Two new 9.75 MW Caterpillar engines will be installed in the HUC Plant No. 1, located at the intersection of State Hwys. 15 and 7.

Hutch inks pact to install new generators

The Hutchinson Utilities Commission (HUC) Oct. 25 approved the final contract for installation of two new Caterpillar engine/generator sets. The 9.75 megawatt (MW) units will be designated units 6 and 7 at the HUC’s downtown facility.

Never tied to a particular generating technology or brand, HUC identified four possible project bidders. Two bids were received. Bonds for the $16.6 million project were issued through the city of Hutchinson.

Hutch Utilities hasn’t had a rate increase in 10 years and none is anticipated on this project despite the pending investment. That took some doing.

After a year and a half of study, search and negotiation, HUC signed a capacity contract with Rice Lake (Wisc.) Utilities was signed, which will cover the majority of the project costs. The capacity agreement is for 20 MWs for 20 years, with a 10-year extension opportunity.

Rice Lake is a city of 8,500 in northwest Wisconsin. Rice Lake has a peak electrical load of approximately 40 MW. HUC has a peak of approximately 60 MW. A Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) member, HUC is responsible for all its power supply requirements, other than 25 MW supplied by Missouri River Energy Services.

HUC General Manager Jeremy Carter said the capacity contract works with the HUC business model, had acceptable risk and reward, balanced local capacity stability and may open up future options that could be advantageous for HUC.

A lot of research and discussions occurred before the two municipal utilities were comfortable enough to sign the contract. Carter said the Rice Lake utility had acceptable risk and reward, balanced local capacity stability and may open up future options that could be advantageous for HUC.

HUC: see page 5 please

Kandiyohi council votes to accept co-op’s buyout offer

The Kandiyohi city council at its Oct. 16 regular meeting unanimously voted to approve the sale of the city of Kandiyohi municipal electric utilities and infrastructure to the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative (KCP), pending approval of the contract wording from the city attorney.

KCP, headquartered seven miles directly north of Kandiyohi in Spicer, has been maintaining the municipal electric system and also provides a portion of the city’s wholesale power supply.

The city hosted a public forum on Oct. 3 in regards to the KCP offer to buy the municipal utility.

The forum was well attended. A head table included city staff and council members (one of whom is a cooperative employee, which wasn’t mentioned), along with staff and board members of the cooperative.

Mayor Gordon Woltjer opened the meeting. He said the road to sale of the city assets started when the city asked KCP if it would provide billing for the city. KCP said it would be too expensive to do billing, said Woltjer, and came back with offer to buy the utility.

“It’s a big decision,” he noted. KCP CEO Scott Froemming did most of the talking. He said the KCP offer was

Kandiyohi: see next page please

Training time

MMUA Training Center in Marshall site of three events over four days in October

The MMUA Training Center in Marshall was a busy place Oct. 17-20, as it was the site of two schools and the first Minnesota Lineworkers Rodeo. The Rodeo took place Tuesday morning and the Overhead and Cross Training Schools began that afternoon.

The annual Overhead School was held in conjunction with the American Public Power Association and Minnesota Rural Electric Association. The school had originally been scheduled for mid-September, but was pushed back as utilities responded to the call for mutual aid as Hurricane Irma lashed Florida.

The school still attracted 40 lineworkers from 18 municipals and four co-ops. General sessions included discussion on mutual aid support to Florida and a recap on the Minnesota Rodeo, as well as a very personal presentation by Tracy Moore about safety and being your brother’s keeper.

Also attending for a day were 42 students and two instructors from MnWest Community & Technical College in Jackson. They also came to watch the Rodeo and practiced their skills by climbing the Rodeo practice poles.

Zac Johnson of Elk River Municipal Utilities competed in the ‘Hurtman Rescue’ event, under the watchful eye of MMUA’s Shane St. Clair.

Cody Reed of Owatonna Public Utilities awaited his score in an apprentice event.

The Cross Training School, intended for non-lineworkers who are called on to assist with linework activity, was taught by MMUA’s Mike Taylor. A small class size allowed participants to perform a variety of hands-on activities—including truck inspections, identification of tools and their uses, terminating underground cable, bucket rescue—to name a few.

Schools: see page 7 please
Kandiyohi: continued from front page

“a great proposal” with “lots of benefits.” He talked about the cooperative spirit, KCP’s vision and mission, and noted city customers could vote for a cooperative director.

He said KCP was interested in acquiring the municipal system due to economies of scale. Acquiring the customers would result in increased KCP sales with “not much more cost.”

The city of Kandiyohi has an allocation of federal hydropower from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Various estimates were offered of the percentage of city electric sales from WAPA supplied power, and ranged from 75-80 percent. The city would retain its WAPA allocation. (WAPA is 15 percent of KCP power supply.)

KCP will pay 2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kwh) to the city, based on kwh sales from the city’s WAPA allocation, with “no related expenses or liability.” This is expected to provide an annual revenue stream to the city, which is estimated to be approximately $50,000-60,000 a year. The city’s profit “margin” is now $80,120-100,000 a year.

It was acknowledged the city would lose that revenue stream.

KCP offered “book value” for the municipal electric distribution system. The system was rebuilt 15-20 years ago and is considered to be in good condition. There is no debt. Eventually the city will have to re-invest in the system, noted KCP. With a sale, one city official noted that would “be our responsibility.”

KCP also noted it would pay property taxes estimated at $7,000 to $10,000 annually.

KCP will freeze rates for two years. The cooperative will conduct a cost of service study and proposed a separate city rate structure. Following the two-year rate freeze, the cooperative said rates for the city would “follow the same trajectory” as the cooperative’s overall rates.

The municipal currently charges residential customers 9.5 cents per kwh; the cooperative 9.9 cents per kwh. The municipal monthly charge is $21; the cooperative $41.

A cooperative representative noted there weren’t many businesses in the city, but that for commercial customers KCP could set up a lower demand rate with a higher fixed charge. There is apparently a power quality issue with at least one commercial customer, who has had equipment issues.

Kandiyohi also suffers from the fact that for commercial customers KCP could set up a lower demand rate with a higher fixed charge. There is apparently a power quality issue with at least one commercial customer, who has had equipment issues.

“Don’t know about this electricity stuff,” said one city policymaker.

KCP strongly promoted its automated metering infrastructure (AMI), Conservation Improvement Program rebates and other offerings, automatic payment plans, dual fuel and off-peak rates.

Under KCP ownership, it was said bills would look the same and still include water and sewer charges, but that the cooperative could provide the billing more economically.

Another key, said the cooperative, was liability. Accidents “happen all the time” and the city would no longer have to concern itself with electric system liability.

If there is an outage, said KCP, customers can call a 24-hour number. It promised that outage calls will be handled “quicker and more efficiently.”

Kandiyohi was electrified in 1925, when Willmar Municipal Utilities extended a line to its little neighbor a few miles to the east. The city currently serves approximately 250 electric customers.
FERC urged to reject DOE proposed tariffs for certain ‘fuel-secure’ resources

by Paul Ciampoli
News Director, American Public Power Association

The American Public Power Association has urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject a Department of Energy proposed rule that would require organized electricity markets to adopt tariff changes that would ensure full cost recovery for certain “fuel-secure” resources.

In its Oct. 23 comments, the Association asked FERC to terminate the proposed rule docket rather than proceed with what the Association believes is an ill-defined and hastily-promulgated rule. The DOE on Sept. 28 direct-ed FERC to issue a final rule that would require organized wholesale power markets to “develop and implement market rules that accurately price generation resources necessary to maintain the reliability and resiliency” of the country’s bulk power system, and specifically describes such rules as establishing electric energy rates that provide for the recovery of costs and a re-turn on equity for certain “eligible reliability and resiliency resources.”

“The DOE’s directive to FERC proposes extreme measures that will impose significant costs on customers without any justification,” said Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the Association. The regional transmission organization-operated markets “are not designed to achieve fuel diversity. The markets do need significant reform but the DOE proposal would take us in the wrong direction,” she said.

The public power group said it agrees with the DOE that fuel diversity helps to enhance system reliability and resiliency, but organized markets operated by RTOs and ISOs are not well suited to address fuel security and diversity.

In its filing at FERC, the Association details several reasons the rule proposed by the DOE would not work. The Association said the proposed rule fails to establish that the premature retirement of fuel-secure generation resources presents an immediate reliability threat that must be addressed through a hastily defined rule.

In addition, there is no evidence that the proposed amendments to the FERC regulations would reasonably address the reliability concerns raised by the Secretary of Energy, the Association said.

Also, the proposed rule requires regional transmission organizations and independent system operators to modify their tariffs “without even considering the potential rate impact on consumers, contradicting the Federal Power Act,” the Association said in a news release.

Although the potential cost impacts of the proposed rule are difficult to determine given the uncertainty as to how the NOPR might be implemented, “it likely would be extremely costly under any scenario.”

APPA said that overlaying a cost-of-service recovery mechanism for “fuel-secure” resources onto RTO markets could present consumers with a “worst of both worlds” scenario in which they may be forced to pay the higher of generator cost or market price to certain resources in the organized markets – a danger “implicitly recognized” in a FERC Staff Notice.

Adopting the proposed cost-of-service mechanism for a specific class of resources “would likely have significant collateral impacts on the organized wholesale markets, which could raise costs to consumers and have other undesirable long-term effects,” the Association argued.

To cite one important concern, the NOPR’s cost-of-service recovery framework could have an adverse impact on bilateral markets because resources that have guaranteed cost-of-service recovery through an RTO tariff mechanism will have much less incentive to enter into bilateral contracts,” it said.

If there is truly an imminent threat to reliability posed by the premature retirement of a specific generation resource, all the Commission-approved RTOs potentially impacted by the NOPR have some form of reliability-must-run contract to preserve generation needed for reliability without the need for the broader market intervention proposed by the NOPR, the Association pointed out.

The Association went on to argue that the amended regulations included in the proposed rule are incomplete, ambiguous and confusing in numerous respects, and the notice of proposed rulemaking “therefore fails to provide adequate notice of the proposed rules to allow for meaningful review and comment,” as required by the Administrative Procedure Act.

“This lack of clarity also effectively precludes any finding that the proposed regulations would be just and reasonable or the product of reasoned decision-making.”

The Association said that it is not even clear which RTOs and ISOs would be covered by the proposed rule. It is unclear whether the rule is intended to apply to the Midcontinent Independent Transmission System Operator, the association said, urging FERC to exclude the Midcontinent ISO if it proceeds with the NOPR.

The DOE “has imposed impossible deadlines,” directing FERC to act by Dec. 11, the Association went on to say.

The Association believes that FERC should under-take a process for RTOs and ISOs to evaluate what resource mix would maximize and ensure reliability and resiliency, identify any current or projected shortfalls in the resource.

In addition, FERC should convene a technical conference to discuss the framework for such an evaluation, the Association said. The Association said it agrees with the DOE that the best way to accommodate a diverse mix of fuel resources in the wholesale markets warrants further discussion and analysis by stakeholders.
Two power plants in Hutchinson use various technologies, fuels

The Hutchinson Utilities Commission operates two power plants: Plant No. 1, which is located on the banks of the Crow River at the intersection of Minn. Hwys. 15 and 7, and Plant No. 2, located in an industrial park on the east side of the city.

The original plant No. 1 was built in 1956. This local landmark, on the edge of downtown, is still in use and has been expanded over the years. The original plant included three diesel engine generator sets and supplied power to the city and the Rural Electrification Administration. Plant No. 1 expansions occurred in 1941, 1958, 1963, and 1967. In 1971, the addition of a 14.5 megawatt (MW) GE gas turbine brought the total plant output to 33 MWs.

In 1976, a 25 MW simple cycle peaking gas turbine was installed at the plant No. 2 facility, and was replaced in 2000 with the current GE frame 5 gas turbine. In addition, in 1994, unit 1 gas turbine and unit 1 steam turbine were added to plant No. 2. The 42 MW gas turbine uses its exhaust to heat a Deltek boiler which in turn powers the 11 MW steam turbine to make a combined cycle unit with total output of 53 MW. An auxiliary natural gas-fired steam boiler provides inlet air heating to the gas turbine in winter months.

HUC paid cash for a 9.3 MW Wartsila engine and generator, which was installed in 2013. As part of this project, Plant No 1 infrastructure was bolstered for the possible future addition of more engines. HUC quickly found value in the medium-sized, quick-start Wartsilas, which can be fully loaded in five minutes and offers operational flexibility. The new Caterpillar engines offer similar operational characteristics, which allows the utility to economically dispatch the units in response to changes in the wholesale electric market.

The utility expects to use its three new engines consistently, especially in the summer, depending on market conditions.

One of the original 1958 units (unit 1), was scrapped back in 1979 because of a bad crankshaft. Three more units were scrapped out in 2010 as part of the eventual 2013 Wartsila project, leaving plenty of room in the newest area of the plant for more engines.

A portion of the original outside wall separates the original section of the downtown plant from the newer portion. One engine will be removed from the old section: a 2,000 kilowatt (kw) Nordberg installed in 1958. The engine had been relegated to emergency status due to environmental regulations. It will be removed to make way for a ‘tank farm,’ where oil and coolant from the new engines can be pumped to facilitate maintenance and repairs.

Two 4,000 kw Worthingtons, installed in 1967, have

The Nordberg engine in the foreground of this photo will be removed as part of the impending improvement project, to make way for an engine oil and coolant ‘tank farm.’

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51 MWs. While logical advantages and substantial sentiment existed to continue HUC’s long and proud history of providing local electrical generation, Carter said the utility “had to find a way to make it happen in a fiscally responsible way.”

Local generation is good for Hutch Utilities, Carter said, because it provides flexibility in a changing industry, reliability, and allows the utility to control some of its costs. The project promises to provide long-term business flexibility and generation capabilities into the future if/when the industry changes. The benefits outweighed concerns that tie HUC to long-term assets; the expense of staff monitoring and reporting on generation emissions and regulations; and operations and maintenance costs involved in adding fleet.

The HUC system control department, staffed around the clock, will typically dispatch the units. The new gas-fired generation also allows HUC to continually leverage its intrastate natural gas pipeline.

The project is part of HUC’s ongoing power plant capital replacement program. It will take seven to eight months for the big yellow engines to roll off the assembly line in Kiel, Germany. In the meantime, there is a buzz around the downtown plant with the coming improvements. Space was cleared several years ago, but there is a lot of work to do to accommodate the new generating units, which are expected to be operational by year-end 2018.

Plants: continued from facing page
been retrofitted to make them compliant with new emissions regulations and will continue to supply generating capacity. Total plant generating capacity is approximately 33,000 kw. The coming changes will increase the plant’s generating capacity to 49.5 MW.

Output off the combined cycle unit at plant No 2 is contracted to TransAlta, Canada’s largest energy company. This arrangement allows HUC to generate revenue outside of rates. HUC also has capacity contracts for this plant.

In the current market environment, which values the quick-start capabilities of the medium-sized engine generators, the new engines are expected to be called upon more regularly than Plant No. 2.
MMUA plays host to first Minnesota lineworkers rodeo

What appears to be the first electric Lineworkers Rodeo ever held in Minnesota, geared toward Minnesota participants, was hosted by MMUA Oct. 17 at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The event featured good participation, excellent field quality and superb member support.

The event was originally scheduled for Sept. 12, but was rescheduled as utilities shifted gears to respond to the call for mutual aid due to hurricane damage in Florida. Several of the rodeo participants were freshly back from their Florida work.

All classes of lineworker—from first-year apprentice to advanced lineworker—were eligible to participate. Events included the same individual events for both journeyman and apprentice lineworkers. Top five finishers were, in descending order:

Apprentice Overall: Matt Kahle and Tyler Hanson of Shakopee, Cody Reed of Owatonna, Cory Henningson of Brainerd and Chad Matthees of People’s Energy Cooperative.

Journeyman Overall: The top four spots were swept by Mike Enright, Cody Schuett, Brad Carlson and Justin Rotert of Shakopee, followed by Zac Johnson, who sported perhaps the finest beard of the competition, of Elk River.

Hurtman Rescue, Apprentice: Hanson and Kahle of Shakopee, Joe Kohlarsak of Rochester, Reed of Owatonna and Matthees.

Hurtman Journeyman: Enright and Carlson of Shakopee, Elk River’s Johnson, Chris Klie of Thief River Falls and Tyler Malloy of Brainerd.

Insulator Changeout, Apprentice: Kahle, Matthees, Hanson, Henningson and Kohlarsak.

Insulator Changeout, Journeyman: Enright and Carlson of Shakopee, Elk River’s Johnson, Chris Klie of Thief River and Shakopee’s Carlson (tie). Obstacle Course, Apprentice: Kahle’s dynamic duo of Kahle and Hanson, followed by Owatonna’s Reed and Curt Wark and Nick Hommerding of Elk River.

The event was well attended and well run. MMUA plans to hold the Minnesota Rodeo again in 2018.

MMUA would like to thank its Rodeo Sponsors for their support and helping make the event a success. They include:

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Shakopee’s Carlson (tie) competed in the Obstacle Course, Apprentice. Kahle’s dynamic duo of Kahle and Hanson, followed by Owatonna’s Reed and Curt Wark and Nick Hommerding of Elk River.

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The insulator changeout competition took part on this section of the linefield.
Eleven municipal lineworkers graduate from NWLC program

Eleven more municipal utility employees have graduated this year from the Northwest Lineman College (NLC) Lineworker Certification Program (LCP).

They are Derek Varpness of Marshall Municipal Utilities, Darrin Ovak of Detroit Lakes Public Utility, Matt Rung of Lake Crystal Utilities, Karl Green and Benjamin Hoyt of Virginia Public Utilities, Tyler Jevne of the City of Warren, Derek Groebner of Elk River Municipal Utilities, Steven Lyseg and Daniel Rasmussen of Foss ton Municipal Utilities, Zachary Dissrio of Hibbing Public Utilities and Josh Shoutz of Truman Public Utilities.

Groebner, Green, Lyseg and Hoyt were also students in the MMUA Apprentice Lineworker Training Program.

The NLC’s Lineworker Certification Program (LCP) is for individuals working in the trade who want to earn their lineman certification. Individuals must be enrolled and sponsored by their employer. Called apprenticeship by some, and lineman certification by others, successful completion of the LCP can earn the lineman journeyman status.

Northwest Lineman College is one of the largest training institutions in the United States, with over 1,600 power delivery employees currently enrolled in the LCP. The program is designed to serve the training needs of the power delivery industry—from an entry-level to a seasoned lineman—the program curriculum is flexible and customizable.

The LCP administers up-to-date, comprehensive subject matter that illustrates how the power delivery system functions, including valuable knowledge regarding construction, maintenance, and operation of the system. The LCP is a correspondence-based educational model with companies choosing a three- or four-year format.

Tests can be facilitated by a designated city/utility staff member. Some MMUA members have tests facilitated by a staff member and MMUA staff. MMUA staff also helps students through the program in various ways as desired by the member utility.

Congratulations to the recent graduates for completing this rigorous course of training.

WMMPA’s Aa3 financial rating upheld by Moody’s

Moody’s Investors Service has affirmed its Aa3 rating for Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA) Power Supply Revenue Bonds as well as its stable outlook for the organization. WMMPA provides financing for and is the owner of electric generation, transmission, and other facilities that are used by Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) to serve 60 member municipal electric systems in Iowa, Minnesota, and the Dakotas.

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The Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission is looking into installing a 10 to 30 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the new city public works building, which is under construction.

The council, in its budget deliberations, is concerned about the cost of storm sewer system work connected with the Hwy. 61 rebuild scheduled for 2019. City staff also continues talks with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency over the agency’s request for effluent limits below 1.3 nanograms per liter of mercury in its treated water discharged to Lake Superior.

The North St. Paul city council approved a preliminary property tax levy increase of 15 percent for 2018. One factor in that increase was a reduction of $150,000 in the transfer from the municipal electric utility in 2017, with a similar transfer reduction proposed for 2018.

The cities of Le Sueur and Henderson have formed the Minnesota River Valley Public Utilities Commission to operate a wastewater treatment plant. Commissioners are mostly city council members from each city. There is discussion of the costs and benefits of making the commission independent of the cities.

The Lake City public library has grown from 4,800 to 6,800 square feet but its utility bills dropped 30 percent, thanks to energy-efficient lighting and HVAC systems. And, Lake City Public Utilities recently presented the library with a rebate check of $7,243. The city held a lighting rebate open house at the library Oct. 24.

The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission has commenced its budget process, complicated by the Xcel Energy’s terminating the Laurentian Energy Authority Purchased Power Agreement. The proposed budget calls for the municipal power plant to continue to produce steam and generate electricity as a byproduct.

The city of Marshall has hired Sharon Hanson as its new city administrator. Marshall Municipal Utilities representatives participated in the hiring process. Hanson was formerly Pipestone County administrator.

Marcia Seibert-Volz has retired after 40 years as Fairfax city administrator. A retirement open house was held Oct. 20. Nicholas Johnson is the new administrator.

After approximately 30 years, the city of St. James has upgraded its utility billing software from a DOS to Windows-based system. The change prompted a few calls to city hall, and was made in part to avoid expense related to upgrading the old software. The new software will enable electronic billing and credit card payments.

Another change was an increase in the storm water fee, from $1 to $7.50, to pay for an upcoming $3.6 million project.

The Duluth city council Sept. 25 approved a recommendation from the Duluth Public Utilities Commission to increase water rates 4.7 percent for each of the next six years, for an ultimate compounded net increase of 31.7 percent. The increase is expected to generate approximately $5 million annually, which will be used to replace aging infrastructure.

Two city of Litchfield workers were hurt Oct. 24 when the bucket truck they were working in was hit by a semi-truck. The incident happened at about 1:21 p.m. at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 12 and 3rd Street. The two men were in a bucket on top of the semi-trailer. The two men were ejected from the bucket, and landed on top of the semi-trailer. The two men were treated and released from the hospital, and returned to work the next day. The driver of the semi-truck was not injured. The incident is under investigation.

The proposed budget calls for increased electric power supply, transmission, and energy market services 31.7 percent. The increase is expected to generate approximately $5 million annually, which will be used to replace aging infrastructure.

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Grant to help Moorhead test community geothermal heating and cooling

Moorhead Public Service (MPS) was awarded an American Public Power Association (APPA) Demonstration of Energy Efficiency Developments (DEED) grant of $125,000 to investigate a community geothermal heating and cooling system/utility. This renewable energy ‘community geothermal’ concept is very similar to what MPS has done with its Capture The Wind, Capture The Energy, and Capture The Sun programs.

The grant would implement a renewable energy geothermal system at a commercial project, study geothermal in downtown Moorhead and throughout the community. Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) has expressed support for the project and, depending on results, APPA may possibly promote this concept to the nation’s public power utilities.

The APPA DEED project would investigate the feasibility of MPS owning and operating geothermal wells outside of a MPS customer’s building and providing heating and cooling into the building at a cost-of-service-based rate. MPS would own all of the wells and piping on the outside of the building and the customer would own the pumping and compressing equipment (heat pumps) on the inside of the building.

MPS is working with MRES to provide incentives/rebates for the electric heating and cooling equipment on the inside of a MPS customer’s building and providing heat rate. MPS would own all of the wells and piping on the outside of the building.

Moorhead Public Service Commission and Xcel Energy Sept. 18 filed a service territory compensation and orderly transfer agreement with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The parties also entered into an exception agreement to allow the municipal to serve certain customers in the area prior to MPUC approval.

The transfer involves 166 existing residential customers.

In the 1990s, the City of Moorhead and Town of Oakport executed a joint resolution designating an area, north of the city along the Red River, for orderly annexation. The city passed a 2014 ordinance providing that a portion of the area be annexed. As the annexation proceeded, Moorhead Public Service sought to exercise its right to grow with the city it serves.

The municipal agreed to pay Xcel a one-time payment of $539,584, which includes the original cost, less depreciation, of the facilities the municipal is acquiring. The utilities operate at different voltages, so items not acquired by the municipal will be removed by the municipal at its expense and returned to Xcel.

The exception agreement allowed MPS to serve approximately 70 customers in the area prior to MPUC approval. The regulatory filing included a joint letter, to the customers, signed by the parties.

Xcel Energy filed the agreement pursuant to state statute 216B.44(b), and it requested the MPUC approve the agreement.

Associate Members

Associate Members are signing up now for 2018 MMUA Annual Sponsorships.

The value of the Annual Sponsorship has increased from last year and now stands at approximately $1,750. So you can see that the $1,750 sponsorship package represents a solid value for the involved associate member!

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- Recognition as an MMUA Annual Sponsor at www.mmua.org
- Recognition as an Annual Sponsor at MMUA events
- Recognition as an Annual Sponsor in MMUA publications
- One 2-column by 5-inch Resource newsletter ad, in color. This includes a free, color, business-card sized ad in the Professional Services Directory (on pages 11-12)
- Two meeting registrations
- One trade show table (including power) and two attendee passes at either the Summer Conference or Technical and Operations (T&O) Conference
- Two meeting registrations at either the Summer Conference or T&O Conference

Be seen on our website, at our meetings, and in our publications.

For more information, contact Steve Downer at sdowner@mmua.org or Rita Kelly at rkelly@mmua.org

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Associate

Member News

IP Networks, Inc., has joined MMUA as an Associate Member.
IP Networks is a nationwide company providing data networking hardware and software solutions to customers across industry.
The company is located at 1140 East Andalusian Place, Tucson, AZ 85748. That is also the mailing address.
The main company phone number is 520.762.0000 and fax is 866.209.0671.
You find more information about the company at www.ipnetworks-inc.com
Main contact is Tony Mackay, Account Executive. He can be reached at 952.250.8051.

Electrical Lineworker

The Glencoe Light and Power Commission is accepting applications for a Journeyman Lineworker. The Lineworker position performs work related to the construction, maintenance, and repair of overhead and underground electrical distribution and transmission systems. Safety comes first and all journeymen linemen are required to learn, apply, and comply with all safety policies and practices, as well as all safety rules and regulations.
Requirements:
• A high school diploma, GED, or equivalent combination of education.
• Completion of a formal apprenticeship training program.
• Must have or be able to obtain a Class A Commercial Driver’s license within 30 days of employment.
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• Live within a 30 minute response time of Light and Power Commission office within 6 months of employment.
• Willing to work overtime to include being on call as scheduled.

Light and Power Commission offers a competitive and comprehensive wage and benefit package and is an EOE. Applicants must submit a resume and completed Glencoe Light and Power job application form available at www.glencoe-lightandpower.com or by contacting our office. Submit applications to: Light and Power Commission, 305 11th Street E., Glencoe, MN
Director of Power Resources
Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) is seeking applicants for immediate hire for the position of Director of Power Resources. The Director of Power Resources is the business unit leader for electric generation, power supply, and fleet and facilities. This position is responsible for integrated resource planning, managing the utility owned on-site generation, managing a long-term steam contract with the Mayo Clinic, serving as the alternate member representative as part of RPU’s partial requirements membership in the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMPMA), directing RPU’s wholesale energy marketing programs, and overseeing the construction, operation and maintenance of all RPU facilities along with the vehicle fleet.

Compensation
2018 salary range of $106,322 to $156,084, depending on qualifications.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
A Bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in Economics, Finance, Business Administration, Accounting, Engineering, or other related field considered useful in utility industry; AND Seven (7) years of progressively responsible full-time employment experience in power plant management, commodity trading, utility finance and rate making theory, contract administration, resource planning, market operations, transaction development, power project engineering, administration or management, or other relevant utility experience; WITH At least three (3) years of supervisory leadership experience directing professional and support staff.

Public Works Supervisor
The City of Grove City, MN (pop. 635) is seeking a Public Works Supervisor. This position is responsible for planning, developing, and directing the streets, water, wastewater, and parks departments and provides leadership, helping manage the budget, Federal, State, and local reports, operational duties in the field and various administration functions within an office setting. Minimum requirements: High School diploma or GED, Class C water license, Class D wastewater license, and Class B driver’s license. The City of Grove City offers a competitive salary and benefit package.

For additional information and to apply online, go to http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/human-resources/employment/

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Want to preserve local ratemaking authority? Attend MMUA ‘DG’ workshop

All municipal electric utilities need to have certain rules in place and understand state law requirements when a customer seeks to install solar or other electric generating equipment. Some utilities are finding themselves unprepared to deal with these situations, which are becoming more common.

Municipal utilities can govern customer generation interconnections only if they officially adopt appropriate regulatory rules, rates and contract forms pursuant to state laws related to distributed generation (DG). Without the right procedures in place, municipal utilities may be subject to DG regulatory scrutiny by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). As customers are increasingly interconnecting to the grid statewide, it is extremely important that each municipal utility adopt these regulatory tools and understand how they affect customer and utility rights and obligations.

To help municipal utilities prepare for these issues, MMUA has scheduled a series of regional workshops. These workshops are designed to provide you with the materials and information your utility needs to be in compliance with state law and to be able to handle the many customer interconnection issues that can arise and otherwise lead to trouble. It’s important for every municipal electric utility to attend one of these sessions.

MMUA, along with Star Trains, offers training to help any lineworker.

The Transformer School takes place December 13-15 at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall, with a Pre-Conference taking place December 12-13. Transformer School offers valuable hands-on training, with “mini” transformers. The transformers are energized to give participants experience with a variety of real-world scenarios.

Our instructor, Scott Meinecke, excels at explaining things in “ lineman” terms and the small group work stations ensure active discussion and learning from one another.

Energy, has developed a set of model rules with a contract template specifically for use by municipal utilities to affirm local control while following state law as required. At any one of four regional half-day training sessions hosted by MMUA, municipal utilities can receive the tools and knowledge they need to serve customers seeking to interconnect solar, wind and other generation.

Our lead instructor is Kristi Robinson of Star Energy Services, along with Bill Black of MMUA. Workshop dates are:

MMUA Transformer School offers training to help any lineworker

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Technical & Operations Conference December 6-8, 2017 Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

Make plans to attend the 17th annual MMUA Technical & Operations (T&O) Conference!

The T&O Conference is the perfect venue to connect with other industry leaders. The conference features an educational program geared toward superintendents, managers, supervisors, crew leaders and other key personnel. Participants are sure to find the variety of topics to be meaningful and gain valuable insight on some of the most challenging topics facing the industry today.

In addition, the conference will include a vendor showcase featuring new products as well as a trade show and reception. These events are always well attended and are a great opportunity to talk with suppliers and learn more about their products and services.

Wednesday, December 6

Welcome & Opening Remarks (1 p.m.)

The Language of Responsibility: Become the Leader People Want to Follow Kit Welchlin, Welchlin Communication Strategies

An MMUA favorite offers real-world advice on how to improve yourself and your workplace.

Thursday, December 7

Active Shooter & De-escalation Tactics Sargent Tad Hoeschen, St. Cloud P.D.

Learn about pre-assault behaviors and how to handle them, along with best practices in dealing with active situations.

Apprentice Lineworker & Rodeo Recognitions Mike Willetts, MMUA and Don Harbuck, Northwest Lineman College

The afternoon will offer a choice of two tracks.

Manager Track

Cyber Security

Eric Brown, Cyber Advisors

Reliability—Communicating the Value Troy Adams, Elk River Municipal Utilities; Dave Hunsdah, Hutchinson Utilities; Dirk Bierbaum, Rochester Public Utilities

Crew Leader/Foreman Track

Safety Culture Within

Kim Duncomb, Austin Utilities; Marc Machacek, MMUA

Tried and true advice on fostering a safety culture in your workplace.

For more information see the Events/Calendar section of the MMUA website, or contact rkelly@mmua.org.

MMUA Upcoming Meetings and Schools

‘DG’ Workshops


Meter School & Pre-Conference

February 13-16, 2018 MMUA Training Center, Marshall

PCB Workshop

February 27-28, 2018 MMUA Office, Plymouth

Rodeo Team Training Clinic

March 6-7, 2018 MMUA Training Center, Marshall

Legislative Conference

April 3-4, 2018 Best Western Capitol Ridge, St. Paul

Generation School

April 10-12, 2018 Owatonna Public Utilities

Substation School

April 17-19, 2018 Rochester Public Utilities

Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo

April 28, 2018 Raleigh, North Carolina

Underground School

May 15-18, 2018 MMUA Training Center, Marshall

MMUA presents a toolkit you can use to comply with current regulations.

Other stuff we think you ought to know!

Don’t delay – register today!

PCBs—A Minnesota Primer

Samantha Adams & Joshua Burman

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

What you need to know about PCBs

State Lineworkers Apprenticeship

Rick Marragon, Minn. Dept. of Labor & Industry

Vendor Showcase

Trade Show & Reception

Associate Members – Register Now to Exhibit at the T&O Trade Show

You should have received an email regarding the upcoming Technical & Operations (T&O) Trade Show. Space is limited and is sold on a first-come basis (we typically sell out early). If you have questions or for additional information, please contact Rita Kelly at rkelly@mmua.org or 763-746-0707.

Friday, December 8

How Distraction Changed My Life

Matt Logan

Rochester native challenges listeners to focus when they drive, as he shares his story of a daughter lost in a tragic car crash.

Distributed Energy Resources — It’s Not that Simple

Bob Jagusch, Bill Black and Amanda Duerr

MMUA presents a toolkit you can use to comply with current regulations.

MMUA Update

Other stuff we think you ought to know!

Noon - Meeting concludes