

Training Up the Next Generation

MMUA held its annual Overhead School at our Training Center in Marshall, Sept. 11-14. The school featured a number of educational opportunities, with the emphasis on hands-on field training. Most students rotated through four different three-hour training sessions. There was a good mix of experienced lineworkers, students and apprentices. 'Skip' Ferguson of Austin Utilities, at left in this picture, was among those sharing knowledge and experience. For more on the school, see page 10.



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Warroad benefits from municipal electric service

by Steve Downer

Reliable, affordable electric service is a modern-day necessity. That is especially true if you are a big business, or live in a cold climate.

Both of those factors apply in Warroad, which is one reason why industry and citizens are fortunate to be served by the City of Warroad Utilities Department. The utility provides electric, water, sewer and street services to the city of approximately 1,800 people.

One of those customers has considerably more employees than the city's population—Marvin Windows and Doors, with approximately 2,500 local employees. The Warroad campus is six miles from the Canadian border and spans 2.2 million square feet.

Overall, the family-owned Marvin companies reportedly have 6,000 employees at 12 facilities in the United States and Canada. The benevolent company has been more than good to the community and the family is well thought of—Bob Marvin is mayor. Other family members are involved with various local boards.

Owned by the citizens, the City of Warroad Utilities is committed to providing all its customers with dependable power, clean drinking water, high quality service and fair



A sparkling public library and heritage center is located across the street from city hall.

rates.

Utility Superintendent Dan Trosen is responsible for streets and the water, wastewater, stormwater and electric utilities. He is relatively new to the city, having come a year ago from Carrington, N.D., where he was public works director and water superintendent. Water is important everywhere, but especially when you live on the shores of Lake of the Woods, an international boundary and famous fishing lake.

Along with his local duties, Trosen is on the Lake of the Woods One Watershed One Plan policy committee. It is an important assignment: Warroad's wastewater pond system

is operating as designed, but new phosphorus regulations have Warroad, along with many other cities, concerned about future permit levels and regulatory costs.

Trosen said he felt confident taking the Warroad job because of the good, experienced city crews that were already in place. The electric utility, for instance, has two journeyman linemen and a second-year apprentice. Between the three, they have well over 30-years of experience with the utility.

The electric crew consists of trained linemen, but the city isn't that big. Trosen pointed

Warroad: see page 5 please

September storms activate municipal mutual aid network

Minnesota municipal electric utilities weren't called upon to help restore service in the wake of Hurricane Florence, but they did respond to a September emergency closer to home.

According to the National Weather Service, tornadoes and other severe wind gusts caused damage across southern Minnesota on Thursday, Sept. 20.

Some of the heaviest hit areas included Owatonna, Medford and West Concord. Other areas hard hit were Faribault, Warsaw, Cannon Falls, Waterville and Northfield. Damage from a few of those communities was attributed to tornadoes.

Wind gusts of 60-70 mph were observed.

Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU) called MMUA late Thursday night, to put the mutual aid process into motion. While MMUA contacted nearby utilities, OPU staff completed a damage assessment.

First thing in the morning the following crews and equipment met at OPU: two bucket trucks and four line-

Mutual Aid: see page 11 please

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State regulatory agency considers dockets that might interest municipals

While rulings of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) often do not apply to locally-regulated municipal utilities, they may often be interesting, and instructive.

The MPUC has recently addressed a number of dockets that may be of interest to municipal utilities. These include:

Updating Generic Standards for Utility Tariffs for Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established Under Minn. Stat. 216B.1611.

The initial comment period closed Sept. 19 with reply comments due Oct. 3. The issue is rate guidelines for establishing the terms of the financial relationship between an electric utility and a distributed generation customer with no more than 10 megawatts of capacity. While this tariff does not apply directly to municipals or cooperatives, they may want to adhere as closely to it as possible.

The issue was broached in

March when the Minnesota Solar Energy Industry Association filed a request to consider updating the tariff. A workgroup (including MMUA) was convened and directed to update the state-wide interconnection standards.

In a related docket, the MPUC Aug. 6 issued an order denying reconsideration in the matter of a complaint by Red Lake Falls Community Hybrid LLC Regarding Potential Purchased Power Agreement Terms and Pricing with Otter Tail Power Company (OTP).

Red Lake late in 2016 filed a request for the Commission to resolve a dispute with OTP.

Among its findings, the MPUC Aug. 2 found that the purchase price for energy per MWH is equal to an estimate of avoided costs based on the utility's small power production tariff. It also found that the contract length for the project was 20 years and set a start date. The Commission also denied a Red Lake

request to award attorney's fees.

Will the state's noise standards derail a large wind farm in Freeborn County?

That is the subject of the application for Freeborn Wind Energy for a Large Wind Conversion System Site Permit for the 84-megawatt wind power development.

An administrative law judge in May issued findings of fact, conclusions of law and a recommendation. The judge found that Freeborn Wind failed to demonstrate the proposed project will meet the requirements of applicable Minnesota noise standards, and recommended the MPUC either deny the site permit or provide it a period of time to submit a plan demonstrating how it will comply with the noise standards at all times throughout the entire project footprint.

The item was scheduled for hearing Sept. 20 but was pulled from the agenda.

Time-of-Day (TOD) Rate

The MPUC in July accepted Minnesota Power's compliance filing for its Temporary Rider of Residential Time-of-Day (TOD) Rate Participants of the Smart Grid Advanced Metering Infrastructure Pilot Project.

The project was approved in 2012. The TOD Rate Pilot was unique for Minnesota, including an on- and off-peak rate along with a critical peak pricing (CPP) component for summer and winter. "Events" could be called at times of highest demand and customers were charged an additional 77 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to reflect high wholesale market prices or power system emergency conditions.

In March 2016, MP requested the MPUC approve a rate adjustment to assume only 25 hours of CPP instead of 100 and adjust the on-peak adder to 4.87 cents per kWh instead of 1.415 cents per kWh. The adjustment was requested due to a large under-recovery of revenue.

More recently, MP in May requested to remove the CPP component and sought to discontinue ongoing evaluation of the TOD Rate Pilot.

MP started the pilot with 660 participants and ended with 425. The company called 16 CPP events between May 2017 and February 2018 for a total of 48 CPP hours. Eight consecutive days of CPP events were called from Dec. 29, 2017 through Jan. 5, 2018. This was caused by extreme cold, low wind-power production and high natural gas prices.

CPP events showed a statistically-significant load reduction in summer but not in winter. Customers expressed dissatisfaction with the CPP events.

The company said that over 40 percent of its meters are advanced metering infrastructure, and that it estimates full deployment of AMI meters by the end of 2025. Until AMI is fully deployed and a meter data management system is in place, said MP, expansion of the TOD rate was not practicable.

Gas Utility Competition

The MPUC Sept. 19 issued an order following an investigation into parameters for competition among natural gas utilities involving duplication of facilities and use of promotional incentives and other payments.

The investigation was opened in July 2017, following a complaint by Minnesota Energy Resources Corp.

(MERC) against Xcel Energy over Xcel's plan to extend natural gas service to a new Minnesota Vikings complex in Eagan. MERC claimed that the complex could be served by MERC's existing gas infrastructure and that Xcel's planned service extension was inconsistent with state policy disfavoring the unnecessary duplication of facilities. MERC also alleged that Xcel had offered the Vikings a promotion incentive in violation of state law.

The MPUC dismissed MERC's complaint but took a look at the issue.

The order stipulates:

• Commission-regulated natural gas utilities are prohibited from offering cash or noncash promotional incentives on a prospective basis.

The Commission did not prohibit competition but adopted the following principles with respect to duplication of natural gas facilities:

• A (state) Commission-regulated utility is prohibited from extending natural gas service to any customer who is already being served by another Commission-regulated utility through its existing facilities unless certain circumstances exist.

• Determining whether a utility is duplicating the facilities of another will be based on the nature, size and physical proximity of the new facilities relative to the other utility's existing infrastructure, as well as the extent to which the existing facilities need to be expanded to serve the customer.

• To establish that its duplication of existing facilities is necessary, a utility must show that (a) customers cannot obtain natural gas service from the utility with the existing facilities; or (b) such duplication furthers the public interest based on (i) the needs of the customers who would be served by extending the service, (ii) the incremental capital expenditures associated with duplicating the existing facilities compared to any incremental capital expenditures needed to expand the existing facilities to serve the customers in question; (iii) any safety concerns; and (iv) any other factors.

Disputes regarding the duplication of facilities will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Upon the filing of a complaint, the respondent utility shall not engage in any construction activity related to the allegedly duplicative facilities while the complaint is pending unless the Commission otherwise allows.



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EPA proposes to replace 'Clean Power Plan' with new rule—dispute starts anew

by Paul Ciampoli,
News Director, American
Public Power Association and
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Writer

Washington Report



The Environmental Protection Agency in August proposed to replace the Clean Power Plan with a new rule that would let states decide how to make existing coal-fired power plants more efficient to lower their greenhouse gas emissions.

The Obama administration's Clean Power Plan exceeded the EPA's legal authority and would in some areas lead to double digit rate hikes, Andrew Wheeler, the EPA's acting administrator, told reporters in a conference call after the proposal was unveiled.

The Clean Power Plan aimed to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the U.S. power plant fleet by 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The plan, which was stayed by the U.S. Supreme Court while litigation was ongoing, would have required states to meet emissions reduction targets using various options such as energy efficiency, renewable

resources, and carbon dioxide trading programs.

The EPA contends its proposed rule will roughly lower greenhouse gas emissions as much as the Clean Power Plan would have, partly because the power sector has been shifting away from coal-fired generation towards low and non-emitting generation resources since the Clean Power Plan was drafted, according to Bill Wehrum, EPA assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. energy-related CO₂ emissions have declined in seven of the past 10 years, and they are now 14 percent lower than in 2005.

The EPA is proposing that heat rate improvement measures are the "best system of emission reduction" (BSER) for the roughly 600 existing coal-fired units that will be affected by the rule.

"EPA believes that a BSER focused on making these plants as efficient as possible is the best way to ensure GHG emission reductions regardless of other factors such as technology changes for other types of generation, changes in fuel price, changes in electricity demand, or changes in energy policy that neither environmental regulators nor power companies have the power to control," the agency said in the draft rule.

Under the proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule, states will have three years to develop state plans. States would have flexibility in determining which heat rate improvement measures and processes they put in place for affected power plants to meet their compliance obligations using guidelines issued by the agency. The EPA would then have a year to act on the state plans.

The proposed heat rate improvement guidelines are a set of technologies and operations and maintenance practices. They include neural networks, intelligent sootblowers, boiler feed pumps, air heater and duct leakage control, variable frequency drives, blade path upgrades, redesign or replacement of economizers, improved steam surface condenser cleaning, and improved operation and maintenance practices.

The EPA decided not to include switching a coal-fired unit to natural gas as a BSER option because it would fundamentally redefine the source, the agency said in the proposed rule.

The EPA's proposal would allow states to set performance standards, based on a power plant's age, location, and design.

The EPA is also proposing an hourly "preliminary applicability test" that would allow operators to make changes to coal-fired units without triggering New Source Review permitting requirements.

"This change will allow states, in establishing standards of performance, to consider [heat rate improve-

ments] that would otherwise not be cost-effective due to the burdens incurred from triggering NSR," the EPA said.

The American Public Power Association said the proposed plan respects the legal limits of the Clean Air Act while comports with prior Supreme Court precedent on CO₂ and gives states needed flexibility when it comes to setting performance standards for electric generating units.

Additionally, the rule provides a framework that recognizes each state's unique conditions and avoids interfering with established state energy policies.

"We look forward to participating in EPA's rulemaking to finalize its proposal so that our members — community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities — can make long-term planning decisions and investments to best serve their customers with reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible power," said Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the Association.

Moody's weighs in

In an Aug. 27 report on the EPA proposal, Moody's Investors Service said it views the proposed approach as a less stringent form of regulation and much more moderate than the CPP. "As a result, we do not expect it to have much of an adverse effect, if any, on the operation or the economics of coal plants," Moody's said.

Compared with the CPP, the Affordable Clean Energy rule should slow the decline of coal usage, a credit positive for coal producers, the rating agency went on to say.

"Coal producers and coal power plants have been under tremendous economic pressure because the price of natural gas—a competing fuel for generating electricity—has fallen dramatically in the past few years," Moody's said. "Renewable generation could also be a major challenge to coal in the longer term."

The report noted that coal-fired generation as a percent-

age of total electricity generation in the US was 30 percent in 2017, down from about 48 percent a decade ago, "and we expect coal-fired generation to decline further over the next several years."

Advancement in shale gas development using fracking technology was the primary contributor to the fall in gas prices and Moody's expects that shale development will keep prices low and they could possibly decline further.

"The cost of renewable generation (mainly solar and wind) has also declined precipitously, and in some locations is currently the cheapest form of generation. We expect that renewable generation's contribution to electricity generation will grow, both because of economics and state-based green energy initiatives, and that it will crowd out other forms of generation such as coal and nuclear."

EPA estimates replacing CPP could save \$400 mil per year

The EPA estimates replacing the Clean Power Plan could save \$400 million a year.

The EPA said replacing the Clean Power Plan could ease grid reliability issues that are driven by trends in the industry.

"This shift is creating tremendous strain on the power infrastructure even without the added pressures of an EPA mandate to further shift away from additional coal-fired generation," the EPA said.

The EPA said it will take comments on the proposal for 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

On Sept. 10, the EPA said that it would hold a public hearing in Chicago on the proposed Affordable Clean Energy proposal.

The proposed rule will likely face court challenges.

FCC wireless broadband order nixes local control?

The Federal Communications Commission Sept. 27 released its Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order in the Matter of Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment. The order was widely seen as largely preempting state and local authority on pole attachments and rights-of-ways.

As of this writing, the American Public Power Association was studying the Ruling and Order for its possible implications.

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Compared on a lineman-to-customer basis, Warroad Utilities an industry leader

One key to the great service municipal utilities are known for is that they often employ a significant number of electric personnel per customer, compared to other utilities.

The City of Warroad electric department, for example, isn't one of the biggest in Minnesota, but there isn't one better situated to serve its customers.

A back-of-the-napkin analysis shows that, although Warroad has only three linemen, its lineworker-to-customer ratio is higher than larger utilities.

Otter Tail Power (OTP) is the nearest investor-owned utility to Warroad. It provides electricity to 422 communities, including Badger and Greenbush to the west of Warroad, and to rural areas in western Minnesota, northeastern South Dakota, and the eastern two-thirds of North Dakota.

In its most recent reliability report to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, OTP notes that while it serves three cities with populations of over 10,000 (Fergus Falls, Bemidji and Jamestown, No. Dak.) the average population of the cities it serves is approximately 630. Over one-half of the cities it serves have populations of fewer than 200.

In other words, OTP's cities look sort of like municipally-served cities, except for a couple things:

OTP operates nine Customer Service Centers (CSC) for its 422 communities. Every municipal electric utility has a customer service center, which is either a utilities service center or something commonly known as city hall.

Otter Tail has an approximately 70,000 square-mile service territory—roughly the size of Wisconsin.

Municipal territories sometimes reach outside of city limits (a reflection of service provided years ago through their municipal power plants), but most are confined to the city limits.

OTP's report on staffing levels at each work center noted 148 full-time equivalent positions held by field employees responsible for responding to trouble and for the operation and maintenance of distribution lines.

The company's EIA data for the time shows 61,482 customers, or roughly 415 customers per employee. This does not include 11,688 South Dakota customers and 59,769 in North Dakota, for which the Dakota service centers also respond.

Comparable Xcel Energy statistics show 475 field employees (including 54 in Fargo and Sioux Falls) and 1,269,408 customers, or 2,672



Municipal utilities don't put on airs, but they sure provide good service. Warroad Utilities Superintendent Dan Trosen is flanked here by linemen Dan Maurer (left) and Dillon Moser. Not pictured is Kevin Hanson.

customers per field worker.

Warroad data from the same time period shows 914 customers and three lineworkers, or 304 customers per lineworker. The municipal utility's field staff also live

in or in close proximity to the customers, ensuring a more rapid response time. They also are very familiar with their electric distribution system, and have built much of it with their own hands.

MPUC agrees to make electric service territory adjustments for three municipal utilities

Three municipal utilities—Detroit Lakes, Buffalo and Waseca—recently were involved in joint requests to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to modify electric service territory boundaries. In each case, the MPUC agreed to order an updated electric service area map to reflect the change.

The MPUC Sept. 13 dealt with the Detroit Lakes-Wild Rice Electric Cooperative request, which included areas

within city limits but formerly within the electric service territory assigned to the cooperative. The agreement covers three areas on the north and west sides of Long Lake. The municipal will assume service to one area this year, one in 2020 and the third in 2022.

The joint request contained a map and legal description but no terms of agreement. The two transfer areas encompass 378 acres and have

approximately 75 residential and 20 small commercial customers. The cooperative will continue to serve transfer areas on a service-by-exception basis until the transfer of service is arranged.

The parties submitted customer notice letters, identifying the proceeding before the MPUC.

The Commission acted on two requests to update electric service territory records on Aug. 16.

The City of Buffalo and Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative Association joint request covered seven acres at

the intersection of two county roads and zero customers.

The Waseca-Xcel Energy filing involved an area annexed into the city in 1993 and served by the city since that time, under a service by exception agreement. The area is known as the Market Place Addition and includes one customer on six acres. The unoccupied portion of the land is vacant and owned by the city, according to regulatory documents.

The city agreed to pay the investor-owned utility one cent times each kilowatt hour of electric energy sold to each

customer in the affected area, with such payment not to exceed a maximum payment of \$2,500 per customer. The loss-of-revenue payment commenced on the transfer date (the date of the MPUC action) and was to continue for 10 years, unless the maximum usage of 250,000 kWh is first satisfied.

The loss of revenue payments do not apply to facilities owned or operated by the city for providing city services, including, but not limited to, streetlights.

No other payments, including for integration or other factors, are due.

Solar 'garden' ruling

The MPUC has also recently approved a joint request from Xcel Energy and East Central Energy (ECE) to amend their service territory boundaries. The petition was the result of a 'community solar garden' docket in which the Commission found that "A community solar garden must be located entirely within the service territory of the utility administering the solar-garden program."

The area is in Chisago County, near Center City. There were no existing customers.

Initially, the developer was not willing to modify the project location, and ECE was not willing to cede a portion of its territory to Xcel. Citing local community interest, the parties reached an agreement. The transfer will allow the solar plant to be entirely within Xcel territory. No compensation was involved.



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Warroad:

continued from front page

out that he supervises seven people, which is the largest city labor force. When a water main breaks or snow needs to be plowed, the linemen pitch in to help.

Currently, a big downtown street project is underway, and the crew is busy locating and moving its electric infrastructure in the area. Lines in the project area will be placed underground, as part of an ongoing project to underground the electric distribution system.

The push to place the 7,200-volt electric system underground gained steam about five years ago. A little over half of the system is underground now—hopes are that the job will be complete in a couple years.

“It’s more reliable, and looks better,” Trosen said. It also eliminates a lot of tree trimming issues. And when strong winds do come up, the linemen said, they are glad electric lines are being put underground.

Along with competitive rates and enviable reliability, the local crew takes pride in their electric system and provides quick response when called on. Three years ago, a noontime wind storm broke six poles. Putting things right was lot of work. Power was entirely restored by 3-4 a.m. In the countryside, outages persisted for days.

That storm, following on the heels of a 2006 F-3 tornado, made everyone realize



Marvin Windows and Doors is the largest electric customer of the City of Warroad. More people work at the local plant than live in the city. The population within five miles of the city (pop. 1,800) is approximately 5,000.

the value an underground system.

Electric crew members are glad to work for Warroad. They take ownership in the local system, and like having a good feel for everything.

“There isn’t a better place to be,” said line crew member Dan Maurer.

Commission oversees utility

The men have good equipment. The utility is overseen by a five-member commission (including two council members), with overall authority resting with the city council. Warroad is supplied at wholesale by the Northern Municipal Power Agency.

It is likely the northernmost municipal electric crew in Minnesota, if not the country.

City Administrator Kathy Lovelace has been with Warroad 20 years, and has served as administrator since 2003.

The city also operates a liquor store, airport, camp-

ground, and library along with parks, police, fire and ambulance services.

Warroad’s famous hockey rinks are owned and operated by a local arena association with a separate board.

Lovelace definitely sees the value of the municipal electric utility. It is locally-owned, operated and maintained, she said, with quicker, faster service if there is an issue. Of similar importance is the payment in lieu of tax the electric fund makes to the general fund. In Warroad, that has been set at \$270,000 a year, which saves local taxpayers a similar amount.

The local utilities com-



Warroad Utilities Department occupies an unassuming building near the Warroad River.

mission is sensible to keep rates as low as they can, said Lovelace, and are intent to keep them that way. The transfer is set to reflect a bal-

ance between the legitimate financial interests of the city, its taxpayers and the ratepayers.

Warroad City Hall on National Register of Historic Places

Warroad city hall is located in the former Canadian National (CN) depot, which is listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

The railway train stopped in Warroad for the first time in 1900. In 1914 embers from a coal burning engine ignited the original depot and it was destroyed by fire. The depot is the first one in built in the U.S. by a foreign (Canadian) corporation. It was negotiated by a special treaty between Canada and the United States.

Until the 1930’s, immigration offices were housed in the corner of the depot’s waiting room.

In 1977, CN ended its passenger service and in September 1978 the depot was closed, by signed orders from the Minnesota Dept of Transportation.



Warroad city hall, formerly a Canadian National train depot, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The people of Warroad wanted to keep the depot as a symbol of Warroad’s past. In 1980, Governor Quie signed a bill making the depot a state

historical site. The next year, the Marvin family donated \$25,000 to purchase and renovate the depot in memory of George and Almina Marvin. In 1982 the depot was placed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

In 1990, a new Public Library and Heritage Center was built across the street. Police relocated the new Public Safety Building in 2005.

Approximately 20-24 non-passenger trains per day still pass through Warroad.

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Rodney Marshall is the new general manager of **New Ulm Public Utilities**. He has over 30 years experience in electric distribution, transmission, substations, federal energy regulatory issues, and project management experience.

He most recently was the Director of Distribution Operations in response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. He was stationed in Puerto Rico during that time. Prior to that he was at South Norwalk Electric Works in Connecticut and was the Director of Electric Operations.

Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) has experienced meter tampering incidents. It has reminded the community and its customers that tampering with or removing an electric meter is against the law and could be fatal.

RPU asked all customers to visually inspect their meter for tampering or damage and to contact the utility if they think that someone has tried to disconnect or damage their electric meter.

Hibbing Public Utilities Commission is studying the future of its steam electric generating plant and district

Around the State



heating system. The utility will receive \$71 million between now and 2023, due to the termination of Laurentian Energy Authority (of which it was a member) and Xcel Energy power purchase agreement.

Hibbing is working with the local community college to transition from steam to natural gas. The college is the utility's third largest steam customer. The utility is also upgrading its natural gas town border station.

The **City of Benson** has received a \$4 million payment, with more to come, for the cancellation of the power purchase agreement between Xcel and Benson Power, a private company located in Benson. The city, due to local economic dislocation, expects to receive a total of \$20 million over four years. As part of the deal, enabled by recent legislation, Xcel plans to level the plant to four feet below grade. A group of city officials, however, traveled to California to meet with executives of biogas energy



The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission is studying the future of its steam electric generating plant, which also supplies a district heating system.

companies, who appear interested in the facility.

With the first payment in hand, the city is gearing up its economic development efforts for the area.

Barnesville Municipal Electric has sent its customers information on a local solar garden. The utility currently has two arrays of 40 panels. Potential exists for an additional 40-panel array. Customers have the opportunity to invest \$750 in a 330-watt panel, if they so choose, with an expected \$50 annual credit on their bill. Customers can buy more than one panel, and the ownership

contract is for 20 years.

Barnesville currently provides 54 percent renewable energy, including hydro.

The **Hutchinson** city council recently approved rate changes recommended by the Hutchinson Utilities Commission. The two-year rate restructuring is revenue neutral. Customers will pay higher fixed charges and lower charges for consumption.

The City of **Hawley** and the Hawley Public Utilities Commission have received the results of an electric cost of service study. All seven

customer service classes were studied and small kWh increases were enacted for three rate classes: residential and commercial off-peak and generator. Commercial and large commercial rate classes received slight kWh decreases.

Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMM-PA) held an open house Aug. 8 at its new 38.8 megawatt power plant in **Owatonna**. The \$40 million plant houses four large natural gas-burning engine generator sets. The engines allow multiple fast starts a day, valuable in an era of increased wind and solar energy. The plant is patterned after a similar SMMPA plant in Fairmont.

Construction is underway at the 39-unit, 101-megawatt Stoneray wind energy conversion development in western Murray County. The project developer expects units to be producing by the end of the year. Power will be sold on the open market until 2020, when a power purchase agreement with SMMPA commences.

Truman Public Utilities Commission is struggling

State: see next page please

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Fitch & Moody's upgrade MMPA bond ratings; ERMU begins taking service

September 17, 2018 – Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investor Services have each upgraded their bond ratings for the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA). The rating increases support the Agency's long-term goals and strengthen MMPA's position for the future.

MMPA provides wholesale electricity to its member communities, which in turn deliver and sell that electricity to residential and business customers in their communities.

Fitch upgraded MMPA's bond rating from "A" to "A+."

In its rating commentary, Fitch cited MMPA's strong financial performance, effective management, and competitive rates in upgrading its rating.

Moody's upgraded MMPA's bond rating from "A2" to "A1." This upgrade represents the second time in four years that Moody's has upgraded MMPA's bond rating.

David Niles, Vice President of MMPA's management partner Avant Energy, said, "The strong ratings from both agencies demonstrate MMPA's financial strength."

Contributing to the ratings upgrades was MMPA's retirement of more than \$32 million of debt in 2017, including the prepayment of \$22 million of its Series 2007 bonds. By extinguishing this debt, the Agency avoided paying nearly \$13 million in interest expense over the next 20 years, resulting in lower rates to members.

MMPA members include municipal utilities in Anoka, Arlington, Brownton, Buffalo, Chaska, East Grand Forks, Elk River, Le Sueur, North St. Paul, Olivia, Shakopee and Winthrop.

2013 and on Oct. 1 began receiving its electric power from MMPA. Its power supply agreement with MMPA runs through 2050.

"We've been looking forward to this day for years," said ERMU's General Manager, Troy Adams. "We're excited to join a great group of like-minded municipals, who share a similar vision of public power and pride in the power of their hometowns," he said.

ERMU spent years looking at potential power supply partners. Major factors in the utility's decision included

MMPA's long history of competitive rates, the fact that each MMPA member has a seat on the MMPA board of directors, and MMPA's balanced and efficient power supply portfolio.

MMPA's management partner is Avant Energy, a Minneapolis-based energy management company and an innovative supplier of energy project development, management, trading, consulting and utility operations services.



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ERMU takes service

Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) became the Agency's 12th member in

State:

continued from facing page

with how to lower salts at the water treatment plant without costing ratepayers more money, and has asked residents to reduce use of water softener salt in home treatment systems, by lowering softener settings.

The City of Lanesboro has installed two two-car Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations in a parking area conveniently close to downtown. The cost of the two Chargepoint units was \$16,700 and installation cost (in a rocky area) was \$5,300. The city will charge its standard \$0.1471 per kWh fee for usage. Some of the electricity supplied by the chargers will come from the local hydro-electric plant.

A new company owns the solar panel manufacturing facility in Mountain Iron, and the facility now employs about 130 people and is churning out a panel about every 80 seconds. The company is Canadian. Only three countries make the glass used in the panels: Portugal, Germany and China.

Minnesota Power is investing \$2 million in a new substation at a former oriented strand board mill site in partnership with Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (GRPUC) and the Itasca Economic Development Corp. The new substation, it is hoped, will enhance the marketability of the site and reliability for all GRPUC customers. The mill employed 190 people before it closed in 2008. Grand Rapids will own the substation.



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Minnesota Lineworkers Rodeo

Tyler Meiners of Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) won the overall journeyman competition and Tyler Hanson of Shakopee Public Utilities (SPU) was the overall apprentice winner, at the second annual Minnesota Lineworkers' Rodeo, held Sept. 11 at the MMUA Training Field in Marshall.

Meiners scored a perfect 100 in each of the three events: Obstacle Course, Rope Toss and Hurtman Rescue. He also recorded the fastest time in the Obstacle Course, but finished fourth in the Rope Toss and second in the Hurtman Rescue, due to time. Meiners was the only journeyman with a perfect score of 300.

Hanson paced the apprentices with a score of 298. Three men finished at 296: SPU's Matt Kahle, and Nathan Roeder and Justin Varpness of Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU). Hanson finished second in the Hurtman Rescue, fifth in the Rope Toss and first in the Obstacle Course.

Eighteen linemen from six utilities participated. The event preceded the MMUA Overhead School.

The top three finishers overall and in each event were:

Overall

Apprentice

Tyler Hanson, SPU
Matt Kahle, SPU
Nathan Roeder, MMU
Journeyman
Tyler Meiners, RPU
Mike Enright, SPU
Tommy Flores, MMU

Rope Toss

Apprentice

Hunter Gleason, RPU
Matt Kahle, SPU
Nathan Roeder, MMUA
Journeyman
Trevor Morin, MMU
Tommy Flores, MMU
Brad Carlson, SPU

Hurtman Rescue

Apprentice

Hunter Gleason, RPU
Tyler Hanson, SPU
Matt Kahle, SPU
Journeyman
Mike Enright, SPU
Tyler Meiners, RPU
Jamie VonBank, SPU

Obstacle Course

Apprentice

Tyler Hanson, SPU
Justin Varpness, MMU
Nathan Roeder, MMU
Journeyman
Tyler Meiners, RPU
Mike Enright, SPU
Mitch Lachelt, Brainerd Public Utilities

The event came off without a hitch, and it couldn't have happened without a small army of volunteers and generous support from event sponsors. MMUA thanks all the contestants, the utilities that sent them, our many judges, volunteers and event sponsors.

Generous contributions were made by ABM Equipment, Altec, Bashlin Industries, FS3, Irby, Northwest Lineman College, Truck Utilities, Utilities Plus Energy Services, Utility Sales Associates, Ziegler Power Systems, Border States Electric and 3M/DBI-SALA.

see facing page



MMUA's Cody Raveling participated in the opening ceremonies.



photos by Steve Downer

Among those attending were 25 students from Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

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RPU's Tyler Meiners finished first overall in the Journeyman competition.



Mike Enright of SPU won the Hurtman Competition and finished second overall in the Journeyman class.

Each event required several judges—22 in all for the three events.

Hurtman judges included Chief Judge Larry Lamote of MMU, and event judges Jeff Bechthold of Missouri River Energy Services, Brad Olson of Brainerd, Wade Williams of Fairmont, Dale Narlock of Thief River Falls, Dave Hunstad of Hutchinson, Kent Sanders and Greg Drent of Shakopee, and Tom Ewert of MMUA.

Rope Toss judges included chief judge Todd Keach of Rochester, and event judges Trent Hawkinson of Brainerd, Scott Thoreson of Elk River, Jim Griebel of Delano and Steve Johnson of MMU.

Obstacle Course judges included Chief Judge Steve Tiegs of Austin, and event judges Larry Botten of New Ulm, Eric John of Moorhead, Brendan Olson of Hutchinson, Dan Hanson of Delano and Roger Hennen of Shakopee.

Cody Raveling of MMUA was master judge.

Bucket truck operators were James Monroe of MMUA and Jeff Martinson of Austin.

Flag climbers included Lamote, Keach, Tiegs, Raveling, and Tony Mead of MMU. There were many additional volunteers, who filled a number of roles.



Hanson (above) won the Apprentice competition. The opportunity to talk to, and learn from, judges and other linemen is a big benefit of participating in or attending the event. For more photos on the event, see the IA Facebook page.



A judge kept a close eye on a contestant in the Rope Toss competition, which included a number of tasks, including proper knot tying.



Contestants in the Obstacle Course.

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Overhead School brings together 40 lineworkers from 21 Midwestern utilities

MMUA, along with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and American Public Power Association, held the 2018 Overhead Lineworker School Sept. 11-14 at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The school drew nearly 40 lineworkers from more than 20 municipal utilities and one electric cooperative. In addition, first and second year lineworker students from Minnesota West Community & Technical College in Jackson came to observe the Multi-Session Class.

In a new twist, students rotated through four different three-hour training sessions (except for the Advanced Class). This allowed participants to take advantage of all hands-on training sessions, learn about a variety of topics and hone practical skills for efficiency and safety.

Along with the hands-on training sessions, a number of general sessions were held. They included:

Personal Lineman's Safety Testimonies

Larry Botten of New Ulm Public Utilities and Jim



Safe work practices are stressed throughout the school and in each session.

Griebel of Delano Municipal Utilities talked about their experiences and personal commitment to safety.

Drone Operation

Drones are transforming utility and energy operations. Instructors were Al Ebbinga of Alex Air Apparatus and MMUA's Chris Trembley.

2018 Rodeo Recap

Minnesota was again well-represented at the national Rodeo in April with five teams and six apprentices competing. Participants shared their experiences and how they plan to prepare for next year's rodeo, which will be held in Colorado Springs. We also recapped this year's Minnesota Rodeo.

The hands-on rotation included:

Primary Double Dead-End

This session covered all the proper steps needed to change a wood tangent inline arm into a double dead-end fiberglass arm. The class was led and instructed by Todd Keach and Chad Peterson, Rochester Public Utilities and Steve Tiegs and Jeff Martinson, Austin Utilities.

3-Phase Transformer Bank



All tasks at the Overhead School are taught by seasoned linemen and watched closely by instructors in the air and on the ground.

Troubleshooting

This session went through different scenarios to help better understand troubleshooting issues. Instructors were Trent Hawkinson and Brad Olson, Brainerd Public Utilities and Eric John, Moorhead Public Service.

Rigging and Knots

This session covered knots and rigging used in all aspects of line construction and maintenance. Instructor was James Monroe, MMUA.

Troubleshooting

Participants practiced different troubleshooting techniques including testing, grounding and proper rubber cover up. Different scenarios were presented that participants were instructed to repair/fix.

Instructors were Wade Williams of Fairmont Public Utilities; Tyler Meiners of Rochester Public Utilities; Scott Thoreson of Elk River



Trent Hawkinson of Brainerd discussed a real-world scenario with a group that focused on troubleshooting.

Municipal Utilities and Larry Lamote, Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU).

Advanced Class

This class covered Budgeting and Finance 101. This class was designed to help the transition from line

crew to management. Some of the topics discussed included: safety, work management, budget planning, mutual aid/emergency preparedness, and finances. Instructors were Steve Johnson, MMU; Dave Hunstad, Hutchinson Utilities and Greg Drent, Shakopee Public Utilities.

Equipment providers:

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- Austin
- Brainerd
- Elk River
- Moorhead
- Rochester
- Watertown, So. Dak.



Lineworkers from the various utilities get to compare notes throughout the school.




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The Training Field was used to the maximum during the school.

Mutual aid: Municipal network swings into action following severe storm

continued from front page

workers from Rochester Public Utilities, one bucket truck, one digger derrick and four lineworkers from Austin Utilities, and one bucket truck and two lineworkers from St.

James. The St. James crew was replaced by one from Blooming Prairie for a day, and Shakopee Public Utilities assisted starting Sunday.

The utilities are veterans of mutual aid events, ranging from localized damage to hur-



Wind knocked down feeder poles in an industrial area on the west side of Owatonna.



Austin Utilities sent a bucket truck, digger derrick and four lineworkers to the Owatonna mutual aid event.

ricane restoration in the eastern U.S.

By Tuesday morning, a few services still needed to be reconnected. In some cases, an electrician needed to fix service point damage at the

residence before power could be reconnected. The utility posted regular updates on its Facebook page.

An unconfirmed tornado also caused damage in and around Fairmont. At one

point, approximately half of Fairmont was without power. Fairmont Public Utilities quickly restored power to most of its customers. Four poles were damaged and needed to be replaced.

Municipal utilities have a long history of helping each other out, both locally and nationally

Editor's note: The following article appeared in the Owatonna Public Utilities newsletter, following the recent

mutual aid event.

Local and state governments share the responsibility for protecting their citizens

from disasters, and helping them recover when disaster strikes. In some cases, damage is such that a local government needs help to quickly restore essential services.

Municipal utilities have a long history of helping each other recover from natural disasters. Minnesota municipal utilities responded heroically to help St. Peter recover from a devastating tornado and East Grand Forks from an overwhelming flood. When other Minnesota municipals were hit with ice storms or tornadoes, these utilities were first in line to return the

help.

This willingness to help another utility in need became more formalized in the year 2000, when the Federal Emergency Management Agency ceased to reimburse aiding utilities following declaration of a disaster, unless the utilities had existing mutual aid agreements in place.

In response, municipal electric and rural cooperative utilities across the country signed identical mutual aid agreements. The agreement does not obligate a utility to respond. But if it does, it makes it eligible for federal

disaster assistance funds, and sets up a framework to cover a host of issues.

Utilities, however, respond before any disaster declaration. That is simply what they do.

Public Power nationally has responded quickly and efficiently to several high-profile disasters. Minnesota municipal crews earned high praise for their work in the wake of hurricanes Sandy and Irma. (Regional utilities were able to handle the damage from Florence.)

Municipal utilities are generally small compared to other utilities, but with 2,000 locally-owned Public Power utilities across the country, we form a strong network. Public power personnel are tied in to FEMA and state emergency command centers, and are in close communication on a state and local basis.

When disaster strikes, Public Power responds quickly, and with a clear purpose. We extend our heartfelt thanks to those utilities that responded so well and so recently in Owatonna.

GRE proposes upgrade to serve Enbridge Line 3

Great River Energy has proposed a 34.5-kV transmission project in Becker and Hubbard counties, along with a substation upgrade and two-miles of 115-kV line. The 115-kV section of line is designed to serve pumping stations for the proposed Enbridge Line 3 oil pipeline.

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Technical and Operations (T&O) Conference

December 4-6. Register now!

The Technical & Operations Conference (T&O) is geared for utility Managers, Superintendents, Crew Leaders, Foreman and other interested utility personnel.

The T & O features an exceptional educational program covering timely topics. Plus there will be plenty of opportunities to meet with old and new friends during the conference sessions and at the ever-popular Trade Show & Reception.

Schedule

Tuesday, December 4

1 pm Welcome & Opening Remarks

Safety First, Restoration Second

Minnesota Rural Electric Association

We hear it all the time. “How long will it take to get the power back on?” And we know accidents happen when we rush. Hear the personal stories of two lineworkers in Minnesota, shared through video, that experienced an accident in June 2017. We will then explore the nine changes made by the cooperative as we answer, “Could this accident have happened at my place?” With this exercise, you will walk away with actions for making sure it doesn’t.

Cybersecurity: Understanding the Risks & Threats / APPA eReliability Tracker System

Nathan Mitchell, APPA

This session will help you better understand cybersecurity challenges and give you concrete ideas to help mitigate your cyber risk.

You will also learn the complete details about APPA's eReliability Tracker program and how it could benefit your utility. MMUA members are eligible to purchase an eReliability Tracker subscription at a reduced rate thanks to a subsidy APPA has secured from the Department of Energy. This is a limited time/quantity offer.



Optional Evening Activity -

Tour of Beaver Island Brewing

Separate registration required; limited to first 30 people. Must be registered for T&O Conference.

Wednesday, December 5

Making the Utility Industry Great Again with Organizational Culture

Cindy Beresh-Bryant, Continuum Education + Training

Traditionally, the utility industry could count on high wages, great benefits and lifelong employment to attract and retain the best employees. But, what worked in the past is less attractive to today’s workforce. Learn how to create a rewarding and fulfilling work experience that connects with employees using principles that made Southwest Airlines, Chick-fil-A, Disney, Google, and many others great. Among the things that you will learn:

- What makes Organizational Culture your ONLY competitive advantage with today’s workforce.
- How you can apply similar principles to continue to be an employer of choice in your industry.

Apprentice Lineworker & Rodeo Recognitions

Mike Willetts, MMUA and Don Harbuck, Northwest Lineman College

Luncheon

The afternoon program is divided into two tracks.

Crew Leader/Foreman Track

Suspension Trauma

Jared Oscarson, Ready Responders

Being ejected from a truck bucket while wearing a properly fitting full body harness greatly improves your odds of survival when compared to being in a “body belt” but you are still in grave danger if left suspended for any length of time. Join us to learn how to keep from being injured by your safety equipment.



How a Pole is Made—It’s All in the Details

Jim Davis, Bell Lumber & Pole Company

During this interesting presentation you will learn how a pole is made—the journey from forest to the customer.

APPA Safety Smart Video Project

Mike Willetts, MMUA

MMUA, with the support of an APPA DEED grant, has been given the opportunity to redevelop the APPA Safety Smart Video series into a more modern format. MMUA was involved in the original project when it was initiated more than 20 years ago. Participants will see previews of several videos, with an explanation of the concept and delivery behind each topic.

Vendor Showcase

This session will give you a rapid-fire look at the latest in goods and services for the utility industry. This is a great opportunity to learn about new products and services. Vendors must be an Associate member of MMUA.

Manager Track

Achieving Your Business Strategy Through Organizational Capability, Hiring and Onboarding

Cindy Beresh-Bryant, Continuum Education + Training

During this break-out session we will unlock the secrets to attract and retain top employees who are willing and prepared as an asset to help you achieve your business strategy.

Panel Discussion—Creating a Roadmap for Competitive Lineworker Wages

Troy Adams, Elk River Municipal Utilities; Dale Narlock, Thief River Falls Municipal Utilities; Mark Nibaur, Austin Utilities; and Steve Johnson, Marshall Municipal Utilities

Are your linemen leaving for other utilities that pay them more? Attend this session to arm yourself with ideas to keep these valuable human assets.



Electric Service Issues: Analysis and Developments

Mark Fritsch, Owatonna Public Utilities and Steve Downer, MMUA

Electric service territory issues continue to trouble municipal electric utilities around the state. A subcommittee of the MMUA Grow With Your City Committee recently conducted a fresh analysis of territory compensation and negotiating strategies. MMUA also prepared background information on several territory-related issues. Mark Fritsch and Steve Downer will share their experiences and work products with you.

Vendor Showcase

Same as management track—vendors move from one room to the other.

Evening event

Trade Show & Reception

Be sure to join us for our product show. There is always a lot of good information changing hands at the show. This is a great place to see what’s new to the industry and provides an opportunity to make new connections.

Associate Members, Take Note!

This meeting offers lots of opportunities for Associate Members. Our Trade Show fills up fast, so sign-up now! We also have sponsorship opportunities, and many Associates host ever-popular hospitality rooms!

Thursday, December 6

Fire at the Power Plant—Now What?

Paul Twite, Delano Municipal Utilities and Tom Ewert, MMUA

On July 10, 2018, Delano Municipal Utilities employees showed up to work like every other day. The day went on as planned—until everything changed. We will go through the events and timelines of things that took place from the time of the fire to recovery. We’ll talk about some of the things that we knew needed to be done and some of the items we learned as the process unfolded.

Cold Weather Rule

Sally Anne McShane, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

The MPUC’s Consumer Affairs Office will be presenting on Cold Weather Rule which protects certain residential customers from a disconnection of service from Oct. 15 to April 15. This session will go over Minnesota Statute 216B.097 and best practices when applying Cold Weather Rule.

MMUA Update

MMUA Staff

Noon-Conference Adjourns

Location: Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
Questions? Contact Rita Kelly at 763.746.0707 or rkelly@mmua.org.
Deadline to register is November 20, 2018.

Thank you, Associate Members!

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American Power & Communications Group
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see us (and maybe yourself!) at Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

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Apprentice Lineworker Training

Our experienced instructor provides on-site instruction.

Call MMUA Director of Training and Safety Mike Willetts at 612-802-8474 for more information.

MMUA is saddened to report that a 33-year-old electric lineworker was killed this summer while working to restore an outage near Orr. The cause has been under investigation. The utility had suffered more than 7,500 outages after severe thunderstorms blew through the area. Our condolences to family, friends and co-workers.

California law now requires the state to obtain 60 percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2030 and 100 percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2045, and (up from the state's previous 50 percent by 2030 goal).

Hydroelectricity represented the largest share of renewable generation in 19 states in 2017, according to a report published by the Energy Information Administration (EIA). Hydroelectricity provided seven percent of the national total.

EIA projects that by 2019, wind generation will surpass hydro as the most prevalent source of renewable generation nationwide—wind was already the most prevalent renewable source in 16 states in 2017. EIA also reports that solar was the most prevalent renewable generation source in seven states. Solar generation's share was highest in California, where it provided 16 percent of the state's 2017 total, behind natural gas (41 percent) and hydroelectricity (20 percent).

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) on Sept. 12 said that they have launched a joint inquiry to assess the extreme cold weather event that occurred in the Midwest and part of the South Central U.S. in January.

On Jan. 17, 2018, regional operators in the Midwest and South Central U.S. issued public appeals for consumers to voluntarily reduce their electricity use due to abnormally cold temperatures and higher than forecast electricity demand. There were reports of multiple forced generation outages, voltage deviations and near-overloads during peak operations, FERC and NERC noted.

The inquiry will focus on

continued on facing page:

identifying the causes of, and any contributing factors to, the event, and will identify any appropriate recommendations for improving operations under similar conditions.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has ordered investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to return \$200 million to consumers, due to lower corporate tax rates following enactment of the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act. Xcel Energy will refund \$136 million, which will appear as about a \$45 credit on one month's bill. Minnesota Power will return \$28.7 million.

A solar and wind electric generating project has been proposed for west of Erhard (north of Fergus Falls), by Lake Region Electric Cooperative. A similar proposal in a nearby area was shelved due to neighbor concerns. The new proposed area is more rural in nature.

A federal appeals court ruled in mid-August that Minnesota owes North Dakota \$1.3 million in attorney fees after losing a lawsuit over Minnesota's Next Generation Energy Act. North Dakota argued the law violates the U.S. Constitution's commerce clause by restricting electricity imports that would increase carbon dioxide emissions.

Chicago-based Invenery is reportedly finalizing landowner leases to construct a 125-megawatt solar energy plant on 900 acres near Brewster, in southwestern Minnesota.

Classified Ads

Journey or 2nd or 3rd Year Apprentice Lineworker

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) has an opening for a Journey or 2nd/3rd Apprentice Lineworker. We are looking for a highly motivated individual to join our team providing electric distribution maintenance services to the City of Benson. Journey and Apprentice Line Worker Requirements:

- Education: 1 year Power Line (minimum)
- Active Driver's License
- Ability to Obtain a CDL Endorsement Within 6 Months
- CPR Certified
- Reside within 15 minutes of Benson, MN

Additional Journey Line Worker Requirements:

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MRES is an organization of 61 member municipalities that own and operate their own electrical distribution systems. We are dedicated to supplying our member municipalities with reliable, cost effective, long term energy and energy services in a fiscally responsible and environmentally sensitive manner. We provide very competitive wages, a comprehensive/low cost benefit package, and an outstanding work environment that promotes a long-lasting career. For consideration, send your resume and cover letter describing your qualifications for the position to hr@mrenergy.com. Position closes October 12, 2018. MRES is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For consideration, send your resume and cover letter describing your qualifications for the position to hr@mrenergy.com. Position closes October 12, 2018. EOE

Electric Foreman

The City of Saint Peter, Minnesota is currently accepting

applications for the position of Electric Foreman in the Department of Public Works. Responsibilities include but are not limited to implementation and organization of work, providing general supervision of crews and participating in construction, operation, control, maintenance, testing, and cleaning of electrical distribution system. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma and satisfactory completion of a technical school program for lineman electricians and completion of a recognized apprenticeship in electrical line work, including five years of responsible experience in electrical distribution systems. An additional five years of experience may be substituted for technical training. Possession of, or ability to obtain, a State of Minnesota Lineman License issued by the State Board of Electricity within six months of employment with the City. Possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver's License with air brake endorsement or ability to obtain within six months of the date of employment with the City. Possession of American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or obtain within

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six months of the date of employment with the City. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Starting salary \$34.24 per hour. Applicants must complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 931-0663. Completed applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm, Thursday, November 1, 2018. Faxed, e-mailed, or late application will not be accepted. We are an A/A EEO Employer

Principal Engineering Assistant

This position stores, retrieves and duplicates engineering and construction records for Facilities Management and other University of Minnesota customers. Performs routine field investigations and buried utilities marking services through Gopher State One Call. Collects data for use in updating engineering records using Trimble

(or equivalent) survey equipment in support of GIS initiatives. Utilizes computer-aided design (CAD) to update and maintain University engineering and construction drawings. Assists Engineers and/or Architects in locating drawings, performing basic drafting and design, and conducting inspections. Minimum Qualifications: Three years of engineering coursework, or a combination of engineering/technical trade school training in surveying, utility locating, record keeping and related work experience to total three years is required. Previous work experience in surveying and locating techniques is essential. A working knowledge in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is strongly preferred. For more information and how to apply, please go to the following site: <https://z.umn.edu/PrincipalEngineeringAsst>

For a full and complete list of current job openings, for sale and wanted items, see the News/Classifieds section at www.mmua.org

MMUA Leadership Academy adjusts schedule Program revamped to one-year schedule to meet member needs

MMUA has successfully launched the first two groups participating in the MMUA Leadership Academy. The program has received high marks, but we have been listening and seek to make The Academy even more member-friendly.

To that end, we have tweaked the schedule for 2019 sessions, set for a new group of students. Rather than scheduling two partial-days per session, covering two years, the 2019 group will tackle two full-days per session and complete the program in one year. The first day of each session will feature a networking dinner and focused discussion. Class size will be limited to 25 students.

This new schedule will provide the same amount of class time, but reduce the amount of travel and time away from work.

Session dates for 2019 are:
February 6-7
May 1-2
September 11-12
November 20-21

The Academy

The MMUA Leadership Academy is a locally-based and affordable, high-level executive leadership development course, focused on meeting the needs of Minnesota's municipal utilities. The curriculum was developed and tailored to your needs based on feedback from current and recently retired municipal utility leaders.

The Leadership Academy is designed to maximize true

change in behavior and ability in its participants. From many years of experience as executives, trainers and coaches, we have learned that having multiple mutually reinforcing activities in a leadership development program makes the difference in behavior change.

The Academy is designed that way—it's a multi-session, intensive, progressive series of individual and group activities that surface, confront and support leaders to become aware of their executive leadership limitations, and actualize a pathway to become better.

Curriculum

The curriculum will consist primarily of various articles and materials provided electronically. Some sessions will have assigned reading prior to meeting; typically, a book on leadership. Students will go through an assessment to help the instructor and students understand their styles, strengths, and potential deficiencies in key competencies. Students will have tasks to work on between sessions and will be expected to do some journaling.

Each session is a crucial building block in developing the skills, awareness, and perspective of a true leader.

Sessions include:

- Collaboration (Getting the Most out of Your Team) and Conflict (Working Through Difficult times)
- Communication (Presence

of a Leader) and Character (The Mind of a Leader: Lenses)

• Change (How a Leader Navigates Change) and Mastering Accountability (Understanding and Equipping for this Critical Topic)

• Failing Versus Failure (Understanding the Differences Between These Two Terms and How They Create Positive and Negative Change in a Group) and Practicing Leadership

Primary Instructor

The primary instructor for the Academy is Kent Myers, Managing Partner of VISION Companies. Kent has over 25 years of experience providing strategic visioning, operational effectiveness, and technology alignment consulting services to global companies. He has a decade of experience in working with Minnesota municipal utilities on leadership and culture development and strategic visioning. In addition to his extensive consulting practice, Kent is an adjunct professor at the Harvard Business School.

Additional Instructors

- Dr. Wes Feltner, PHD, Leadership Development
- Bruce Moyer, prior CFO and COO, United HealthCare

Executive Guest Speakers

Some sessions will feature guest speakers who have been through their own journey of adversity and triumph and have expertise in that session's leadership topic.

Scholarship Opportunity

MMUA will offer three partial scholarships to applicants from member utilities serving 2,500 customers or less. Each scholarship will reduce the cost of the program by \$1,200. Scholarships will be awarded to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis. A member utility will be eligible for a scholarship for only one student at a time. Students are expected to complete the full program.

Registration information

To register, contact Rita Kelly at 763-746-0707 or email rkelly@mmua.org

Upcoming training events — Transformer School and School Pre-Conference

We are very happy to announce Scott Meinecke will again instruct this program. With Scott's background as a lineworker and more than 25 years experience as an instructor, he 'brings the training to life' with miniature transformers. The miniature transformers are fused, able to be wired in many configurations, tested and energized and will blow a fuse if something is wired incorrectly!

The class will start with the basics of transformers—turns ratios, polarities, calculations, connections and troubleshooting—then will progress to the basics of three-phase systems with basic phasor diagrams and explanation of the relationship of the phasor to the transformer.

Participants will gain valuable hands-on transformer experience.

Upon completion of the School, participants should have a good understanding of:

- Basic Three-Phase Connections
- Delta Connection
- Wye Connection
- Open Delta Connection, and
- Three-Phase Troubleshooting.

The Pre-Conference is a basic or refresher course on single-phase transformer connections and theory. Classroom and hands-on instruction will cover safe work practices, theory, basic calculations, connections, sizing and troubleshooting.



For best rate, register by November 11.

Deadline to register is November 21.

For more information, see the 'Events' calendar at www.mmua.org or contact Theresa Neddermeyer at tneddermeyer@mmua.org or phone 763.551.1230.

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