Municipal utilities converge to build lineworker rodeo grounds

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.

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 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.
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

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 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.

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 include recognition as an MMUA Annual Sponsor:

• on the MMUA website;

• on the MMUA Annual Sponsor link on our website. For more information, particularly related to advertising, call Steve Downer at 763-746-0792. 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!
APPNA asks appeals court to review EPA’s ‘extraordinary’ Clean Power Plan rule

by Paul Ciampoli
APPNA 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. APPNA and UARG also filed a separate pleading asking the appeals court to review the final rule. 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.

“People and the other parties said they will ‘suffer immediate and irreparable 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-favored 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 EGU’s 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 overstepped 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 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 discussions. 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.
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-kilo-volt (kv) transmission line in Wisconsin and Minnesota are now energized as part of the municipal utility 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, Wis. 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.


“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,” 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 drive-way, 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.
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. MPM’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 high demand.

Energy produced in the facility is distributed directly into the City of Le Sueur electrical system, and is an important component of MMPA’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.”

Hometown BioEnergy was named national biogas ‘project of the year’ by the American Biogas Council.

James Dolen, 67
Former MMPA 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 Ringenberg 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 2013.

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

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 facility evaluations.

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

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

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 507-455-2966

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 facility evaluations.

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

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

6/November 2015 The Resource
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.
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 distribution 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.
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 Institute: Rochester Convocation event, at Rochester Community and Technical College.

An estimated 100 people attended an Oct. 7 hearing on a solar energy development proposal 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 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.
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 507-788-6415.

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 Canadina 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-
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 work force 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 the city of Vinton, Iowa. VMEU operates around $5,000,000 annually.

VMEU revenues are $75,523 per year, depending on qualifications, with a competitive salary and an excellent benefits, a competitive salary and an excellent benefits, an excellent benefits, an excellent benefits, an excellent benefits, an excellent benefits, an excellent benefits, an excellent benefits.

For more information, and to apply online, go to: vmeu.org

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

For all of your MINK Water & Electric Metering and Supply needs.

Call us at: 952-937-5666

Online at: www.hdsupply.com

---

General Manager

Vinton Municipal Electric Utility (VMEU) is seeking a qualified individual to fill the full time position of General Manager. The General Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the utility, including the supervision of the technical staff.

Starting salary of $64,195 to $75,523 per year, depending on qualifications, with an average of $79,405. Online applications are required and must be received by November 29th for priority consideration. For more information and to apply online, go to: vmeu.org

“First-Class City, First-Class Service”

Equal Opportunity Employer

---

For Sale

VMEU has for sale 40 pair of 48" x 18" drop crossarm braces. Open to offers. Call Trent Pink at 320-212-8589.

---

VMEU will be accepting applications until November 30, 2015; however, individual screening and interviewing will begin as qualified applications are 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 318-566-8550 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 320-212-9089.

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

---

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

The proposed merger of Exelon and Pepco has the potential to create the largest U.S. utility company, with a market value of $6.8 billion. The deal could be approved later this year, and it could come as soon as early 2016.

---

Apprentice Lineworker Training

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

---

Transformer Remanufacture & Repair

We service all makes & models

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

---

Transformer Repair and Testing

For more information, contact Mike Willetts at 612.802.8474
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 linemen Pete Wyffels and Al Czeczkol 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!**

**Minneapolis**

**Stray Voltage**

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 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 online 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.