



The *KMU Dispatch*

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FEMA to Reconsider Storm Damages

Utility representatives and engineers from 22 rural electric cooperatives and 5 municipal electric systems (Clay Center, Holton, Pratt, Sabetha and Sterling) met in a two-day session with officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to discuss the storm damage determinations under the FEMA Public Assistance Program. In addition to other FEMA staff, James Walke, national director of FEMA's public assistance program, met with the group that also included officials from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM), Kansas Electric Cooperatives, and Kansas Municipal Utilities.

The electric utilities were disputing FEMA's determination of the storm damage caused by the December 2007 winter storm that coated much of the state causing significant damage to these utilities' electric lines. The utilities estimated the damages to be \$340 million, and FEMA only offered approximately \$39 million for repairs. Based on that determination by FEMA, each of the impacted utilities had

planned to appeal those decisions.

The utility representatives were encouraged by FEMA's willingness to consider new guidelines and criteria for assessing ice storm damage. Based on those discussions, the utilities will begin working with officials from FEMA and KDEM to review and develop new damage assessments based upon the engineering studies that have already been completed for each of the damaged systems.

The damaged utilities have made temporary repairs to restore power to their customers, but permanent repairs still need to be made. Much of the system damage involves replacing miles of conductor (much of it being hard-drawn copper and copper-weld) that was stretched and damaged as a result of ice-loading from the winter storm. The utilities worry that another round of severe storms with ice or wind could cause widespread outages on their systems.

KMU Welcomes New Utility Members

KMU would like to extend a warm welcome to six Kansas communities that have recently joined the association. These include the Cities of Arma, Ellis, Goessel, Junction City, Manhattan and

Salina. KMU now proudly represents a total of 176 cities throughout the state. As always, it is our honor to work on your behalf, and we thank you for your support.



kansasmunicipalutilities



Kansas and Colorado Continue Battle Over Arkansas River

The states of Kansas and Colorado are appearing before the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing once again over water in the Arkansas River. This time, Kansas is asking that Colorado pay more of the state's court costs in the legal dispute that has extended over 23 years. In a previous ruling, the court ruled that Colorado should pay for its taking of water from the river. Colorado paid Kansas \$34.7 million for lost crops and other damages. A special master in the case limited any additional payments to Kansas stemming from any additional damages, interest on damages, and reimbursement costs for developing computer models used in the case. Kansas Attorney General Steve Fix appeared on behalf of the State of Kansas asking that the high court overturn the rulings of the special master. According to Kansas officials, it cost the state more than \$20 million in legal expenses and about \$1 million in court costs. Kansas has sued Colorado three times in the past 107 years over the use of the river's water in an attempt to protect the interests of Kansas farmers using the water for irrigating crops in western Kansas and growing municipalities along the river's path which begins near Leadville, Colorado, in the Rocky Mountains.

Brownback Reaffirms Two-Term Pledge

Kansas Senator Sam Brownback has reaffirmed his intention to serve two terms in the Senate and not run for a third full term. Brownback has been considering a run for Kansas governor in 2010, but does not plan a formal announcement at this time. Brownback was elected to fill the unexpired term of U.S. Senator Bob Dole in 1996 and went on to win reelection to the post in 1998 and 2004. His decision not to seek reelection would create a vacancy in the Kansas Senate seat that has drawn the attention of two House republicans – U.S. Representatives Jerry Moran and Todd Tiahrt. Governor Kathleen Sebelius has also been mentioned as a potential candidate for the position but has not publicly indicated interest in running for the Senate position.

Lawrence Sees Declining Utility Revenues

Declines in revenues from the water and sewer funds are causing some concern among Lawrence city leaders this year. A report released in late November showed that collections from the water and sewer departments were down by 1.4 percent during the first three quarters of 2008. This was an unexpected drop, considering that city residents, on average, faced a 5 percent water rate increase and a 6 percent sewer rate increase this year. Officials are focusing on two main factors which may have contributed to the decline—a mild summer and a dramatic decrease in the number of new homes being built in the city. Practically speaking, the growth component is most troubling because the city is already in the midst of a multimillion dollar expansion of Clinton Water Treatment Plant. About 400 acres were also purchased for a sewer plant, but that project was put on hold when it became clear that the city's growth rate had slowed.

KCBPU Temporarily Lowers ERC Charge

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities announced in early December that the utility's fuel and energy recovery charge for the period from November 2008 to April 2009 will be adjusted downward from 4.263 cents per kilowatt hour to 3.352 cents per kilowatt hour. The charge, known as the Energy Rate Component, or ERC, represents the utility's cost of fuel used to generate electricity and the cost of power that must be purchased on the open market. The ERC is a separate charge from the Utility's base rates, which saw no increases in 2008. This ERC reduction will lower the average residential customer electric bill by approximately \$6.00 per month during this six month period.

Kansas Loses Public Power Associate

Bob Thompson, consulting engineer for Lutz, Daily & Brain, passed away on November 25th. Bob was a consulting engineer in Kansas City for 40 years, the last 15 years with Lutz, Daily & Brain. He served as an outstanding project engineer on numerous power plant additions, upgrades and improvements for cities throughout the Midwest. He was a member of the Kansas City Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and served as Chairman. In addition to his dedication to his work, his other passions included his many friends and serving the community. Bob commonly attended the KMU annual conference and enjoyed participating in the annual golf tournament. KMU extends its condolences to Bob's many colleagues, friends and family.

Battle Over Construction of High Voltage Transmission Continues

The battle over the right to build high voltage transmission in Kansas continues as Westar Energy offers a compromise on the plan for construction. Westar and its partner Prairie Wind Technologies LLC, issued a news release indicating that a compromise proposal had been filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). The proposal calls for splitting the project between Prairie Wind and ITC Great Plains, a Topeka-based subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp., a Michigan based company. The two competing interests have battled before state regulators for the right to build the 765-kilovolt transmission project. ITC representatives have indicated that there was no agreement between the parties on the compromise plan filed by Westar. The project developers insist that their proposals are a necessary step to upgrade the region's transmission system and will also aid in moving wind power to higher population areas where the energy can be consumed. The KCC is reviewing the competing proposals and might not pick a potential developer until late next year. The schedule has drawn criticism from a number of state legislators and industry officials who argue that it is too slow.

Salina Approves Financing for Energy Efficiency Improvements

City Commissioners in Salina have agreed upon a plan for financing energy efficiency improvements for nine city facilities. The \$1.3 million in temporary notes and bonds will finance energy-saving improvements that are estimated to save approximately \$1.6 million over a 20-year period for a net savings of about \$255,000. The projects at the nine buildings will be completed over the next eight months under an Energy Performance Contract with Chevron Energy Solutions of Overland Park.

City of Topeka Creates Sustainability Board

In an effort to make the City of Topeka more eco-friendly, the city council approved the formation of the Sustainability Advisory Board. The mission of the board is to promote environmental assessment and advocate policies that support sustainability in the city to enhance the community's quality of life. The board is modeled after a similar group established by the City of Lawrence and other communities. The duties of the nine-member advisory group will be to assist city staff and elected officials in the areas of environmental assessment, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation, and natural resource conservation.

Extreme Makeover Home Edition Gives Chapman Family New Home

The Emmy award-winning show "Extreme Makeover Home Edition" recently paid a visit to the City of Chapman, Kansas to lend assistance to a deserving family affected by the June 11 tornado. Army Specialist Patrick Tutwiler was wounded by a sniper while on tour of duty in Iraq and returned home with extensive injuries. Less than a year later, his family's residence was destroyed by the EF3 Chapman tornado. "Extreme Makeover" came to Chapman on November 11 to build a new home for the Tutwilers. But due to an overwhelming response from volunteers, the show was able to organize several additional projects for the community. Along with the two-story home for the Tutwiler family, they built a new community center and remodeled a park. They also assisted in repairing approximately 50 homes in Chapman. Because of all the projects, "Extreme Makeover" reported this as the biggest build in the show's history. The episode is expected to air as a two-hour special on January 25, 2009.

Judge Rules on Eudora Motions in Rural Water District Case

A motion made by the City of Eudora in its legal battle with Douglas County Rural Water District No. 4 was denied by U.S. District Court Judge Julie A. Robinson. The city had made a motion to certify questions that could better be answered by the Kansas Supreme Court as opposed to the U.S. District Court where the case has been filed. With the denial of the motion, the case will stay in federal court. The legal battle involves the question of which entity should provide water utility service to property annexed by the City of Eudora. Kansas statute (K.S.A. 12-257) states that when a city annexes territory served by a water district, the water district must negotiate a fair price for the city to acquire the territory and serve its residents. However, RWD No. 4 filed a lawsuit against Eudora last September in the U.S. District Court of Kansas City, Kan., under a federal law — 7 U.S.C. section 1926(b) — that states that as a result of borrowing money from the USDA, the district is protected from any municipality or private entity that would curtail or limit the district's water territory or customers. The case is scheduled to go to trial on January 13, 2009.



Local Municipal Utility News to Share?

Call us at 620/241-1423,
fax us at 620/241-7829
or email your story to
kmu@kmmunet.org.

KMEA/KMGA Update



by Jim Widener, General Manager
Kansas Municipal Energy Agency

SWPA Supplemental Power Tapped Out

After delivering approximately \$1.5 million in savings to KMEA cities during 2008, SWPA supplemental hydropower has finally been depleted. KMEA received word on December 3 that SWPA supplemental hydropower would not be available until further notice.

The heavy rains during early 2008 provided so much extra moisture that Army Corps of Engineers lakes that supply hydropower to participating cities in eastern Kansas were as much as 240 percent above normal "energy-in-storage" levels. Those lake levels have now returned to normal.

During the year more than 30 million kWh of supplemental power was delivered to nine KMEA cities at a cost of less than \$0.01 per kWh. That compares to spot market prices as much as 18 times that level.



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KMEA Office Purchase Finalized

In early December KMEA completed the purchase of a 10,000-square-foot building, which will become the Agency's new home by late spring.

The facility, located at 95th and Lamar in Overland Park, Kans., will relieve overcrowding for existing staff. It will also provide large and small conference rooms for hosting training sessions and conferences. And, of course, the building represents an investment for the Agency, which has been leasing office space in the Shawnee Mission Parkway and Lamar area for nearly 26 years.

We've hired an architect to assist us in remodeling and reconfiguring the offices, which we hope to have completed by May. Stay tuned for more information on our relocation around that time.

GRDA 2009 Power Cost Adjustment Announced

KMEA cities that participate in the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) project will see a very slight increase in charges during the first six months of 2009. The new Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) will be \$0.00626 per kWh—just \$0.00031 per kWh more than the previous six-month-rate of \$0.00595 per kWh.

GRDA officials indicated that rising coal and coal delivery costs over the past few years necessitated the increase. KMEA currently schedules 63 MW of power over firm transmission to 18 participating cities.

Greg DuMars Joins KMEA Executive Committee

We're pleased that Greg DuMars, City Administrator for the city of Lindsborg, Kans., has agreed to serve on KMEA's Executive Committee. Greg fills a slot vacated by Gary Shike, who resigned from his post as Oberlin City Administrator in September.

Greg grew up in Lindsborg and returned there to work in public housing, then as City Administrator, after spending time in Wichita and Kansas City.

So he knows, firsthand, about the importance of our agency in meeting the power supply needs of Kansas communities. He is looking forward to helping guide our organization as we continue to secure economically priced, reliable power for our member cities.

Kansas Power Pool (KPP) Update

by Colin Whitley, General Manager
Kansas Power Pool

Full Steam Ahead in 2009

The Kansas Power Pool held its annual Board of Directors meeting in Wichita in early December. In particular the board approved the 2009 Budget of \$70,300,000 and set priorities for the year ahead including:

- **Transmission Investment:** Top of the priority list is the development of new transmission infrastructure. As we are keenly aware, transmission investment greatly benefits our customers by reducing rate volatility, allowing generation to be dispatched effectively, enhancing the deliverability and reliability of generation resources and providing an additional secure revenue stream. There are several options that KPP can pursue in the transmission arena. KPP can own the asset and receive revenue requirements through Southwest Power Pool or KPP can partner with a third party, either an existing TO or an independent transmission utility, to upgrade existing infrastructure or invest in new assets. KPP is exploring all options.
- **Initial Cash Working Capital:** Another top priority for KPP in 2009 is the refund with interest of initial cash working capital contributions made by member cities in 2005 to assist in the start up of the KPP organization.
- **Revised Facilitator Agreement:** Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority has been a strong partner and asset to KPP since our inception. In 2009, the revised agreement with OMPA will reduce cost to KPP which will allow KPP to add necessary staff without additional expense. The revised agreement includes training provided by OMPA to key KPP positions.
- **Energy Efficiency Programs:** The 2009 Budget includes funds to develop the energy efficiency programs supported by KPP. In particular, the Take Charge Initiative which involves the cities of Haven/Mt. Hope and Wellington. Other programs will be determined by the KPP Operating Committee and will be available to all KPP members.
- **Baseload Power Agreement:** The Board approved a 50 MW baseload power agreement with Westar for 2009. This additional baseload

power will help to lower KPP's cost in '09 as well as serve as a bridge to a long-term baseload agreement between Westar and the KPP cities.

- **Purchase of Distribution Facilities:** As a result of the pending decision regarding treatment of 34.5kV lines on Westar's system coupled with both the existing distribution facilities charges applying to many KPP members, the 2009 budget includes funds to purchase these facilities on behalf of the members. If KPP did not purchase the facilities, the DFC charges collect the full net plant of these facilities every five years.

Challenges certainly exist for KPP and our member cities in 2009 and the years to come – we need access to transmission and lower cost power resources. Fortunately, we are not unique in that regard. KPP will work to support our member cities as they likely experience the budget constraints and shortfalls brought on by our trying economic times - with expected cuts from both the federal and state government, all cities will be pressed. We will continue to provide reliable and affordable power to our members so they can work to attract business, jobs, investment and grow their economy. Kansas Power Pool has notched many successes and has grown from a \$1,000,000 annual budget start-up in 2005 to a \$70,000,000 member-driven, solutions oriented organization. Working with and meeting the needs of our customers remains the secret to our current and future success.





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KMU Explores New Regional Training Group

Several member communities have approached KMU about their interest in participating in an expanded Job Training & Safety Program. KMU has been operating a Job Training & Safety program for five years and currently has 32 cities involved in two training groups: a Northern Regional Training Group and a Southern Regional Training Group. The program provides on-site monthly job training and safety programs to employees of the 32 electric, gas, water and wastewater utilities across the state, with the goal of creating a safe working culture in each of these communities.

Based on the communities currently enrolled in the

program, KMU will have to commit additional staff and resources to expand the program and involve additional communities. In response to member interest, KMU staff members are assessing whether there is a critical mass of communities with sufficient interest in the program to warrant the creation of a third regional training group.

KMU has been hosting meetings of utilities that are interested in exploring participation in the Job Training & Safety Program. If your community has such an interest, please let us know by contacting the KMU office at 620-241-1423.

Fast Facts...

- Every day, over 150 million Americans go to work expecting to return home healthy and safe.
- Approximately 9,000 workers are injured at work each day.
- On average, 16 workers a day will be victims of a fatal workplace injury, and another 137 workers and retirees will die from diseases they developed on the job.
- Employers spent an estimated \$50.8 billion in 2003 on wage payments and medical care for workers hurt on the job.
- According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, \$4 is returned for every \$1 spent toward a safety program.

FERC Accepts Settlement in Westar Transmission Case

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in early December accepted a settlement on changes to Westar's transmission rates. Intervening on behalf of municipal utilities were Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU), Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA) and Kansas Power Pool (KPP). Funding for KMU's portion of the expenses in the case was provided by the voluntary membership assessment conducted back in June 2006. Under the title of "Kansas Municipals," KMU, KMEA and KPP jointly intervened on behalf of their members in January 2008. At question was a request by Westar to receive incentive rates and accelerated depreciation on three large transmission projects. Incentives were subsequently denied on two of the three projects. The subject of the settlement conference, however, was largely focused on "customer protocols." These protocols determine the rights of Westar's wholesale customers in reviewing and potentially disputing transmission rates. The protocols provide additional transparency to the process and set forward a procedure to point out errors and handle disputes.

New High Visibility Safety Apparel Requirement Takes Effect

Effective November 24, 2008, new federal regulations on worker visibility took effect for those who work within the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway and are exposed to public traffic, construction or maintenance equipment within the work area. The high visibility apparel is personal protective safety clothing that is intended to make the wearer more visible during both daytime and nighttime usage. Workers affected by this regulation include, but are not limited to:

- highway construction and maintenance forces,
- survey crews,
- utility crews, and
- incident responders (such as emergency crews and law enforcement when directing traffic, investigating crashes, or handling lane closures).

These workers are required to wear high visibility safety apparel of either Class 2 or Class 3 ANSI/ISEA 107 – 2004 high visibility apparel. According to the regulations, states and other agencies shall comply with the provisions no later than November 24, 2008. For more information see: Federal Register 23 CFR Part 634.

Big Thanks to 2008 KMU Associate Members

On behalf of the city and utility members of KMU, we would like to thank all the consultants, suppliers and vendors that supported the association as KMU Associate Members in 2008. We greatly appreciate the encouragement and assistance of these fine companies and individuals.

When making purchasing decisions at your city, KMU strongly encourages its members to first consider those companies that support and assist your state association through the associate member program. Thank you for all your continued support!

- Altec Industries
- Ameresco, Inc.
- Aquila, Inc.
- B & L Electric, Inc.
- BHC RHODES
- Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corp.
- Capital Electric Line Builders, Inc.
- CBM, Inc.
- Chubb Group of Insurance Co.
- Cummins Central Power
- Drake-Scruggs Equipment, Inc.
- E. V. Cathodic Protection Service
- Electrical Reliability Services, Inc.
- Electric Utility Service Co.
- EMG, Inc.
- Exothermic Engineering, LLC
- Fairbanks Morse Engine
- Foley Equipment Co.
- Gilmore & Bell, P.C.
- Harold K. Scholz Co.
- Hatch & Kirk, Inc.
- HDR
- Hydraulic Equipment Service, Inc.
- ITC Great Plains
- Kansas City Power & Light
- Kansas Gas Service
- Kansas One-Call Systems, Inc.
- Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC
- MAXIMUS
- MGT of America, Inc.
- Mid-States Energy Works, Inc.
- Midstates Erectors, Inc.
- Mid-West CAD
- Midwest Energy, Inc.
- NovaTech LLC
- OG&E
- Olsson Associates
- Omaha Public Power District
- Osmose Utilities Services
- Piper Jaffray & Co.
- Power Engineering Services, P.A.
- ProEnergy Services
- Professional Eng. Consultants
- Protective Equipment Testing Lab
- Sawvel and Associates, Inc.
- Sega, Inc.
- Siemens Energy & Automation
- Solomon Corporation
- Stanion Wholesale Electric Co.
- T & R Electric Supply Co., Inc.
- Tiede's Line Construction, Inc.
- TradeWind Energy, LLC
- Utility Consultants, Inc.
- Utility HelpNet, Inc.
- Utility Intelligence
- Walters-Morgan Construction
- Westar Energy, Inc.
- WAPA



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Associate Member Spotlight



Westar Energy is the largest electric energy provider in Kansas providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to more than half a million residents.

Headquartered in Topeka, Westar Energy employs about 2,200 people and serves about 675,000 customers in much of east and east-central Kansas. Including its wholesale customers, Westar Energy provides service to approximately two-thirds of the state of Kansas. Our 13 energy centers generate more than 6,500 megawatts of electricity. Our newest facility, the Emporia Energy Center, is a natural gas-fired combustion turbine peaking plant located in rural Lyon County. The plant's first 300 megawatts came online in June 2008, and an additional 300 megawatts is scheduled to come online in the summer of 2009. Westar Energy operates and coordinates 33,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines.

Our diverse generation portfolio includes nearly 300 megawatts of carbon-free energy produced from three wind farms. Westar Energy will own and operate the Central Plains Wind Farm in Wichita County, own half of the Flat Ridge Wind Farm facility in Barber County and purchase power produced by the other half of the facility and purchase power produced by the Meridian Way Wind Farm in Cloud County. All three facilities are expected to be operational by the end of 2008.

As the demand for energy increases in Kansas, Westar Energy is focused on educating all of our customers on using their energy more efficiently. Not only do energy efficiency practices help our customers save money, they also help us use our generation more efficiently, which helps to keep operating costs down. In 2008, Westar Energy launched EfficiencyWorks to provide energy efficiency information and programs to customers. For more information about our energy efficiency programs, visit our Web site, www.WestarEnergy.com.

Westar Energy

For retail city customers:

Business Center – 24/7
800-826-0026

For wholesale transmission and distribution customers:

Electrical outage number – 24/7
866-880-0478

For any power delivery needs:

Suzanne Lane
Manager, Transmission Customer Service
suzanne.lane@westarenergy.com
785-575-8243

For wholesale generation and marketing:

David Shupe
Manager, Wholesale Business
785-575-8090
or
Bill Birnel
Wholesale Manager
785-575-6454

www.WestarEnergy.com



Jeffrey Energy Center near St. Marys, KS



Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson helps install a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) at a Colwich residence during the Colwich Switch. The Colwich Switch is a partnership between Westar Energy's EfficiencyWorks division and residents in the town of Colwich. Westar provided each Colwich residence with six CFLs and will monitor the town's energy usage for one year to determine how much of a reduction in energy use occurs.

Wholesale Generation and Marketing

Westar Energy's Generation and Marketing group provides wholesale power to Kansas municipalities and rural electric cooperatives in Kansas. Westar Energy is a fellow, Kansas electric utility. We proudly live in the same communities that we serve. Services provided by Generation and Marketing include:

- A long-term pricing structure that provides significant protection from the high volatile energy markets.
- A low-cost fleet of generating units which include coal, nuclear and wind.
- Value added provider
- Energy management services
- Purchase power agreements
- Serving as an agent for requesting transmission service and completing necessary scheduling requirements to facilitate deliveries of energy.



Wholesale Municipal Power Delivery Services

Westar Energy is proud to serve the power delivery needs of 52 wholesale municipal electric utilities in Kansas. Because all wholesale municipal electric utilities in the Westar Energy service territory are connected to Westar's distribution or transmission system, Westar Energy's Transmission Operations & Distribution Power Delivery groups have the privilege of assuring the power delivery needs of these municipalities are fulfilled – regardless of the cities' power supplier.

Transmission Customer Service is wholesale municipalities' "one stop shop" for anything related to power delivery needs at all voltages. We can assure you are assisted with such issues as adding delivery points, service territory annexations, substation and/or line capacity upgrades, power outage coordination, loss factor calculations, SPP metering requirements and overall facilitation of interconnection agreements.

Retail Franchise Customers

Do you have questions concerning your energy bill? Would you like a single group bill for all of your accounts? At Westar Energy we have dedicated people ready to help you with bill analysis. We will take the time to answer your questions or assist you with issues and concerns. Electric rates can at times be confusing. Our experts are available for consumption analysis, demand, power factor correction and energy consultation. We will take a comprehensive look at your energy usage.

Our business managers are also available to assist your city in renewing its retail franchise agreement. A properly worded agreement protects your right-of-way, and ensures you receive your full complement of franchise fees.



Above: 345 kV transmission line near the Gordon Evans Energy Center in Colwich that stretches to the Hutchinson area and on to Salina. Left: Westar Energy wind turbines

Congratulations Rep./Sen. _____, I'm _____

APPA Washington Report
by Robert Varela
Editor, Public Power Weekly

With a new Congress and a new administration coming to Washington, it's time to acquaint them with public power.

The 111th Congress will have some 60 new members and many more new staff whom they will depend on to brief them on issues. In addition, once committee and subcommittee assignments are handed out in January, more returning members will be switching and learning new issues. New staff will be joining committees and subcommittees.

One committee change will have a major impact on the electricity industry: Democrats' decision to name Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, replacing Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich. Waxman is considered more liberal than Dingell, notably on the issue of climate change and limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

The Obama administration will be naming scores of policymakers at the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior and other agencies that affect public power utilities.

Many of these appointees will be knowledgeable or even experts, but it's a safe bet that few will have an in-depth understanding of

public power. In any case, as an old editor used to tell me about readers, "Never underestimate their intelligence and never overestimate their knowledge."

Whether expert or brand new to energy issues, government policymakers and legislators face some extremely daunting tasks in 2009. Dominating everything will be the worst economy since the Great Depression. Combating



climate change will be high on the agenda (along with health care reform).

The ailing economy certainly will affect the debate over any comprehensive climate change legislation and concerns over the cost of lowering carbon emissions conceivably could derail action on a comprehensive bill. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a cap-and-trade system necessarily must produce higher energy prices.

However, offsetting those concerns is the view that a green energy economy is one way to create jobs and get the economy moving again, while also reducing carbon emissions, lowering dependence on foreign oil and helping the environment.

In any event, as always, public power's strength will be grass roots lobbying by public power executives and—equally, if not,

more important—by local elected officials. Climate change has been dubbed "the mother of all issues" for the electric utility industry. Given what's at stake, public power utilities need to pull out all the stops when it comes to contacting their representatives in Congress, particularly if they sit on a key committee or are new to Congress.

Don't be shy. Members of Congress typically are never too busy when it comes to meeting with

constituents at almost any time. So pick up your phone, fire up your e-mail or get out some stationery and tell your representatives and senators, "Congratulations ... and let's talk sometime." APPA government relations staff can help you set up meetings and would like to hear about any meetings you have with legislators or their staffs. And, if you can, mark your calendars and make plane reservations for Feb. 23-26, 2009, for APPA's Legislative Rally in Washington.

Classified Ads

Lineman

(\$34.70 Per Hour)

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU) is seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Lineman. The successful candidate will install, maintain and remove overhead and underground electric lines equipment and facilities.

- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Must have completed a recognized apprentice program for Journeyman Lineman or have satisfactory equivalency.
- Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license as required by the State of Kansas for vehicle(s) operated.

A condition of employment with KCBPU is to relocate to Wyandotte County, Kansas within six (6) months from the date employment begins. Please complete the online application at www.bpu.com. You may contact Human Resources at 913.573.6915 or e-mail deleon@bpu.com. EOE - F/M/V/D

Instrument and Control Engineer

(Monthly Salary Range: 5,645.00 - \$7,056.00 - \$7,801.00)

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU) is seeking a qualified professional to fill the position titled Instrument and Control Engineer. The successful candidate will provide technical support for electric production operations and maintenance. The successful candidate will also serve as liaison and resident engineer for contractors and consultants.

- Must possess a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from an accredited college and university.
- Must possess at least three (3) years experience in instrumentation and controls engineering in the power generation industry.
- Professional engineering license is desirable.

Please complete the online application at www.bpu.com. For additional information, you may contact Human Resources at 913.573.6915 or e-mail deleon@bpu.com. EOE - F/M/V/D

Senior Transmission and Distribution Engineer

(\$6,379.00 - \$8,815.00 Per Month)

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU) is seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Senior Transmission and Distribution Engineer. The successful candidate will help ensure that the company's transmission and distribution system is properly designed, constructed and maintained according to applicable standards by coordinating all work performed by transmission and distribution staff.

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from an ABET accredited engineering program.
- Must have a Professional Engineer's registration in Electrical Engineering.
- Five (5) years experience as a Professional Engineer in the Utility industry is preferred.
- Three (3) years proven field experience in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of electrical distribution systems is also preferred.

Must relocate to Wyandotte County, Kansas within six (6) months from the date employment begins. Please complete the online application at www.bpu.com. You may contact Human Resources at 913.573.6915 or e-mail deleon@bpu.com. EOE - F/M/V/D

Instructor

Pratt Community College is seeking a full-time instructor for the ELECTRICAL POWER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM. Maximum 225 working days per year; no weekends or holidays required! Position is covered under the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System. Salary up to \$55,000 with an excellent benefit package which includes: a monthly benefit allowance of \$449.50, allowing the individual to retain the cash or use it to purchase group health insurance; 403(b) match up to \$50 per month; college paid group term life insurance; personal and professional days, 10 sick days per year; family tuition remission. Responsibilities include teaching assigned classes and labs; providing assessment and evaluation

of student performance and actively recruiting students. Must possess working knowledge of OSHA rules and regulations plus the standard work practices for underground distribution unique to electrical power utilities. Journeyman/lineperson certification beneficial. Degree not required. Send completed PCC employment application, resume and copies of transcripts/certifications to Personnel Director, Pratt Community College, 348 NE SR 61, Pratt, KS 67124. Visit our website www.prattcc.edu to apply online or download application. AA/EOE

Certified Welder

(Hourly Pay: \$33.77)

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU) is seeking a qualified professional to fill the position titled Certified Welder. The successful candidate will be required to weld metal parts together according to layouts or work orders, using brazing, soldering, gas or electric arc welding processes.

- Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Must possess five (5) years' experience as a certified welder, certified to perform welding on vessels with 1800 pounds pressure.
- Must pass certification test pertaining to high pressure and high temperature boiler type welding.

Please complete the online application at www.bpu.com. For additional information, you may contact Human Resources at 913.573.6915

Positions Available

The City of Pratt is accepting applications for the following positions: Inspector/Code Enforcement officer, Street Department maintenance worker and a Wastewater plant/ Collection systems operator. All positions require valid Kansas driver's license. Wages

for each position are based on qualifications. Position descriptions are available upon request.

Benefits include vacation, KPERs, life insurance, health insurance, holidays and sick leave. PDF Format applications are available online at www.cityofprattks.com under the employment tab. Submit applications/ resumes to City of Pratt, Public Works, 619 S. Main, Pratt, Kansas 67124. The City of Pratt is an EOE.

The City of Pratt is a clean, progressive community approximately one hour west of Wichita, Kansas.

2009 Legislative Rally
FEBRUARY 23-26, 2009
THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Each year, approximately 700 public power utility managers, board members, mayors and city council members gather in Washington to shape APPA's legislative priorities and convey the value and benefits of public power to Members of Congress.

Once again, this premier public power event is being held at the venerable Mayflower Hotel. Don't miss this opportunity to impact public power's legislative policy—register today!

For more information, including the registration form and hotel information, go to the "Events Calendar" online at www.APPAnet.org. For additional program details please contact Joy Ditto at 202/467-2954; jditto@APPAnet.org.

APPA American Public Power Association

Upcoming Events

- **2009 Kansas Legislative Session Convenes**
January 12, 2009 @ 2 p.m.
Kansas State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas
- **APPA 2009 Legislative Rally**
February 23-26, 2009
The Mayflower Hotel
Washington, D.C.
- **KMU 2009 Conference**
May 6 - 8, 2009
Hyatt Regency
Wichita, Kansas

The KMU Dispatch is published monthly by Kansas Municipal Utilities, Inc. and distributed free of charge to member municipal utility officials, state legislators and regulators, and associate member companies.

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