turnout will ensure that our message is heard.

Given the unique nature of this session, and to address the time many members are already committing to the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo, MMUA has switched our typical three-day legislative conference to a one-day legislative rally. The day will begin with a briefing and lunch at the Embassy Suites in downtown St. Paul. From there, members will spend the afternoon visiting legislators.

Substation School — April 19-21

MMUA is pleased to partner with the American Public Power Association (APPA), Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and Shakopee Public Utilities to present and host the 2016 Substation School. This school is designed to be beneficial to the substation technician as well as the lineworker that is learning more about substations.

Tuesday, April 19
Substation Inspections & Maintenance by Jeff Kranz, Rochester Public Utilities Shakopee Substation Tour by SPU staff

Wednesday, April 20
Fundamentals of Substation Equipment and Control Systems by Andrew Kachmarkas, Power Systems Engineering The ‘In’s and Outs’ of Substations by Dave Thom, East Central Energy

Thursday, April 21
LTC and Regulator Theory, Proper Settings and Operations by David Aldrich, Beckwith Electric Company Substation Demo and Replacement by Joe Adams, Shakopee Public Utilities Closing Comments and Wrap-Up

For more information, see the ‘Events/Calendar’ section at www.mmua.org and click on the Substation School event.

The School will begin at 1 p.m. Tuesday and end at noon Thursday. It will be held at Shakopee Fire Station No. 1. If you have questions regarding the program and its content, contact Mike Willett at mwilletts@mmua.org or 612-802-8474. Participants earn hours for attendance and a certificate of achievement will be available online.

Lineworkers Rodeo comes to Canterbury Park April 2

The Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo will be held Saturday, April 2 at Canterbury Park in Shakopee. The event, which is being held in conjunction with the APPA E&O Technical Conference, is free and open to the public.

The opening ceremony begins at 8 a.m. The competition set to begin at 8:30 a.m., and is expected to be complete by mid-afternoon.

Hundreds of participants are expected at the event, which concludes with a well-attended evening banquet. Journeymen lineworkers will compete in five events, all of which involve climbing utility poles. The most interesting event to the casual observer is probably the ‘Hurtman Rescue,’ where teams safely lower a lifesize mannequin from the top of a pole to the ground.

Apprentices also have five events, including a written test and obstacle course.

The event was established by the American Public Power Association in 2001 and is the foremost showcase of public power lineworker skill and knowledge. A number of events will be held in conjunction with the competition. An on-site vendor expo will be held under a circus-like ‘big top’ tent.

There will also be public power displays, a children’s area with a number of activities, rest areas and a variety of food vendors. MMUA and Shakopee Public Utilities are hosts.

Also Upcoming

Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo April 2
Canterbury Park, Shakopee

APPA Engineering & Operations Technical Conference April 3 - 6
Minneapolis

Substation School April 19-21

Underground School May 17-20

Public power lineworkers compete at the rodeo for professional recognition. Journeymen and apprentices each compete in five events.