

## Delano Municipal Utilities meets the moment; keeps the momentum going

**Late August brought a challenge to Delano Municipal Utilities that tested the value of public power... and the utility won big!**

“When potential disaster arose, we were able to rally the crew to provide a decisive and positive outcome,” says Paul Twite, General Manager at Delano Municipal Utilities (DMU). “Our quick response saved power from going out not only in Delano, but also in a few surrounding communities,” said Twite.

### A day of reckoning

“Hot weather in the Midwest often means excessive stress on the power grid, and we knew it was coming several days in advance,” Twite says, “There aren’t many surprises in weather forecasting these days, and we were prepared for the worst. Urgent Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) notifications began appearing the week prior, alerting us to



*A cloudy, stormy, and humid evening in Delano that almost brought a power outage to the entire area was prevented by the professionalism and care of the team at Delano Municipal Utilities.*

the need for additional generating resources.” In preparation for a sustained run of its power plant, DMU crews readied the generators, buildings, and all the

systems that support the units while they run.

Ironically, as the intense heat blanketed the region, DMU had just completed MISO generator

verification testing. While Delano began powering down and sending crews home, a perfect storm was brewing. About midday on August 26th, with temperatures

*Continued on page 4*

## Grant will bring free training to businesses in municipal utility communities

**MMUA has been awarded a Susan Harwood training grant of up to \$158,545 to provide training on chemical hazards and hazard communications for farmers and small business employees in municipal utility communities.**

MMUA expects to partner with its members to offer training sessions between January and September 2025 at locations throughout its service area in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and western Wisconsin. The OSHA-approved training will consist of one hour of instruction for regular employees with an additional hour available for supervisors. Where necessary, simultaneous translation into Spanish will be made available.

**This is the first Susan Harwood grant MMUA has been awarded.** In the past, the Association has partnered with the American Public

Power Association (APPA) on Harwood grants APPA received to deliver training on falls prevention/protection (2021) as well as on infectious disease controls for the Navajo Nation (2022). The experience with APPA was valuable in learning the ropes of working with the Susan Harwood program, and it helped prepare the MMUA team for the challenges of managing a federally funded grant.

In 2024, APPA decided not to apply for another grant. The news came just a few weeks before the submission deadline, but the MMUA determined there was still time to complete an application and started brainstorming. The Association needed to conceive of a project that would be useful to municipal utilities in MMUA’s service area, fall within MMUA’s competencies, and be workable within the constraints of the Susan Harwood

*Continued on page 2*

## Anoka Municipal Utilities weathers the storm with help from municipal mutual aid

**Anoka, like a good swath of the Twin Cities metropolitan area in late August, was affected by storms that caused severe system damage to Anoka Municipal Utilities’ (AMU) infrastructure.**

MMUA sat down with Del Vancura, Electric Utility Director at AMU, to discuss the storm and the mutual aid efforts of MMUA’s members.

**MMUA:** Tell us about the storm.

**Del Vancura:** The storm started at approximately 4:30 pm on August 29. We had a confirmed tornado about 5 miles north of us in the City of Andover but believed we had a straight-line winds event in our service territory in the Cities of Anoka and Champlin.

**MMUA:** What was the nature of the damage after the storm ended? What were the impacts to

customers and AMU infrastructure?

**Del:** The storm brought 60 to 65 mile an hour winds that caused extensive damage; huge trees toppled across overhead power lines. Seven poles were broken off, and we lost three main feeders and 14 megawatts of system load. The storm caused 2,000 customers to lose electric service with 1,500 experiencing an extended outage situation.

**MMUA:** What utilities and how many people responded to the call for mutual aid? Tell us about the experience of having fellow utility professionals show up to help.

**Del:** With assistance from MMUA, Anoka Municipal Utilities received mutual aid from Buffalo, Chaska, Delano, and Elk River Utilities. We had crews and four bucket trucks

*Continued on page 6*

Periodicals  
Postage  
PAID  
at  
Twin Cities, MN

### Inside Stories

**8**  
New research improves nuclear battery efficiency by a factor of 8000



**10**  
MMUA Lineworkers Rodeo



**20**  
Three Mile Island’s unit one to come back online



## To unify, support and serve as a common voice for municipal utilities

### Officers

#### President

Scott Grabe, Staples

#### President-Elect

Pete Moulton, St. Peter

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Jeremy Carter, Hutchinson

### Directors

Keith Butcher, Princeton

Jeremy Carter, Hutchinson

Bruce DeBlicke, Willmar

Greg Drent, Shakopee

Julie Kennedy, Grand Rapids

Harold Langowski, Ely

Kevin Lee, Marshall

Jay Lutz, Austin

Tim Stoner, Blue Earth

Roger Warehime, Owatonna

### Staff

#### Chief Executive Officer

Karleen Kos, [kkos@mmua.org](mailto:kkos@mmua.org)

#### Director of Administration

Rita Kelly, [rkelly@mmua.org](mailto:rkelly@mmua.org)

#### Director of Finance

Larry Pederson, [lpederson@mmua.org](mailto:lpederson@mmua.org)

#### Director of Gov't Relations and Senior Counsel

Kent Sulem, [ksulem@mmua.org](mailto:ksulem@mmua.org)

#### Director of Marketing and Member Relations

Jennifer Williams, [jwilliams@mmua.org](mailto:jwilliams@mmua.org)

#### Director of Training and Safety

Mike Willetts, [mwilletts@mmua.org](mailto:mwilletts@mmua.org)

#### Government Relations Attorney

Bill Black, [bblack@mmua.org](mailto:bblack@mmua.org)

#### Organizational Development and Human Resources Manager

Shelly Dau, [sdau@mmua.org](mailto:sdau@mmua.org)

#### Grant Development/Technical Support Coordinator

Blaine Chaulklin, [bchaulklin@mmua.org](mailto:bchaulklin@mmua.org)

#### Multimedia Journalist and Content Creator

Reid Baumann, [rbaumann@mmua.org](mailto:rbaumann@mmua.org)

#### Accounting Associate

Deb Guggisberg, [dguggisberg@mmua.org](mailto:dguggisberg@mmua.org)

#### Safety Services Coordinator

Theresa Neddermeyer, [tneddermeyer@mmua.org](mailto:tneddermeyer@mmua.org)

#### Ass't Director of Education and Outreach

Cody Raveling, [craveling@mmua.org](mailto:craveling@mmua.org)

#### Assistant Director of Quality Assurance and On Demand Services

Dan Nath, [dnath@mmua.org](mailto:dnath@mmua.org)

#### Assistant Director of Regional Safety Group Services

Mike Sewell, [msewell@mmua.org](mailto:msewell@mmua.org)

#### Ass't Director of Technical Services

Jay Reading, [jreading@mmua.org](mailto:jreading@mmua.org)

#### Ass't Director of Workplace Safety Services

Joseph Schmidt, [jschmidt@mmua.org](mailto:jschmidt@mmua.org)

#### Regional Safety Group Coordinator

Jason Gorr, [jgorr@mmua.org](mailto:jgorr@mmua.org)

#### Field Safety Services Coordinator

Jake Kuntz, [jkuntz@mmua.org](mailto:jkuntz@mmua.org)

#### Regional Safety Coord./JTS Instructors

Keith Byklum, [kbyklum@mmua.org](mailto:kbyklum@mmua.org)

Travis Denison, [tdenison@mmua.org](mailto:tdenison@mmua.org)

Mike Grabow, [mgrabow@mmua.org](mailto:mgrabow@mmua.org)

Brad Gunderson, [bgunderson@mmua.org](mailto:bgunderson@mmua.org)

#### Apprenticeship/JTS Instructor

Roger Avelsgard, [ravelsgard@mmua.org](mailto:ravelsgard@mmua.org)

#### Generation Coordinator/JTS Instructor

Paul Helling, [phelling@mmua.org](mailto:phelling@mmua.org)

#### Natural Gas Circuit Rider

Dennis Danielson, [ddanielson@mmua.org](mailto:ddanielson@mmua.org)

#### Regional Safety Coordinators

Jim Bruender, [jbruender@mmua.org](mailto:jbruender@mmua.org)

Adam Chesney, [achesney@mmua.org](mailto:achesney@mmua.org)

Logan Davids, [ldavids@mmua.org](mailto:ldavids@mmua.org)

Brad Levasseur, [blevasseur@mmua.org](mailto:blevasseur@mmua.org)

Scott Stillwell, [ssstillwell@mmua.org](mailto:ssstillwell@mmua.org)

MMUA *The Resource* USPS #009836. ISSN: 1080-3750 is published monthly; except combined July/August, by MMUA at 600 Highway 169 S, Ste 701, St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MMUA *The Resource*, 600 Highway 169 S, Ste 701, St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Annual subscription rates: \$12 per subscription (included in dues), associate members, \$12 (included in dues). 600 Highway 169 S, Ste 701, St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Phone: 763-551-1230, (Minnesota only) 1-800-422-0119.

## Grant will bring free training

Continued from page 1

training grant program. The constraints require the training to focus on workers, but grant guidelines do not allow inclusion of municipal workers in counting of those served. Additional parameters involve the topics the program would fund, and the cost per contact hour that is allowed.

Partnering with municipal utilities is essential to the program's success. MMUA is uniquely situated to reach workers in small businesses and farmers across the upper Midwest. When we asked, dozens of member utilities submitted letters of support, offering to host the training sessions and to assist with promoting them. The training content and materials will be approved by OSHA. It will also be tailored to the types of chemicals most often used in the region, and the sessions will be delivered by MMUA's safety staff. These same materials can also be used as part of MMUA's safety program offerings with utility staff, even though those contact hours will not count toward the OSHA-required quota.

MMUA's Chief Executive Officer Karleen Kos explains the rationale for offering training to non-utility personnel. "One of MMUA's key areas of concern is strategic preservation of local control. Yet very often, people take their utility for granted. Offering this free OSHA-approved training in partnership with municipal utilities allows MMUA to share about the value of the municipal model while bringing important information on chemical safety—free of charge—to more than 1,300 workers throughout the region."

Plans are underway for producing the grant's deliverables. The Susan Harwood training grant period follows the federal fiscal year that runs from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. The first quarter will find MMUA developing training materials, getting them approved by OSHA, and then translated into Spanish. We will also be working on a 2025 training schedule for towns where MMUA already provides services and works with utility personnel. At the same time, the Association will be looking for ways to spread the word to farmers and businesses about the upcoming free training in their areas. "We hope to leverage the communication channels used by municipal utilities, and we also hope to tap into local media, Chambers of Commerce, and other groups to spread the word," says Kos.

The Harwood grant parameters require each training class to range in size from 3–40 learners, with a target size of 10–30 each. The goal is to create an environment where there is enough interaction to promote learning, but to keep the number of people in the room small enough to foster active discussion. MMUA estimates it will offer the training approximately 50–60 times over the nine-month period starting in January. Mike Willetts, MMUA's director of training and safety, says, "Our team is well versed in chemical hazards, personal protective equipment, and labeling. We are looking forward to adapting the work we've done over the years to this new audience—and we are especially happy about being able to represent the best

of municipal utilities in front of folks who may not understand the value local utility ownership brings to their business."

OSHA established its discretionary grant program, then titled *New Directions*, in 1978. Grants were awarded for periods of up to five years with grantees increasing their level of support for grant activities each year. The goal was for grantees' programs to become self-sufficient by the end of the grant period. Many of those grantees continue to deliver occupational safety and health training to this day. In 1990, the grants were restructured due to restrictions in funding.

In 1997, the program was re-named in honor of the late Susan Harwood, a former director of the Office of Risk Assessment in OSHA's Health Standards Directorate, who died in 1996. During her 17-year tenure with the agency, Dr. Harwood helped develop OSHA standards to protect workers exposed to bloodborne pathogens, cotton dust, benzene, formaldehyde, asbestos, and lead. The types of grants solicited each year vary. Grants solicited in the past include Capacity Building, Targeted Topic, and Training Materials Development grants.

"We are delighted MMUA has been chosen as a Susan Harwood grant recipient," says Kos. "Since I joined MMUA three years ago, the Board and staff have targeted grant opportunities from a variety of sources. These funds help us carry out MMUA's vision of supporting and bringing value to municipal utilities, thereby enhancing their position in the industry with funds that don't come from dues or service fees."

## Minnesota Power announces plans for two large scale solar farms in Minnesota



On September 23, Minnesota Power (MP) announced that it would construct more than 200 megawatts (MW) of new solar farms in Cohasset and Royalton, Minnesota.

The Cohasset farm will generate 85 megawatts and use the existing electrical infrastructure of the Boswell Energy Center. The 120 MW Regal solar farm in Royalton will also be situated near Minnesota Power infrastructure

in central Minnesota and add to MP's solar resource base.

The planned facilities still need to be approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. They are expected to open by 2027.

# What is our “incredible edible egg?”

## When I joined the staff of my first trade association decades ago, I ran into a dilemma.

Explaining the role of an organization like MMUA to someone who doesn't know what associations do is not an easy task. My parents are among the few people who even want to understand, and they have been perplexed about what I do for around 20 years now. Over time, I have found I can simplify things by boiling it down to this: *an association's purpose is to advocate for its industry and help solve its problems.*

Most of the actions MMUA needs to take to achieve that mission rely entirely on how the association supports and informs hometown utility professionals in their work. I have no doubt the talented people running electric, gas, and water systems across Minnesota can be depended upon to keep local utilities running reliably, affordably, and sustainably as long as they are given the resources to do that.

One of the things MMUA must work to achieve on behalf of hometown utilities is different than the rest. Our ambition to strategically preserve local utility control depends mostly on the goodwill of hometown utility customers. It requires them to appreciate the value of their asset and to fight to keep it. Regulations, elected leaders, and utility personnel may come and go; the need for community

appreciation and loyalty toward their utility is a constant.

This sort of allegiance to a hometown institution is more easily accomplished when there is an emotional connection to it. For example, I grew up in Myrtle, Minnesota, and graduated from Glenville High School in a class of 49 students. Today my alma mater routinely sees fewer than 20 students in caps and gowns each May. Its 68-year-old building has a leaky roof and an outdated boiler. Outside observers wonder why the locals don't just give up the ghost and merge with the bigger school down the road, especially since that city has ample space and a new-ish building. It's simple. The people back home may be forced to consolidate someday, but it won't happen easily. Most are willing to fight tooth and nail to preserve their school. It contains memories and history. It unites people over miles and years. In short, it is a community asset employing four walls, a gymnasium, and a football field to glue a hometown identity together—likely with mint-flavored library paste.

That sort of emotional connection does not tend to be vested upon hometown utilities. As we all know, the average ratepayer doesn't think about their utilities very much—and doesn't want to, either. As long as everything works, the rates aren't too high, and nobody is inconvenienced, “it's all good,” as the saying goes.

Except that it isn't all good. When people don't know the value of what they have, it can be more easily taken away. Consider this:

Until roughly the 2000s, many Americans loved to complain about the US mail when they noticed it at all. In the days before digital marketing, the US Postal System (USPS) handled 207.9 billion pieces of mail per year, and the price of a first-class stamp was 33 cents. Since that time, volume has dropped to 116.2 billion pieces, and prices have risen to 68 cents for a first-class stamp, far outpacing inflation. Meanwhile, service has gotten so bad that the one thing Minnesota's Democrats and Republicans in Congress can agree on is that the system needs to change—all 10 of them collectively signing a letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy in June requesting immediate action.

While there are plenty of reasons the postal system has fallen into such disarray, I am willing to bet we wouldn't be where we are now if most postal patrons hadn't taken it for granted in the first place. When a letter took three days to reach its destination, we complained that it wasn't two days. It never occurred to us that it might take two weeks. Our low-level kvetching and lack of understanding about how things worked made the present situation possible. People with “better ideas”—together with immense system

## From My Desk to Yours

**Karleen Kos**  
MMUA CEO



changes brought about by the advent of email and Amazon—turned the whole system upside down. Through most of it, there was nary a word from most postal customers ... that is, not until mail-order medicine took 26.4 days to arrive and birthday cards showed up 8.5 days after they were sent. Those are the real numbers in Minnesota and North Dakota.

MMUA does not want to see municipal utilities end up like the mail system. That could easily happen during this period of massive system change, as we convert to carbon-free energy and populations continue to shift in Minnesota. In addition to running excellent utilities, we must take action both locally and on a larger scale to foster understanding and loyalty toward the local asset that is a hometown utility.

This loyalty is needed—and, based on my experience in small Minnesota towns, is possible—even if the hometown utility needs help to improve. Back in Glenville, our football team lost 70 games in a row between 1978 and 1986. It was so bad that *Sports Illustrated* did a feature story in 1985 on the parallels between the Trojans' losing streak and the farm crisis. People didn't give up on their school, even then. They worked through it. The farm crisis abated; the school remained, and the team got better.

So how, you may wonder, does MMUA plan to accomplish this? Well, it won't be easy—especially because we don't have jillions of dollars to throw at fancy campaigns. But it can be done.

On page one of this issue of *The Resource* we cover MMUA's receipt of a Susan Harwood grant. That money will help us help you by providing a valuable service to your ratepayers while giving us a platform to educate

folks a little bit about their local asset.

We plan to look for other ways that don't require a Madison Avenue marketing budget to help you carry the message. It will be an ongoing effort, and it will be something we do in partnership with MMUA members. Together, we will never be “done” building understanding and allegiance while messaging about the value of hometown utilities. It's basically ongoing system maintenance at the level of the human heart.

Then there's the message itself. We are working to develop a concept to tell the story of hometown utilities so that people feel both ownership and loyalty toward them. Sound like a pipe dream? It's not. It's something associations and non-profits do very well—and have been doing for decades. Here are a few examples I think you will recognize.

### 1. Got Milk?

#### (California Milk Processors)

- **Overview:** Launched in 1993, this campaign aimed to reverse the declining milk consumption in the US.
- **Success:** The campaign was widely recognized for its simple, memorable tagline. It was paired with celebrity endorsements (milk mustaches) to promote milk as a healthful and necessary staple.
- **Impact:** It became one of the most recognizable campaigns in advertising history, increasing milk sales and fostering a cultural association between milk and healthy living.

### 2. Beef. It's What's For Dinner.

#### (Cattlemen's Beef Board)

- **Overview:** This campaign was launched in 1992. Its purpose was to promote beef as a healthy and essential protein.
- **Success:** The campaign emphasized the nutritional benefits of beef, making it synonymous with family dinners and American culture.
- **Impact:** It revitalized the image of beef, boosting sales and increasing awareness about the product's nutritional value.

### 3. The Incredible Edible Egg

#### (American Egg Board)

- **Overview:** This campaign was introduced in the 1970s and revitalized in the 1990s to

*Continued on page 5*

**MMUA**  
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

**WE'VE MOVED!**

600 Highway 169 South,  
Ste 701  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Main 763.551.1230

WWW.MMUA.ORG

**Reduce Utility Rates Up to 5% - No Cost / No Risk**

**CIP Goal Savings**

- Reduce CIP kWh Goals
- Cut CIP spending by 50% in 2023
- Use Fuel Switching to increase kWh sales

**Free EV Chargers**

- Increase kWh sales
- Install EV Chargers - No Cost/No Risk
- Bring Electric Vehicles to your town

Energy Management Solutions has been working with Municipal Electric Utilities for 18 years helping them to find ways to reduce costs.

CALL Gary Swanson, PE (612) 819-7975 gswanson@EMSenergy.com

Energy Management Solutions WWW.EMSenergy.com USING OUR ENERGY TO SAVE YOURS

**EMS**  
Energy Management Solutions, Inc.

## Delano Municipal Utilities meets the moment

Continued from page 1

reaching 98 degrees and dewpoints like those in the tropics, cloud cover that created a heavy overcast sky rolled in.

The transmission feeder that serves Delano is also interconnected with several large utility-scale solar arrays. By 5:00 pm, solar production had fallen off the cliff due to the cloudy conditions, but electrical loads were increasing due to the tropical heat. The feeder is normally rated to carry 35 megawatts (MW), but when Xcel contacted DMU, it was measuring a whopping 42 MW of load on the line. This dangerously overloaded condition prompted Xcel to call for help.

“After a very successful test run of all generating units, I received a panicked call from Xcel Energy’s control crew in Minneapolis, informing me that the transmission feeder serving Delano was dangerously overloaded,” says Twite. “Instead of letting Delano go dark, we quickly mobilized the team to self-generate and reduce the stress on the line.” While Delano is normally served by triple redundant transmission feeders, two of three lines were out of service while Xcel rebuilds transmission infrastructure in the area.

“The quick response of the crew and the preparation of the power plant kept things from getting worse. If Xcel had opened transmission switches to save the line, several communities in the area would have gone dark; not a great day,” Twite says.

In the end, the utility performance underscored the values of public power: citizen involvement, transparency, and most importantly, local control. “While our friends in the investor-owned world often overlook and underestimate our abilities, they sure appreciate us when the chips are down” Twite states proudly.

### Looking to the future

The events of late August underscored the value of local control, but it also rallied stakeholders of the utility to double down to build more resiliency into the system. “While plans have been in the works for utility upgrades for some time, the need for quickly dispatchable, power generating resources has been moved to the front burner here,” Twite says. “Delano’s baseload has been growing by double digits for several years, and a few large-scale capital projects are in the works to accommodate growth well into the future.”

This investment in Delano’s future includes a second substation, upgrades to power generation, installation of smart meters, and a utility-scale solar array complete with battery storage. Included in long-range plans is the construction of a second power plant with automated controls to provide an even faster



Delano’s power plant got a workout on the evening of August 26, when a prepared DMU kept the lights on for the City of Delano and several neighboring communities.



**COMMITTED TO MAKING YOUR JOBSITE SAFER!!!**

ANNANDALE, MN  
320-274-7223  
WWW.FS3INC.BIZ



**EXCAVATION VERIFICATION KIT Includes:**

- (1) Tri-Fold Ruler
- (3) Foldable “MARK” Markers
- (1) Foldable “HIT” Marker
- (1) Whiteboard
- (1) 6 pc. Marker Set
- (1) Eraser

All items compact neatly into a 13” x 17” drawstring backpack.



**CORE & MAIN**

**WE'RE ALL ABOUT**

*Minnesota*

Our local experts offer smart solutions for all your utility water, electric and gas meter needs.

Local Knowledge | Local Experience | Local Service, Nationwide®

coreandmain.com

Substations, Switchyards, Static Var, Wind Farm, Solar, BESS Collector Systems And HVDC Stations



NATIONAL CONDUCTOR

Proudly established in Minnesota in 1977, our experienced craftsmen have safely built over 1000 projects in 48 states.

- Control & Power Cable Installation • Termination
- Duct Bank/Cable Trench Systems
- Structural Steel Erection
- HV Equipment Installation
- Above-Grade Grounding
- Above-Grade Conduit
- Aluminum Bus Installation (welded/swage/bolted)



- Below-Grade Grounding
- Below-Grade Conduit
- Fiber Optic/OPGW/Installation
- Yard Light Installation
- Rock Installation
- Control House Installation
- Testing Assistance

National Conductor, Inc. 18119 Theater Road, Brainerd, MN 56401 800-345-3017

Continued on page 5

## Delano Municipal Utilities

Continued from page 4



Delano's historic power plant adds to the historic fabric of this beautiful river town.



response to energy emergencies in the future.

With its proximity to the Twin Cities metro area, Delano has been among the fastest growing areas for some time. "With

growth comes challenges," Twite says, "but we have a great relationship with our customers, and want to build on that by providing exceptional service, value, and reliability."

## What is our "incredible edible egg?"

Continued from page 3

combat negative perceptions about cholesterol and eggs.

- **Success:** The campaign repositioned eggs as a high-protein, versatile, and healthy food choice, especially as health trends evolved.
- **Impact:** It successfully increased consumer confidence in eggs and boosted egg consumption after years of decline.

### 4. Pork. The Other White Meat. (National Pork Board)

- **Overview:** Created in 1987, the campaign aimed to rebrand pork as a lean, healthy alternative to chicken, capitalizing on the popularity of health-conscious eating.
- **Success:** The campaign helped reshape public perceptions of pork as a versatile and healthy option for meals, alongside traditional white meats like chicken and turkey.
- **Impact:** It was one of the most effective food marketing campaigns, increasing pork consumption and positioning it as a staple in American diets.

### 5. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk (Ad Council and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

- **Overview:** Launched in 1983, this was part of a broader push to reduce drunk driving incidents.
- **Success:** The campaign became

a cultural touchstone, embedding the message into everyday language and leading to a significant reduction in drunk driving.

- **Impact:** It helped change public attitudes toward drunk driving, contributed to legal changes, and saved thousands of lives over the years.

### 6. What Happens Here, Stays Here (Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority)

- **Overview:** Launched in 2003, this campaign aimed to attract tourists to Las Vegas by promoting the city's freedom and escapism. It quickly caught on, and tourists adapted it to "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas."
- **Success:** It tapped into Las Vegas's image as a place where people could let loose and experience things they wouldn't elsewhere.
- **Impact:** The campaign boosted tourism and solidified Las Vegas as a premier destination for entertainment and nightlife.

These campaigns have succeeded not just through catchy slogans but through well-crafted strategies that shifted public perception, changed behavior, and resonated deeply with their target audiences. They leveraged

storytelling, emotional appeal, and cultural relevance, making them powerful examples of how public relations campaigns can influence perceptions and behaviors.

We look forward to developing a concept like one of the ones I've mentioned above. A slogan by itself won't do much—an ongoing campaign of communicating and acting will be necessary too—but we have to start by creating a catchy, unifying message.

Please make sure to complete MMUA's member survey, which will be in the field in November. We have a question or two in there that will help us pick your brain about the ideas you think are important for our campaign to cover. What is our "incredible edible egg?"



# TRANSFORMERS DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION

## T&R ELECTRIC

SUPPLY COMPANY INCORPORATED

BOX 180  
COLMAN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57017

"THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE"®



Modern Rewind Facilities  
More than 61 Acres Inventory  
Prompt Delivery—Coast to Coast

CALL TOLL-FREE  
800-843-7994  
FAX 605-534-3861  
E-Mail: [t-r@t-r.com](mailto:t-r@t-r.com)  
Internet: [www.t-r.com](http://www.t-r.com)



Complete Outdoor  
Substations,  
Circuit Breakers,  
Regulators,  
and Switchgear

## Anoka Municipal Utilities weathers the storm

Continued from page 1

on site within four hours of the start of the storm. In total, 12 lineworkers helped us with the storm recovery.

The first evening we were able to bring two circuits back online with approximately 3-hour outages as crews removed trees in problem areas. Buffalo Utilities' backyard bucket/digger unit was put in use as our third circuit had three phase poles down and broken crossarms in backyard locations. The circuit was brought back online after a 43-hour outage.

At this point, mutual aid crews were released. Even after that, City of Anoka crews continued repairs because we still had 50 customers without service. Their electric service masts had been torn off the houses with the falling trees. These customers regained service as private electricians completed the most repairs.

**MMUA:** How many trees were lost?

**Del:** Our estimation was 300 trees were blown completely over and another 500 sustained limb damage with partial removal required.

**MMUA:** What were some particularly interesting parts of this mutual aid event?

**Del:** When the storm hit, AMU actually had to recall a crew that was assisting Connexus with recovery from a storm that hit them earlier in the week!

It is also totally amazing to me that we had all the mutual aid crews on site within four hours of the storm hitting our system. It shows the dedication of all the lineworkers in the electric profession. Also, a big shout out to our private tree contractors including Carr's Tree Service that went over and above by extending crews and assisting with the recovery.



More than 300 trees were blown over in Anoka during the weather events of August 29.

**A Partner for Today and Tomorrow**

NextEra Energy Marketing (NEM) is a leading U.S. energy marketer, responsible for managing NextEra Energy Resources' approximate 34 GW\* of total generating capacity located in the U.S. and Canada. NEM is known for its wide range of innovative products and cost-effective, turnkey solutions utilized by municipal utilities in the Midwest and other regions across the U.S.

Unrivaled expertise and the backing of a parent company with the largest renewable portfolio in the country, NEM is the premier partner for public power utilities. **Contact us today to learn more!**

\*As of 12/31/22 Annual Report 2022 Form 10-K

✉ [Curt.Krempin@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Curt.Krempin@nexteraenergy.com)  
Curt Krempin, Director, Origination

🖱 [NextEraEnergyResources.com](http://NextEraEnergyResources.com)

☎ 561-339-5732

**RADIODETECTION**

**RD8200® and RD7200®**

Optimum precision for damage prevention

**811**  
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

**Your partner in damage prevention**

For more information call: **320.274.7223**

**FS3** INC

9030 64th ST NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
[WWW.FS3INC.BIZ](http://WWW.FS3INC.BIZ)

**TELCOM CONSTRUCTION**

<b>Turn Key</b>	<b>Self Perform</b>
Aerial/Underground Construction	Power/Gas/Wind Distribution Services
Urban and Rural Construction	Trenching; Joint and Single Trench
Fiber Splicing/Testing	Pole Replacement
Project Management	Wireless Network Services
Horizontal Directional Boring	Material Procurement/Warehousing & Logistics

Larry Sanders 320-589-5317 [www.telcomconstruction.com](http://www.telcomconstruction.com) Character - Capital - Capacity  
Corporate Office 320-558-9485

**ZIEGLER POWER SYSTEMS**

**RELIABLE POWER WHEN YOU NEED IT**

**SALES AND RENTAL**

- Diesel and natural gas generators
- UPS, switchgear, circuit breakers, protective relays, and Automatic Transfer Switches
- Portable temperature control units
- Solar panels and battery energy storage

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE:  
**888.320.4292**

Shakopee, MN  
8050 County Road 101 East  
888.320.4292

**ZIEGLER Power Systems** CAT

[www.zieglercat.com/power](http://www.zieglercat.com/power)

# Intergovernmental relations: not just for the legislative session

By Kent Sulem

**Although the thermometer is trying to convince us otherwise, the calendar insists autumn has arrived, reading October 1 as I write this article, and it will be around November 1 when this issue of *The Resource* arrives in your mailbox.**

Believe it or not, this means your MMUA Government Relations (GR) team has started preparations in earnest for the 2025 legislative session. This includes attending and hosting meetings regarding utility-related issues that may arise,

issues that are likely to arise, and issues MMUA would like to see dealt with during the 2024 session.

One of our first activities for the 2025 session involved bringing our peers together. On September 10, the GR team hosted a meeting of the joint action agencies. For approximately four hours, the group identified possible issues that might arise in 2025 and what they would mean for municipal utilities. Bonding, PFAS identification and mitigation, data mining/data centers, and intercon-

tion issues are just a few of the topics discussed during the September 10 meeting. A post-election follow-up meeting of this group is anticipated, with the intent of fine tuning MMUA's legislative message for 2025 in light of the election results.

MMUA members will have an opportunity to weigh in on the likely (both good and bad) and desired legislative matters on Friday, October 23, 2024, starting at 10 am. On that day, MMUA will convene a Zoom meeting of the Government Relations Advisory Group (GRAG). Invitations were sent to the list of GRAG volunteers that MMUA carried forward from 2024 participants, updated with the most recent information shared with MMUA. If you would like to be part of future Friday meetings of the GRAG, please email Bill Black at [bblack@mmua.org](mailto:bblack@mmua.org). The GRAG usually meets via Zoom each Friday at 10 am during the legislative session. Anyone who has suggestions for desired legislation, or who has concerns about any legislation, is encouraged to email Kent Sulem at [ksulem@mmua.org](mailto:ksulem@mmua.org).

The GR team will compile all information gleaned from peer discussions and the GRAG into a packet for the Board of Directors. Each director will be asked to rank the proposals, and ultimately the board will vote on a final list of issues to set MMUA's legislative priorities for 2025.

Work has also begun on planning for the 2025 Legislative Conference, scheduled for January 28–29, 2025, at the

DoubleTree Hotel in downtown St. Paul. Watch for program details and the opening of registration in late November 2024.

One major topic that is likely to arise during the 2025 session is the perceived need for clarification on how the carbon-free by 2040 mandate is to be interpreted. Two issues of concern to MMUA include (a) possible changes to the definition of what constitutes a joint action agency and thus who is an electric utility subject to the mandate, and (b) what sources of energy will count toward the carbon-free standard. MMUA agrees with the current interpretations adopted by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). MMUA has been very active in MPUC docket number 23-151, submitting comments when deemed advisable, tracking, and responding to the comments of others as needed, as well as attending and testifying at MPUC hearings.

With regard to the definition of a joint action agency and thus which entities count as an electric utility directly responsible for compliance, earlier this year the MPUC issued an order finding that MMUA's interpretation of the law was correct and that the Northeast Minnesota Power Agency (NEMPA) qualified as a power agency even though it does not generate or directly purchase power on behalf of its members. This reading of applicable statutes prevents NEMPA members from directly bearing the burden of compliance and keeps the burden at

the wholesale provider level. There are those who would like to see the definition of a joint action agency change in a manner that would exclude NEMPA, thus forcing each member to be recognized as an electric utility and responsible for compliance. MMUA has made the case that these utilities would still need to rely on their wholesale providers, so playing around with the definitions would not change the end result and serves no positive purpose.

As for determining the eligible sources of energy that qualify as carbon-free, at the end of a surprisingly short hearing on Thursday, September 26, the MPUC adopted recommendations from staff that were primarily consistent with MMUA's desired results. The MPUC made it very clear that they feel the statutory definition of carbon-free provided in Minn. Stat. §216B.1691, which defines it as "a technology that generates electricity without emitting carbon dioxide," is clear and non-ambiguous. However, determining whether carbon is actually emitted, the MPUC found, requires a life-cycle analysis of the fuel source and that all sources recognized as an "eligible energy technology" were entitled to a life-cycle analysis. This means that biomass, including both wood and landfill gas, may be considered carbon-free depending on the life-cycle analysis. The MPUC also ordered further proceedings dedicated to developing life-cycle analysis protocols.

## New & IMPROVED!

### Tapered Race Rotary Reel Collars




**Improve Efficiency & Safety**

**Reduce your Labor Costs**

**Works Great on Plows, Trailers & Trucks**

**Tapered Sleeves to Fit Various Size Reel Hubs**

**3pt. Bolt Safety Fastening System (Bolts will NOT fall out & Reel will NOT slide on Bar)**

NOW AVAILABLE

for 2-1/4" and 2-1/2" Reel Bars

For more information call: 320.274.7223



9030 64th Street NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
[WWW.FS3INC.BIZ](http://WWW.FS3INC.BIZ)

## Teel

### UL651A Electrical Conduit

Electrical protection backed by an ETL listing.



teelpipe.com

## Interconnection corner: determining DER size

By Bill Black

**The Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA) is challenging the way utilities recognize the size of customer-owned solar systems and other distributed energy resources before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).**

The law says a customer qualifies for their utility's net-metering rate for energy they overproduce from systems "having less than 40-kilowatt capacity." Utilities have determined eligibility based on the "nameplate" capacity stamped by manufacturers on panels and inverters. But MnSEIA says a system should qualify no matter what the nameplate capacity so long as the customer exports energy to the grid below the 40-kilowatt threshold.

In a June 4, 2024, request for public comment, the MPUC



asked "How should the Commission apply the definition of "capacity" in Minn. Stat. §216B.164 and Associated Rules without creating reliability problems related to net-metering rate eligibility for rate-regulated utilities?" Utilities including Xcel, Ottertail Power, Minnesota Power, and Dakota Electric Cooperative, along with Minnesota Rural Electric Association, MnSEIA, solar company Nokomis Energy, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), filed initial comments on September 3. Several of the initial filers, plus MMUA, Clean Energy Economy

Minnesota, and the Minnesota Office of Attorney General (OAG) submitted follow-up comments on September 17.

MMUA and all other utility filers supported the existing, predictable practice of using nameplate capacity. All the other comments supported MnSEIA's position, including the DOC and OAG, at the expense of other utility customers whose rates already subsidize the higher power purchase costs from distributed energy resources (DERs). Resolution of the issue for the MPUC-regulated utilities will likely come through an order of the MPUC sometime in the coming several weeks. Anyone interested in reading the filed comments can find them online through [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc) under docket number 24-200.

## New research improves nuclear battery efficiency by a factor of 8000

More efficient batteries powered by radioactive decay have long been seen as an ideal type of battery because they are long-lasting and can be used in environments that are often difficult for normal batteries.

Now, researchers in China have improved the efficiency of a nuclear battery by a factor of 8000.

The new battery uses a crystal embedded with americium, a radioactive element. Combined with a photovoltaic cell, the battery produced electricity with efficiency that had never been



seen before, while using a minimal amount of americium fuel.

Scientists will work to improve the power output of the battery, as well as attempt to mitigate the radioactivity key to its design. Even with these

flaws, the battery is expected to be useful in environments like outer space and the deep sea, where power is needed for long periods of time and radioactivity is a lesser concern.

## EIA report explores hydrogen cofiring at US natural gas-fired plants

Information released by the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) on September 12 revealed the status of hydrogen generation and cofiring (hydrogen and natural gas being burned together) in the US.

As of 2024, cofiring has been tested at five existing American power plants. These tests ran with fuel blend as little as 5 percent hydrogen to as much as 44 percent.

Long Ridge Energy Generation in Ohio burned a blend of 5 percent hydrogen in March of 2022 in a 485-Megawatt (MW) combined cycle power plant. In June of that year, the Jack McDonough power plant in northwest Georgia cofired 20 percent hydrogen in one of the plant's natural gas turbines. In September 2022, New York's Brentwood power plant conducted an experiment at its 47-MW peaking unit when it cofired 5 percent hydrogen and took it up to 44 percent.

March of 2023 brought a test at the A.J. Mihm generating station in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A 25 percent hydrogen blend was burned in an 18.8 MW internal combustion engine. In May, an Alabama combined-cycle natural gas turbine tested a blend of 38 percent hydrogen. All of the tests saw reductions in carbon dioxide emissions compared to the burning of pure natural gas.

While the dates mentioned in the report seem to reflect a slight trendline away from hydrogen, the amount of federal money that is available to explore all kinds of power generation make it likely that more experiments and more new hydrogen facilities will be in the pipeline as well.

## Honeywell, Samsung team up on reducing power plant emissions

On September 17, Honeywell and Samsung E&A, the construction and project management division of Samsung, announced they would be working together to fight global power plant carbon emissions.



The companies plan to jointly offer Honeywell's carbon capture technologies, allowing them access to Samsung E&A's global customers.

Using the carbon capture technologies that Samsung E&A and Honeywell possess with

Samsung's project management business will allow power plant administrators to better address their long-term carbon capture goals.

**MVP Technologies, LLC**

Providing Turnkey Construction Services Since 1973

**Safe. Reliable. Quality Services**

[www.mptech.biz](http://www.mptech.biz)

**Gas. Overhead & Underground Electric Installation. Splicing & Termination. Cable Pulling. Pole Replacement. Maintenance & Support. Conduit & Man-Hole Installation. Hydro Vac. Storm Restoration. Alternative Energy**

**Minnesota Office:**  
9938 State Hwy 55 NW Annandale, MN

**Texas Office:**  
14140 Cypress N Houston. Houston, TX

**NORTHWEST LINEMAN COLLEGE**

NEW PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT NLC

**ELECTRICAL LINEWORKER PROGRAM**

- ✓ \$73,000 AVERAGE INDUSTRY WAGE<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ 15 WEEK PROGRAM

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINEWORKER PROGRAM**

- ✓ \$63,000 AVERAGE INDUSTRY WAGE<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ 7 WEEK PROGRAM

**GAS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM**

- ✓ \$66,000 AVERAGE INDUSTRY WAGE<sup>3</sup>
- ✓ 7 WEEK PROGRAM

LEARN MORE

**LINEMAN.EDU | (888) LINework**

<sup>1</sup> [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes499051.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes499051.htm) | <sup>2</sup> [www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes499052.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes499052.htm)  
<sup>3</sup> [www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes472152.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes472152.htm)

**ENERGY** is your **BUSINESS**

**Our energy is focused on your supply chain.**

For more than 60 years, our employee-owners have supported you by providing the products you need and the services you've come to expect.

Your success is our priority. Contact us today.

**BSE BORDER STATES**  
Supply Chain Solutions™

[borderstates.com](http://borderstates.com) | 800.676.5834

40-169 (2016-12)

From our very beginning we've focused on **WHAT'S IMPORTANT...**

To us, your project isn't a job - it's an opportunity to make a positive impact, protect future generations, and ensure the vitality of where we live and work.

Providing water engineering and related services to help clients achieve success.

WATER ENGINEERING | SURVEY/MAPPING/GIS | FINANCIAL SERVICES  
INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROLS | ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

**AES** Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.  
[www.ae2s.com](http://www.ae2s.com)



## Public comments call for 3M to end Minnesota PFAS releases; Met Council challenges MPCA



In comments submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in late August, 35,000 people signed their names to a document stating 3M should end any discharges of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), particularly near its Cottage Grove plant.

Wastewater from the plant reaches the nearby Mississippi River.

The public comments were

attached to a May 2024 draft state permit that is being sought by 3M. The permit limits discharges of three types of PFAS, but places much higher limits on the forever chemicals PFBA, PFBS, and PFHxA. There are also no limits placed on many other types of PFAS under the requested permit.

The draft was challenged on the other side of the argument by the Metropolitan Council, who argued the technology to

reduce even the three types of PFAS mentioned in the draft permit was not yet available.

The comments come as Minnesota's new laws begin to ban PFAS in consumer goods. PFAS in food packaging was banned in 2023, with other PFAS products being banned as of 2025. 3M itself plans to end the manufacture of PFAS by the end of 2025.

The draft permit will be finalized in early 2025.

## Report shows impact of Inflation Reduction Act on US solar panel manufacturing

A report from the Solar Energy Industries Association, a nonprofit solar energy trade association, and Wood Mackenzie, a global provider of data and analytics about the energy transition, has found that US solar panel manufacturing capacity has increased 400 percent since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in August of 2022.



Manufacturing capacity in the sector now exceeds 31 gigawatts. More solar manufacturing capacity is on the way, with plants soon coming to Oklahoma and South Carolina, among other places.

This growth has been possible because of the tax breaks in the

law aimed at promoting American clean energy manufacturing. Tariffs on foreign solar manufacturing, which have been imposed by the Biden administration, will also have yet-to-be determined impacts on domestic solar panel manufacturing capacity.

**FRONTIER**  
energy

**Matt Haley**  
Vice President  
Frontier Energy, Inc.  
mhaley@frontierenergy.com  
612.598.8743

7935 Stone Creek Dr.  
Suite 140

Chanhassen  
MN 55317

FrontierEnergy.com



# RESHAPING THE FUTURE OF UTILITY TECHNOLOGY



Analytics



Security



Mobility



Office



Field

## An Integrated Technology Cooperative.

CSA/PCS is an industry leader in utility software solutions. As a member-owned cooperative, we strive to provide best-in-class integrated solutions for: billing, financials, engineering, operations, analytics, and customer empowerment - in a secure, hosted environment.

*We provide a true enterprise experience.*

888-843-3106 • pcs-csa.com



# MMUA Lineworkers Rodeo



Mike Willetts of MMUA welcomes guests and attendees to the MMUA Lineworkers Rodeo.



A group of apprentices watch the rodeo action.



Miles Heide, Fairmont Public Utilities, sits at the judges' table for the rope toss event.



A lineworker competes in the equipotential grounding event.



The MMUA and Minnesota flags are raised into position.



Hurtman rescue is reset for the next group of competitors.



Trevor Morin from Marshall Municipal Utilities tries his hand at the rope toss event.

## 2024 Minnesota Lineworkers Rodeo award winners

**The 2024 Minnesota Lineworkers Rodeo was held on September 10, and it was a spirited competition for all involved.**

Even though a little rain and distant lightning shut down the event for a bit, all competitors were able to participate. This year's winners are as follows:

### Overall Competition—Apprentices

1st place: Bryson Whyte, Marshall Municipal Utilities. Score of 300 with a time of 9:20.46.  
2nd place: Preston Coleman, Shakopee Public Utilities. Score of 298 with a time of 8:32.52.  
3rd place: Trent Anderson, City of Chaska—Electric Department. Score of 298 with a time of 9:22.54.

### Overall Competition—Journeyman

1st place: Hunter Gleason, Rochester Public Utilities. Score of 300 with a time of 6:20.37.  
2nd place: Brandon Heitz, City of Chaska—Electric Department. Score of 300 with a time 6:37.88.  
3rd place: Mike Enright, Shakopee Public Utilities. Score of 300 with a time of 7:40.47.

### Hurtman Rescue—Apprentices

1st place: Trent Anderson, City of Chaska—Electric Department.

Score of 100 with a time of 2:56.66.

2nd place: Bryson Whyte, Marshall Municipal Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 3:16.53.

3rd place: Jonathon Bell, Marshall Municipal Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 3:30.97.

### Hurtman Rescue—Journeyman

1st place: Mike Enright, Shakopee Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 2:40.75.

2nd place: Samuel Bahl, Owatonna Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 3:02.03.

3rd place: Chad Grinhaug, Rochester Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 3:12.12.

### Rope Toss Event—Apprentices

1st place: Preston Coleman, Shakopee Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 1:04.59.

2nd place: Logan Lamote, Marshall Municipal Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 1:32.93.

3rd place: Bryson Whyte, Marshall Municipal Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 2:48.65.

### Rope Toss Event—Journeyman

1st place: Justin Varpness, Marshall Municipal Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 0:52.72.

2nd place: Hunter Gleason,

Rochester Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 1:01.46.

3rd place: Brandon Heitz, City of Chaska—Electric Department. Score of 100 with a time of 1:07.41.

### Single-Phase Equipotential Grounding Event—Apprentices

1st place: Jack Schintz, Shakopee Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 2:31.53.

2nd place: Trent Anderson, City of Chaska—Electric Department. Score of 100 with a time of 2:38.78.

3rd place: Spencer DeFrang, Rochester Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 2:54.47.

### Single-Phase Equipotential Grounding Event—Journeyman

1st place: Hunter Gleason, Rochester Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 2:04.66.

2nd place: Brandon Heitz, City of Chaska—Electric Department. Score of 100 with a time of 2:11.78.

3rd place: Chad Grinhaug, Rochester Public Utilities. Score of 100 with a time of 2:32.09.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated in this year's rodeo!

## Ford helps its EV customers help the grid



**On September 10, Southern California Edison (SCE) and Ford Motor Company announced that Ford electric vehicle (EV) owners in SCE's service territory—which provides service to 15 million people in 15 counties in southern California—could now be compensated for assisting the grid with their EV during times of high energy demand.**

The program, called the Emergency Load Reduction Program (ELRP) will make Ford the first major American automaker to participate in such a program.

Ford EV owners in the program will get one dollar per kilowatt-hour of energy reduced during peak events.

In a statement, Bill Crider, Ford's Senior Director of Global Charging and Energy Services said, "Becoming the first US automaker to participate in the ELRP program through Ford's California Power Response program is another example of Ford maximizing every benefit possible for our electric vehicle customers. Electric vehicles can deliver cost savings through incentives provided by leading utilities such as Southern California Edison, and current vehicle-to-home and near-future vehicle-to-grid services open even more benefits to customers, the electric grid, and communities at large."



The journeymen show their awards. Pictured in front of the stairs: Chad Grinhaug from Rochester. From left to right on the stairs: Justin Varpness from Marshall, Sam Bahl from Owatonna, Mike Enright from Shakopee, Brandon Heitz from Chaska, and Hunter Gleason from Rochester.

## Report details five actions to strengthen disease tracking in wastewater treatment plants

**In a report released on September 12 by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the group put forward its plans for making wastewater disease tracking more effective.**

These efforts are important as the United States' National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) adjusts its efforts in the wake of the COVID pandemic. The recommended actions include:

- 1) Optimizing state and local sampling sites while improving the representativeness of wastewater sampling. With this optimization and representation, a better picture can be painted of disease tracking in an affordable way.
- 2) Improving the quality of wastewater data. By making the data more consistent and of higher grade, the value of

the information is increased and can be more readily compared to other wastewater data inputs.

- 3) Improving the interpretation of data so that it can be more powerful in informing the public and providing accurate future information.

- 4) Adding more pathogens to the testing surveillance, including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza.

- 5) Improving the detection of new diseases, particularly those that can create worldwide pandemics.

The report focused on the idea that with strong wastewater surveillance, public health decisions can be made with more accuracy, resulting in people staying safer and healthier with less investment of public funds.

# MMUA shares information about Minnesota's new earned sick and safe time law

On September 26, Shelly Dau, MMUA's Director of Organizational Development and Human Resources, shared information via a webinar about Minnesota's new earned sick and safe time (ESST) law.

The webinar took a deep dive into the new law in a comprehensive way.

**What is ESST?** The earned sick and safe time (ESST) law was effective on January 1, 2024. The purpose of ESST is to provide employees in Minnesota with at least one hour of paid sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked, up to 48 hours of accrued ESST per year.

**Who is eligible?** Employees are eligible if they are anticipated to work at least 80 hours in a year for a Minnesota employer. Part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees are also eligible. Among those workers that are ineligible for ESST include federal employees, independent contractors, volunteer and paid on-call firefighters, and volunteer ambulance workers. Elected officials or a person appointed to fill a vacancy to an elected role, individuals employed by a farmer expected to work for

28 days or less, and building and construction industry employees represented by a trades labor union in cases where valid waiver of these requirements is provided in the collective bargaining agreement, are also not eligible for ESST under the law.

**When can ESST be used?** ESST can be used for reasons including employee illness, caring for a sick family member, making funeral arrangements, and seeking assistance if an employee or family member is dealing with domestic abuse. It can also be used when a workplace is closed due to weather or public emergency, or when an employee or a family member is at risk of infecting others as deemed by a health professional.

The family members covered by the law are very broad in scope. Shelly explained it is almost better to think about who is not included. Employees who live in another state but work in Minnesota are covered under the ESST law. However, employees who work in another state with a Minnesota employer are not covered by the law.

**What must an employer do?** Many employers' sick policies are already more generous than the new

ESST law. Under the new law, employers cannot go below the standard of providing one hour of ESST per 30 hours worked, up to 48 hours of accrued ESST per year. Employees begin accruing time on the first day of employment. Employees can also accrue ESST with more than one employer at a time. Those hours are tied to each employer individually. Employers are not required to pay out ESST when an employee leaves their job. However, if an employee returns to work with the same employer within 180 days, they are entitled to the ESST hours they had accrued before they left the position.

In addition to providing ESST time each year, employers are also required to provide employees with the total number of earned sick and safe time hour available for use, as well as the total number of earned sick and safe time hours used at the end of each pay period. Employers must provide employees with written notice about ESST by January 1, 2024, or at the start of employment, whichever is later, and they must include a sick and safe time notice in the employee handbook, if the employer has an employee handbook. The Minnesota Department of Labor



and Industry has prepared a uniform employee notice that employers can use and has made it available on the Department's website: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/sick-leave>.

**Is ESST the same as paid family and medical leave?** No, it is designed to complement the paid family and medical leave law, which will go into effect on January 1, 2026. ESST is intended to ensure workers have paid time off for short-term illnesses, medical appointments, and other needs. The upcoming paid family and

medical leave law is more long-term in nature and provides time off for things like welcoming a child or recovering from a severe illness.

**Materials are available.** Shelly noted MMUA makes the slides and recorded presentation available on MMUA's website. It contains additional links to state resources that provide more information on the law. Shelly is also available to talk with members regarding questions and concerns. She can be reached at [sdau@mmua.org](mailto:sdau@mmua.org).

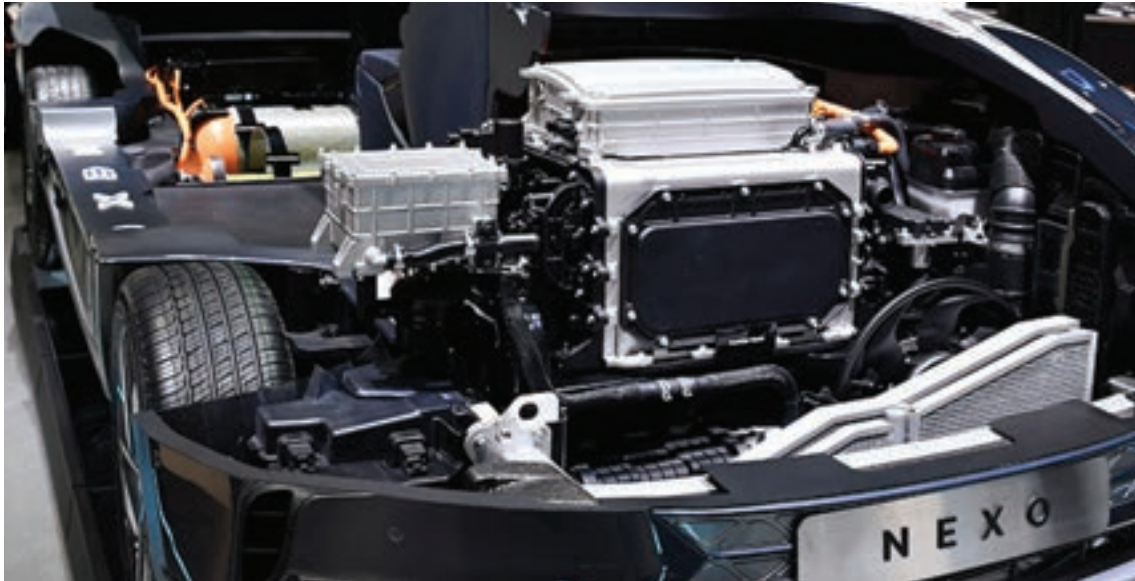
**MMUA**  
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

**TECHNICAL & OPERATIONS CONFERENCE**  
SAFER TOGETHER

**DECEMBER 10-12, 2024**

Holiday Inn,  
St. Cloud, MN

## General Motors, Hyundai announce global partnership on vehicles and technologies



On September 12, automakers General Motors (GM) and Hyundai Motor Company announced they had signed an extensive agreement to work together on new vehicles and the technologies that underpin them.

The automakers' potential

areas of collaboration are quite broad, including the co-development and/or production of passenger and commercial vehicles, the development of internal combustion engines, and clean-energy technologies including hydrogen-powered/ electricity powered vehicles.

The two companies will also work together on the sourcing of battery materials, steel, and other automobile components. The agreement was signed by Hyundai Motor Group Executive Chair Euisun Chung and GM Chair and CEO Mary Barra.

## Federal data shows electricity prices largely flat compared to inflation over past 10 years

Data released by the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) on September 11 showed the average retail price of electricity for residential customers increased less than 1 percent between 2013 and 2023 after accounting for inflation.

In Minnesota and throughout the upper Midwest, inflation-adjusted electricity prices actually went down from 2013–2023. The largest electricity price increases were seen in California and in parts of New England, including Massachusetts and Maine. The largest price declines occurred in Utah and Nebraska. Notably, even the largest average annual-

ized increases for any one state (adjusted for inflation) were less than 3.1 percent per annum.

California's increases came as a result of the state's aggressive transition to clean electricity sources. Utah and Nebraska' decreases occurred due to the use of many different energy types and lower populations.

## Iowa Republican legislators sue to stop Summit Carbon solutions pipeline

On September 10, 37 Iowa Republican legislators announced they would be filing lawsuits in state and federal court against the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC) because of concern that the IUC is putting the interests of the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline and the Summit Carbon Solutions company before those of average Iowans.

In a statement, State Representative Charley Thomson said, "The Iowa Utilities Commission's approval of this project is a gross overstep of authority, trampling on the rights of our

landowners and putting the safety of Iowans at risk."

The Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline was approved by the IUC in June of 2024. The unanimous vote allows the 700-mile pipeline to be built across 29 counties in Iowa. The pipeline will carry carbon emissions from Iowa ethanol plants to carbon sequestration locations in North Dakota.

The use of eminent domain for the project, as well as safety and environmental concerns, led the legislators to file lawsuits to stop the carbon capture pipeline's construction in Iowa.



**Setting the Standard of Excellence in the Power Industry**

We are proud to be the largest and most reliable provider of full-service testing, engineering, design, commissioning, installation, repair, and maintenance services for the power industry. We are the partner you can count on to guide you through the latest advancements and changes that affect your electrical equipment. Our safety-focused approach will give you peace of mind so you can do what you do best.

With over 600 technicians, 24-hour emergency service, and offices throughout the US, we are ready to help.

Contact us today to learn more.

EPSIL.com  
 Minneapolis: 815-325-7195  
 Albert Lea: 507-383-4421

We take pride in our work throughout Minnesota.  
**BECAUSE WE LIVE HERE TOO.**

Worthington's New WWTF Under Construction  
 Worthington Public Utilities

Real People. Real Solutions.

**Bolton-Menk.com**

## Russia plans large expansion of nuclear power infrastructure

In early September, the Unified Energy System of Russia released a plan that calls for the construction of 34 new nuclear reactors in the country by 2042.

The reactors are planned for 11 different sites in Russia and will consist of replacements for existing reactors as well as new nuclear generation. The total amount of new generation will be 28 gigawatts by 2042.

The plan, which is still subject to final government approval, is part of Russia's goal of reaching 25 percent nuclear power generation by 2045. Nuclear sources currently make up 18.9 percent of Russia's power generation.

## Wastewater treatment plants could be instrumental in destroying antibiotic-resistant bacteria



Research published in the journal *Nature Water* on August 19 suggests an enzyme called nuclease, when present in wastewater, can target the resistant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) strands that sometimes foster development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Nuclease is a restriction enzyme, and it is able to cut genetic material to prevent its replication or continued functioning. By releasing nuclease into wastewater, the enzyme can completely eliminate the threat from DNA within 4–6 hours. In this way, wastewater treatment

plants could become another front for making the environment healthier for everyone in the community.

The research was published by faculty from Michigan State University and the University of Science and Technology in China.

## Fifteen countries responsible for 98 percent of new coal power generation



A September 3 report from the non-governmental organization *Global Energy Monitor* says 15 countries accounted for more than 98 percent of new coal power construction in 2024.

China and India were far in the lead. Other countries on the list include Bangladesh, Indonesia,

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

China leads the pack with 420.69 gigawatts (GW) of new coal power either in pre-construction or active construction. India is second with 97.32 GW in pre-con-

struction or active construction. Indonesia is a distant third at 15.06 GW. China and India alone account for 86 percent of the total new coal-generated power.

None of the countries on the list have a current coal phaseout target.

## Xcel proposes new high-voltage transmission line in Wisconsin

On September 5, Xcel Energy filed a Certificate of Public Convenience with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) for a new high-voltage transmission line in the western part of the state.

The new 345-kilovolt Western Wisconsin Transmission Connection line will extend about 50 miles from near Blair, Wisconsin,

to transmission infrastructure near Eau Claire, where it will connect to other transmission lines.

Xcel has proposed two routes for the line. Public hearings will be held in 2025 to consider the proposal. If the project is approved, construction will begin in 2026 and enter service in 2028.

## Federal funding of \$125 million will help drive next-generation energy storage research



On September 3, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) announced \$125 million in funding to aid research into storage technology that goes beyond today's lithium-ion batteries.

Two groups based at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois and at Stanford University in California will receive the funds. Argonne's group, the Energy Storage Research Alliance (ESRA), will work on compact

batteries that can be used for a variety of functions including energy storage. Stanford's team, the Aqueous Battery Consortium, will work on research relating to aqueous batteries that can be used for energy storage. The consortium plans to make water a more viable electrolyte for batteries.

The teams were selected by competitive peer review, with each award lasting up to five years.

## Energy Information Administration data reveals quick growth of utility-scale battery capacity

New data released by the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) shows the growth of utility-scale batteries—those with capacities exceeding 1 megawatt—in the United States over the past few years has been rapid.

In the first part of 2024, American energy operators added 5 gigawatts (GW) of battery

systems to the grid. The total capacity of utility-scale batteries in the US is 20.7 GW, meaning that almost 25 percent of the total amount of battery capacity was added in the current year.

Grid-connected utility scale batteries were uncommon until 2020. Nearly all of America's battery-related grid capacity has been added after this date.

## European wind and solar overtake fossil fuels for first time

Researchers from climate and energy think tank Ember report the European Union's (EU) rapid movement away from fossil fuels accelerated in the first half of 2024, with wind and solar for the first time overtaking fossil fuels for electricity generation in the EU.

In the first half of 2024, wind and solar accounted for 30 percent of electricity generation in the EU, with 27 percent coming from fossil fuels. Fossil fuels generated 17 percent less power than in the first half of 2023.

Coal generation decreased by 24 percent and gas by 14 percent.

Compared to the first half of 2023, solar generation grew by 20 percent and wind generation grew by 9.5 percent. Hydropower also increased by 21 percent due to a lessening of droughts.

This caused carbon emissions from electricity generation to drop 17 percent compared to the first half of 2023. Emissions are now 31 percent lower than in the first half of 2022. All of this comes with a 2.1 percent increase in the EU's electricity demand compared to last year.



INTRODUCING **Adaptiv** Advanced Metering Infrastructure

- Zero Infrastructure Solution**  
Hybrid communications network utilizing both public carrier and RF mesh
- Easy, Targeted Deployment**  
Deploy when and where automation is needed first, using existing employees and skills
- Lowest Total Cost of Ownership**  
No costly infrastructure to maintain; only a simple, inclusive annual fee

**Learn More Now!**

David Logsdon  
Regional Sales Director  
(614) 284-4110  
david.logsdon@nighthawkcontrol.com

**NIGHTHAWK**  
NIGHTHAWKCONTROL.COM

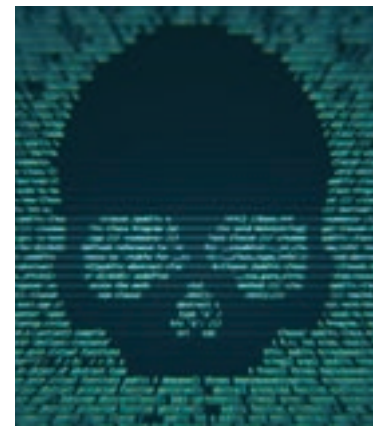
A True Enterprise Experience

**Streamline Your Business.  
Reduce Operational Costs. Increase Efficiency.**

**All With One Enterprise System.**

**nisc** www.nisc.coop  
national information solutions cooperative

## Cyberattacks jump nearly 70 percent for US utilities and power grid



A report released by Check Point Research, the research arm of global cybersecurity solutions firm Check Point Technologies, shows cyberattacks on utilities and power infrastructure have risen almost 70 percent in 2024 from the same period in 2023.

The utilities sector has experienced 69 percent more cyberattacks per week from January–August of 2024. The total count is 1,162 cyberattacks over the eight months, compared to 689 in the same January–August period of 2023.

This average gives utilities the dubious distinction of having a higher percentage change in cyberattacks year-over-year than any other major industry. Software vendors were second with an increase of 58 percent in cyberattacks, while consultants came in third with 35 percent more cyberattacks.

None of the attacks has caused an American utility to stop operating during this period, but the danger of cyberattacks to our critical infrastructure remains high. The critical nature of utility operations, coupled with often outdated software and security systems, make utilities easy targets for cybercriminals.

**PSE** Power System Engineering

**FULL SERVICE CONSULTANTS**  
**866-825-8895**  
Visit our website and find your expert today!  
www.powersystem.org

We welcome the opportunity to work with you

**Forward-Thinking Professionals  
Helping Clients Achieve Their Goals**

- Economics, Rates, & Business Planning
- Energy Resources
- Utility Engineering & Operations
- Technology, Communications, & Automation
- Industrial Engineering

**FAIRBANKS MORSE  
DEFENSE**

**EXCEPTIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR  
INDUSTRY-LEADING ENGINES  
AND POWER SYSTEMS**

Fairbanks Morse Defense offers an extensive portfolio of services to optimize performance, ensure reliability, and extend your engine's life cycle — from the day it's commissioned and for the many years that follow.

Contact us today +1-800-356-6955 <https://www.fairbanksmorse.com/contact>

## Electric cooperatives to receive \$7.3 billion in federal investments; largest investment in rural electrification since 1936 Rural Electrification Act



On September 5, the Biden Administration announced \$7.3 billion in rural electrification funding for 16 rural electric cooperatives under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture's Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program.

The funding will help utilities to transition to clean energy while keeping their power distribution dependable.

Among Upper Midwest utilities, Dairyland Power Cooperative of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, was

chosen to receive the first award amount of \$573 million. Dairyland will use the funds to drive more than \$2.1 billion in total investments in 1,080 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. This will include eight wind and solar purchase agreements, four wind installations, and four solar farms.

Dairyland noted the funding will allow their electric rates to be 42 percent lower over 10 years than they would have been without the funding.

Great River Energy (GRE) of Maple Grove, Minnesota, will

also receive a New ERA award. GRE will use the funds to acquire 1,275 MW of renewable energy. Minnkota Power Cooperative of Grand Forks, North Dakota, will receive an award as well, using the funds to develop carbon capture and storage and 370 MW of wind power in North Dakota.

The funds will help cooperatives serving about 20 percent of America's rural households to move to clean energy in a sustainable way.

## New process to recover ammonia from wastewater

Researchers at Stanford University in California have designed an electrocatalytic system that can produce ammonia from the contaminated mixture that is real-world wastewater.

The innovative process targets nitrate for conversion to ammonia.

The system uses a membrane dialysis process to remove contaminants from the wastewater, along with a nitrate reduction catalyst. The complete elec-

trocatalytic process is able to extract the nitrogen, convert it to nitrate, and then convert it to ammonium sulfate.

The researchers say the process will remove contaminants from the water and create valuable ammonia for industry in a more efficient manner than traditional processes. The scientists plan to scale up the process so it can be used in the future in wastewater treatment plants.

**24/7**<sup>365</sup>  
here for you

Being available for your members round-the-clock has never been easier.

**CRC**  
Cooperative Response Center, Inc.  
contact-dispatch center | alarm monitoring  
www.crc.coop | 800-892-1578 | info@crc.coop

## Department of Natural Resources examines Iowa wastewater discharge incident

A wastewater discharge incident that occurred on September 9 in Denison, Iowa, is drawing interest from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources after the spill reached a river.

Approximately 300 gallons of sewage flowed into the ground, with some reaching a storm sewer that flows to the Boyer River.

Denison Municipal Utilities found the source of the spill was a blocked lateral service line, which was quickly fixed. Testing will continue in the area to ensure there are no long-term impacts from the spill.

**DBCC**  
DAVE BERG CONSULTING, LLC

**David A. Berg, PE - Principal**  
*'Dedicated to providing personal service to consumer-owned utilities'*

Cost of Service Studies  
Utility Rate Design  
Contract Negotiations  
Utility Education  
Expert Testimony  
Feasibility Studies

[dave@davebergconsulting.com](mailto:dave@davebergconsulting.com)  
15213 Danbury Ave W  
Rosemount, MN 55068  
(612)850-2305  
[www.davebergconsulting.com](http://www.davebergconsulting.com)

**AVANT ENERGY**

220 South Sixth Street  
Suite 1300  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

TEL 612.349.6868  
FAX 612.349.6108  
Info@AvantEnergy.com

For over 35 years, Avant Energy has supported municipal utilities and power agencies in their effort to deliver economic and reliable power. Avant works with its clients to develop innovative, yet practical solutions based on a simple, overarching belief that, "better is possible."

**BETTER IS POSSIBLE**

STRATEGIC PLANNING  
UTILITY CONSULTING  
ENERGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

.....WWW.AVANTENERGY.COM.....





In mid-September, **Blooming Prairie** took down the city's old water tower. The new water tower was installed in February, and it represents a significant upgrade from the old water tower. The new structure has a 100,000-gallon tank, significantly larger than the 65,000-gallon tank it replaced.

On September 23, **Breckenridge Public Utilities**, Breckenridge Police, and Breckenridge Fire responded to a structure fire. During the fire, a live electrical line above the garage broke and started arcing while lying across the alley. Public Utilities staff were able to deenergize the line. The Wilkin County Sheriff's Office, Wahpeton Police and Fire Departments, and CHI St. Francis Ambulance Service also responded.

**Brewster** may be the site of a new biodiesel refinery, as the Minnesota Soybean Processors, (MnSP) more than 2,300 farmer-members have contributed more than \$31 million toward the effort. The MnSP board will analyze the feasibility of the project and determine whether more funds need to be raised before taking further steps.



On Tuesday, September 10, a water main broke in **Ely**, forcing a boil order, closing school the following day, and requiring the local hospital to implement its emergency plan. The main was repaired early Wednesday morning. Coincidentally, Minnesota Department of Health officials were working in communities near Ely at the time of the break. The proximity allowed them to arrive in a short time, take samples, and test the water in their lab "as quickly as humanly possible" according to the Ely Echo. The boil order was lifted on Thursday, and school was in session the same day.



Lawmakers in **St. Charles** are seeking assistance for the city in the amount of \$1.3 million to help St. Charles recover from a fire at a local meat processing plant. The fire destroyed the city's second largest employer, North Star Foods. The fire has impacted the city in many ways,

including through a loss of city revenue from the plant.



On September 27, **Watertown (South Dakota) Municipal Utilities** assisted the city's police and the South Dakota Highway Patrol when a vehicle crashed into a building. Two people in the vehicle collided with the old Hubbard Milling building. The



vehicle was stabilized, and fire crews pulled out both occupants. They were sent to Prairie Lakes Hospital with undisclosed injuries.

**Wells Public Utilities** is looking to replace and add to their underground infrastructure during the reconstruction of State Highway 22 and State Highway 109 through town.



**Willmar Municipal Utilities** said goodbye to general manager John Harren at their September 9 commission meeting. Harren said, "I'd like to say that it truly has been a pleasure and an honor to serve this community. It's a great community ... You know, collectively, we made a lot of things happen. And this community and this utility is

well-prepared for what's coming here in the future, and we're ready to embrace it." John Harren's last day was September 20. The Commission has re-opened its search for a new general manager after learning their preferred candidate did not wish to relocate to Willmar.



**HELPING  
MUNICIPAL  
ENTITIES  
PLAN FOR THEIR  
FINANCIAL FUTURE  
IN CHANGING TIMES**

- Commitment to integrity
- Creative solutions to complex issues
- Engaged team approach
- Customized financial planning models
- Staff with depth and experience

- Competitive Bond Sales
- Debt Refinancing
- Property Tax Impact Analysis
- Tax Increment Financing
- Financial Management Plans

- Bond Underwriting
- Bank Private Placement
- Referendum Assistance
- Capital Improvement Plans
- Equipment Financing

**PROVIDING DIRECTION  
PRODUCING RESULTS**

**OUR COMMITMENT IS IN THE MIDWEST:**  
We are thankful to be a Sponsor  
with Minnesota Municipal  
Utilities Association, and look  
forward to helping with your  
financing needs this year!



150 S. Fifth Street, Suite 3300 | Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612-851-5900 | 800-851-2920  
[www.northlandsecurities.com/public-finance](http://www.northlandsecurities.com/public-finance)  
Division of Northland Securities, Inc. | Member FINRA/SIPC | Registered with SEC and MSRB  
RC 22-317 Muni 22-273 0622



**Trusted.  
Professional.  
Solutions.**

- Substations
- Distribution
- Transmission
- Generation
- Long-Range Plans
- Relaying & SCADA
- Rate Studies
- Mapping & GIS
- Construction Staking
- Sectionalizing Studies & Coordination
- Arc Flash Studies
- Distributed Generation Studies



**Rock Rapids, IA**  
712-472-2531

**Sioux Falls, SD**  
605-339-4157

**Sioux City, IA**  
712-266-1554

**dgr.com**




**Competitive Pricing, Reliable Inventory**




From the transmission line to the home, RESCO stands ready with the supplies you need. Get competitive pricing and benefits from one of the Midwest's largest full-line distributors of high-voltage electrical products.




Office & Warehouse  
4100 30th Ave. S., Moorhead, MN  
800.346.3330  
[info@resco1.com](mailto:info@resco1.com) [resco1.com](http://resco1.com)

**STORM RESPONSE**  
866.273.5030

**A PROVEN PROVIDER** of innovative electrical solutions.  
**AN INDUSTRY LEADER** leading a changing industry.  
**A SUPPLY CHAIN PARTNER** who'll be there for you.



- Supporting Utility Systems since 1935
- Rubber Insulating Equipment
- Full-line Supplier of Utility Products
- Certified Dielectric Testing Services
- Most Extensive Offering of Utility Technical Support Services
- On-Site Testing
- Superior Emergency Support Staff
- Arc Flash and FR Clothing Systems
- Tool Supply and Repair
- Custom Grounds and Jumpers
- Broadband Communication Services

Eagan, MN  
763.588.0545

Fargo, ND  
800.742.8054

**CUSTOMERS. FIRST. ALWAYS.**

[irby.com](http://irby.com)



Hitachi Energy announced in early September that the company would invest \$200 million in Brazil, including in the expansion of the company's power transformer plant in Guarulhos and a new manufacturing unit. The facilities are being expanded to help Hitachi better serve Brazilian and foreign customers.



Indianola Municipal Utilities (IMU) in Iowa broke ground on a new solar facility in September. The 4.1-megawatt capacity solar farm will generate 6.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. IMU predicts the new solar facility will allow the utility to shed 10 percent of its peak load in the summer and up to 40 percent in the winter months.

On September 9, Indonesia's senior minister overseeing mining, Luhut Pandjaitan, said the Indonesian government seeks to negotiate with global leaders for energy transition financing. Indonesia aims to accelerate the closure of the country's fossil-fuel electricity generation.



A report from the Idaho Conservation League noted that more than half of Idaho's wastewater treatment plants violated Clean Water Act discharge limits at least once a year. During 2023, there were 458 violations of the Clean Water Act by Idaho's municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

Moody's Investors Service said on September 11 that rising electricity rates pose a risk to utilities' future credit ratings as well as the increased possibility of government intervention in their businesses.

# Professional Services Directory

## Attorneys

**SPIEGEL & McDIARMID** LLP

1875 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
www.spiegelmd.com

Phone: 202.879.4000  
Fax: 202.393.2866  
info@spiegelmd.com

Trusted.  
Professional.  
Solutions.



Electrical Power • GIS  
Streets • Sewer • Drainage  
Water • Airports

Rock Rapids, IA  
Sioux City, IA  
Sioux Falls, SD  
800-446-2531 • dgr@dgr.com



## Computer and Software

**CSA** Central Service Association

**PCS** Professional Computer Solutions

**IT solutions for the smart utility**

Professional Computer Solutions, LLC  
[www.pcs-csa.com](http://www.pcs-csa.com) / Toll free 888.843.3106

Central Service Association  
Toll free 877.842.5962 / [www.csa1.com](http://www.csa1.com)



David A. Berg, PE – Principal

15213 Danbury Ave W  
Rosemount, MN 55068  
(612)850-2305  
www.davebergconsulting.com

Cost of Service Studies  
Utility Rate Design  
Contract Negotiations  
Utility Education  
Expert Testimony  
Feasibility Studies

dave@davebergconsulting.com

'Dedicated to providing personal service to consumer-owned utilities'

## Electrical Equipment and Suppliers

**TRANSFORMERS**  
DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION

**T&R ELECTRIC**

Modern Rewind Facilities  
More than 61 Acres Inventory  
Prompt Delivery - Coast to Coast

Complete Outdoor Substations  
Circuit Breakers  
Regulators  
and Switchgear

CALL TOLL-FREE  
800-843-7723  
FAX 605-533-1100  
E-Mail: [tr@tr.com](mailto:tr@tr.com)  
Internet: [www.tr.com](http://www.tr.com)

**EASA**

BUY - SELL - RENT

Building a Better World for All of Us®



Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists  
800.325.2055 • [sehinc.com](http://sehinc.com)

## Engineers and Engineering Firms

**AES<sub>2</sub>**

Providing water engineering and related services to help clients achieve success.

Maple Grove | Moorhead | Lake of the Woods  
[www.ae2s.com](http://www.ae2s.com)

## Equipment manufacturers, Suppliers, Service

**PRODUCTS** you NEED  
**SERVICE** you EXPECT

Where you need us, when you need us,  
with 11 Minnesota locations to serve you.

Contact us today.

**BSE** BORDER STATES  
Supply Chain Solutions™

[borderstates.com](http://borderstates.com) | 1.800.676.5834

#10-1224 (2016-12)

One size fits all – doesn't. And neither do our solutions.

**BOLTON & MENK**  
Real People. Real Solutions.  
[Bolton-Menk.com](http://Bolton-Menk.com)

**FS3 INC**  
SALES SERVICE SUPPLY

**UTILITY CONSTRUCTION**  
**MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT**  
**TOOLS & SAFETY PRODUCTS**

9030 64th Street NW  
PO Box 989  
Annandale MN 55302

(320) 274-7223  
FAX (320) 274-7205  
[WWW.FS3INC.BIZ](http://WWW.FS3INC.BIZ)

Substations  
Switchyards  
Static Var  
Wind Farm

**NATIONAL CONDUCTOR**  
Proudly based in Minnesota  
18119 Theater Road,  
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401  
800-345-3017

Solar  
BESS  
HVDC Stations  
Collector Systems

# Professional Services Directory

## Equipment and Supplies



**RESCO**  
SUPPLYING THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

Quality products and superior service from one of the Midwest's largest full-line distributors of high-voltage electrical products.

800.346.3330 | info@resco1.com | resco1.com  
4100 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. S, Moorhead, MN



**ZIEGLER** **CAT**  
Power Systems

**Proven Power Solutions**  
Sales. Service. Rental.  
**888.320.4292**



**Enterprise Software Solutions**  
Designed for Utilities



National Information Solutions Cooperative® [www.NISC.coop](http://www.NISC.coop)

## Management and Professional Consultants



**AVANT ENERGY**

220 South Sixth Street  
Suite 1300  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

TEL 612.349.6868  
FAX 612.349.6108  
Info@AvantEnergy.com




**Evans, Lipka and Associates, Inc.**  
1920 SW 6th Street, Suite B • Lincoln, NE 68522

**MAX POTTER**  
Sales Engineer

Office: (402) 435-8282  
Fax: (402) 435-8288  
Cell: (563) 590-9186

[www.evans-lipka.com](http://www.evans-lipka.com)  
Email: mpotter@evans-lipka.com

## Meter Services and Systems



**Adaptiv** Advanced Metering Infrastructure



**Learn More Now!**

Lisa Fennell  
Sales Director  
(612) 963-6867  
lisa.fennell@nighthawkcontrol.com



## Financial Services



**NORTHLAND** PUBLIC FINANCE  
FINDING MUNICIPAL FINANCE SOLUTIONS FOR 20 YEARS

**The Public Finance Group of Northland Securities, Inc.**  
(515) 657-4677 | (800) 851-2920  
Member FINRA/SIPC | Registered with SEC/MSRB  
Visit us at [www.northlandsecurities.com](http://www.northlandsecurities.com)  
RC 22-273, Muni 22-235

## Power Suppliers



**CMP** AS  
CENTRAL MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY/SERVICES

**HEADQUARTERS:**  
7550 Corporate Way  
Suite 100  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
cmpas.org | 888.970.8267



## Generation Services and Equipment



**energis**  
HIGH VOLTAGE RESOURCES®

Servicing You Locally in Minnesota with NETA Accredited Technicians

"Servicing everything inside the substation fence"

**ENERGISINC.COM**  
**800.928.6960**



## Training & Education




**NORTHWEST LINEMAN COLLEGE**

**NEW PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**

ELECTRICAL LINEMAN PROGRAM	TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINEMAN PROGRAM	GAS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM
✓ \$73,000 AVERAGE WAGE <sup>1</sup> ✓ 15 WEEK PROGRAM	✓ \$63,000 AVERAGE WAGE <sup>2</sup> ✓ 7 WEEK PROGRAM	✓ \$66,000 AVERAGE WAGE <sup>3</sup> ✓ 7 WEEK PROGRAM

**LINEMAN.EDU | (888) LINEMAN**

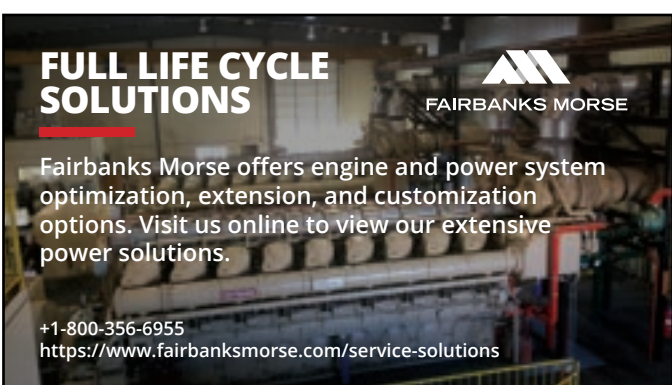
1 www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes499051.htm 2 www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes499052.htm 3 www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes472152.htm



**FULL LIFE CYCLE SOLUTIONS**

Fairbanks Morse offers engine and power system optimization, extension, and customization options. Visit us online to view our extensive power solutions.

+1-800-356-6955  
<https://www.fairbanksmorse.com/service-solutions>



On September 11, Greece released a \$6.4 billion plan that will improve the quality of the country's water network in the face of recent severe droughts. Poor water management in the country has led to more than 35 percent of water being lost.



On September 20, Xcel Energy's Prairie Island Nuclear Plant began nine weeks of maintenance and refueling work. Some 700 workers will be engaged in working on unit one, while unit two continues to operate.

According to reporting from Bloomberg, gas plants in the United Kingdom (UK) are running fewer hours, reducing to levels not seen since 2017. Large amounts of renewable energy coming onto the UK's grid are responsible for the reduction.



Tucson, Arizona, is conducting a feasibility study to examine the feasibility of transitioning to a publicly owned electric utility in the city. Their current electric contract with Tucson Electric Power ends in April of 2026.

A storm surge from Hurricane Helene caused 6.5 million gallons of wastewater to spill into the Hillsborough River, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection said on September 27. Damage to a pump station was the cause of the spill. The overflow occurred for about 10 hours before it could be stopped.

The United Kingdom's (UK) Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station closed in early October. The plant was the UK's last coal-fired power generator. It opened in 1967.

On September 26, US Senator Amy Klobuchar announced that Minnesota's broadband access plan had received federal approval. The approval means that Minnesota's broadband plan can now move from the planning stage to the implementation stage.

## Renewable energy sources have reached 30 percent of US generation

**A report released by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) reveals that renewable energy sources now compose 30 percent of American power generation.**

This does not include nuclear power, which sits at 8 percent of total generation capacity.

By August 2027, FERC estimates that renewables

will provide 36.5 percent of all generation, with nuclear energy comprising 7.5 percent. Natural gas in 2027 will make up an estimated 40.3 percent of all power generation at that time.

From 2024 to 2027, FERC estimates that hydropower capacity will grow by 1328 megawatts (MW), geothermal will grow by 400 MW, and biomass will increase by 127 MW.

Nuclear generation is expected to be unchanged in this period. Coal capacity is expected to decrease by 21,377 MW, natural gas will decrease by 3,135 MW, and generation from oil will decrease by 2,114 MW during the same time.

These totals do not include small-scale solar systems or storage capacity.



## PUC to act on Allete sale by July 15

**The sale of Allete, the parent company of Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power, will receive a recommendation from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on the \$6.2 billion sale of the company by July 15, 2025.**

The PUC referred the matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings and asked that an

administrative law judge (ALJ) review the record in this matter.

The ALJ will help the PUC determine impacts of the deal, including results for ratepayers, the new ownership's commitment to the carbon-free standard, and whether or not the sale is in the public's interest.

The proposed sale would be made to a partnership led by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Global

Infrastructure Partners, an infrastructure investment fund. If the sale is approved, Allete will go private after years of being a publicly traded company.

Shareholders approved the deal in August. Other players that will likely rule on the deal include the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

## Yankton to break ground on new wastewater treatment plant

**On September 23, the Yankton, South Dakota, City Commission voted unanimously to approve the maximum price for the city's new wastewater treatment plant, setting the wheels in motion for project construction to start as early as this fall.**

The guaranteed maximum price of the project was set at \$45,929,602.

Yankton's original wastewater treatment plant was installed in 1964. Major upgrades occurred in 1974, 1982, and 1999–2003. Yankton is the seventh-largest city in South Dakota.

## Three Mile Island's unit one to come back online

**On September 20, Constellation Energy, the owner of unit one at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, announced they plan to restart the reactor in order to sell power to Microsoft.**

Unit one shut down exactly five years ago, on September 20, 2019. At the time, the plant was not seen as profitable to run. However, the new deal with Microsoft will see Microsoft purchase electricity from the

reactor for 20 years to power its data centers. The deal fulfills part of Microsoft's vision to run all of its data centers 24/7 with carbon-free power.

An estimated \$1.6 billion will be spent to bring the 835-megawatt unit one facility back online, with operations expected to resume in 2028. Unit two of Three Mile Island, which was involved in the infamous 1979 Three Mile Island accident, was shut down in 1979 and will not be restarted.



## Upcoming events

### Technical and Operations Conference

**December 10–12  
Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud, MN**

**Trade Show – December 11**

Make plans to join us for the Technical and Operations (T&O) Conference. Whether you are a crew lead, manager, or other utility professional, the T&O offers something for everyone. We have selected another fantastic lineup



Rod Courtney

of speakers and presenters. Our keynote speaker, Rod Courtney, will motivate you with "the eight habits of a highly effective safety culture." Rod published a book with the same title in 2022. Rod hopes to help others learn from his mistakes and avoid the "safety cop" mentality.

The T&O will close with our speaker, Lee Shelby. Lee's presentation is titled "the true cost of safety." In August 1991, Lee met an energized overhead conductor, and his life changed in that instant. Hear Lee's perspective on



Lee Shelby

taking responsibility for one's own personal safety and the safety of those around you.

Returning for his final presentation at one of our events prior to retirement is Kit Welchlin. Kit will speak on "dealing with difficult people." In between these dynamic speakers, we offer training tracks for managers and crew leads covering topics ranging from responding to a weather emergency (flooding) to Minnesota's new 2016D One Call Law. Plus, there will be roundtable discussions and our always popular Trade Show on Wednesday evening.

**For more information, see the Events Calendar at [www.mmua.org](http://www.mmua.org) or call MMUA at 763-551-1230.**