



The *KMU Dispatch*

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KMU to Offer "Three-Mile" Legislation

As the Kansas Legislature sets to convene on January 8, 2007 with a brand new set of state legislators, Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) is planning to offer legislation that would remove some of the burden from municipal electric and gas utilities serving customers more than three miles outside their city boundaries. Current Kansas statutes require that municipal customers more than three miles outside of city limits fall under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). As a result, a full KCC rate filing

is required before the rates of these customers may be altered. In many instances, cities have left these rates unchanged for decades simply to avoid the time and resources needed to file for just a handful of rural customers. Under a compromise proposed to KCC staff, cities could mirror the rates of "three-mile" customers with the rates of those customers within city boundaries without a KCC filing. KMU believes the legislation could be helpful to the 12 municipal electric and 17 municipal gas utilities subject to the three-mile statutes.

EPA Issues Final Rule on SPCC Plans

After long delay, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final rule on Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans. As utilities may remember, SPCC plans are required for municipal utilities that store a significant amount of oil or hazardous liquids in local power plants or other facilities. The final rule was signed by the EPA Administrator on December 12, 2006, and the agency has made a pre-publication copy available to the public (*visit the EPA web site at <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/spcc.htm>*). A final copy of the rule will be available once it is published in the Federal Register which is expected soon.

One of the primary issues requiring EPA to revise the rule was treatment of existing electrical substations. Under the previous rule, oil-filled equipment such as large transformers could have triggered the need for SPCC plans and containment at substations. The recently released rule offers two options for obtaining relief from containment requirements at substations. A second key issue in the final rule is the treatment of qualified small facilities. For EPA, such facilities include those with an aggregate oil storage capacity of 10,000 gallons or less. The final rule allows small facilities to self-certify their SPCC plans in lieu of certification by a Professional Engineer.



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LaCrosse Celebrates Centennial Anniversary of First Power Plant

One hundred years ago, visionaries in the City of LaCrosse campaigned for and established the city's electric utility. A century later, the utility continues to focus on offering safe and reliable service to its customers. Reaching this milestone, though, has involved a good deal of persistence. It took two votes before city residents approved a \$6,000 bond issue for an electric generator in July of 1906. The 160 horsepower Murray-Corliss steam powered engine was fired up for the first time four months later. In its first year of operation, the LaCrosse power plant lost \$1,800. Although the cost of coal was a mere \$5 per ton, the limited availability of electrical appliances kept demand at a minimum. Expenses were scaled back as a result, and electricity was only produced between the hours of 5 p.m. and midnight. However, over the next ten years, demand grew considerably, and two new units were installed. A third was added in 1921, and a solid injection vertical engine was purchased in 1922. The power plant building, constructed in 1939, is still in use today. LaCrosse currently owns four functional engines, which it uses as backup and during peak summer months. More often than not, power is purchased from Midwest Energy at a lower cost. Nevertheless, City Manager Duane Moeder sees the city system as a definite benefit. "We wouldn't have had electricity for two days following the storm that hit the area last September without the plant," he noted.

Gardner Adopts Budget Billing Program

On November 6, Gardner city council members voted to offer a "budget billing" option to their utility customers. Residents will now have the choice to be billed for their average annual usage, rather than their actual usage per month. Charges will include allowances for rate increases and will be calculated using a customer's bills from the previous 12 months. Participants will then pay the same amount every month until the end of the annual billing cycle. Applications for the program will soon be available on the city's website at www.gardnerkansas.gov.

Oberlin Makes Preparations for New Water Treatment Plant

The City of Oberlin has contracted with Miller and Associates for the design of a new water treatment plant. The contract includes a pilot study, test hole drilling, a design fee, post construction work, and hourly fees for supervising construction. The cost of the finished plant is estimated at \$3.3 million, an expenditure made necessary by high levels of arsenic and uranium in the city's wells. After reviewing several kinds of plants and discussing the options with engineers, council members have selected the coagulation filtration method for use in the new plant.

Coffeyville Explores Power Supply Options

At their November 14 meeting, Coffeyville city commissioners heard a report from Electric Utility Director Bernie Cevera covering the details of the city's power supply and transmission options. Coffeyville's contract with GRDA will expire at the end of 2007, and Cevera hopes that a decision on the city's next course of action can be reached by January 10, 2007. One possible option involves construction, or contribution to the construction, of a power plant. Another alternative is to purchase power directly from a supplier, and seven different companies are available for negotiations to that end. Power pooling and marketer interface are two additional possibilities under consideration.

Augusta Selected for Management Software Study

The City of Augusta was recently chosen to participate in a pilot program which will test a new management software package at the city's wastewater treatment facility. TEAMS (Total Electronic Assessment Management System) is a financial planning tool used to calculate operation and maintenance costs. Fort Scott Community College will conduct the study under the direction of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). According to Gerald Grant, a trainer at the college, Augusta was chosen because its plant is new and because input data for the software will be easily obtained. The project was funded by a grant received by the KDHE in conjunction with the passage of the Clean Water Act.

Water Rates Rising in Clay Center

City council members in Clay Center have approved the drafting of an ordinance which will raise water rates. Additional revenue is needed to pay for the city's new \$7.8 million water treatment plant. The increase will result in rates of \$40.82 per month for the average residential customer and \$66.14 per month for the average business customer. "Everyone's going to share equally in the cost of this," said utility superintendent Bill Callaway, who admits that the development of the new water rate structure has cost him "a lot of sleepless nights." According to Callaway, the ending figures actually came in below the initial estimates.

Ottawa Considers Generator Purchase

The Ottawa city council will soon face a power supply decision that may have an impact on residents' electric rates. According to data recently reported by City Manager Weldon Padgett and Utility Director Jim Bradley, the city may be approaching a power deficit situation due to newly developed and annexed areas. Padgett and Bradley are recommending that the city invest in additional generation, and they have located a used 20-megawatt unit available for purchase. The generator would cost an estimated \$6 to \$8 million to install—a fairly good deal considering that new units typically cost \$1 million per megawatt of capacity. The requisite transmission lines and new substation would cost an additional \$8 to \$10 million. "We have a good opportunity," said Padgett, noting that the process might not be completed for two to three years. "There's room to grow with this unit we're looking at right now."

Lyons Looks Forward to New Gas System

Within the next month, the City of Lyons will begin the process of replacing its entire natural gas system. Bid requests were due to the city clerk by December 12, and the council was scheduled to vote for the selection of a general contractor at its December 18 meeting. According to the project's timeline, the replacement process should be completed by September of 2007. Lyons has secured a general obligation bond backed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to finance the project. Gas utility fees will be used to make payments on the bond. As the new pipeline is being installed, various workshops will be hosted by the city to inform residents of when and where the contractor will be working. These locations and times will also be printed in the Lyons newspaper once work begins.

Kansas City BPU to Request Lower Electric Rate Increase

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities still plans to raise electric rates in 2007, but instead of its original request of 6.9 percent, BPU will only ask for a 3.96 percent increase. This year's warm summer brought in additional revenues that will help to build up cash reserves and also limit the need for a sizeable rate increase. The 2007 budget calls for capital improvements, maintenance work, and a number of expansion projects designed to meet future demand. "The cost of repairs and maintenance has brought us to the point where it is often no longer practical to make temporary repairs or use stop gap measures," reported BPU Manager of Electric Operations Steve Rehm in a written statement. "It is my recommendation to implement the rate increase that is needed to cover projects in 2007 and future projects outlined in the master plan."

Wastewater Plant Underway in Norton

By next August, the City of Norton's new wastewater treatment facility should be fully operational. Although the 43-year-old existing plant still functions according to its original design, new technology is needed to comply with stricter discharge limits set by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). A contract for the project, which has been in the works for over three years, was finalized last July with BRB Contractors. Construction of the facility, described as a Schrieber plant, began in August. It has been designed to allow the city to comply with regulations from KDHE and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for at least 20 years. Financing has been secured through a 20-year state revolving loan.

McPherson Weighs Water Treatment Options

The McPherson Board of Public Utilities will likely implement a water rate increase in the spring to fund a \$12 to \$13 million nitrate remediation project. Low levels of nitrates have been detected in McPherson water sources since the late 1980s, but the problem has escalated in recent years to the extent that two city wells have been quarantined. Brian Meier of the engineering firm of Burns and McDonnell, Wichita, explained his firm's research findings at a recent public information meeting. "We wanted to look where the source of nitrate was coming from, and the wells of interest were in the center of town," said Meier. "Once we began to exceed the maximum containment levels of nitrates in these wells, we then began to look at the different treatments available." Test results suggest that the source of the nitrates is widely dispersed and organic, rather than chemical, in nature. Three treatment options are currently being considered:

- Amberpack Treatment Facility.
- Central Treatment Plant, blending facility.
- Central Treatment, reverse osmosis plant.

BPU officials suggest that the blending option is the most practical, given the high price tag for the reverse osmosis plant and the limitations of an Amberpack facility. "If this problem is not faced, it will spread," noted BPU General Manager Rick Anderson. "We have two wells shut down and that water can affect the other working wells due to underground water flow. We are looking forward to working with the community to provide answers concerning the nitrate problem."



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Transmission Problems Reported by Utilities in SPP

APPA Public Power Daily (reprinted by permission)
December 18, 2006

Public power utilities in the territory of the Southwest Power Pool—a regional transmission organization—are having trouble getting transmission service, experts from three states told congressional staff at a Dec. 14 briefing in Washington, D.C. And the transmission service they are able to get is not as reliable as it should be, said the utility executives from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

City-owned utilities “are embedded in the transmission system that is owned by others,” said Max Speegle, general counsel of the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority. He explained that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission opened up the nation’s transmission networks in the late 1990s, directing those who own transmission lines to provide “open access” to those lines that is comparable to the access they provide to themselves.

“One reason for this briefing is to tell you what some of the problems are” in the Southwest Power Pool region, Speegle told congressional staff. “Primarily, they fall under the category of ‘lack of comparable service.’”

“We have a lot of trouble with that,” he said.

For example, he said, the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority—a joint action agency—recently made a deal to buy 25 MW from the Grand River Dam Authority in Oklahoma. OMPA needed transmission to move

the power from near Tulsa to its member cities.

“We had to get in a study queue for the SPP,” Speegle said. It cost \$50,000, and a considerable amount of time, just to do the study, he said.

Sue Kelly, vice president of policy analysis and general counsel for APPA, noted that the SPP operates under the Open Access Transmission Tariff developed by FERC, which the commission is revising. The commission knows about problems with transmission queues, and is considering tightening the process, she said.

“The [transmission] system is very congested,” Kelly noted. “You might put in a minimal request for a small amount of power, but a small request can result in a very large bill” for improvements to the transmission grid, she said.




“We asked for comparable service,” said Colin Whitley, director of electric for the city of Winfield, Kansas. “We were told there was zero transmission availability—for cities that had been served by the transmission system for decades.”

“We formed the Kansas Power Pool at about the same time SPP began operating as an ISO,” said Colin Whitley, director of electric and water for the city of Winfield, Kan., and general manager of the Kansas Power Pool, a municipal energy agency representing 26 city-owned utilities. “We asked for comparable service. We were told there was zero transmission availability—for cities that had been served by the transmission system for decades.”

“We offered to help fund transmission improvements,” Whitley said.

(continued on page 8)



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An Update from Jim Widener, General Manager Kansas Municipal Energy Agency

SPP Metering

KMEA is assisting eleven generating cities in the West Plains Kansas territory with reviewing their metering and communications needs to meet SPP requirements in 2007. Upon complete implementation of this project, the cities will be fully compatible with SPP, Sunflower/MKEC, Aquila, and KMEA's EMP #2 metering and communication requirements.

SPP Deposit Refund

At the December KMEA Executive meeting, staff was authorized to refund approximately \$350,000 to ten cities who participated in the original GRDA power project in 2000. Only the deposits from four cities in KCP&L's control area will be retained as SPP still has a letter-of-credit requirement on their transmission request.

Season Greetings

KMEA and KMGGA wish Happy Holidays to all during this time of celebrating and reflecting on our blessings as another year draws to a close.



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Kansas Power Pool (KPP) Update

Kansas Power Pool Requests Proposals to Perform a Feasibility Study for Siting and Building a Coal Fired Power Plant

The Kansas Power Pool (KPP) is a consortium of 27 municipal electric utilities. KPP was formed to obtain transmission service and provide a competitive power supply for the member cities. Citing the lack of transmission service into Kansas that has limited the power supply options, General Manager Colin Whitley of Winfield, KS stated: "The time has come for KPP to decide whether to build a power plant within Kansas. This request for proposals for a feasibility study is a step forward in doing so." KPP's members currently use in excess of 160 MW of power annually. Approximately 50 MW of this is provided through contracts that will end within the next year. This drives the need to acquire replacement power. A request for study proposals will be sent to various engineering firms before year's end. Responses will be due by February 14, 2007. Interest among the municipal (public power) systems in Kansas is strong. The KPP members continue to seek and encourage

participation in this endeavor from other regional public power utilities. KPP would also consider partnering with another entity, such as an investor owned utility; in a larger plant should there be an opportunity to do so. However, should the study show that KPP ownership of a coal plant is the least cost power supply option; the next step would be to seek financing for the construction.

KPP is already working with bond counsel on the matter of KPP financing of additions to the high voltage transmission upon which the member cities are dependent for power supplies. KPP believes that the results of a feasibility study may disclose similar opportunities for municipal funding and ownership of generation in Kansas. Status reports on this initiative will be found at KPP's website: <http://www.kansaspowerpool.org>.



"Smart Lights Safe Nights" Program Promotes Efficiency

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County Kansas City, Kansas have formed a partnership to promote energy efficiency and safer neighborhoods. Through the "Smart Lights Safe Nights" program, which kicked off in mid-November, the two organizations plan to give away 8,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs for local residents to install near their front doors or in their back yards. Statistically, the use of proper lighting during the nighttime hours has been shown to significantly reduce crime, and BPU hopes to involve at least 8,000 homes, nearly 20 percent of all Kansas City, Kansas residences, with the program. Additionally, the United Government is introducing a new Nighttime Community Policing Unit in cooperation with the Kansas City, Kansas



Police Department. The unit is community-based and will work with neighborhood groups to keep watch over the city's streets, particularly at night. "BPU is proud to team up with the United Government and the Police Department on this public safety and energy conservation effort," said BPU Board President Mary Gonzales at the kick-off rally. "This initiative not only makes our neighborhoods safer, but it does so in a way that encourages energy efficiency. It's a win-win situation." On the average, a compact fluorescent bulb will burn 13 times longer than a typical incandescent bulb, costing less than two cents per night if used over an eight-hour time period. In terms of electrical usage, 8,000 energy-efficient bulbs will consume 1.7 million kilowatt hours less than 8,000 regular 100-watt incandescent bulbs over a year's time.



KCP&L Power Plant Costs Rise

Kansas City Power & Light (KCP&L) now expects the cost of its latest energy plan to exceed estimates by 20 percent or more. The plan includes the construction of a coal-fired plant near Weston, Missouri, retrofitting work at its LaCygne, Kansas plant, a wind-energy farm and energy conservation measures. Customer rates are already scheduled to increase by an average of 9 percent in January, and they may climb by as much as 20 percent in the next five years to cover the company's expenditures. KCP&L will own 55 percent of the Weston facility, which should be completed in 2010. The original estimate for its portion of the plant was \$733 million, but this figure has climbed to over \$837 million. Likewise, costs at the LaCygne plant have also risen by 56 percent. The company has indicated that higher labor, materials and equipment costs account for most of the increase.

Aquila Requests Gas Rate Increase

Aquila, Inc., a natural gas service company based in Kansas City, Missouri, is asking for an additional \$7.2 million per year from its 106,000 gas customers in Kansas. The company cites increasing health insurance, motor fuel and line maintenance costs in explanation of its need for higher rates. Aquila is also seeking a 12 percent return for its shareholders, a figure ahead of the 11.2 percent requested by the Kansas Gas Service and the 10 percent granted to Westar for its electric operations. The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) will have until June 29 to consider Aquila's application.

Sunflower Power Plant Proposal Attracts Non-Kansas Environmentalist Opposition

On December 15, conservationists in Colorado and a group of Northeastern states presented arguments to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) opposing the plan by Sunflower Electric Power Corporation to build three new power plants in western Kansas. Western Resource Advocates, the Colorado organization, claims that the construction project would ultimately raise Tri-State's wholesale electric rates by 64 percent over the next five years. Meanwhile, the Northeastern group contends that the coal-burning plants would counteract the efforts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which hopes to decrease the carbon dioxide emissions of eight participating states by 10 percent in the next 14 years. The Northeastern group's comments, which were prepared by New York Attorney General Elliot Spitzer, said climate change is "the single greatest environmental challenge facing the world today." Sunflower representatives noted that other states should not have control over the operation of Kansas plants since they are not federally regulated. Sunflower also argues that the plants are necessary to meet energy demand in its service region.

KGS Granted Delivery Rate Increase

A decision made by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) on November 17 will affect the natural gas bills of over 640,000 residents and businesses in Kansas next year. The Kansas Gas Service (KGS) was awarded a 28 percent increase in its gas delivery rates, amounting to an additional \$52 million in annual revenue. The rate settlement represents a compromise between the \$73.3 million requested by KGS and the \$42 million recommended by the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB), the state organization representing the interests of home and small-business customers. The company, whose investments in system upgrades over the past three years have reached \$170 million, stated that it plans to use the additional revenues to continue to make pipeline improvements and to offset the rising costs of employee pension plans and health insurance coverage.

Westar Plans New Transmission Lines, Seeks KCC Determination on Power Plant

Westar Energy has proposed the construction of at least two new high-voltage electric lines through the central part of the state. The first, a line running from northwest of Wichita to the Hutchinson area, will be constructed first, although its route has not yet been determined. According to Westar spokeswoman Gina Penzig, the company expects "to have something announced and filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission by the end of the year." Once KCC approval has been obtained, Westar must then purchase right-of-way from landowners so that the line can be constructed. This first phase of the project is not scheduled to begin until 2008. Once the Wichita-Hutchinson line is complete, a second line from Hutchinson to Salina will be the company's next step. Westar has also filed with the KCC a request for predetermination of the ratemaking principles and treatment that will apply to the costs they incur constructing the new Emporia Energy Center. The company plans an investment of up to \$318 million in the near future at the energy center, a gas-fired peaking power plant. Westar Energy Chief Executive Officer Jim Haines noted that, "Emporia Energy Center is an important early step in Westar Energy's plan to maintain reliable, affordable electric energy to our retail customers in Kansas."

Transmission Problems *(continued from page 4)*

"We wanted to be a joint owner." But "we still don't have the transmission service we applied for," he said. And the transmission improvements have gone nowhere—not even as far as the design stage, he said.

A congressional staffer asked why there are delays in building needed transmission.

"The system is congested and people make money off the congestion," Speegle replied. "We've offered to help build new lines," he said. "The projects don't get past the study stage."

Transmission service interruptions have increased dramatically, Whitley said. "When you have an interruption, you have to get additional resources, and usually they are more expensive," he said.

John Stephens, director of power system control for City Utilities of Springfield, Mo., said City Utilities also

has noticed an increase in transmission interruptions. "Last Friday, we were purchasing power off the system, from Kansas," he said. "We were importing about 70 MW, and our [transmission] schedule was cut" for about six hours. Springfield had to run turbines fired by natural gas, a much more expensive fuel, during that six-hour period, he said. This cost the city's customers an additional \$12,000, he said.

So far this year, there have been more than 500 such transmission interruptions, or "transmission loading relief" events, in the SPP, Stephens said.

The costs SPP is incurring as it begins to develop a centrally organized power market also "are a big concern," he said.

"GEICO is out to eliminate the middleman," he joked, referring to an ad for the insurance company. "FERC, it seems, is here to create the middleman."

The Dec. 14 briefing at the House of Representatives was the last in a series this year of regional briefings for congressional staff presented as part of APPA's Electric Market Reform Initiative, a special effort to analyze and address challenges in the restructured U.S. electric utility industry.

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KMU Members Encouraged to Participate in Legislative Rally

Our new year brings with it the promise of a new Congress, one already poised to address many issues of significant importance to municipal electric, natural gas, water and wastewater utilities. The 110th Congress will include many new faces in the Senate and House. While only one Kansas Congressional seat changed hands, a new Democratic leadership has significantly modified the overall political environment. In the coming months, KMU expects new opportunities and challenges on such Congressional initiatives as climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy, coal freight rates, clean air and tax issues.

Each year, KMU brings a delegation of municipal utility representatives to Washington D.C. to participate in the American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Rally. Our group visits the office of each Kansas Representative and Senator and presents a notebook of information about the issues of greatest concern to the KMU membership. This year, the Legislative Rally will be held from March 12-15, 2007. We encourage you to consider making this important trip with your KMU colleagues. More information about the event can be found by visiting the APPA web site at www.appanet.org or by contacting Colin Hansen at 620/241-1423 or chansen@kmunet.org.



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The 110th Congress

APPA Washington Report

by **Robert Varela**

Editor, Public Power Weekly

In: Climate change legislation. Out: Subsidies for oil companies.

The energy and environment agendas on Capitol Hill got considerably greener with the Democrats taking control in both the House and Senate. However, with the slim voting majorities enjoyed by Democrats—particularly in the Senate—and George W. Bush still in the White House, enactment of sweeping changes in energy and environmental policy looks unlikely. Also energy and environmental issues tend to split lawmakers along regional, rather than party, lines.

Overall, the House will have at least 55 new faces and the Senate 10 new members. Public power utilities that have new representatives or senators should make every effort to cultivate a relationship with them early on.

The main advantage enjoyed by the majority party is the ability to control the legislative agenda, particularly at the committee level. While not formally decided yet, the likely chairs of most House committees are safe bets. After a 12-year hiatus, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., is set to resume his post as head of the Energy and Commerce Committee. The new chairman of the House Resources Committee will be Rep. Nick J. Rahall, D-W.Va. In a surprising upset, the current chairman, Richard Pombo, R-Calif., lost his House seat to Democrat Jerry McNerney, who heads a start-up

wind turbine company.

Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., will serve as chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., will chair the Ways and Means Committee. The Appropriations Committee will be headed by Rep. David Obey, D-Wis.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., is set to take over as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources



Committee, while Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., will move one seat over to become the ranking minority member.

The most dramatic change will be on the Environment and Public Works Committee, where Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., a staunch liberal, will replace James Inhofe, R-Okla., an outspoken skeptic of global climate change. Under a reorganization announced by Boxer, the committee next year will have two subcommittees dealing with climate change.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (with jurisdiction over telecommunications and rail issues) will be led by Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii; Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, will be the ranking member. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., will chair the Finance Committee and Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, will be the ranking member. Senator Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., will chair the Appropriations Committee.

Only one energy issue made the Democrats' "First 100 Hours" agenda: elimination of subsidies for oil companies. However, incoming Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he hopes Congress during its lame duck session would extend tax credits for alternative energy production that now are set to expire at the end of 2007. Reid also backed passage of Senate offshore drilling legislation.

Climate change legislation will be introduced early in the next Congress. One likely vehicle is a bill (H.R. 5642) that Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., introduced in June. Waxman's bill, which has some 100 cosponsors, would cap emissions at current levels beginning in 2010 and phase them down to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

But passage next year of a climate change bill along the lines of H.R. 5642 is a long shot. Dingell, whose committee would handle the legislation, told reporters shortly after the election he would consider mandatory carbon emissions legislation, but left it at that. He questioned the need for new fuel efficiency standards for

Washington Report (continued)

vehicles, saying lawmakers should weigh "the needs, the costs, the technological ability and the economic ability of industry and the market to absorb these changes."

"We're expecting something to happen on climate change," APPA President and CEO Alan Richardson told The Wall Street Journal. "But you can't address climate change and carbon emissions and ignore a third of the problem, which is the transportation sector."

As an interim step, Democrats could act on a call by Dingell for more incentives for U.S. automakers to produce more cars that run on electricity and more cars that use alternative fuels such as ethanol and

clean-burning diesel.

Look for reintroduction of H.R. 5965, which Democratic leaders (including Dingell) touted as a major energy independence bill. Key provisions included creation of a new center for high efficiency vehicles that could commit \$500 million a year for alternative fuels and vehicle technology programs; a national biofuels infrastructure development program; and promoting use of alternative fuels.

But the bottom line is that passage of legislation to limit carbon emissions is going to happen sooner under a Democratic Congress than it would under Republican control. Get ready.

Employment



Journeyman/Lineman

The City of St. John is currently accepting applications for the position of Journeyman/Lineman. The City of St. John offers an excellent benefit program that includes: vacation, personal and sick leave, health insurance, life insurance, KPERS retirement program; and paid holidays. Selected applicant must be willing to reside within 3 miles of St. John. Salary negotiable based upon qualifications. You may get an application at city hall, 115 E. Fourth Avenue, St. John, KS 67576. Phone: (620) 549-3208.

Water Production Superintendent

Under the supervision of the Public Works Director, the Water Production Superintendent position consists of skilled and specialized work in connection with water filtration and pumping to provide safe drinking water for the City. The employee in this position is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant, compliance with State and Federal laws governing drinking water, analysis of field samples, adjustment of chemical feed equipment, making recommendations regarding equipment replacement, plant improvements, and day-to-day operations. The employee also provides direction and management to plant personnel. The applicant chosen will be subject to a pre-employment physical and drug screening. This position is subject to drug and alcohol testing. Must be a resident of Russell County within six months of hire date. Requires high school diploma or GED and CDL. Applications available at City Manager's Office, City of Russell, 133 W. 8th St., PO Box 112, Russell, KS 67665-0112. Phone: 785.483.6311. Fax: 785.483.4397. Open until filled. EEO-ADA www.russellcity.org Email: russellcity@russellcity.org

Water Treatment Operator I

The City of Ottawa, Kansas (population 12,500) is currently recruiting for the position of Water Treatment Operator I. This position is responsible for the operation of water production equipment on an assigned shift, collecting and testing water samples,

recording data, adjusting chemical feed equipment for proper operation, and general maintenance of the water plant to meet all requirements of the KDHE. More than three years of water plant operation experience and a technical degree or some college credit is preferred. KDHE Certification and a valid commercial Kansas driver's license are required. An individual must be insurable by the City's insurance carrier and meet residency requirements within one year of employment. Salary range is \$12.68-17.76/hour (2007 rates), depending on qualifications and experience. Assigned shift will be 12 noon - 12 midnight, Thursday - Saturday and every other Sunday. To apply for this position, complete an electronic application at www.hrepartners.com. For additional information or questions please call (785) 229-3634. An applicant with a disability as defined in the ADA may request reasonable accommodation of the hiring process. Equal Opportunity Employer

Lineworker

The Town of Laverne, Oklahoma is accepting applications for a Journeyman Lineworker for the Laverne Electric department. Laverne is a small community of 1100 people and maintains approximately 10 miles of 4160 volt main electric lines and two 2000 kilowatt CAT generators for peaking and standby power. The Lineworker would be responsible for maintenance of the electric lines, trimming tree limbs from the lines and

reading electric meters on a monthly basis for billing purposes. The pay range is \$18.00/hr to \$21.00/hr depending on qualifications and experience. The Town of Laverne provides employee health insurance with dental, vision and life insurance coverage. The employer provides matching funds for retirement with the Oklahoma Municipal Retirement Fund and offers paid holidays as observed by the Federal Government. Laverne is located 80 miles South of Dodge City, Kansas; 40 miles Northwest of Woodward, Oklahoma. Interested parties may contact Gary Carnagey at 580-921-5121 or mail resume to Town of Laverne, PO Box 430, Laverne, OK 73848. The Town of Laverne is an equal opportunities employer.

Electric Lineman

The City of Ashland is accepting applications for an electric lineman. This position involves maintenance of city electric services. Salary is negotiable, based upon qualifications. Benefits include family health and dental insurance, paid holidays, personal and sick days, uniforms, and KPERS retirement program. Applications can be requested at City Hall located at 703 Main Street, P.O. Box 547, Ashland Ks. 67831. Phone (620) 635-2531. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

To place a classified ad, please contact Donna Huddle, KMU Office Manager, at 620/241-1423 or dhuddle@kmunet.org.

Upcoming Events

- **2007 Kansas Legislature**
Reconvenes January 8, 2007
Kansas State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas
- **League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) City Hall Day**
January 25, 2007
Kansas State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas
- **APPA Legislative Rally**
March 12-15, 2007
The Mayflower Hotel
Washington, DC
- **2007 KMU Conference**
May 2-4, 2007
Wichita Hyatt Regency
Wichita, Kansas

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Kansas Municipal Utilities, Inc.
101 1/2 North Main Street
McPherson, Kansas 67460
620.241.1423 ph • 620.241.7829 fx
kmu@kmunet.org - email
www.kmunet.org - web



kansasmunicipalutilities

101 1/2 North Main
McPherson, Kansas 67460
620.241.1423 ph • 620.241.7829 fx
kmu@kmunet.org - email
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