

Municipal utilities converge to build lineworker rodeo grounds



photo by Steve Downer

Approximately one-quarter of Minnesota's municipal electric utilities contributed to the effort to construct the grounds for the 2016 Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo. The site is at Canterbury Park in Shakopee. The construction event was months in the planning and occurred the week of Oct. 12-16. The Rodeo will take place April 2, 2016.

by Steve Downer

Minnesota's municipal electric utilities flexed their muscles the week of Oct. 12-16, coming together to build the grounds for the 2016 Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo.

MMUA and Shakopee Public Utilities (SPU) are working together to host the event. They received a gratifying response to their call for help in building the line field.

Approximately one-quarter of the state's 125 municipal electric utilities sent linemen, equipment and materials. It was only the second time in the 15-year history of the event that the construction of the grounds was undertaken by a group, and by far the largest number of participating utilities.

Rodeo: see page 7 please

MMUA
3025 Harbor Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55447
763.551.1230

The RESOURCE

Official Publication of the
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association



November
2015

Volume 23, No. 10

Periodicals
Postage
PAID
at
Twin Cities, MN

Inside
Stories

MMUA Sponsors
Signing-up
Now!
page 2

Around
the
State
page 9

T&O
Conference
Program Set
page 12



RS Fiber project rolls out services

The RS Fiber project is plowing ahead.

The first 'beta' customers are taking the fiber optic internet, voice and cable TV service. Plans call for fiber to be extended to most of the cities within the project footprint by the end of the year. Wireless service will cover the rural areas until the fiber system is fully built out, which is projected to happen in 2018.

The RS Fiber Cooperative includes 10 cities and 17 townships, clustered around Renville and Sibley counties, that voted to join the project. They formed a joint powers agreement to sell a bond and make an economic development loan to the cooperative. The cooperative will make the bond payments on behalf of the cities and townships. A private entity will operate the network.

RS Fiber retained Hiawatha Broadband Communications, an internet service provider headquartered in Winona, to oversee all network buildout, operations and marketing. A fiber backbone will connect the 10 cities.

The fiber is going in underground but there is no missing the RS Fiber building in downtown Winthrop, which operates a municipal electric utility.

A new drug store failed a few years ago but the brick building was eventually acquired by the cooperative and is now being re-fitted and will serve

RS Fiber: see next page please

Development spurs Spring Valley utility improvements

by Steve Downer

Spring Valley Public Utilities is planning for growth. It seems a prudent course. The city of approximately 2,450 is located 27 miles south of rapidly-growing Rochester.

Growth won't happen unless the power is there. Spring Valley Superintendent Stuart Smith and his three-member commission are doing what they can to make sure it will be.

Spring Valley has been served, since the inception of electric service in the city, with a 2400-volt 'delta' electric distribution system. Poles, wire and transformers have been replaced over time, but that voltage remained. It was economical and performed well on Spring Valley's short distribution circuits.

The city has grown over time. Newer subdivisions received their electric service underground, and the voltage in these areas is 7,200.

The utility knew it would have to upgrade voltage someday. The development that tipped the scale is a newly-developing industrial park on the north side of the city, just off Highway 63. The utility has to push the power to the industrial park, and a study confirmed that it would need a higher voltage system.

The Spring Valley Public Utilities Commission has approved a new substation and complete distribution system voltage upgrade to 12,500 volts. A number of decisions remain, including whether or not to bury all the lines, including main feeders. The upgrade will occur in phases. The first phase will include the north half of the city. The utility anticipates working with a contractor to build the system.



The entryway to the Spring Valley Public Utilities power plant, built in 1936.

The project is estimated to cost \$4.5 million. To help pay for it and to cover increasing wholesale costs among other expense items, the commission has approved an 8.5 percent electric rate increase through 2016. Another increase, possibly 5 or 6 percent, could come the following year. A rate study is planned within 18 months.

"It's going to be interesting," Smith said. Along with Smith, utility staff includes two office people and five linemen (all journeymen). Two of the linemen double as plant operators. Like Smith, all are local

Spring Valley: see page 8 please

RS Fiber

continued from front page

multiple purposes. (There is another RS Fiber building in Gaylord, the Sibley County seat, and largest city in the project footprint with a population of 2,275.)

In 2018, plans call for RS Fiber to ask the cities to pass another bond to finance the remaining buildout to take

in surrounding farmlands. In total, the entire network will cover over 600 miles and 2,500 farm sites.

RS Fiber is offering several service packages. One gigabit internet service, plus phone and digital video, is available for \$204 a month. For residential customers, up to 50 Mbps service is available for \$49.95 a month.

Free with all service packages are unlimited internet

data usage, a WiFi gateway and router, a high-definition digital video recorder set-top box and voicemail. All service offerings and prices are available on its website.

While its prices are reasonable, what RS Fiber is really selling is service. "Love our service, or pay nothing!" the cooperative promises. "If you are not 100 percent satisfied in the first 30 days, cancel and owe nothing."

It touts several other customer-friendly policies.

A lot of local people and businesses stepped up to make the project happen, when it became apparent that nobody was going to come in and provide the necessary service. That self-sufficient



The RS Fiber building in Winthrop will house business offices and equipment but also has ample space to serve as a place for people to learn and brainstorm new ways of using the fiber optic broadband system.

spirit was a common factor in the creation of many municipal electric utilities, and one

good reason that public power supports the creation of local broadband networks.

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

40-169 (2014-12)

Sign-up now for 2016 MMUA Annual Sponsorships

MMUA Annual Sponsorships proved very popular in 2015. The association is pleased to announce that the 2016 sponsorship price remains at \$1,500, and that it is signing-up sponsors for the coming year.

Sponsorship benefits in-

clude recognition as an MMUA Annual Sponsor:

- on the MMUA website;
- on banners at MMUA events;
- in MMUA publications.

Additional benefits of becoming an MMUA Annual Sponsor include:

- One 2-column by 5-inch Resource newsletter ad, with the option of upgrading to a larger size by paying the additional price and receiving free color

- Complimentary trade show table (including power) and two complimentary registrations at either the Summer Conference or Technical and Operations Conference

- Two meeting registrations at either the Summer Conference or T&O Conference.

The total value of the Resource ad, trade show table and meeting registrations for

2016 is \$1,870. So you can see that the \$1,500 sponsorship package represents a solid value for the involved associate member.

All the relevant MMUA member and municipal utility data is now available on the new MMUA website, which has been designed to fill your needs in a handy, mobile format. MMUA urges its associate members to be seen on our website, at our meetings, and in our publications.

To sign-up as an MMUA Annual Sponsor, go to the Sponsors/Become a Sponsor link on our website. For more information, particularly related to advertising, call Steve Downer at 763-746-0702. Questions in regards to meetings should be directed to Rita Kelly at 763-746-0707.

Thank you for your consideration and we hope to hear from you soon!



Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

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

Officers and Directors

President

Troy Adams, Elk River

President-Elect

Bob Elston, Sleepy Eye

Secretary/Treasurer

John Crooks, Shakopee

Directors

Kevin Berg, Hawley

Mark Erickson, Winthrop

Greg French, Virginia

Chuck Heins, Redwood Falls

Chris Olson, Alexandria

Vernell Roberts, Detroit Lakes

Jerry Williams, Rochester

Bill Wroolie, Brainerd

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

Theresa Neddermeyer,

tneddermeyer@mmua.org

Director of Training and Safety

Mike Willetts, mwilletts@mmua.org

JTS & Apprenticeship Instructor

Art Gatchell, agatchell@mmua.org

Natural Gas Circuit Rider

Troy Dahlin, tdahlin@mmua.org

Regional Safety Group Program Leader

Mike Sewell, msewell@mmua.org

Regional Safety Coord./JTS Instructors

Bruce Westergaard,

bwestergaard@mmua.org

Shane St. Clair,

sstclair@mmua.org

Generation Coordinator/JTS Instructor

Bob Sewell, bsewell@mmua.org

Training Center Coordinator/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 Czecek, aczecek@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 July-August, 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.

FAIRBANKS MORSE ENGINE
an EnPro Industries company

Powering the World Forward

APPA asks appeals court to review EPA's 'extraordinary' Clean Power Plan rule

by Paul Ciampoli
APPA News Director

The big news out of Washington, D.C., in October was the large number of legal challenges filed against the Environmental Protection Agency's final Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule. The rule was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 23, which opened the door for parties to file legal action related to the CPP with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The same day that the final CPP rule was published in the Federal Register, the American Public Power Association and the Utility Air Regulatory Group (UARG) filed a joint petition with the appeals court asking the court to review the final rule.

APPA and UARG also joined a large number of parties in a separate pleading asking the appeals court to stay the final rule. APPA is a member of UARG.

APPA, UARG and the other parties said they will "suffer immediate and irreparable

Washington Report



harm absent a stay because planning, permitting, and constructing new generation takes years, and thus must begin now to meet the rule's compliance obligations in 2022. The public interest also decisively favors a stay, as the rule will cause substantial electricity rate increases and jeopardize reliability, while doing little to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. This court should stay the rule while it considers the petitions for review."

In the rule, the EPA "asserts that a mere five words in a rarely used provision" of the Clean Air Act—"best system of emission reduction"—"give it unprecedented authority to require states to restructure the nation's energy industry by reducing the electricity generated by certain types of facilities (primarily coal-fired power plants) and by shifting that generation to EPA-

avored facilities (e.g., wind and solar facilities) that emit less CO₂," APPA, UARG and the other said in the motion. "This shift will substantially increase costs to the public and jeopardize the reliability of the nation's electricity system," APPA, UARG and the other parties argued.

The EPA claims to find authority for this extraordinary rule in Section 111(d) of the CAA, "which authorizes the states to establish 'performance' standards for existing sources in a category (such as fossil fuel-fired electric generating units), and requires those standards to be 'achievable' through 'adequately demonstrated' emission-reducing technological upgrades (e.g., scrubbers) or operational processes (e.g., switching from high-sulfur coal to low-sulfur coal) at each such source," the motion said.

"That is what the statute says and that is how EPA has consistently interpreted it for decades. Now EPA purports to find in Section 111(d) new authority to force

CO₂-emitting EGUs to curtail their 'performance' or to shutter entirely in order to accomplish EPA's mandated emission reductions of up to 48 percent, depending on the state," the motion noted.

Meanwhile, several states on Oct. 23 filed a petition for review and motion for stay of the final rule with the appeals court.

The group of more than 20 states, including West Virginia, Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana and Missouri, argued in their stay motion that the case "involves an unprecedented, unlawful attempt by an environmental regulator to reorganize the nation's energy grid."

The states said that the Clean Power Plan "rests on EPA's claim that it may disfavor and phase out certain kinds of energy generation, and force the states to reorganize how they produce, transmit, and consume electricity. But as an environmental regulator, EPA has vastly over-

stepped its authority by seeking to pick winners and losers in the energy field, and then requiring the states to take part in this unlawful regime."

In addition, key members of the Senate and House of Representatives on Oct. 23 said they planned to introduce disapproval resolutions under the Congressional Review Act that will seek to overturn the EPA's rules.

MMUA gathers input from members at 'CIP' Summit

MMUA held a CIP (Conservation Improvement Program) Summit at its Plymouth offices Wednesday, Nov. 4.

The CIP statute was enacted in 1980, and has been amended numerous times over the years. MMUA is actively seeking input from municipal utilities across the state on what changes to CIP, if any, would make the program more manageable or useful.

MMUA thanks all of the utility and power agency representatives that attended the Summit. We received a lot of good input and government relations staff Bill Black and Amanda Duerr are synthesizing the discussion. We continue to seek member input on the issue. We plan to update MMUA's position statement and participate in any related regulatory and legislative activities.

This open-ended discussion includes considering all options large and small, for both the near-future and long-term.

Please send us your comments, either in reply to the CIP Summit blog on the MMUA website, or through an email or call. We will be in touch on this issue going forward. Thanks for your consideration and input!

Minnesota, North Dakota square off in federal court

A federal appeals court in St. Paul Oct. 21 heard Minnesota's appeal of a lower court ruling that a portion of the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 was unconstitutional because it hinders interstate commerce.

A Minnesota-based federal judge previously found that Minnesota overreached because its law "requires out-of-state entities to seek regulatory approval in Minnesota before undertaking transactions in other states."

The three-judge 8th Circuit Court appeals panel could take several months to rule on the case.



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.

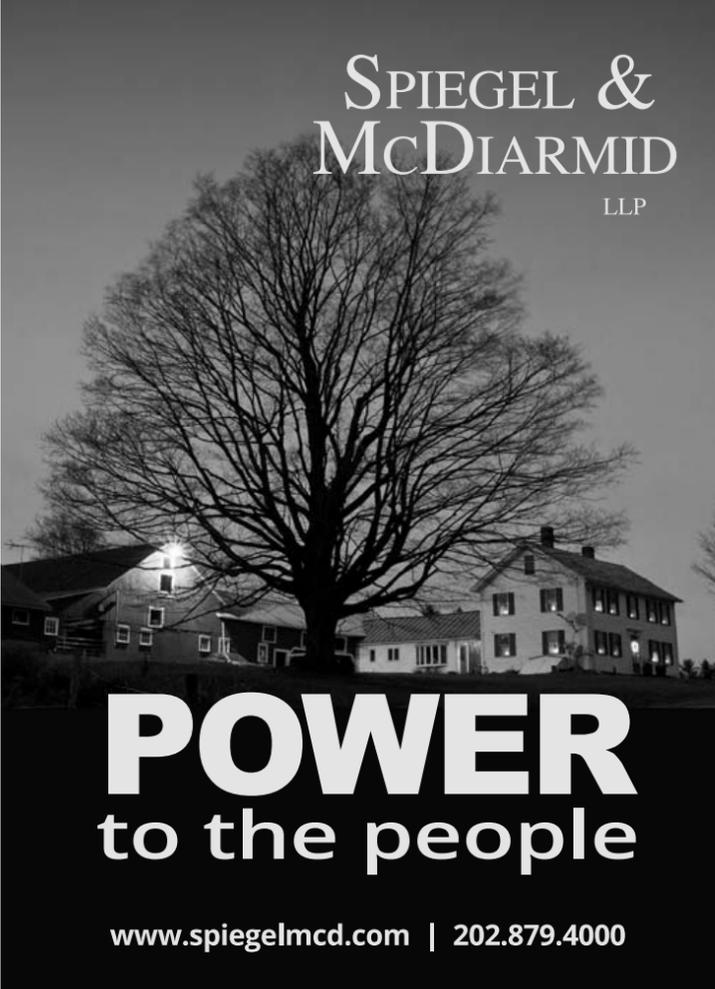


Think Big. Go Beyond.
Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)
Offices located throughout the Upper Midwest and Rocky Mountain Region

www.ae2s.com



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



SPIEGEL & McDIARMID LLP

POWER to the people

www.spiegelmc.com | 202.879.4000



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

SMMPA and RPU play vital roles, benefit from participation in CapX2020

The largest transmission and distribution project in the Midwest in a generation has taken a major step toward improving reliability and incorporating wind energy into the grid, and municipal utilities are playing a major role in the projects.

Ninety miles of a 345-kilovolt (kv) transmission line in Wisconsin and Minnesota are now energized as part of the massive CapX2020 program that involves electric cooperatives, investor-owned utilities and municipal systems.

Partners in CapX2020 joined Oct. 13 with state and local officials and wind advocates to celebrate the newly completed segments between Pine Island and Holmen, Wisc. They include 50 miles

of transmission lines in Wisconsin, 40 miles in Minnesota and two new substations.

The lines are links in the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project, which also includes two 161-kv lines that feed Rochester, and another 40-mile, 345-kv segment.

The \$500 million project, scheduled for completion in 2016, is a large part of CapX2020's nearly \$2 billion construction program.

The lines are widely rec-

ognized as helping to unlock the potential for a major build out of wind energy in the Midwest, while also offering important reliability benefits for customers.

Xcel Energy, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Rochester Public Utilities, La Crosse-based Dairyland Power Cooperative, and WPPI Energy jointly own the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project.

"Our project team built the

90 miles of line and two substations on time and on budget," said Teresa Mogensen, senior vice president of transmission for Xcel Energy.

Construction of the new lines was not without complications. Crews encountered nesting eagles, crossed three miles of a wildlife management area and built a triple-circuit transmission line over the Mississippi River.

"A high voltage broadly interconnected transmission

system provides electrical reliability benefits to the region. The Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project contributes toward that objective, while providing incremental outlet capability for renewable resources," Sidney Jackson Chief Operating Officer at Rochester Public Utilities.

"We already seen the reliability benefits . . . on the local delivery network," said Ben Porath, vice president of power delivery for Dairyland.

Utilities celebrate Public Power Week

A number of municipal utilities held events during the Oct. 4-10 Public Power Week.

Among that number were the following:

Hutchinson Utilities held its 10th annual open house late afternoon Oct. 6. The utility offered a nice meal, bucket trucks rides, an inflatable obstacle course and a variety of educational displays.

Austin Utilities celebrated Public Power Week and Public Natural Gas month all through the month. On Oct. 7, AU held a workshop on common sense ways to decrease energy use and save money. Participants received a free bag of energy saving products and could register for a reduced-price home energy audit. An Oct. 14 workshop offered information on solar for your home or businesses. Free cookies were available in the utility lobby each Friday of the month.

Brainerd Public Utilities offered coffee and cookies for its customers from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5. Pictures and informational displays represented each BPU department.

Shakopee Public Utilities offered 'Breakfast on the Go' to customers driving through the utility's circular driveway, where they were handed a continental breakfast to go. The utility offered customers two free LED light bulbs from 2 to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Willmar Municipal Utilities invited its customers to dinner Oct. 6. The celebration was held at the civic center and featured a full meal, equipment and safety displays, information tables and conservation give-aways.



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

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

TRANSFORMERS DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION



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

MMPA's Le Sueur generating plant named national biogas 'project of the year'

October 29, 2015 – The Minnesota Municipal Power Agency's Hometown BioEnergy facility in Le Sueur has been awarded national recognition as "Biogas Project of the Year" by the American Biogas Council.

Based in Washington D.C., the American Biogas Council, a trade association representing the U.S. biogas industry, is dedicated to creating jobs, environmental sustainability and energy independence by

growing the American biogas industry.

MMPA's Hometown BioEnergy uses the anaerobic digestion process to produce renewable electricity from food processing and agricultural waste. Electricity generated from methane gas can be dispatched to the local distribution system at times of highest demand.

Energy produced in the facility is distributed directly into the City of Le Sueur

electrical system, and is an important component of MM-PA's renewable energy portfolio—all designed to help MMPA communities meet Minnesota's renewable energy production requirements.

Patrick Serfass, Executive Director of the American Biogas Council said in a news release announcing the award, "The quality of innovation in the biogas industry is at a fever pitch today."

Hometown BioEnergy was

also recognized by POWER magazine as a 2014 Top Renewable Plant and was featured on the cover of the December 2014 magazine.

MMPA Chairman and Anoka city councilor Steve Schmidt said, "The Hometown BioEnergy facility in Le Sueur is an important factor in MMPA's mission to provide reliable, competitively-priced energy to members, while meeting renewable energy standards."

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

HD SUPPLY 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

James Dolen, 67

Former MMUA Regional Safety Coordinator James M. Dolen, 67, died of a heart attack on Sunday, Nov. 1, in Smithville, Texas. Services were held on Nov. 9 at Community Bible Church in Montevideo.

James M. Dolen was born, grew up and educated in South Dakota. He earned degrees in Industrial Arts and teaching.

He married Rebecca Ringgenberg on November 29, 1969 in Aberdeen. They had one daughter, Nicole. He was a member of Community Bible Church in Montevideo.

Jim held various jobs. He worked for Minnesota OSHA and most recently for MMUA serving cities in Southwestern Minnesota. Jim retired in September of 2013.

Jim is survived by his wife, Becky and numerous family members.

Medford joins MMUA as Regular Member

The City of Medford has joined MMUA as a Regular Member. Medford is located just north of Owatonna and operates water and wastewater utilities.

Contact person is Andy Welti, City Administrator. City offices are located at 408 2nd Ave SE, Medford, MN 55049. Phone number is 507-455-2866

Associate

News



Braun Intertec Corporation has joined MMUA.

Braun Intertec assists public and private organizations and property owners with site evaluations, site preparation recommendations, and construction support services. With more than 1,000 employees corporate wide across 30 offices, Braun Intertec staff represent multiple technical disciplines including environmental consulting, geotechnical engineering, testing, special inspections, geothermal consulting and facilities evaluations.

Main contact is Mark Johnson, Principal Scientist. He can be reached at 952-995-2647 or 763-486-5187. Email: mrjohnson@braunintertec.com

The company is located at 11001 Hampshire Ave. S., Mpls., MN 55438. Main line is 952-995-2000. Fax: 952-995-2020

November 2015 The Resource/5

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



Above: photo by Joe Schmidt. Below: photo by Steve Downer

An overflow parking lot adjacent to Canterbury Park in Shakopee was a beehive of activity Oct. 14 as municipal utilities converged to build the rodeo grounds.

It took many hands to build the rodeo grounds—MMUA extends its thanks

Not a village, exactly, but it took a lot of municipal utilities and private businesses to build the rodeo grounds for the 2016 Public Power Lineworker Rodeo.

MMUA thanks the following for their contributions:

In-kind materials/equipment contributions:

ASV, LLC
B & B Transformer, Inc.
Bell Lumber & Pole Company
Border States Electric Supply
CME Wire & Cable
GEOTEK, Inc.
Irby Utilities
Wesco Distribution, Inc.

Communities/companies that participated in construction (many provided trucks/equipment as well as manpower):

Austin Utilities
Blue Earth Light & Water Department
Brainerd Public Utilities
City of Chaska—Electric Dept.
City of No. St. Paul Utilities
Detroit Lakes Public Utility
Elk River Municipal Utilities
Fairmont Public Utilities
Glencoe Light & Power
Grand Marais Public Utility
Hutchinson Utilities
Lake Crystal Utilities
Le Sueur Municipal Utilities
Madelia Municipal Light & Power
Marshall Municipal Utilities
Melrose Public Utilities
Missouri River Energy Services
Missouri River Energy Services - Jackson, Luverne, and Olivia
Moorhead Public Service
New Prague Utilities Commission
New Ulm Public Utilities
Owatonna Public Utilities
Rochester Public Utilities
Sauk Centre Public Utilities
Shakopee Public Utilities
Sleepy Eye Public Utilities
Willmar Municipal Utilities

Financial commitments/contributions to date:

ALP (Alexandria) Utilities
Austin Utilities
Brainerd Public Utilities
City of Chaska—Electric Dept.
Detroit Lakes Public Utility
East Grand Forks Water & Light Department
Elbow Lake Municipal Power
Elk River Municipal Utilities
Fairmont Public Utilities
Glencoe Light & Power



Among the Austin Utilities personnel on hand to build the rodeo grounds were Jeff Marthison, Colten Berghuis, Tyler Underdahl and Steve Tieg, from left to right.

Grand Marais Public Utility
Hutchinson Utilities
Le Sueur Municipal Utilities
Mark Hottel
Marshall Municipal Utilities
Melrose Public Utilities
Missouri River Energy Services
Moorhead Public Service
Mountain Lake Municipal Utilities
New Prague Utilities Commission
New Ulm Public Utilities
Northwest Lineman College
Owatonna Public Utilities

Princeton Public Utilities
Sauk Centre Public Utilities
Shakopee Public Utilities
Sleepy Eye Public Utilities
Springfield Public Utilities
Rochester Public Utilities
Willmar Municipal Utilities

Oops!

Last month's article on the 2015 Overhead School failed to mention Princeton Public Utilities, which sent personnel and a bucket truck to participate. Our apologies!

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

SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRIC GENERATION

We'll deliver reliable, competitively-priced natural gas service for all your projects.

Contact Russ Wagner today.
612-321-5003
800-234-5800, ext. 5003
Russell.Wagner@CenterPointEnergy.com

CenterPoint Energy

Always There.®

©2014 CenterPoint Energy 143677

Wouldn't you like to make your budget dollars go farther???

Call us for your transformer, regulator and oil testing needs.
We buy junk transformers and voltage regulators.
We have been servicing Municipalities and Cooperatives in Minnesota and the Midwest since 1977.
We specialize in making D.O.E. compliant and low-loss transformers.
Contact us to get better pricing and quicker service.

B & B TRANSFORMER

Employee owned and operated
Farmington, Minnesota

Nic Edlund, Customer service rep.
651-463-2573 nic@bbtransformer.com

Building a Better World for All of Us®

Does your community shine?
Outdoor lighting is one of the best ways to impart community character and appeal.

Architecture
Aviation
Civil Engineering
Community Development/Funding
Design-build
Energy
Environmental
FundStart™
Land Development
Lighting Design
Mining
Planning
Right-of-way Services
Surveying
Transportation
Wastewater
Water

SEH sehinc.com
800.325.2055

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Rodeo:

continued from front page

“Because the scope of the event and numbers attending could swamp MMUA or any one of its members, working together is necessary to pull off a successful event,” said MMUA Executive Director Jack Kegel. “Together, we can make Minnesota’s municipal utilities shine and put together the best rodeo ever.”

To ease logistics, materials were purchased by SPU and came out of the SPU inventory, with the individual contributing utilities settling up individually. The bulk of materials were generously donated by vendors.

The overall site plan development team was led by SPU Planning/Engineering Director Joe Adams. Ed Zambrano of SPU also assisted by purchasing and coordinating the delivery of materials and Mike Skoug from SPU made sure the materials got to where they needed to be. Penny Thielhorn of SPU and Theresa Neddermeyer of MMUA handled a myriad of details, including sign-in and various logistics.

Overseeing the build were SPU Electric Superintendent Marv Athmann and MMUA’s Director of Training and Safety Mike Willetts. Chief construction coordinators for the event were MMUA’s Pete Wyffels and Kent Sanders of SPU. Sanders oversaw the apprentice side; Wyffels the journeyman side.

“You’ve only got one shot to do it, so do it right,” Wyffels remembered being told by Willetts.

A group of willing municipal utility personnel met at the rodeo site Monday, Oct. 12 (Columbus Day, a national holiday). The site itself is an expansive gravel, overflow parking area adjacent to Canterbury Park in Shakopee. These crews arranged materials and framed poles.

A larger group descended on the site Tuesday, and construction began in earnest.



above and below, photos by Steve Downer. At left and bottom of page: photos by Joe Schmidt

Marv Athmann of Shakopee Public Utilities, left, and MMUA’s Mike Willetts surveyed the rodeo grounds as work drew to a close on Wednesday, Oct. 14. Seeing the field come together was a dream come true for the two men.



MMUA’s Pete Wyffels, left in the white helmet, was construction coordinator for the journeyman side of the field. Above: the build site was a busy place the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Experienced leadership

Willetts has missed only one APPA Rodeo, has been to every planning meeting and has also served as a rodeo chief judge. Wyffels was Master Judge for last year’s apprentice events. He has been to numerous rodeos with various organizations, including about six of the APPA events.

APPA has a rodeo grounds outline, Willetts pointed out, but they don’t tell you how to build it, or how many people or what pieces of equipment you’ll need.

Wyffels, a journeyman lineman who served as a U.S. Marine, knew that to accomplish something larger than yourself, you have to pull together. He brought that mindset, and related organizational ideas, to bear in planning the rodeo

grounds build.

Teams were formed for each of the five journeyman events and the four apprentice events. Every event had a crew leader. Crew leaders met first thing each morning, followed by a bigger meeting on the field with the entire group.

Several planning meetings were held in advance of the construction, including Oct. 1 at SPU, to hash out myriad details.

With advance planning in place, coordinating the event on the ground amounted to keeping the flow going, Wyffels said. As crews and equipment arrived, they were fed in to pre-arranged areas. The height of the action was Tuesday, when work commenced to set 130 poles.

Wyffels and Sanders made sure the crews were spread out and had room to work. When one group was finished, it went to help another.

The goal was to be done on Thursday. That goal was met.

“The week went so quick it was a blur,” Wyffels said.

More than a linefield

The field itself “looks the best I’ve ever seen,” Wyffels said. A lot of that has to do with the ground itself—a nicely sloped expanse that promises to drain well—an important consideration given the April 2 date.

A lot of attention went into various details around the site, which set one rodeo grounds apart from another.

“I’m proud and humbled by how our membership came

together with this,” Willetts said. “It’s amazing, to see the interaction, how the process builds relationships, between MMUA and utilities and utility to utility.”

“It was really cool how many people jumped on board, and wanted to be a part of it,” Wyffels said.

He appreciated how people offered help and shared knowledge, and how the necessary equipment was made available (some 90 trucks of various types were on the grounds at one time or another during the event).

When he looks back on it, Wyffels sees smiling faces, and people from one town working shoulder-to-shoulder with people from another.

“It was more than just building a linefield,” he said.



Various utilities and people cycled in and out of the rodeo grounds build throughout the event. This group gathered for a photo on Thursday, Oct. 15.

Spring Valley: continued from front page

people. Other than Smith, the entire staff is between the ages of 30 and 42.

When Smith started at the utility, it generated all of its own power locally, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. He left for a time to work at a family business, and returned to the utility in 1993. Spring Valley now buys its power at wholesale and is a member of the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA). Smith is a board member.

The utility's contract with SMMPA extends to 2050. The current electric industry situation is a lot different than when Smith started working in the local power plant.

"I've seen a lot," he said.

The local plant is retained as an emergency resource and hedge against high prices in the wholesale market. It has a generating capacity of 7 megawatts. (The utility's peak is 5.1 MW). The plant houses four engines: a Fairbanks Morse opposed-piston vintage workhorse, a 2-megawatt Cooper and two new Caterpillars.

Smith has seen significant change in the plant. The latest improvement was ensuring all the engines would meet current federal emissions regulations.

During a tour of the plant, Smith mentioned that the utility has done everything possible to keep rates down. It is a testament to the knowledge and skill of utility personnel that they have been able to maintain the viability of the local plant and distri-

bution system. There is a limit, however, and eventually some things, like the voltage upgrade, just need to be done.

It is a big investment, but the system it is replacing certainly served the city well for many years.

The utility will continue to use its "drive by" water and electric meter reading system. When the system was installed three years ago, meter reading time went from three days to five hours.

Early electric service

According to a local history, electric power and waterworks came to the city in 1893. The first electric provider was the Spring Valley

Electric Light and Investment Company. The company received a 30-year franchise from the city, which operated a waterworks system. The company furnished power for the waterworks under contract until 1912, when the city arranged to furnish its own power.

It appears the local investor-owned utility was eventually sold to Interstate Power and Light. Spring Valley municipalized electric service in 1936. The municipal plant is located across the street from the former IPL power plant, which houses steam engines. A cheese warehouse and production plant is now located on that lot.



Superintendent Stuart Smith was born and raised in Spring Valley. The entire eight-person staff has local roots.



The Spring Valley Public Utilities municipal power plant fronts Highway 63 and is located across Main Street from the location of the original investor-owned utility power plant that served the city.

The **TRUSTED CHOICE** in the delivery of **ENERGY AND SERVICES.**

HEARTLAND
CONSUMERS POWER DISTRICT

The Power of Forward Thinking
(800) 520-4746 • www.HCPD.com

DBCC
DAVE BERG CONSULTING, LLC

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

Three cooperatives under new leaders

Greg Ridderbusch is the new chief executive officer of Connexus Energy, the state's largest electric cooperative. Ridderbusch, who replaces the retiring Mike Rajala, was most recently vice president of business development and strategy at Great River Energy.

Adam Trombley is replacing the retiring Richard Burud as general manager of Nobles Cooperative Electric. Trombley has been the member services manager since 2007.

Burud had also been managing Federal Rural Electric. Scott Reimer is the new manager there. He was most recently general manager of Rick Lake (Wisc.) Utilities, a municipal utility. Reimer began his career at a South Dakota electric cooperative, then worked for WAPA. He is past chair of the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin's Legislative and Regulatory Committee.

The Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) in October closed on a Power Purchase Agreement for an 8 to 10 MW solar project located in Buffalo. MMPA has also closed on the purchase of land in Shakopee, for a distributed generation project.

Jeff Olson has been promoted to Distribution System Superintendent at East Grand Forks Water & Light. Olson has been with the Water and Light Department for 37 years. Among his jobs over that time: water service worker, lineman, line foreman and his current position. Todd Grabanski has been promoted to line foreman and Dave Solarski to assistant line foreman.

The Biwabik Infrastructure Improvement Task Force has made its recommendations and the city council and public utilities commission have approved

AROUND THE STATE



recommendations for the project. A community forum was held in September. Work is scheduled to begin next spring and be complete in 2019.

The project calls for \$5.5 million in water/sewer/storm-sewer work and \$5.3 million for street, sidewalks and landscaping. Funding comes from various sources, including local bonding of \$2.9 million to \$3.5 million.

The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission is considering reinstating a purchased power adjustment on customer bills. The utility already has a purchased gas adjustment on its bills.

The Brainerd Public Utilities Commission Sept. 29

rejected a wholesale power contract offer that would have carried through until 2024. BPU's counteroffer calls for 50 percent of its power supply to come from its current supplier, and the other half from an alternative supplier.

The Elk River City Council has agreed to a request from the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission to add two members to the commission, which currently has three members. The move awaits special legislation in the next legislative session.

Theresa Coleman is the new Kasson city administrator. Coleman was most recently the Lewiston city clerk. She also previously worked as Spring Grove city administrator. Burt Fjerstad, Kasson's public works director and a city employee for 24 years, announced he would be retiring on Dec. 31.

Rochester Mayor Ardell Brede Oct. 12 signed a proclamation declaring the city's intent to strive to become "100 percent dependent on renewable fuels by 2031." The signing came at the Climate Minnesota: Rochester Convening event, at Rochester Community and Technical College.

An estimated 100 people attended an Oct. 7 hearing on a solar energy development proposed for near an Xcel Energy substation near North Branch. The hearing on the 800-acre complex stretched over four hours. Three homesteads within the project footprint have been bought out and the land is not prime cropland. Some expressed support. Property owners on the perimeter of the project appeared most upset, according to local press reports.

Crowds also attended two public hearings concerning a proposed Marshall Solar Project.

Testimony was decidedly against the proposal, according to press reports. The main objection was the use of prime farmland, while some raised health and environmental concerns.

The Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners Nov. 2 unanimously approved a broadband feasibility study grant application. The county will contribute up to \$25,000 in matching funds. It is hoped the study will be an important step toward improving broadband access, especially in rural areas.



Real men wear pink in Thief River Falls

The City of Thief River Falls electric linemen showed their support for women's health during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Wesco Distribution, Inc., donated the hard hats. The image of linemen seems to be that of tough characters, said customer service rep/purchasing agent Susan Mosbeck, but when it comes to compassion and empathy, the Thief River Falls linemen are indeed 'Real Men.' The linemen put the helmets away at the end of October, to keep them in good shape for next year.

Bucket Trucks
Digger Derricks
Articulating Cranes
Mini-Derricks and Backyard Lifts
Reel/Pole/Equipment Trailers

Ben Pahl (605) 222-2187
Rob Bahneman (612) 963-4570

www.dueco.com @DUECO info@dueco.com

MATT HALEY
PRESIDENT

952-767-7464
www.EnergyInsightInc.com

7935 Stone Creek Drive, Suite 140 Chanhassen, MN 55317

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

Springsted
Independent Municipal Advisors

Springsted
Investment Advisors

W&C Waters & Company
Executive Recruitment

WATERS & CO. e-solutions

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

PSMJ Resources, Inc.

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

2015

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.

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

- 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 Dielectric Testing Services
- On-site Testing
- 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

Professional Services

Classified
Ads



Accountants and Consultants

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
Aviation
Civil / Survey
Electrical Power
Water / Wastewater

Trusted. Professional. Solutions.

PSMJ Resources, Inc. CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE 2014

Rock Rapids, IA 712-472-2531 | Sioux City, IA 712-266-1554 | Ankeny, IA 712-472-2531 | Sioux Falls, SD 605-339-4157
email: dgr@dgr.com - website: www.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

Building a Better World for All of Us®

SEH

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists
800.325.2055 • sehinc.com

Electrical Equipment and Suppliers

TRANSFORMERS
DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION

T&R ELECTRIC
Modern Rewind Facilities
More than 61 Acres Inventory
Prompt Delivery—Coast to Coast

Complete Outdoor Substations, Circuit Breakers, Regulators, and Switchgear

CALL TOLL-FREE 800-843-7590
FAX 605-534-8861
E-Mail: t-r@tr.com
Internet: www.tr.com

BUY - SELL - RENT

WSB & Associates, Inc.

solutions | design
wsbeng.com

(888) 541-4800

Equipment Manufacturers, Suppliers, Service

Engineers and Engineering Firms

AES₂
Think Big. Go Beyond.
ADVANCED ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

www.ae2s.com

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

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

FS3 INC.
SALES SERVICE SUPPLY

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

Accepting bids

Kenyon Municipal Utilities is accepting sealed bids to supply and install equipment to bring three Caterpillar diesel engines into compliance with US EPA Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines/National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant discharge. Bids must be received by 4:00 pm on Friday, December 11, 2015. Bids will be opened on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Kenyon Municipal Utilities reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Complete information is available at Kenyon City Hall at 709 2nd Street or by contacting KMU operations Superintendent Randy Eggert at 507-789-6415.

Info sought on RF systems

Grand Marais is looking at replacing its load management system and adding automatic meter reading. Grand Marais would like a system that would work for Badger water meters. This system would have to work with POWER MANAGER for billing. Currently we have Cannon a power line carrier which doesn't work on our system for a variety of reasons, so I would like to look at an RF system. Information from other Utilities that use a RF system would be appreciated. Contact: Michael Taylor, Electrical Supervisor, Grand Marais Public Utility, PO Box 600, Grand Marais, MN 55604. 218-387-1848

Electric Design Project Coordinator

RPU, a division of the City of Rochester, Minnesota (pop. 106,000), is the largest municipal utility in the State of Minnesota and is accepting applications for the position of Electric Design Project Engineer, which is responsible for planning and directing activities concerned with electric infrastructure design to ensure proper installation, operation, maintenance and service. Work will include the lead responsibility for coordinating these projects from inception through completion, including coordination with other utilities as well as coordination between the engineering, work planning, maintenance and construction, purchasing, stores and accounting sections within the utility. This position requires an Associate's degree from an accredited program in Engineering, Construc-

see next page please

tion Management, Electrical Construction Technology, Energy Technology, Industrial Technology, the electrical trades or closely related field AND three (3) years of full-time employment experience in electric infrastructure design, construction, drafting or project management. 2016 Starting salary of \$64,195 to \$75,523 per year, depending on qualifications, with advancement to \$94,405. Online applications are required and must be received by November 29th for priority consideration. For more information and to apply online, go to: www.rochestermn.gov "First-Class City, First-Class Service"

General Manager

Vinton Municipal Electric Utility (VMEU) is seeking a qualified individual to fill the full time position of General Manager. The General Manager reports directly to a five person Utility Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is seeking a qualified individual with a minimum of 5 years utility leadership experience with important competencies that include the following:

- A very strong dedication to municipal utility principles
- Direct working knowledge of and experience with electric generation plants and electric distribution systems
- Competency in governance and public policy
- Infrastructure management of generation and distribution systems
- People and communications skills
- Finance management and budgeting
- Strategic and business planning
- Human resources and workforce relations
- Customer assistance
- Creating and enforcing policies and regulations established by the Board of Trustees

The applicant must live within the city limits. VMEU was created in 1895 and serves approximately 2,600 customers in the city of Vinton, Iowa. Vinton is located 35 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa with a population around 5,300. VMEU revenues are around \$5,000,000 annually with a current workforce of 7 fulltime employees and one part time employee. Fulltime employees are part of IBEW Local 55 union. VMEU offers excellent benefits, a competitive salary and an excellent community to live in. VMEU will be accepting applications until November 30, 2015; however, individual screening and interviewing will begin as qualified applications are

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

RESCO
Rural Electric Supply Cooperative

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

ZIEGLER
Power Systems

Proven Power Solutions
Sales. Service. Rental.
888.320.4292

Energy Services

ENERGY INSIGHT, INC.

MATT HALEY
PRESIDENT

952-767-7464
www.EnergyInsightInc.com

7935 Stone Creek Drive, Suite 140 Chanhassen, MN 55317

TRANSFORMER REMANUFACTURE & REPAIR
SERVING YOU SINCE 1977

Nic Edlund
(651) 271-3461 Cell
nic@bbtransformer.com

We can pay you more for your junk, or pick up quicker. So call us last.

received. Candidates wishing to be considered for the General Manager position must submit a cover letter, resume, salary history, and a minimum of 4 professional references to GeneralManager@vmeu.org

FOR SALE

Electric meters

The City of Buhl has for sale 324 Itron electric meters, 240 volt, 3 wire. Call Trent Pink at 218-556-8553 for more information.

Crossarm braces

Willmar Municipal Utilities has for sale 40 pair of 48" span x 18" drop crossarm braces. Open to offers. Call Kevin Marti at 320-212-8589.

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

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

Finance

NORTHLAND **SECURITIES**

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

Training

Apprentice Lineworker Training at Your Location

Art Gatchell, MMUA JTS & Apprenticeship Instructor

36 years of knowledge, experience and wisdom

- Utilities Supervisor - St. Peter
- Lead lineman - Elk River
- Safety director - CapX2020, Fargo-St. Cloud line

for more information, contact Mike Willetts at 612.802.8474

Truck Repair and Testing

UTILITY TRUCK SERVICES

Let factory-trained mechanics handle all your fleet's aerial-lift maintenance and repairs.

- Boom and bucket repair and refurbishment
- Hydraulic and structural repair
- ANSI and Dielectric testing
- Altec repair center
- DOT inspections

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

www.UtilityTruckServices.com

Exelon, Pepco merger may create largest U.S. utility

The proposed merger of Exelon Corporation and Pepco Holdings Inc. would, if approved, create the largest electric utility holding company in the United States, with 8.5 million customers.

Exelon proposed purchasing Pepco Holdings for \$6.8 billion in April 2014. The proposed merger has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and

the public utility commissions in Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia. The Public Service Commission in the District of Columbia initially rejected the merger on August 25, 2015, but the mayor has since reached a settlement agreement which appears to pave the way for final D.C. approval. A decision could come as soon as early 2016.



People at HM Cragg know power and support our exceptional products with integrity and expertise to provide sustainable power solutions for your business.

- Stationary Batteries and Chargers
 - ✓ Battery sizing done per IEEE STD 485-210
 - ✓ Battery testing done per IEEE STD 450-2010
- Spill Containment and Battery Safety Equipment
- Installation
- Preventive Maintenance
- Battery Disposal
- Battery Room Compliance Audits
- Capacity Testing



For more information contact:

Roger Blenkush,
HM Cragg Standby Sales

952.224.5480

roger@hmcragg.com

Minnesota stray voltage guide now available

Now available to farmers and utilities across the state, the newly-developed Minnesota Stray Voltage Guide marks the first time in Minnesota a broad-based stakeholder group came together to agree on an approach for handling stray voltage cases. The guide outlines steps farmers, electrical contractors, utilities and their advisors can take to discover and resolve stray voltage concerns on livestock farms. As the guide notes, when farmers and utility companies work together, stray voltage concerns are more likely to be satisfactorily resolved.

Participants and supporters of the guide included all of the state's utilities (including MMUA) and agriculture representatives.

The Minnesota guide carries forward the same testing protocols used in Iowa, and the same threshold levels for determining when action is appropriate.

The document also supplements the United States Department of Agriculture handbook on "Effects of Electrical Voltage/Current on Farm Animals: How to Detect and Remedy Problems," published in December 1991.

The guide addresses common causes of stray voltage, and a look at farm wiring.

It then moves on to a description of testing procedures and contains a number of forms to be completed relating to those tests, and related items.

The guide is available on the MMUA website.

First nuclear plant licensed in 20 years

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Oct. 22 issued an operating license to the Tennessee Valley Authority for TVA's Watts Bar Unit 2, 1,150-megawatt nuclear reactor. The action paves the way for TVA to begin putting on-line the nation's first new nuclear generation since 1996.

The unit is on schedule for operation in early 2016.

At the height of construction the project employed more than 3,500 people. Together with already-operating Unit 1, Watts Bar will produce nearly 2,300 megawatts of power.

Need help for lineworkers? MMUA offers Cross Training School

The MMUA Basic Cross Training School is set for Dec. 8-10 at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The class is designed for employees in other departments that would assist lineworkers on a call-out or in an emergency. Instructors: Journey line-

men Pete Wyffels and Al Czezok of MMUA.

Program

Tuesday

- Hazard Recognition

Wednesday

- Safety in Overhead and Underground Lines

- How Electricity is Made and How it Works

- Transformers, Underground and Overhead Lines and Meters

- Hands-on Overhead Line Construction

- Elbows, Terminations and Splices

Thursday

- Locate and Isolate Underground System Faults
- Loop and Radial Feeds

For more information or to register, go to the Events/Calendar section at www.mmua.org

MMUA Technical and Operations (T&O) Conference Dec. 15-17, 2015, Holiday Inn and Suites, St. Cloud

This important annual conference includes timely educational sessions and a vendor tradeshow. Information provided is useful to superintendents, managers, supervisors and crew leaders. Learn about upcoming challenges to municipal utilities and network with peers. This conference is also designed to create great leaders in the municipal utility industry!

Program

December 15

- Building and Leading Successful Teams
Kit Welchlin
- New Product Demo

- Product Show

December 16

- Error Management: What Safety Leaders Know—What High-Performing Employees Do!
Lisa Haen

- Apprentice Lineworker and 2015 Rodeo Recognitions
Mike Willetts, MMUA

Breakout sessions:

- Developing and Maintaining Your Rate Structure
Dave Berg Consulting

- APPA Mutual Aid Plan Framework
Mike Willetts, MMUA



- Transformer and Power Cable Specifications
Chad Rasmussen, DGR Engineering

- PCB Spills and Containment
Joe Steffel, City of Buffalo

December 17

- Safety Lessons from the North Pole
Polar Explorer John Huston

- APPA Lineworker Rodeo, "We Are Public Power"

- *Mike Willetts and the Rodeo Leadership Team*

- MMUA Update
MMUA Staff

For more information, watch your inbox, call *Rita Kelly* at 763-746-0707 or go to www.mmua.org!



- MPCA Clean Power Plan Update
Bob Jagusch, MMUA