



The *KMU Dispatch*

December 2009 • Volume 34, Issue # 12

Inside...

- 2** Around the State
- 4** KMEA Update
- 5** KPP Update
- 6** APGA Petitions EPA Over Emissions Reporting Rule
- 7** EPA to Regulate Emissions Under the Clean Air Act
PHMSA Announces Technical Assistance Grant
- 8** Ottawa Hosts Successful Power Plant Operator Workshop
- 9** EPA Website Helps Homeowners with Water, Energy Efficiency
- 10** Washington Report
- 11** Classifieds
- 12** Calendar of Events

State Energy Office Launches New Energy Programs

With the assistance of federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the State of Kansas has introduced new energy related programs to reduce energy consumption and promote renewable energy. The programs will be operated by the State Energy Office, a division of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

Renewable Energy Incentives Grant Program

The State Energy Office announced the establishment of the Renewable Energy Incentives Grant Program. The program utilizes \$3.8 million of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding as authorized by the ARRA. Under the program, local units of government are eligible to apply for grants to fund up to 25 percent of the development, implementation, and installation of renewable energy technology, up to \$250,000.

"Projects funded through this grant will have long-lasting economic and environmental benefits for local Kansas communities," said Thomas Wright, Chairman of the KCC. "Not only will these grants help to put people back to work in Kansas, but the projects will reduce fossil fuel emissions through the generation of clean energy."

Public entities including state agencies, cities and counties, public colleges and universities, community colleges and technical schools, and unified school districts are eligible to apply for grants for qualifying wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, or hydropower projects. Cities or counties that received direct allocations through the Energy Efficiency Block Grant are not eligible for this program.

Approximately \$1 million will be awarded in each of the first three rounds. The remaining available funds will be awarded in a fourth round. The deadline for submitting applications for the first round is January 31, 2010 with awards expected the second week of February.

More information on applying for the Renewable Energy Incentives Grant Program is available at <http://kcc.ks.gov/energy/arra>.

Efficiency Kansas Loan Program

Governor Mark Parkinson also officially launched Efficiency Kansas, a new revolving loan program to help Kansans make cost-effective, energy efficiency improvements to their homes and small businesses. The program is described as a unique public/private partnership that will channel \$34 million in federal funds from the ARRA through private businesses

(Continued on page 6)



kansasmunicipalutilities



Governor Signs Disaster Declaration for Recent Winter Storms

Preliminary damage assessments of recent winter weather in portions of extreme northeast and north central Kansas has revealed in excess of \$9.5 million in damages resulting in a state disaster declaration. Gov. Mark Parkinson signed a State of Disaster Emergency declaration on November 20, for 18 Kansas counties impacted by a slow-moving winter storm that struck the state Nov. 14-16. According to the declaration, extremely heavy snows caused severe damage to electric infrastructure, disrupting power to several thousand customers. Counties impacted and included in the declaration are Atchison, Brown, Clay, Cloud, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Marshall, Mitchell, Nemaha, Osborne, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Smith and Washington Counties. "Winter is not even officially here, but already we've had a reminder of just how devastating a Kansas winter storm can be," said Parkinson. "This declaration will allow the affected counties to repair damage to their electrical infrastructure, so they can prepare for more severe weather. The majority of the snowfall occurred in the northern tier counties along the US-36 corridor. Northern Republic County reported eight inches of snow. Morrowville in Washington County reported a 12 inch accumulation. Marshall, Nemaha, and Brown Counties reported accumulations of five to seven inches. Areas south of the main storm system reported 2 inch accumulations or less.

KHRC Launches Appliance Rebate Program

The Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) has introduced a new program, making rebates available to low-income households who choose to replace their old appliances with more efficient, ENERGY STAR® models. The State Energy Efficient Appliance Replacement Program (SEEARP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, will provide \$2.6 million to help replace and recycle an estimated 4,800 appliances. Rebates for energy efficient appliances will range from \$200 to \$800. The program was designed to aid low-income households, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, and households with a high-energy burden. SEEARP is modeled after the Residential Appliance Replacement (RAR) Program, a similar effort also launched by KHRC earlier this year. RAR has since ended, but the \$4 million investment provided by that program was successfully converted into \$19 million in lifetime energy savings for low-income families.

Westar Reaches Rate Settlement

Westar Energy has reached a settlement with state regulatory staff and consumer advocates that will increase rates by \$17.1 million a year. Those same parties have also reached an agreement on how to implement rate consolidation between Westar's northern and southern divisions. The settlement agreement will still need final approval by the Kansas Corporation Commission. The settlement was reached involving Westar, Kansas Corporation Commission staff, Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board, Kansas Industrial Consumers Group, Wichita Public Schools, Kroger, and the City of Wichita. Westar had originally filed an abbreviated rate case with the KCC requesting \$19.7 million. The latest increase will add \$1 to the cost of an average customer's bill depending on usage and other factors. The new hike is intended to compensate Westar for its investments in a gas-fired power plant in Emporia and two wind farms. If granted, the rate increase would be the fourth rate increase to be granted this year. The cumulative effect of the rate hikes this year amounts to about \$11 to \$15 a month.

In October, the Commission ordered that rates between Westar's northern and southern divisions be equalized. Since the 1992 merger that formed the company that became Westar, the southern division, the former KGE territory, has generally paid higher rates than Westar North, formerly KPL. But recent increases in the cost of coal generation pushed northern rates up while rates in the southern division — primarily nuclear-powered — were more stable. The commission decided to order the change because rates in the two systems had come close together. It overrode complaints by Wichita and KIC that the change was unfair to southern customers, who had paid higher rates for years and were only now starting to see benefits from investing in the Wolf Creek nuclear plant. The Commission's October order planned for a separate proceeding to decide how to consolidate the rates, but that will probably be unnecessary now because of the recent settlement.

Clay Center Agreement Adds \$2 to Consumer Bills

The Clay Center City Council approved a subsidy policy agreement with the Clay Center Public Utility Commission (PUC) in lieu of a franchise fee arrangement. The agreement acts essentially like a franchise fee, but it is more flexible and accomplishes the City Council's desire to receive funds that it would have received from the Public Utilities Commission if the utility were a private utility. Rather than pay a certain percentage, the PUC will pay a set amount. For 2010 that will be \$130,000 and the plan is to eventually increase it to \$300,000 at the end of a five year period. That amount, which is equivalent to about 5 percent, would approximate what a private utility would pay in franchise fees. Starting in January the PUC will charge \$0.002083 per kilowatt hour of electricity and \$0.0012 per cubic foot of water, and based on last year's sales, that will generate about \$130,000. These charges will be reflected as two separate line items on consumer's monthly bills transmitted after Feb. 1 that will be labeled as "transfer" for water and electric. Starting next year the subsidy will amount to \$1.56 more per residential customer for electricity and 36 cents more for water.

Brownback Tours KCBPU Facilities

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback recently paid a visit to Kansas City Board of Public Utilities. The senator toured the utility's Nearman Creek Power Plant facility and discussed energy matters with BPU officials. "We were extremely pleased that Senator Brownback took time from his busy schedule to visit Wyandotte County and tour BPU's facilities," said General Manager Don Gray. "He was extremely interested in utility operations issues, had a good grasp of energy related matters, asked insightful questions throughout the tour, and took the time to meet some of our associates."



KCP&L Announces Interest in Adding Renewable Energy

Kansas City Power & Light Company (KCP&L), a subsidiary of Great Plains Energy Incorporated, has issued requests for proposals (RFP's) to add up to 300 MW of additional emissions-free, renewable wind generation in the 2010 - 2011 timeframe. KCP&L currently owns and operates the Spearville Wind Generation Facility, a 100.5 MW wind farm in Spearville, Kansas that became operational in 2006. The Spearville Wind Generation Facility generates enough electricity annually to supply approximately 33,000 homes. If fully developed, the new wind projects contemplated in the newly released RFP's would provide a clean source of power for approximately 100,000 homes.

Zebra Mussels Found in Milford Reservoir

Milford Reservoir joins the list of eight Kansas lakes where zebra mussels have been found since they were first discovered in El Dorado Lake in 2003. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks confirmed the tiny, invasive mollusks were discovered recently in Milford Lake, near Junction City. A boater found several zebra mussels attached to his boat when he pulled it from the water for the season. State biologists did a follow-up and found three more in the 16,000-acre lake. The mussels spread in flowing water. They also travel within boats and bait buckets, and by attaching themselves to boat hulls. Zebra mussels are considered a nuisance because they have the potential to clog intake pipes at water plants and also compete with native fish and mussels for food.

State Receives Grant for Broadband Survey

Kansas has been awarded a \$2 million federal grant through the Kansas Department of Commerce to study and develop broadband Internet service throughout the state. The grant will cover the mapping of current broadband service and a portion of the planning necessary to make it available in remote areas. According to Commerce Secretary designate Bill Thornton, broadband has the potential to boost economic development and to provide health-care information, education and a variety of services to Kansans in sparsely populated rural areas.



Local Municipal Utility News to Share?

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

KMEA/KMGA Update



by Jim Widener, General Manager
Kansas Municipal Energy Agency

Annual Meeting Garners Record Attendance

Given the current economic environment, we are pleased to report that this year's KMEA Annual Meeting of the Member Cities drew 123 participants when we gathered November 3-4 at the Wichita Marriott.

We try to keep these meetings relevant to the challenges our members are facing and to inform them of trends and technologies that will affect their cities. To that end, participants heard a panel discussion about the effects of wind generation on Kansas municipals. They also learned about the most current information on Smart Grid, which uses digital technology to merge information and operations to deliver electricity from suppliers to consumers, saving energy, reducing costs and increasing reliability and transparency.

And, finally, they got the inside story on the Beta Test of KMEA's G-MAP program, which the City of Arma completed in October. Arma City Manager Tim Schook, Midland GIS Solutions Operations Manager Kirk Larson and the KMEA G-MAP committee shared results of the test and next steps for cities interested in participating in the program. G-MAP locates, records and maps components of a community's electrical system in digital format to increase safety and efficiency in day-to-day operations, and more importantly, when a city is confronted with power emergencies.

Hanson and Nielsen Awards Presented

Also at the meeting, the 2009 Gil Hanson Award for Outstanding Service was conferred upon Sarah Steele, a shareholder in the law firm of Gilmore and Bell, which has aided KMEA since the agency's inception. Sarah has worked on KMEA issues since she joined Gilmore and Bell and has been an integral part of KMEA power supply projects and the development

of the Mutual Aid program. She has provided outstanding professional service and has been a confidante, advisor and friend. Congratulations, Sarah!

Established to recognize exemplary leadership, initiative and service to the KMEA Mutual Aid Program, the Daryle Nielsen Distinguished Service Award was also announced at the Annual Meeting. This year we were proud to honor Dennis Cox, Pratt Lineman and Distribution Crew Chief, who has participated in a long list of Mutual Aid responses, including the Greensburg tornado and multiple winter ice storms. Dennis possesses a strong desire to help others, as well as the ability to withstand long hours in difficult and uncomfortable conditions to restore power to residents of neighboring cities. Thank you, Dennis, for your leadership and dedication to this neighbor-helping-neighbor program.

Thirteen Cities to Share \$400,000 Refund

In early 2010, 13 KMEA cities that participate in the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) Project will receive refunds that total almost \$400,000. The refunds emanate from security deposits which SPP (the Southwest Power Pool) requires when long-term transmission service is requested and new facilities and upgrades are needed to fulfill the request.

On behalf of GRDA Project participating cities, KMEA requested long-term transmission from SPP for GRDA power, first in 2000, and again in 2006. Because new SPP facilities and upgrades were needed to provide transmission service for some of those cities, SPP required that \$392,000 be set aside, as security. The affected cities funded the security deposit through KMEA.

Over the ensuing years, KMEA has made monthly transmission service payments on behalf of the cities; a portion of those payments was allocated toward the cost of these improvements. Now that the facility and upgrade costs have been covered, the original security deposits will be returned to the 13 cities that funded the deposits. The cities are currently exploring how best to handle the refunds.

Kansas Power Pool (KPP) Update

by Colin Whitley, General Manager
Kansas Power Pool

Increasing Membership and Advocacy Marks 2009

By the end of 2009, Kansas Power Pool's membership will likely increase by two additional cities. During the upcoming KPP Board of Directors meeting, the Board will consider approval of membership for the cities of Anthony and Marion. We continue to see significant growth in KPP which we believe is a result of our member-driven approach. 2009 has been a tremendous year for KPP members. We launched significant new initiatives such as the Energy Efficiency program; signed a long-term purchase power agreement for in-state renewable wind generation, began offering Networked Integrated Transmission Service (NITS); instigated an effort to allow for cities to sign long-term membership contracts; intervened in several proceedings before the Kansas Corporation Commission and advocated strongly at Southwest Power Pool to ensure our members' interests were protected. We believe it has been a successful year for KPP member cities and municipal electric utilities as a result of these efforts.

One of the formal proceedings KPP entered this year was the Mid-Kansas Electric Company rate case filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission. A unanimous settlement with all parties was announced on December 1st. MKEC was formed in 2005 by the Sunflower Electric Cooperative members (Victory, Wheatland, Prairie Land, Lane-Scott, Pioneer, and Western rural electric cooperatives) to purchase the Kansas assets of the former Aquila electric system. MKEC was successful in its acquisition of the Aquila assets in 2007. Per the terms of the asset acquisition settlement with the KCC, MKEC was allowed to file a rate case at the KCC this year.

Kansas Power Pool intervened in the case when it became apparent that MKEC was taking action to no longer consider their 34.5 kV system as transmission assets, and instead would parse out this lower voltage service to member cooperatives. KPP took the position that MKEC's 34.5 kV system provides wholesale service to many different non-member cooperative delivery points and to many Kansas

municipal electric utilities, some of whom are KPP members. KPP advocated that MKEC's 34.5 kV system should continue to be defined as transmission service. KPP will continue to advocate this position to the KCC and Southwest Power Pool.



Even though only a fraction of the affected municipal utilities are KPP members, KPP's litigation on behalf of its members will provide benefits to all municipal electric utilities served by MKEC's 34.5 kV system. As in any settlement, no one got everything they wanted. As a result, the parties have agreed to postpone litigation on the issue of whether or not the MKEC 34.5 kV system serves as transmission, and KPP will keep the issue open for future litigation. However, in the meantime, MKEC will provide transparent transmission service to lower voltage wholesale customers. This means that, for now, municipal electric utilities on the system will no longer be required to sign interconnection agreements with the member cooperative and MKEC, but will instead be able to reach such agreements directly with MKEC.

In addition to its advocacy for all municipal electric utilities on the MKEC system, KPP has also agreed to help support municipal electric utilities in their intervention at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the KCP&L formula rate filing. While KPP does not have any members on the KCP&L transmission system, our members recognize the importance of helping and supporting all Kansas municipal electric utilities. Individually, Kansas municipal electric utilities may have trouble being heard, but together we are a loud choir that cannot be ignored.

It is a privilege to work with member cities of Kansas Power Pool and to the municipal utility community as a whole. I wish good things for all in the year to come. Merry Christmas.

State Energy Efficiency Programs

(Continued from page 1)

directly into local communities.

Kansans will be able to access Efficiency Kansas financing through partner lenders and participating utilities. The maximum amount of funding for approved projects is \$20,000 for homes and \$30,000 for small businesses, although average loans are expected to be in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range. Recommended projects may include adding insulation, sealing around doors and windows, and replacement of heating and cooling equipment.

To ensure that the projected savings will cover or exceed the cost of the improvements, the program requires that all projects be based on the results of a comprehensive energy audit conducted by a qualified auditor.

"Efficiency Kansas places a much-needed spotlight on energy efficiency across the state, by enabling Kansans to make energy efficiency improvements that will have a big impact in terms of energy and cost savings for years to come," Governor Parkinson said.

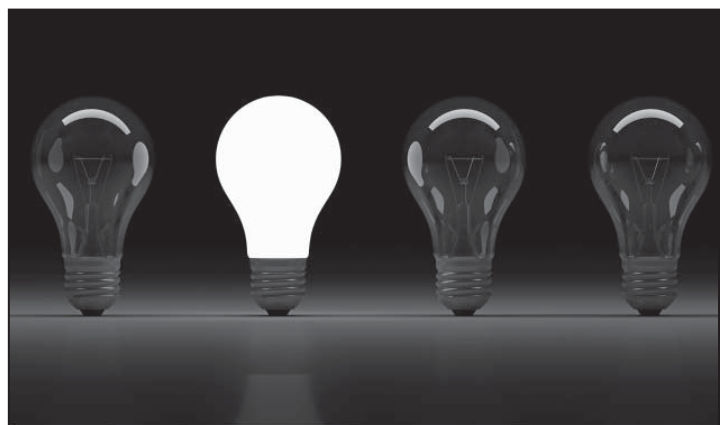
Energy savings are expected to vary, but on average, Kansans who participate in the program can expect to reduce their heating and cooling bills by as much as 20 percent. As a whole, the Efficiency Kansas program will save 165 trillion BTUs, enough energy to power more than 1,650 homes in Kansas.

To be a partner, utilities must plan to either utilize Efficiency Kansas financing and tie loan repayment to the meter, or collect loan payment on utility bills on behalf of Partner Lenders. In all instances, projects receiving funds through Efficiency Kansas must be repaid in 15 years (that is, 180 monthly bill payments) or less. Utilities that are subject to the jurisdiction of the KCC may become Partner Utilities upon approval by the Commission of the Utility's program and associated tariffs. Non-jurisdictional utilities, such as municipal electric and gas systems, will work with the State Energy Office for approval of their programs.

Additional information on how your customers or your utility can participate in Efficiency Kansas is available at www.efficiencykansas.com.

APGA Petitions EPA Over Emissions Reporting Rule

On December 3, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) filed a petition with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), asking for exemption for small systems from the greenhouse gas reporting rule published by the Agency on October 30. The rule requires that all local distribution companies, regardless of size, develop and submit a greenhouse gas monitoring plan to EPA. However, the rule also specifies that utilities with emissions consistently below the equivalent of 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide for the first 3 to 5 years will thereafter be exempted from reporting. APGA's petition asserts that these regulations place an undue burden on small public gas systems, most of which operate with very small staffs. To require these systems to develop greenhouse gas monitoring plans, only to be exempted in 5 years, would be unnecessarily burdensome. The full text of APGA's petition may be viewed at www.apga.org.



At the center of every successful project,
big ideas are born.



Kansas City, MO 816.363.2696 | Salina, KS 785.827.3603

water | sewer | power | gas | www.bwrcorp.com

EPA to Regulate Emissions Under the Clean Air Act

On December 7, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final finding that greenhouse gases pose a danger to human health and the environment. The finding paves the way for the regulated curtailment of carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, vehicles and other sources by means of the Clean Air Act. According to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, EPA "is now authorized and obligated to take reasonable efforts to reduce greenhouse pollutants under the Clean Air Act." Therefore, beginning next spring, power plants and other stationary sources of carbon dioxide will be required to implement best available technology when constructing or modifying plants. EPA will provide guidelines as to what constitutes best available technology.

Senator John Kerry, D-Mass., who has been an active

proponent of a climate change bill says of the EPA finding, "The message to Congress is crystal clear: get moving. If Congress does not pass legislation dealing with climate change, the administration is more than justified to use the EPA to impose new regulations."

In response, the National Association of Manufacturers has stated its concern that American manufacturers will lose their competitive edge if forced by the EPA to comply with "unrealistic goals and burdensome costs."

The finding comes in response to a 2007 Supreme Court decision, *Massachusetts v. EPA*, in which greenhouse gases were ruled to be air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. The Court then asked the EPA to determine whether such pollutants posed a threat to public health or welfare.

PHMSA Announces Technical Assistance Grant Opportunity

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) within the U.S. Department of Transportation has announced the criteria and competitive procedures for its Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program as authorized under the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006. The grant program is intended to allow communities and groups of individuals (not including for-profit entities) to obtain funding for technical assistance in the form of engineering or other scientific analysis of pipeline safety issues and help promote public participation in official proceedings. The amount of the grant award may not exceed \$50,000. PHMSA has received \$1,000,000 in FY 2010 to fund the TAG program.

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

1. The extent to which the Applicant's project scope is focused on areas where a pipeline failure could pose a significant risk to people or to unusually sensitive environmental areas;
2. The extent to which the proposed project scope demonstrates an understanding of the specific concern the Applicant wishes to address, as well as the range of risks affected pipelines pose to

the affected geographic area and the risks the community poses to the pipelines;

3. The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the Applicant's experience with and commitment to open communication with affected operators and to partnerships with other key members of the community;
4. The extent to which the Applicant's project is designed to improve performance and safety over time in areas such as engineering, damage prevention, land use, public education, emergency response, and community awareness;
5. The extent to which the Applicant's project plan establishes clear goals, objectives, milestones, and estimates of project costs;
6. The extent to which the Applicant has a plan for evaluating and disseminating results; and
7. The extent to which the Applicant's project scope provides the potential for learning or technology transfer to other groups and communities.

The closing date for applications is January 4, 2010. For more information, go to www.grants.gov (PHMSA Funding Opportunity Number DTPH56-10-SN-0002).

Ottawa Hosts Successful Power Plant Operator Workshop

In mid November, KMU held the Power Plant Operator (PPO) workshop in Ottawa, Kansas. Given the responses from participants, the workshop was a huge success. KMU would like to thank the City of Ottawa for the use of the city's facilities, the PPO Committee members, as well as the following vendor sponsors: Siemens Industry, JCI Industries, Inc., Kansas Gas Service, Lynn Electric, Mid-States Energy Works, NovaTech, LLC, and SYS-KOOL, LLC. Without the support of our sponsors, this workshop could not have been the success it was.

The first day of the workshop consisted of numerous classroom sessions along three different tracks – New Operator, Maintenance, and Advanced. The New Operator track focused on general information required for new personnel in a plant, like basic engine systems. The Advanced Operator track focused more towards a big picture, such as information about pending emission requirements presented by KDHE. The Maintenance track focused on troubleshooting of various systems within a power plant. In many of the sessions, there was lively discussion amongst both the participants and the vendor representatives. There was also a good deal of positive feedback from the participants regarding their experience during the various sessions. Once the sessions had been completed for the day, everyone enjoyed a barbeque dinner sponsored by Siemens at the Ottawa Country Club.

On the morning of the second day, participants traveled to either the Ottawa or Baldwin City Power Plant for hands-on sessions. This training covered many topics relevant to operators and techs, and gave everyone the opportunity to acquire additional

practical knowledge that would benefit their city. Although there was an established rotation between the individual sessions, there was ample opportunity for participants to tour each of the facilities with each plant's personnel. A number of spontaneous mini-training sessions took place throughout the morning, usually precipitated by someone asking, "Why...?" or "Have you ever...?"

Before the workshop concluded, everyone returned to the Ottawa Auditorium for lunch, a door prize drawing, and a round table discussion focusing on questions submitted ahead of time by workshop participants. One question that really kicked off discussion touched upon the need to replace an aging workforce. Bonnie Duden with the Kansas Department of Commerce was on hand and shared the different resources available to meet this challenge. KMU staff and the PPO Committee also discussed how we are addressing this issue, specifically with regard to an apprenticeship program for municipal power plant personnel, which is in the early stages of development.

The staff at KMU is committed to ensuring that the PPO workshop will be once again a permanent event, held each year around the state of Kansas. This will only happen with the continued support of our members and associate members. Once again, KMU would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's PPO workshop a success and a job well done!

Keep an eye out for additional information here in the *Dispatch* about the next PPO Workshop in 2010. If you have any questions and/or comments, please contact Rick Aguilar: raguilar@kmunet.org or (316) 293-6933.



EPA Website Helps Homeowners with Energy, Water Efficiency

From the American Public Power Association's Energy Efficiency Resource Central (www.EERCnet.org)

The Environmental Protection Agency has created a new website to assist homeowners, buyers, and renters in finding and maintaining a green home. The Green Homes site, epa.gov/greenhomes, goes room by room to pinpoint places where residents can reduce energy waste through efficient energy and water usage, renewable energy, green home building materials and household products, and recycling from home construction and household activities. For those in the market to buy or build a home, the site also gives advice on how to select the most environmentally friendly location.

The Web site front page gives a diagram of a typical home layout, which visitors can click on any room to find out about different energy savings options.

Same Chassis, Bigger Engine.
Upgrade your Orion5r Automation Platform with more power and better Cyber Security: [The New Orion5rL](#)



Orion5r OrionLX CPU

NovaTech®
www.novatechweb.com



P.O. Box 386 Clinton, Mo. 64735
Clint A. Lam

Phone: 660-885-3304
Cell: 660-890-4876

Choosing the bedroom, for example, brings a page that recommends an array of Energy Star electronics, gives information on different green furnishings, and illustrates what to look for in choosing the flooring. This room-by-room overview is then followed by broader information on lighting, cleaning, and even shopping for the home to reduce energy usage.

Other parts of the home analyzed for energy and water efficiency opportunities include the kitchen, bathroom, living room, office, laundry room, basement, garage, attic, roof and yard.

"The use of energy is related to virtually everything we do, or have in our homes," the agency said. "Obvious uses include using electricity to run appliances, electronics, and air conditioners, etc.; less obvious uses include consuming energy to purify and produce and convey water to our homes, and to make the products we purchase for use in our homes. If we take steps to green our homes, we can reduce energy use, save money, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and help to fight global warming and climate change."

Tips are not just limited to homeowners who have the ability to make major changes to their residences, but also to renters. A checklist of options to make a rental property energy and water efficient is offered, as well as an overview on how to convince landlords to help green their properties.

The EPA plans to maintain the site as an umbrella portal for information on residential environmental issues from it and other federal agencies. More information is available at the Green Homes website, www.epa.gov/greenhomes.



From the Bottom Up

APPA Washington Report
by Robert Varela
Editor, Public Power Weekly

Transmission planning should start from the bottom and work its way up, rather than being imposed from the top. That means concentrating on the planning and construction of transmission to support the resource needs of load-serving entities.

Congress recognized this in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 when it directed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to use its authority "in a manner that facilitates the planning and expansion of transmission facilities to meet the reasonable needs of load-serving entities to satisfy the service obligations of the load-serving entities."

However, since 2005, there has been an increasing push on the federal government to get transmission lines built to connect wind farms in remote areas to load in population centers. The phrase "the Saudi Arabia of wind" has been tossed around so much—usually in reference to the Midwest or Texas—that a New York Times blogger held a contest to find a replacement for the cliché. Visions of an overlay of extra-high voltage lines are dancing in the heads of some lawmakers (and developers).

As an example, in a request for comments on transmission planning, FERC included numerous references to renewable transmission and the need to better support it, but no mention of the Energy Policy Act directive that the commission use its transmission

planning powers to support the needs of load-serving entities.

However, as APPA pointed out in comments to the commission, there is no conflict between support for renewables and support for the needs of load-serving entities. "Renewable generation is needed not as an end in itself, but as a resource to serve load," APPA said. "By concentrating on the planning of transmission facilities required to support the resource needs of [load-serving entities], transmission facilities needed to support renewable resources will be necessarily included," APPA told the commission.

Focusing on the needs of load-serving entities in planning renewable transmission offers other benefits when it comes to getting transmission built to access renewables. One is a greater likelihood that the right transmission facilities in the right regions will be planned and constructed. "Pursuing the construction of 'renewable transmission' as an end in itself shortcuts the resource planning process and could lead to very suboptimal outcomes," as APPA politely phrased it. Think "bridge to nowhere."

A bottom-up, load-centric approach also should

be used to determine transmission cost allocation methodologies for regions, APPA said. Individual utilities and states first need to craft their resource plans, considering a myriad of factors, including the benefits of local versus remote resources. Transmission cost allocation methodologies should then take these resource choices into account.

"Swooping in from the 'top down' with an assumed preferred generation resource outcome that drives the resulting transmission facilities plan, without first doing the necessary sub-regional and regional 'field work,' will virtually ensure lack of buy-in to the resulting transmission facilities plan," APPA said in its comments to FERC. "This in turn will ensure controversy and litigation over the associated transmission cost allocation."

One way to promote buy-in by load-serving entities to transmission plans is to allow them to literally buy in. "As the commission casts about for innovative ways to 'skin the transmission cost allocation cat,' joint ownership has much



Washington Report

to recommend it," APPA said in its comments to the agency.

FERC needs to do more than simply encouraging joint ownership of transmission facilities by public power utilities, APPA said. "It should promulgate an official policy favoring it, and make eligibility for transmission rate incentives dependent on a showing by the applicants that they have offered reasonable opportunities for joint transmission ownership to [load-serving entities] that are being asked to pay for a

particular transmission project."

The top-down scenario has already played out in response to the premature push to take advantage of the "Saudi Arabia of wind" in the Midwest with a build-out of extra-high voltage lines to both coasts—and with the costs allocated across entire interconnections. The result has been "a region v. region 'food fight' that has proven detrimental to rational discourse."

Classified Ads

Lineman/Apprentice Lineman

The City of Horton is accepting applications for the position of lineman or apprentice lineman. Successful applicants are expected to be safety conscience, able to build electrical lines to REA specifications and to participate in on-going training. Persons must possess a valid Kansas driver's license and a high school diploma or GED. Vocational electrical training is desired. Salary is dependent upon qualifications and experience. Benefits include vacation, holidays and group health insurance. Send resume to City of Horton, Attn: Jim Whisenant, City Administrator, P.O. Box 30, Horton, KS 66439. Applications accepted until position filled.

Water Quality Superintendent

The City of Nixa, MO is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Water Quality Superintendent (Assistant Public Works Director). The Water Quality Superintendent manages, directs and coordinates activities for the Water Quality Division of the Public Works Department, including water production, storage and distribution systems, wastewater collection and treatment systems, composting facility and Recycle Center. Manages, directs and coordinates activities for all Public Works Departments and facilities in

the absence of the Director and at other times as directed by the City Administrator or Director.

Knowledge, ability and skill in personnel management, budget preparation and administration, effectively interpret and apply Federal, State and local policies, procedures, laws and regulations, skill and experience in oral and written communications, reviewing and interpreting civil engineering drawings and plans, operation of personal computer and various software packages such as MS Office, Outlook, Word and Excel.

Nixa is located 10 miles south of Springfield, MO and 30 miles north of Branson, MO. Nixa is a fast growing, family orientated community.

The City of Nixa provides a generous benefit package including medical, dental, life insurance, vision, retirement and paid leave. Annual starting salary is \$44,339. A complete job description with a list of qualifications is available with the application. Please contact Sharon Hankison at 417 724-5626 or e-mail shankison@nixa.com if you have questions or would like to request an application packet. The City of Nixa is an Equal Opportunity Employment Employer.

Scheduling Analyst

Kansas Power Pool, a Municipal Energy Agency, is seeking applications for a Scheduling Analyst. This position will be responsible for evaluating, preparing and accounting for off-system transactions; for preparing and submitting monthly, weekly and daily power schedules for and to the various power suppliers and purchasers. Assist in coordinating and communications pertaining to scheduling between the KPP participating members, other purchases, and the various power suppliers. Requires broad knowledge of advanced accounting, marketing, business admin. and finance. Effective communication and critical thinking skills a must. Qualifications: Equivalent to four years of college, plus 2 years related experience and/or training, and 1 to 6 months related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Required to train in Edmond, Oklahoma five days a week for the first three months of employment, expenses paid. Only qualified candidates need apply. Salary dependent on qualifications. All interested parties should apply by January 8, 2009. Equal Opportunity Employer. Send resume and 3 references to: Kansas Power Pool, 200 W. Douglas #601, Wichita, KS 67202

Senior Financial Analyst

(\$6,634.00 - \$8,293.00 - \$9,167.00 Per Month)
The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU) is seeking a qualified professional to fill the position titled Senior Financial Analyst. The successful candidate will develop, analyze and maintain financial models pertaining to project development and manages rate and/or regulatory filings, costs and benefits, pricing projections, accounting methods and audits.

- Bachelor's Degree in economics, finance, accounting, engineering, business administration or a related field required.
- Thorough knowledge of accounting methods and practices and audits required.
- Documented experience monitoring, analyzing and evaluating rate and/or regulatory filings, costs and benefits and pricing projections required.

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



kansasmunicipalutilities

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

Periodicals

**POSTAGE
PAID**



- **First Day of Legislative Session**
January 11, 2010
- **APPA Legislative Rally**
February 22-25, 2010
The Mayflower Hotel
Washington, DC
- **81st Annual KMU Conference**
May 12-14, 2010
Hyatt Regency Hotel
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.

Executive Committee

Merl Page, Wamego - President
Bill Callaway, Clay Center - President Elect
George Bronson, Winfield - 1st Vice President
Greg DuMars, Lindsborg - Secretary/Treasurer
Randy Riggs, Newton - Past President

Board of Directors

Doug Allen, Sabetha	Kent Hixson, Mulvane
Carolyn Armstrong, Colby	Bill Hlavachick, Pratt
Jim Bradley, Ottawa	Barry Hodges, Minneapolis
John Carder, Hesston	William Johnson, Kansas City
Bernie Cevera, Coffeyville	Bill Keefer, Augusta
Don Gaeddert, Larned	Joel Mahnken, Garden City
Larry Gates, Chanute	Duane Moeder, LaCrosse
Mike Gilliland, Osage City	Bob Peter, Ellinwood
Bret Glendening, Osawatอมie	Grant Sechler, Anthony
Ira Hart III, Kingman	David Warren, Wichita

Staff

Colin Hansen, Executive Director
Brad Mears, Director of Operations
Jerry LeDuc, Job Training & Safety Specialist
Rick Aguilar, Job Training & Safety Specialist
Mike Tilson, Gas Services Specialist
Donna Huddle, Office Manager
Denise Wilkens, Communications Specialist

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