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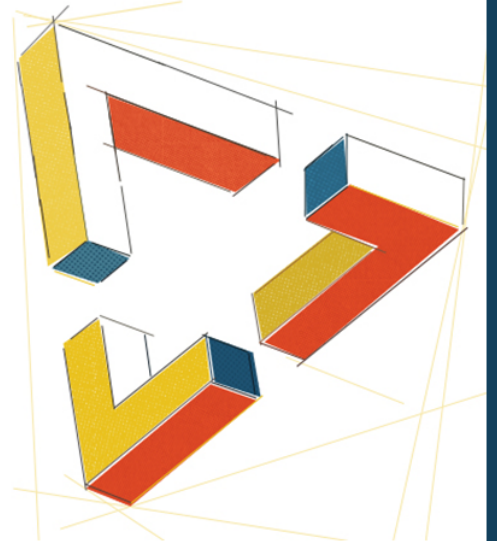
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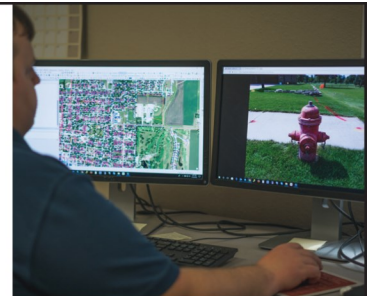
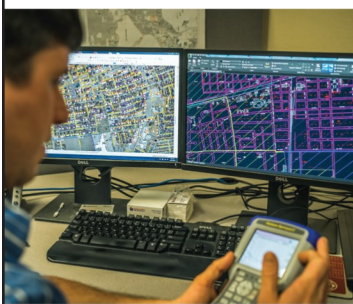


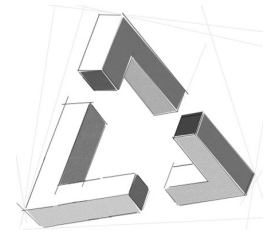
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MPUA CALENDAR

May 31 | MPUA office closed (*Memorial Day*)

June 9 | 10 am
Member Services Committee
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East (*& also virtual mtg*)

June 9 | 1pm
MPUA Resource Services Corporation meeting
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East (*& also virtual mtg*)


June 9 | 2pm
Joint Operating & Exec. Committees meeting
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East (*& also virtual mtg*)

June 10 | 9am
MPUA Boards of Directors meeting
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East (*& also virtual mtg*)

June 10 | 1pm
Joint RTO Committees Meeting
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East (*& also virtual mtg*)

June 20-23
APPA National Conference, Orlando FL

July 5 | MPUA office closed (*Independence Day*)

 **MPUA Board of
Directors Meetings**

June 10 beginning at 9:00 am
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East
3100 I-70 Dr. SE, Columbia MO 65201
(*virtual mtg also available*)

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>June 9 meeting 10am: Member Services Committee OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS</p> <p>Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East (<i>virtual mtg also available</i>)</p> | <p>June 10 meetings 9am: MAMU, MJMEUC, Alliance, MoPEP, MMMPEP, SWMPEP, RTOs</p> <p>Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East (<i>virtual mtg also available</i>)</p> |
|--|---|

COVER PHOTOS

FRONT: MMU’s Ryan Mason & Shawn Roberts (L & R) use a vacuum excavator to locate the intersection of two water mains. (*photo: MMU*)

REAR: An MMU water tower stands watch over Macon High School’s athletic stadium (*photo: Kerry Cordray*)



Working together in times of crisis

It strikes us that a theme for this edition of *Working together in times of crisis* makes perfect sense. Certainly, for the month of February and beyond, we've worked together, not only to keep the lights on and the gas flowing, but also to make sense of the prices paid and how we can help with payment arrangements. As we have said many times since February 12, we hope that some of the dollars that flowed out of your communities can flow back into them, following all the investigations that are underway. Whether that will happen, when it might happen, and how much might be coming may be a mystery for some time into the future. But the important thing to note is that we are actively engaged in providing information for these investigations and pushing as appropriate with the various agencies conducting them. The challenges you have faced with helping your communities and your citizens make sense of all of this have been monumental and your MPUA team salutes your dedication.

We have also been actively trying to get some relief for these enormous wholesale electric and natural gas bills that have come due. At this point, use of the MPUA revolving line of credit is assured, as is the payment arrangement with Spire. As the state's new Municipal Utility Emergency Loan Program brings state funds to the table, we'll continue to work very hard to see it well implemented.

We continue to work in Jefferson City to manage the legislation that has the potential to impact your operations (*see more in "Advocacy Watch" column on page 8.*) In the session just concluded, we've worked on Grain Belt, territorial issues, telecommunications bills, and many other issues. As always, we try to build the kinds of coalitions that help us get where you need us to be, and it is probably safe to say that without these partnerships we would be in much more difficult waters.

We also continue working with APPA and others regarding climate change legislation and with FERC and NERC on cost and reliability issues. As we've said before, this is a busy time with a new President and a new FERC Chair. All the ideas that get thrown around must be considered as potential change for all of you so we need to make sure we understand how those impacts would be felt. We continue to believe that reliability is the most important of all considerations,

but if we didn't already know it, Winter Storm Uri reminded us of how important cost is as well. Increasingly, and perhaps ultimately, environmental considerations are critical, and obviously, those have a profound impact on reliability and cost. So, we will keep our head down and study these ideas coming from Washington and keep you informed of our thoughts.

I want to report that we have three new team members at MPUA. Kelly Tompkins serves as our second Instrument Technician and he is off and running. Cody Gammon has joined us as our sixth energy scheduler and he's in the training mode at this point. Finally, Sherri Redmon is our new Human Resources Manager. Sherri brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as our first HR professional. We are pleased to welcome all these folks to the MPUA team and look forward to introducing you to them. We have four more openings to fill, and Sherri will

certainly be helpful in getting our team to full strength (*see more in "Welcome, new staff!" introductions on page 22.*)

By the time you read this we will have fully returned to the office after several months working from home. While we're still working through some of the issues related to vaccinations it will be good to have our team back together so we can look at each other, albeit through masks. As we have said many times our goal is to keep everyone safe and comfortable and productive. We have much

to accomplish between now and when our new Office and Training Center is completed, so being back at the office is certainly necessary and advisable.

We are planning our next set of Board Meetings to be held in person at the Drury in Columbia in June. We will be using appropriate distancing and making certain we comply with all Columbia/Boone County requirements. We will also make available a virtual meeting for those unable to attend in person. We are also planning for our Annual Conference to be held in person at Margaritaville at the Lake of the Ozarks. We already have several speakers scheduled and for both events we are eager to really see you. ◀

"We have also been actively trying to get some relief for the enormous wholesale electric and natural gas bills that have come due. ... As the state's new Municipal Utility Emergency Loan Program brings state funds to the table, we'll continue to work very hard to see it well implemented."

Welcome, new MPUA staff!

MPUA is very pleased to welcome three new staff members to our team this spring!

Sherri Redmon joined the Missouri Public Utility Alliance on April 12 as **Human Resources Manager**. An experienced HR professional, Sherri most recently served almost 10 years as Human Resources and Safety Director for Environmental Dynamics International in Columbia. A Columbia native and Mizzou graduate, Sherri grew up on a cattle farm on the east side of Columbia. She began her HR career in Kansas City after college and remained there 14 years until relocating back to Columbia. Having worked for two municipalities in her HR career (Olathe, KS, and Fulton, MO), she says she is thrilled to be back in an organization that serves municipalities.



Cody Gammon joined MPUA on April 12 as an **Operator** (Energy Scheduler). On May 5, Cody graduated from Mizzou with B.S. degrees in both economics and statistics, and he has been accepted into graduate school at Mizzou for their master's program in Data Science and Analytics. Cody served in the US Army as a Cavalry Scout stationed in Fort Riley, KS, including a rotation to the Republic of Korea. Cody enjoys Mizzou and Chiefs football, a good TV show, great food, and investing.



Kelly Tompkins began his new role as MPUA's newest **Instrument Technician** on April 5, moving to Missouri from Granbury, Texas. Kelly describes himself as "not a stranger to change, being an Air Force brat who joined the Navy." After serving four years as a Navy cryptologist, he obtained a Texas journeyman's electrical license and worked as an industrial and commercial service technician. While working full time, he earned an online bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering from ECPI University, then transitioned to an automation position with a midstream gas company, where he commissioned and troubleshooted compression, pipeline and cryogenic equipment. Kelly, his wife Jo and their 9-year-old son Aaron enjoy hunting, and fishing in the Missouri outdoors. ◀



MPUA board members appointed to other statewide service

Albany City Administrator Derek Brown appointed to Missouri One-Call board

Derek Brown, City Administrator of Albany, was appointed in October 2020 to the board of directors of the Missouri One Call System, Inc. Brown is serving as Missouri One Call's board representative for Small Municipal utilities.

The Missouri One Call System, Inc. is a non-profit Missouri corporation providing statewide services for location of underground utilities, protecting underground facilities and the safety of workers, the general public, and the environment. Its services help utilities and excavators comply with Missouri law and OSHA rules.

Brown has served as City Administrator for the City of Albany since 2002. He is currently serving as chair of MPUA's Joint Operating Committee, and is a past chair of the Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities (MAMU). He also currently serves as president of the Missouri Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (MIRMA). He has served as past chair of the Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission. Brown was a 2019 recipient of MPUA's Jack Swearingen "Seven Hats" Award, recognizing special skills in the many responsibilities involved in serving a municipal utility with no more than 2,500 electric meters.

Perryville City Administrator Brent Buerck appointed to Missouri Development Finance Board

Brent Buerck, City Administrator of Perryville, was appointed in February 2021 by Governor Mike Parson to the Missouri Development Finance Board (MFDB). The MFDB assists the state of Missouri in reviewing economic development projects and administers financing programs for public infrastructure and private economic development capital projects of all sizes throughout Missouri. The board manages many of these programs in partnership with the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Eight citizens from across the state are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to serve as MFDB members.

Buerck has served Perryville as City Administrator for more than 11 years. He oversees the city's public works department, leads economic development initiatives, and is responsible for the development and management of the city budget. Previously, Buerck was a senior program administrator for the Missouri Division of Youth Services. He is a member of the Missouri City Manager's Association and Missouri National Veterans Memorial.



Macon Municipal Utilities

(Cover and story photos by MMU & Kerry Cordray)

Hometown utility builds on 130 year heritage

No chronicle of the history of Macon, Missouri would be complete without the mention of honeybees, maple trees and Frederick Bles.

This county seat of Macon County, with a 2010 census population of 5,471, owes its location in part to early settlers traveling along the Bee Trace, an early trail followed by hunters in search of wild honey.

The town was settled in 1852 and platted in 1859. In 1872, an area real estate man donated 10,000 maple trees in lieu of payment for back taxes, earning it the nickname “City of Maples”.

In the 1890’s, the city’s greatest early benefactor was Col. Frederick Bles, a Prussian immigrant who settled there in 1889 as headmaster of a military school for boys. Inheriting a coal and mining fortune from family in Germany, Bles blessed Macon with much of his wealth, constructing commercial buildings, a factory, and financing the paving of the city’s streets. He went on to build Bles Military Academy, whose main hall later became an osteopathic sanitorium, now restored and standing grandly on the city’s south side as Lakeview Towers, an apartment complex.

In 1898, the good Colonel donated \$5,000 toward the cost of building Macon a new sewer system. The 6-foot interlaced, brick combined sewer system still stands.

WORKING ON WASTEWATER

131 years later, Macon Municipal Utilities is once again focused on its wastewater system, and modern improvements and management planning that should serve it well into this century.

Macon’s system is undergoing a sizeable improvement, with the

current construction of a new headworks. The city is investing \$985,000 in engineering and \$3.8 million in the project’s construction. In February, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources awarded a \$500,000 Rural Sewer Grant to the City of Macon to assist with the improvements to the city’s trickling filter mechanical treatment plant.



“The current headworks, in place since the 1980’s, does not adequately screen solid materials that impair the treatment process,” said Stephanie Wilson, general manager of Macon Municipal Utilities. “The screens and grit removal in the new headworks building will remove plastics, rags, gravel, grit and other solid and floatable materials.” The removal of solids will make the entire treatment process more efficient, improving water quality.

The immediate mechanical upgrade to the wastewater plant is just the start of more important and comprehensive wastewater improvements to come. One of only a handful of Missouri cities with an older-style combined sewer and stormwater system, Macon is now in the beginning stages of developing an Integrated Management Plan (IMP).

Communities are increasingly using IMPs to meet more stringent federal or state water quality standards which are incorporated into the city’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The IMP allows a city to make upgrades more affordable over time.

“Macon received a grant through the MPUA Resource Services Corporation to assist in the development of our integrated plan to meet water quality standards,” said Wilson. “We’re in the beginning stages of aligning EPA regulations, expectations for our DNR operating permit, plus how to educate and receive priorities important from the public for future improvements.”

STORMY WEATHER FOR NATURAL GAS UTILITIES

Macon is one of the 27 MPUA member hometown utilities that operate a public natural gas utility. Wilson commented on the impacts of Winter Storm Uri in February 2021. “I’ve been at Macon Municipal Utilities for 14 years and until 2021 the natural gas utility has been one of the most straightforward utilities to administer,” she mused. What was expected to have been a \$300,000 bill for the utility’s

(Continued on next page)



Macon Municipal Utility lineworkers replace a broken utility pole (L to R: Austin Barnett, Luke Mosley, Sean Richards, and James Reed)

(Continued from previous page)

monthly wholesale gas supply ballooned into a cost of \$2.15 million. Macon was among many hometown utilities deeply affected by the spike in energy costs. “We realized our annual wholesale gas budget of \$1.8 million was depleted over a 4-day period,” Wilson said.

“Our board and staff did a good job of communicating what happened, and the decision was made not to bill the customer their actual costs for that one month,” said Wilson. “Rebuilding reserves used to pay the commodity bill will be spread over three years.”

While dealing with the financial challenge brought on by the storm, Wilson and MMU became key participants in MPUA’s effort to request state lawmakers to create a \$50 million loan relief fund. Gov. Mike Parson signed the state’s Municipal Utility Emergency Loan Program into existence May 13 as part of a \$2 billion supplemental state budget bill. The program will provide no-interest short term loans to municipal utilities still struggling with the impact of the storm.

“Municipal utilities dealing with the extreme energy costs will now be able to borrow no-interest money from the state over as much as five years,” Wilson said. “The fund will help many utilities manage cost recovery and avoid having to either immediately pass unaffordable costs on to their customer-owners, or else erase emergency reserves.”



Long Branch Lake, a 2,400 acre reservoir with an adjoining state park, is Macon’s drinking water source.

POWER TO THE POOL, AND TO THE PEOPLE

During the February storm, MMU continued round-the-clock operations and monitoring of three important natural gas fired MoPEP generation resources. They include the Macon Energy Center, a 9.5MW combined heat and power plant owned by Macon, the Laddonia CHP plant (12MW), and the Fredericktown Energy Center (24MW). These three turbines were called on to operate throughout the cold snap.

(Continued on page 17)

ABOUT MACON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

ELECTRIC: Macon’s electric utility established service in 1890. It now serves 3,221 meters. The utility owns and maintains four substations and 66.1 miles of electric line. Its distribution system includes 45.4 miles of overhead lines, 18.8 miles underground, and 1.9 Miles of 69 KV transmission line. The city has 714 streetlights. Macon is a charter member of the Missouri Public Energy Pool (MoPEP), purchasing all its wholesale power through the pool. The utility’s Macon Energy Center, past winner of an EPA Energy Star Award, consists of a 10 MW Gas Turbine and heat recovery steam cogenerator that provides electricity to MoPEP and steam for POET Ethanol’s heat process. Macon also hosts a 3.1 MW MoPEP solar farm. It holds a Platinum rating for its designation as an APPA Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3).

SEWER: The first sanitary and storm sewers in Macon were constructed in the late 1800s. A combined sewer system exists for a 10-block area of town. Additional sanitary sewers have been added over time. The city serves 2,566 connections. It maintains 56 miles of collection lines, 1,013 manholes and 14 lift stations. The existing wastewater treatment plant is a mechanical trickling filter type plant constructed in 1960. The WWTP processing average is currently 1.331 million gallons-per-day, with a capacity of 5.4 MGD. The receiving stream is Sewer Creek.

WATER: Macon’s municipal water system was established in 1890, and currently serves about 2,692 meters. The water plant built in 1966 has had many upgrades through the years. The system meets current drinking water regulation standards, delivering water through 68 miles of distribution mains. The source of the city’s water is Long Branch Lake. Storage includes four water towers. Water usage currently averages about 2.5 million gallons per day, with a supply capacity of 3.9 MGD.

GAS: The utility’s municipal natural gas system was established in 1956, and currently serves 2,354 customers. Macon owns and maintains approximately 59 miles of high-pressure steel mains, and 50 miles of distribution main, which includes 35 miles of polyethylene and 15 miles of steel. The city purchases natural gas from Kansas and Oklahoma gas fields, transported to the city by the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline. Macon also operates a gas line to Laddonia for the Laddonia CHP turbine.



Hometown utilities realize highly productive legislative year

With the fall of a gavel, the first of two sessions of the 101st General Assembly ended on May 14. Despite challenging conditions (COVID-19), a plethora of difficult utility issues, and so many new lawmakers to educate, MPUA had one of the most productive sessions in years.

Arguably the biggest achievement for MPUA and its members this session was the \$50M budget acquisition of emergency relief to address wholesale energy price spikes from the February polar vortex. With a budget already passed in the House, the inclusion of these funds in the final budget was no small feat. MPUA’s legislative team quickly educated the Governor, Division of Energy, and 196 lawmakers, which led to a Governor’s recommendation and votes of 145-2 (House) and 27-3 (Senate).



Missouri State Senator Mike Moon and the MPUA legislative team discuss the impacts of Winter Storm Uri.

Other session successes included a brokered peace among electric providers over contentious territorial matters heavily stacked against citizen-led utilities, the preservation of municipal broadband financial autonomy, and the defeat of anti-Grain Belt legislation. With more than 2,200 bills filed, 69 were approved. MPUA tracked 171 bills during the five-month span.

DETAILED SESSION HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Storm Loans (*passed, HB15/HB6 – MPUA advocated*): \$50M of emergency relief was added for hometown utilities impacted by Winter Storm Uri and its market after-effects. Established in the FY2021 supplemental bill, and extended into FY2022, MPUA requested funds to aid municipal utilities with wholesale natural gas and electric costs from the winter event. DNR’s Division of Energy will administer funds on a first-come, first-served basis at 0% interest with no financing costs. MPUA’s collection of 129 lawmaker signatures urging action was key in securing these monies. Expect loans to begin at the start of June. MPUA has been working closely with DNR on implementation.

Electric Territories (*passed, HB271/HB734/SB44 – compromise brokered*): After several bills, this year and last, supporting cooperative-perceived territorial concerns, hometown utilities and IOUs brokered a compromise. The result brings clarity to how utility service is established with customer input in the annexation process; lowers costs of acquired structures during annexation/territorial agreements; authorizes franchise fees of external providers for existing/future in-boundary service; and increases the population threshold for coops to 1,600 with a decennial

growth escalator. While hometown utilities gave some, we also gained. Interestingly, none of the parties are truly happy with the compromise, but all agree that the dispute seems to be resolved.

Broadband (*passed, HB 271 – voluntary broadband districts; failed, HB271/SB488 - federal funding guardrails*): A bill to encourage municipal broadband taxing districts allows for broadband development partnerships. Several process iterations made it increasingly difficult for hometown utilities to provide services, including provisions abdicating control of district tax authority to private providers. In the end, an omnibus bill passed that did not limit hometown utilities outside a formed district. Separately, another measure popped up which would have limited the expenditure of federal recovery and coronavirus monies for broadband expansion in a way that made it difficult for hometown utilities to benefit. MPUA vigorously opposed that measure in the final days to ensure its defeat.

Anti-Grain Belt (*failed, SB141/HB527/SB 508/HB835/HB601/HB1415 – MPUA opposed*): As previously seen for six years, legislation singling out the Grain Belt Express and stripping the project of eminent domain authority was filed to kill the project. The project benefits almost 40 hometown utilities in reduced wholesale transmission costs of almost \$13 million annually. The Farm Bureau, Cattlemen, and other ag-commodity groups pushed for eminent domain restrictions to “protect private property.” MPUA, and the developer, thwarted bill passage because of its unconstitutionality, the built-in landowner protections already

(Continued on page 9)

(ADVOCACY WATCH - continued from previous page)

required by the state, and because the project is no different than other transmission developments in the state.

Clean Water/Air Fees (*failed, SB40 – MPUA opposed*): A bill supported by Associate Industries of Missouri and other industrial interests advanced until the last few days of session. The bill targeted concerns over DNR’s hazardous waste enforcement, but clean water and air fees were included as leverage. MPUA strongly objected to the changes in stakeholder involvement for fee setting. In the final days, as MPUA successfully prepared lawmakers to remove the problematic changes by amendment, the House abandoned the bill.

Budget (*passed – (HB6) Multipurpose Water Resource funds, (HB7) Broadband grants*): In addition to inclusion of emergency storm relief funds mentioned previously, this year’s \$35 billion budget included two other MPUA-supported items – water commission funds of \$17M+ through the Multipurpose Water Resource Program and \$10M to DED for broadband support grants.

Wayfair (*passed, HB 153 – MPUA supported*): After years of debate, lawmakers passed a streamlined sales tax bill leveling the playing field for out-of-state online retailers and in-state small businesses, commonly known as a Wayfair tax. The omnibus bill also included the phaseout of video service provider fees and sales tax holiday local government opt-outs. Wayfair provisions take effect in 2023.

(Continued on page 26)



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Gas pipeline ransomware attack is wakeup call for public power



By Jared R. Price, Chief Technology Officer, American Municipal Power, Inc.

Front page headlines, consumer panic, political fallout, and a \$5 million ransom paid. The attack on the largest fuel pipeline in the U.S. is focusing attention on the vulnerability of our energy infrastructure like never before. With people lining up at gas stations when facing only a few days of a shortage, imagine the reaction to the local electric grid being down for who knows how long. It's beyond time for all municipalities and their utility departments to build out their cyber defenses.

The pace and scope of cyber attacks are expanding exponentially. Acting now will protect your utility and community from the grievous financial and reputational harm of a ransomware attack.

The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recognizes 16 critical infrastructure sectors “whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof.”

However, it's not just the classification of these critical infrastructure sectors but the picture of how they depend on each other (see Figure 1) that tells the real story. Should any of these sectors suffer a major event, it could, very realistically, cascade throughout the rest. For instance, natural gas generation facilities require pipelines to deliver fuel for operations, and all sectors including national defense require electricity to function.

On Friday, May 7, 2021, we witnessed the largest U.S. fuel pipeline shut down after a cybersecurity attack. While we don't yet know the full cascading effects of this event, we do know that the responsible attacker was the DarkSide group.

Looking back over the previous five years, ransomware was originally used primarily as an extortion tool for criminals to obtain a ransom in exchange for giving an individual or company

access back to their encrypted data (or not). However, whether intended or unintended, ransomware has morphed into a tool that can be used to cripple critical infrastructure operations. Whether those operations belong to a shipping company, a hospital, a manufacturing facility, a chemical company, a municipality police department/911 service or a public power electric utility... it doesn't matter. All of the aforementioned examples have been operationally affected by ransomware. Sungard Availability Services (Sungard AS), a provider of IT production and recovery services, collected data for two years of ransomware attacks on municipalities (2019 and 2020). The results are staggering. More than 175 ransomware attacks occurred during this time. It's no exaggeration to say that municipalities are a major target.

The above statistics make it tempting to throw up your hands and declare defeat. However, that's not the whole picture. Gartner, a leading global research and advisory firm, determined during an analysis of clients' ransomware preparedness that “over 90% of ransomware attacks are preventable. These attacks pose a threat to business data and productivity, but by following basic security fundamentals, security and risk management leaders can mitigate risk against them.”

REVIEW RANSOMWARE PREVENTION CHECKLIST

In September 2020, the Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) published a ransomware guide giving a

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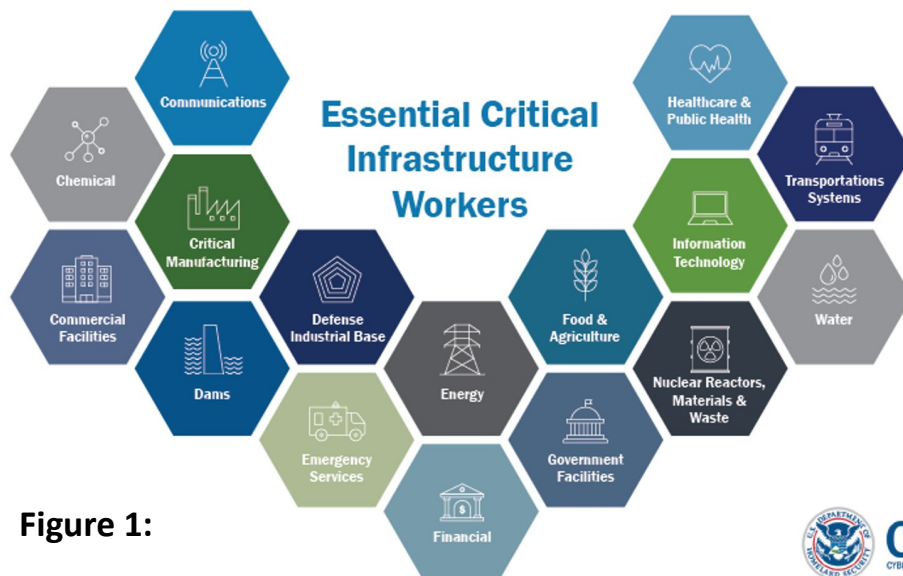


Figure 1:



(Continued from previous page)

list of best practices and a ransomware response checklist. I urge you to read this short (16-pages) guide as it provides a wealth of information in a practical manner. Some of the best practices identified within the guide include:

- Joining an information sharing organization such as MS-ISAC or E-ISAC to be aware of the latest threats.
- Maintain offline encrypted backups and regularly test them and maintain gold images of systems in the event they need to be rebuilt.
- Create and maintain a basic cyber incident response plan and test it regularly.
 - The American Public Power Association (APPA) has published a very good incident response playbook that provides guidance and a template for creating an incident response plan.
- Conduct regular vulnerability scanning and patch and update devices to the latest available software and operating system versions.
- Employ logical or physical network segmentation.
- Ensure devices are properly configured with security features enabled and any unneeded ports and protocols disabled.
- Disable or block Server Message Block (SMB) protocol outbound and remove or disable outdated versions of SMB.
- Ensure antivirus and anti-malware software and signatures are up to date and consider the use of an intrusion detection system to detect command and control activity.

- Implement a cybersecurity user awareness and training program and conduct organization wide.
- Perform phishing tests.
- Ensure your organization has a comprehensive asset management approach.

BRING IN ASSESSMENT TEAM

Many of the action items above are part of a comprehensive cybersecurity program, but often utilities don't know where to start or in which areas they are lacking. Hometown Connections has developed a cybersecurity assessment to provide this starting point. This assessment:

- Identifies and prioritizes vulnerabilities.
- Is based on industry standards and best practices such as the Cybersecurity Capability and Maturity Model (C2M2) and the Center For Internet Security (CIS) Controls.
- Can give leadership results they can use to gauge effectiveness and maturity of their cybersecurity program.
- Delivers detailed recommendations on how to:
 - Address deficiencies.
 - Prioritize action items.
 - Budget for security improvements.

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Biden unveils new target for U.S. economy-wide net GHG emissions reductions

By Paul Ciampoli, News Director,
American Public Power Association

President Joseph Biden in April announced a new target for the U.S. to achieve a 50 to 52 percent reduction from 2005 levels in economy-wide net greenhouse gas emissions in 2030.

The announcement was made during the Leaders Summit on Climate that was hosted by Biden and included 40 world leaders.


“America’s 2030 target picks up the pace of emissions reductions in the United States, compared to historical levels, while supporting President Biden’s existing goals to create a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy by no later than 2050,” a White House fact sheet related to the announcement said.

Earlier this year, Biden directed the U.S. to rejoin the Paris Agreement. As part of re-entering the Paris Agreement, he also launched a whole-of-government process, organized through his National Climate Task Force, to establish the new 2030 emissions target – known as the “nationally determined contribution (NDC), a formal submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The April 22 announcement was the product of this assessment.

The Biden administration has not provided a detailed plan on how the overall goal will be met. It seems clear that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will pursue it using the legal authority it has under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and other statutes, but emission reductions are also premised on funding contained in previously announced infrastructure plans.

At present, there are enforceable GHG standards for new fossil fuel-fired electric generating units (EGUs), but it is unclear how the administration will proceed following the vacatur of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

While the D.C. Circuit vacated both the ACE Rule and EPA’s repeal of the Clean Power Plan, upon request, the court issued a



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MPUA is planning on an in-person conference this fall and all CDC guidelines in place at the time will be followed.

FEATURED PRESENTATION TOPICS

- ▶ **Climate Change Regulations:** potential impacts on utility services (APPA President, Joy Ditto)
- ▶ **Lessons Learned from the February Energy Emergency** (FERC, NERC, SPP, and MISO presentations)
- ▶ **Adapting to the changing future through technology and communications**
- ▶ **Special concurrent tracks for water/wastewater and electric** to dive into details of projects and trends
- ▶ **Missouri Legislative Panel:** predictions for future legislation

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SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 6

- ▶ Golf or Trap Shooting
- ▶ RTO Committee Meeting
- ▶ Water Council Meeting
- ▶ Vendor Expo
- ▶ Opening Reception

Thursday, October 7

- ▶ JOC/Executive Committee & Member Services Meetings
- ▶ Conference Sessions & Vendor Expo
- ▶ Alliance Awards Luncheon
- ▶ Dinner & Casino Night

Friday, October 8

- ▶ Board of Directors & Power Pool Meetings

NETWORKING

Find new solutions through our fun networking opportunities.

Wednesday

Golf or trap shooting

Wednesday evening

Opening Reception

Thursday Awards Luncheon

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Thursday Evening

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(Macon Municipal Utilities, continued from page 7)

Macon's own city electric operations have accomplished some recent upgrades, with the 2020 completion of an automated metering infrastructure system that includes all the metering for electric, water and gas. "We deployed the system over a 3-year period in 2018, '19 and '20," Wilson detailed further. "The electric distribution department also finished the installation of all LED streetlights." The city also does a significant number of conversions from overhead to underground electric distribution lines every year, and it plans to continue building and shifting greater amounts of its system underground.

SETTING OFF FOR ANOTHER CENTURY

"MMU employees take pride in providing services for its community owned utility" said general manager Stephanie Wilson "Taking care of customers now and into the future is of the upmost importance."

If history is a good guide, after 130 years of community care, today's prudent investments in good technology and quality management will set citizen-owners of Macon Municipal Utilities on a path toward a future filled with the same qualities. Surely, Colonel Blees would have been pleased to see it. ◀




ABOVE: Sharon Scott, Director of the Macon Area Chamber of Commerce, presents MMU General Manager Stephanie Wilson with recognition for 130 years in business.

BELOW: Conceptual drawing of MMU wastewater plant's new headworks, now under construction.



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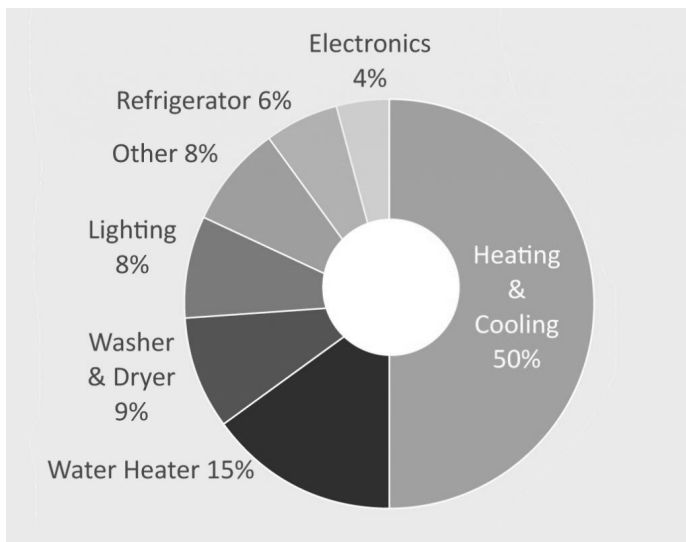



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Home Energy Efficiency Tips

Spring is the perfect time to encourage your residential customers on how to save energy and water before the summer hits. Many of the low-cost tips provided below are easy do-it-yourself-type projects. For customers looking for deeper discounts and can make some investments, see the second section. Contact Connie Ford at cford@mpua.org if you would like to have an electronic copy of this content. The Energy Star website (energystar.gov) also has some more resources.



The biggest part of a home's energy consumption is from heating and cooling so sealing up a home, adding insulation, and having a properly maintained HVAC system will lead to

FREE AND LOW-COST TIPS

AIR CONDITIONING

- FREE: Set thermostat settings as high as possible while maintaining reasonable comfort levels. Suggested setting is 78 degrees and higher when away. Install a programmable thermostat to do this automatically.
- FREE: For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep shades closed during the day.
- FREE: Remove weeds, grass, bushes, and other obstructions from around the condensing unit (the outdoor unit).
- Plant deciduous shade trees on the south and west side of your house to keep your house cool in the summer and let the sun shine in during the winter.
- Replace the system's filter every three months or when dirty. Have your heating and cooling system checked annually by a qualified HVAC contractor for maximum efficiency.

AIR SEALING

- TIP: On a windy day, use a lit stick of incense to check for air leaks. A horizontal flow of the smoke means you have air leaks. Dirt and spider webs can also indicate air losses.
- FREE: Close fireplace damper when not in use.
- Install foam gaskets behind light switches or outlets located on exterior walls.
- Seal holes in the exterior walls, crawl space, or basement where air conditioning and plumbing pipes penetrate.
- Install weatherstripping around the perimeter of attic access hatches and pull-down stairs.

DUCTWORK AND AIR DISTRIBUTION

- FREE: Don't block vents and radiators with furniture, curtains, or rugs.
- Seal leaky duct connections with duct sealing mastic. Do not use duct tape, as it will dry out and come loose.

WINDOWS/DOORS

- Replace missing window putty or glazing as needed.
- Caulk window and door frames on the exterior.
- Replace weatherstripping on exterior doors. Check door bottoms and thresholds to make sure air is not escaping. Replace when necessary.

LIGHTING AND APPLIANCES

- FREE: Reduce the temperature setting on your water heater to 120 degrees or less.
- FREE: Drain a quart of water from the water heater every 3 months to remove sediment.
- Install an insulation blanket around your water heater.
- FREE: The recommended temperature for your refrigerator is 37 to 40 degrees and 5 degrees for the freezer.
- FREE: Clean underneath and behind your refrigerator regularly to improve air flow and the coils are operating efficiently.
- Wash clothes in cool or cold water whenever possible.
- FREE: Inspect and clean your dryer vent tube on your dryer periodically. A buildup of lint can lead to longer drying times and can be a fire hazard.
- FREE: Scrape your dishes rather than rinsing them before putting them in the dishwasher.
- FREE: Run washer, dryer, and dishwasher only when you have full loads.
- Install timers or motion switches on exterior lighting fixtures.
- Replace frequently used incandescent lamps with LED lights.
- Since some appliances use electricity all the time, plug them into a power-saving electric strip or turn a regular strip off when the appliances are not in use.

(Continued on next page)

EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS

INSULATION

Minimum recommendations:

- Attic Insulation: R-50 (16 to 17 inches)
- Floor: R-19 above unheated areas (6 inches)
- Crawl Space Wall Insulation: R-10 with a vapor barrier
- Duct Insulation: R-13 in unheated areas
- Rim Joist Insulation: R-13 (4 inches)

WINDOWS

- Install storm windows to provide additional insulation and to reduce air leakage.
- Replace your old, leaky windows with new, energy-efficient double pane windows.

DUCTWORK AND AIR DISTRIBUTION

- Insulate all uninsulated ductwork in unconditioned spaces (attics and crawl spaces).

AIR CONDITIONING

- Replace your air conditioning unit with a new unit with a SEER rating of 14 or higher.

HEATING

- Replace your furnace with a new unit with an AFUE rating of 95 percent or higher. ◀

“Management Minute” features short collections of tips and advice on municipal utility management topics, from MPUA member advisor Paul Jensen., who once served as General Manager of Marshall Municipal Utilities and Macon Municipal Utilities.

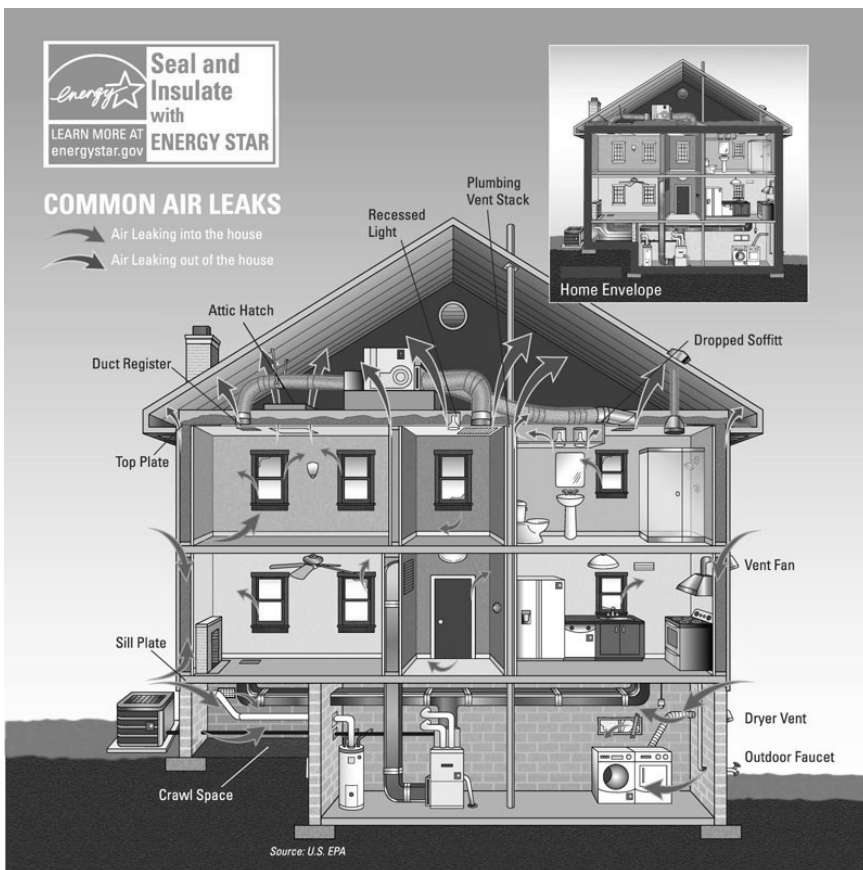
PERSONNEL

Don't settle for less than you need

The task of filling a job vacancy can be difficult; especially when all of the applicants fall short of what you need. When faced with this situation, it is very tempting to settle for the best applicant, even though he or she doesn't quite make the grade. Think long and hard before taking this action. Living with that action and undoing it later is often much more difficult than continuing to search for the right person.

Know your spreadsheet

Many managers and staff, when they have taken on new responsibilities, have been provided existing computer spreadsheets that must be updated daily, monthly, or annually. Certain data is entered and the spreadsheet computes lots of numbers. The person entering the data should know the purpose of the spreadsheet. They should know what all the numbers mean. There should be a thorough understanding so that when an error occurs the person entering the data will be able to realize there is something wrong. ◀

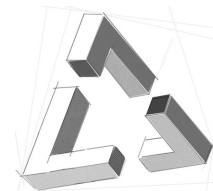


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see more on **p14-15**





Market operations FAQ from the 2021 winter event

In the wake of Winter Storm Uri, utilities were left with many questions about the behavior of natural gas prices, why they impacted wholesale electric costs, and whether a similar event could ever reoccur.

WHY DID HIGH NATURAL GAS PRICES IMPACT MY UTILITY'S WHOLESALE ELECTRIC BILL?

During the 2021 winter event, we saw natural gas prices as high as \$1,000/MMBTU when they are normally around \$3/MMBTU. Since natural gas generation makes up a large portion of the electric supply curve, a pronounced rise in costs will make the supply curve much steeper. To the right is a snapshot of the Southwest Power Pool's supply curve for the peak hour on a normal winter day (March 4, 2021) vs. a day during the winter event (Feb. 16, 2021). The higher gas prices on 2/16 elevated the "bid price" of generators fueled by natural gas. The supply curve was also weakened by unplanned generation outages. The combination of the transformation in the supply curve along with higher demand levels lead to a market price for electricity that was over 100 times normal levels.

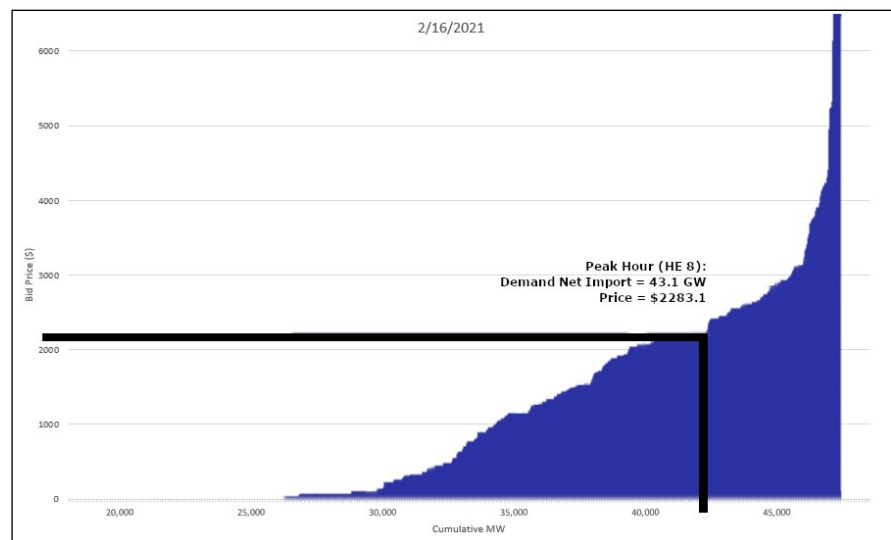
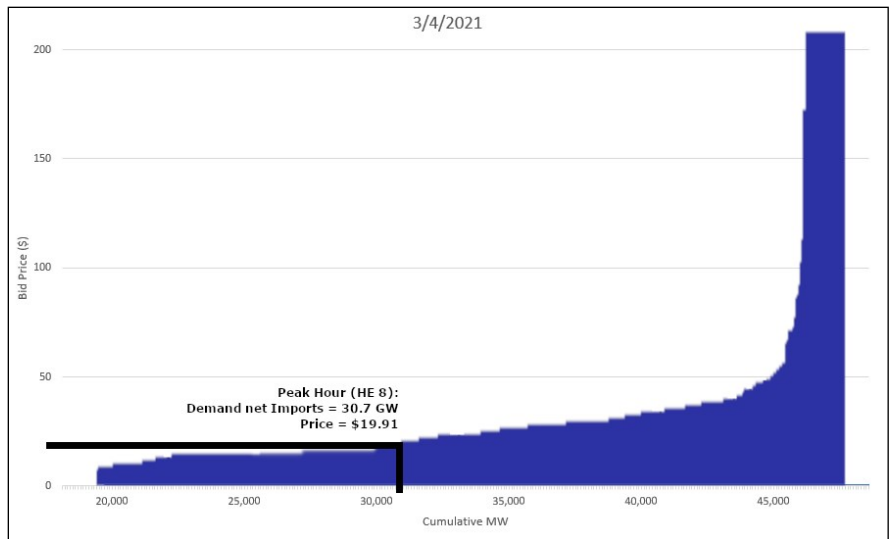
If your utility has natural gas generation in its portfolio, the high gas prices could have driven up your cost to generate. The total impact depends on which pipeline you were served by, when you nominated gas, and how much you generated. If your utility was a net seller, your net revenue from generation probably outweighed the increased cost of your utility's load, but if you were a net buyer from the market, you would have seen elevated costs.

COULD THIS TYPE OF MARKET EVENT HAPPEN AGAIN?

The short answer is "yes," but there were several contributing factors that made this event unusual. The fact that it was cold is not unusual for February, but the widespread nature of the winter storm was especially impactful on natural gas supply/distribution in the Texas/Oklahoma region and electric generation in the south that was not weatherized for operating in those temperatures. We would not expect summer to be as big of a risk because the same supply/

demand constraints don't impact natural gas when it's warm and there's no heating load. In the summer; we also don't have issues like frozen coal or icing on wind turbines or snow covered solar panels. Across the industry, stakeholders are considering lessons learned from this event to decrease the probability of recurrence.

(Continued on next page)



Graphed snapshots of the SPP's supply curves for the peak hour on a normal winter day (top graph, 3/4/2021) vs. a day during the winter event (bottom, 2/16/2021). Higher gas prices on 2/16 elevated the "bid price" of generators fueled by natural gas.

(Continued from previous page)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE WINTER EVENT?

There are several takeaways from this event, many will be in discussions at the RTOs and their regulatory bodies for the next several years.

- The increased dependency on natural gas in electric markets, has heightened the importance of gas-electric coordination. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) made incremental improvements in a 2015 order, but more could be done to better align the two markets.
- Weatherization of generation assets for cold weather events is another takeaway that we have already seen several of MJMEUC's generators discussing. We expect tightening resource adequacy requirements at the RTO level to incorporate actual performance during extreme weather events.
- There may be a price at which some customers would rather decrease load than stay on the system. We need a better system for identifying the elasticity of demand for our customers, communicating to those customers when prices are high, and a rate structure that rewards them for decreasing load at the highest priced hours.
- A portfolio of diverse assets, both locationally and by fuel source is important in hedging against market-wide events.
- We also learned the strength of our team and resiliency of our membership during this unprecedented event. ◀

(Washington Report, - continued from page 12)

partial mandate to stay the vacatur of the Clean Power Plan until EPA can engage in a new rulemaking.

Also unclear is what part of the 50-52 percent reduction can be achieved through existing statutes and regulation and what part is contingent upon new legislative authority and/or funding. ◀

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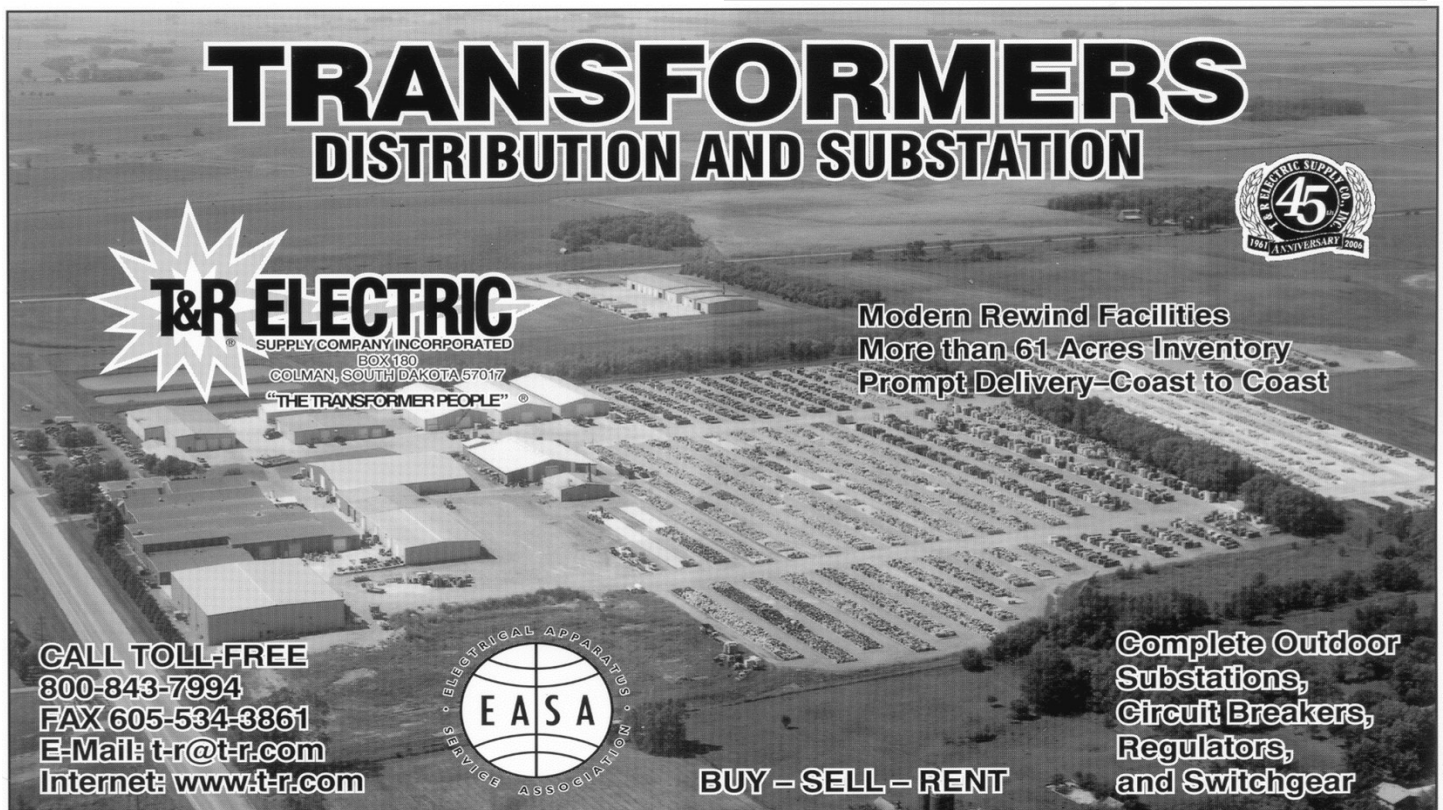
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Hometown utilities receive renewed RP3 designations, honors for reliability and safety

Six MPUA member electric utilities earned a 2021 Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service. As announced by the Association on March 24, the utilities were among 108 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities that earned a 2021 RP3 designation from APPA.

The MPUA cities earning RP3 designations this year from APPA were:

- **Columbia Water & Light (Platinum level, 2021)**
- **Hannibal Board of Public Works (Diamond level, 2021)**
- **City of Harrisonville Electric Dept. (Platinum level, 2021)**
- **City of Kirkwood, Kirkwood Electric (Gold level, 2021)**
- **Macon Municipal Utilities (Platinum level, 2021)**
- **City of Monett (Gold level, 2021)**

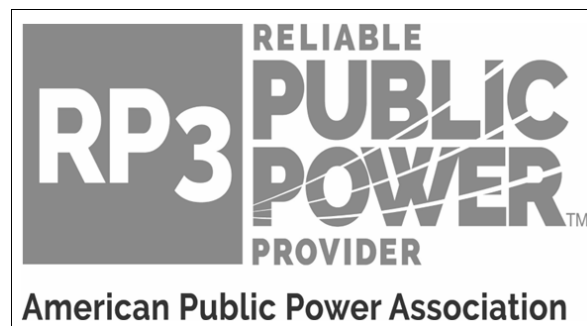
These 2021 designations were new consecutive recognitions for all six utilities, after past RP3 designations for each utility that ran from 2017-2020. The RP3 designation lasts for three years, recognizing public power utilities that have demonstrated their proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. Earning APPA's RP3 badge-of-honor involves a rigorous process proving a utility's sound management practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

"I think over the last year or so, we've seen the vital importance of running a reliable and safe utility," said Aaron Haderle, chair of APPA's RP3 Review Panel and manager of transmission and distribution operations at Kissimmee Utility Authority, in Florida. "The utilities receiving the RP3 designation have proven that they are committed to running a top-notch public power utility by implementing industry best practices,"

This is the sixteenth year that RP3 recognition has been offered. In total, 270 public power utilities nationwide now have RP3 designations.

Eight other MPUA member electric utilities also hold current RP3 designations that were awarded in the past two years. Those utilities include:

- **Carthage Water & Electric Plant (Diamond level, 2020)**
- **Conway Corporation (AR) (Diamond level, 2020)**
- **City of Fulton (Diamond level, 2020)**
- **Independence Power & Light (Diamond level, 2020)**
- **Marshall Municipal Utilities (Diamond level, 2020)**
- **Nixa Municipal Utilities (Platinum level, 2020)**
- **City Utilities of Springfield (Diamond level, 2020)**
- **Rolla Municipal Utilities (Platinum level, 2019)**



FOUR MPUA HOMETOWN ELECTRIC UTILITIES EARN APPA SAFETY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

APPA also announced on March 24 that electric utilities at **Hannibal, Higginsville, Kirkwood, and Monett** were among 129 public power systems nationwide that earned the association's Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2020.

APPA said that 229 utilities entered the annual safety awards this year. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2020. Utilities' incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2020, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"Utilities that receive an APPA Safety Award have demonstrated that they have made health and safety of their employees a core value," said Brandon Wylie, Chair of APPA's Safety Committee and Director of Training & Safety at Electric Cities of Georgia. "Designing and maintaining a top-notch utility safety program takes a lot of hard work and commitment. These utilities and their communities should be very proud." The safety awards have been held annually for more than 65 years. ◀

E-RELIABILITY TRACKER: CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE FOR RELIABLE PERFORMANCE

On March 31 the APPA recognized 15 MPUA member hometown utilities with a "Certificate of Excellence" for reliable performance, as shown by comparing their outage records against nationwide data gathered by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Utilities honored included 12 in Missouri and three in Arkansas. The Missouri cities were **Chillicothe, Columbia, Farmington, Fulton, Harrisonville, Higginsville, Kirkwood, Lebanon, Macon, Marshall, Monett, and Shelbina**. The Arkansas cities were **Clarksville, Siloam Springs, and West Memphis**. The utilities were among 185 utilities nationwide that earned the recognition. The utilities tracked and reported outage information using APPA's eReliability Tracker, a web-based subscription service, with the data benchmarked against national statistics from the EIA. The tool is now used by 26 MPUA members to track their outage data. ◀

Cimarron Bend brings more Kansas wind energy to MoPEP energy portfolio



On June 1, power from the Cimarron Bend Wind Farm in southwest Kansas will begin flowing to 35 hometown utilities in the Missouri Public Energy Pool (MoPEP). The 30 megawatts (MW) of wind generation from Cimarron Bend joins energy from a wide range of other sources in MoPEP’s energy portfolio.

An RFP was issued in Spring 2019 for additional power supply for MoPEP, and the wind-generated resource from Cimarron Bend delivered the most cost-effective bid. A contract was executed in December 2019 for a period of 12-years, with a 5-year extension option.

The power coming from Cimarron Bend further diversifies a wide-ranging MoPEP power portfolio. In addition to Midwest power plants fired by coal and natural gas, and city-owned natural gas and oil-fired units, other energy brought to the pool comes from: other wind farms in Rock Port MO and Marshall County, KS; hydropower sourced from Midwest Corp of Engineers’ lakes; landfill-gas facilities at Lamar and Hartville; EPA award-winning combined heat and power facilities at Laddonia and Macon; and utility-scale solar energy farms operating in 11 MPOA member

communities.

The Cimarron Bend facility is about 20 miles south of Dodge City in Clark County, Kansas. Cimarron Bend’s operator is Enel Green Power, the largest wind operator in Kansas by managed capacity. The facility can generate a capacity of up to 599 MW, making it one of the largest wind farms in Kansas, and Enel’s largest in North America. Enel Green Power recently completed a major 2020 expansion of Cimarron Bend, adding 74 wind turbines and 200 MW of capacity to the facility. The full facility now features 274 turbines arrayed across more than 100 square miles of Kansas prairie near the town of Minneola. Power produced at Cimarron Bend is also purchased by Evergy, Google, and the Kansas City (KS) Board of Public Utilities. ◀



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Summing up the natural gas pricing crisis

In February, the gas price as reflected in Platt's Gas Daily hit unprecedented numbers. Some locations in Missouri reached pricing of \$999/MMBtu. These market conditions were never considered a possibility, and as such, had not been modeled or planned for by any prudently run utility, whether a hometown utility, cooperative, or investor-owned utility. This resulted in many of our members incurring excessively high bills related to incremental purchases above their standard usage. As we continue to analyze this situation, including the regulatory and legal fall-out, we'll keep you all informed. The following is a brief recap of what happened, and the current regulatory scheme regarding the production and sale of natural gas.

WINTER STORM URI MARKET EVENT

In February, prices soared over the President's Day four-day weekend, when Winter Storm Uri brought extreme cold weather to Missouri. Gas prices that normally ranged from \$2-3/MMBtu rose to incredible prices within a few days, with prices approaching \$1,000/MMBtu. No prudently run utility had planned for prices of that caliber, and it has caused significant stress to not only our members, but all utilities across the

Midwest. The previous historical high point for natural gas was in October 2005, when prices reached \$13.42/MMBtu.

NATURAL GAS MARKET REGULATION

Natural gas markets are regulated through the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA). The NGPA was passed in 1978 in response to the OPEC embargo regarding the United States' support of Israel. When the NGPA was signed into law, it originally included natural gas wellhead price regulation. Wellhead price regulation was repealed in 1989 with overwhelming bi-partisan support. Since 1989, pricing from the wellhead has not been an issue, as prices have reflected production costs with a reasonable (and often slim) profit margin. However, even after repealing the wellhead price regulation, the NGPA still contains emergency pricing provisions that give the President the ability to declare an emergency and set wellhead prices for up to one-hundred twenty (120) days. This would be accomplished by the President creating a contract between the gas utility and the natural gas producer (the well head producer) at a price 'not to exceed x.' This contract would replace the existing contract between the parties, and the pipeline

(Continued on next page)

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transportation charge would still be regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). However, despite multiple requests, the emergency clause of the NGPA was not used by the President.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS, IMPACTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

At this time, we have no evidence that would indicate that the increased prices experienced by members was related to increased production costs during Winter Storm Uri. Instead, it appears to be, on the surface, related to market conditions. However, should evidence be discovered in the future of price manipulation, there will likely be extensive litigation against those illegally engaged in price manipulation. FERC, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, and the Missouri Public Service Commission have all initiated investigations into the exorbitant gas prices, and they may produce reports which are helpful in future legal actions.

The impact of the higher natural gas was not limited to gas utilities. The high price of natural gas also artificially increased energy prices, particularly in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), where energy supplies and generation were stressed due to the extreme cold.

Additionally, legal actions have started between the natural gas producers and the various purchasers of natural gas in the

wholesale market. We would also note that multiple equity owners of natural gas production facilities have posted record shattering profits from Winter Storm Uri. As is often the case, we expect the litigation to follow the dollars. ◀

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(ADVOCACY WATCH - continued from page 9)

Several other measures impacting hometown utilities, or utility matters in general, were debated, including:

BPW Appointments (passed, HB 271 – 91.450) – expands BPW appointments to “any resident of the county that receives services from such board” in third- and fourth-class cities.

Closed Customer Data/Sunshine Law changes (passed, HB 362 – 610.021(19, 25 & 26)) – closes “customer usage and billing records,” public alert systems contacts, and building security plans submitted by nonpublic software or surveillance entities.

COVID Liability (passed, SB 51) – provides liability protections from COVID-19 exposure, medical liability, product liability, and limits punitive damages.

Economic Development (passed several) – a number of economic development incentives passed, including the Advanced Industrial Manufacturing Zones Act (SB5), changes to community improvement districts (SB153), and changes to TIFs (SB153).

Energy Source Prohibitions (passed, HB767/SB44 – 67.309) – prohibits a political subdivision from adopting policies prohibiting utility service connections based on energy type.

Linear foot fees (passed, HB 271 – 67.1847) – prohibits ROW linear foot fees on telecommunication companies, but a gross revenue fee of 5% may be charged instead.

North Central Regional Water (passed, SCR7) – a resolution supporting long-term commitments from the DNR Multipurpose Water Resource Fund for a NCRWC project.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (passed, HB697) – changes current PACE law to include consumer protections which identify potential risks of these loans.

Securitization (passed, HB734) – provides IOUs a financial tool to reduce utility debt with off-book, low interest bonds secured by ratepayers to retire stranded generation assets because of climate change.

Stop Socialism (failed, SB453) – this bill prohibited government entities from providing not-for-profit services if a private for-profit service was being provided within the jurisdiction.

Transportation (passed, SB262) – increases state gas tax for roads and bridges by 2.5 cents annually until tax hits 29.5 cents per gallon in July 2025, bringing state gas tax to near national average.

Water/Sewer Infrastructure (passed, SB44) – authorizes water IOUs to implement water and sewer rate customer adjustments outside a PSC rate case for the recovery of infrastructure improvements. ◀

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