Happy Holidays From MPUA

In this issue:
• Building to Serve the Future, page 4
• Spotlight: Marshall Municipal Utilities, page 6
• Advocacy 'busy time' begins, page 18
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President’s Desk: Building to Serve the Future, p4

Member Services: Utility shut offs during extreme weather: Do you have an ordinance in place? p8

News: Independence, Columbia & Kirkwood earn SEP designations, p9

Water & Wastewater: PFAS: What are they, why do we care, & what can we do? p10

Washington Report: APPA’s Patterson emphasizes importance of coalitions, p12

Advocacy: ‘Busy time’ of advocating to begin p18

Regulatory Review: FERC investigates SPP exemptions on transmission upgrades, p19

Hydropower Watch: SPRA customer funding ensures hydropower reliability, savings p20

Hometown Connections: Building utility futures through strategic electrification, p23

Advocacy ‘busy season’ to begin, p18

Strategic electrification builds utility futures: p23

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Marshall Municipal Utilities, p6

MPUA Board of Directors Meetings

December 5 beginning at 9:00 am
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East
3100 I-70 Dr. SE, Columbia MO 65201

Dec. 4th meetings
MPUA Office
- 10am: Member Services Committee - OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
- 1pm: JOC & Executive Committees

Dec. 5th meetings
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East
MAMU, MJMEUC, Alliance, MoPEP, MMMPEP, SWMPEP, RTO, MPWC
- SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Strategic Electrification by Sagewell

MPUA CALENDAR

Nov. 20 | 10:30 am
Northwest Regional Utility Roundtable
Albany, MO

Nov. 28-29
MPUA office closed (Thanksgiving)

Dec. 4 | 10:00 am
Member Services committee
MPUA Office

Dec. 4 | 1:00 pm
Joint Operating & Executive Committees meeting
MPUA Office

Dec. 5 | 9:00 am
MPUA Board of Directors meeting
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East

Dec. 10 | 10:00 am
Legislative Committee conference call

Dec. 17 & 18 | 8:00 am
Infrastructure Disaster Mgt classes
Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East

Dec. 24-25
MPUA office closed (Christmas)
Building to Serve the Future

Our board meetings in December sometimes are not the best attended, but every member should want to be present on the 5th as discussions begin setting the course for the coming new decade and beyond. 2020 will be a pivotal year for MPUA. A few indicators:

- Our three power pools are entering new stages of service: operational launch by SWMPEP, joint services being developed by MMMPEP, and rate structure initiatives to boost MoPEP members’ efficient electrification. (All MPUA electric members will also want to stay for the presentation on growing load, which can apply to any electric system.)
- MAMU and the Water Council are expanding services, including greater support for regional collaboration.
- Demand for fee-based MPUA training and local system services is booming and building momentum. Natural gas and Lineman training (without reliance on Kansas City’s NUITF site) have entered a new era, and our second instrument technician position will be filled next year. There are pressing needs for IT and cyber services and training. We will also be talking with the board about other management and service needs cropping up, not just among our smaller members.
- Not last, and I hope not least, next year gives you the chance to replace Eve Lissik and me as we fade into retirement.
- And finally, December’s meeting will set the course for developing the newly purchased MPUA site for consolidated office, meeting, service and training space on Columbia’s east side.

Working since early 2017 on the overall project, the Joint Operating Committee’s Facilities Subcommittee is now completing recommendations on construction for the combined purposes. The board’s December approval of this of stage of planning will allow final plans to be presented in June for authorization to take bids in early summer. (None too soon in my mind—even acting as directly as possible, construction won’t come soon enough to avoid subdividing my own current office for existing staffing plans.)

A separate Training Center building on the site is designed for electric Lineworker programs and will equally suit the needs for other hands-on technical training. In the office building itself, a multi-purpose meeting area will accommodate large classroom-style training, MoPEP or other large committee meetings, staff meetings (ability to get full staff in one room will be a change), or even full board meetings. We hope that office and work areas are adequate to avoid our history of repeated searching for larger space every ten years or so. Allowing for reasonable growth expectations also provides areas that could be available for rental to compatible associate members, consultants, etc. for whom there would be mutual benefits in co-location, but decisions about that usage can wait for a while.

One of the most important features of the office facility will be the especially secure section for Energy Scheduling and Operations. This is designed to recognize foreseeably applicable NERC Reliability Standards and considerations and assure stable operations during prolonged severe weather or other external threat conditions. These security factors and certain redundant data communications arrangements are essential to fulfill our obligations and service commitments in today’s world.

Strong financial planning for the construction project has avoided any need for impact on members’ dues or electric or gas costs. A resolution passed by the MJMEUC board earlier this year calls for funding through a combination of cash on hand during construction and financing up to an amount that can be funded by no greater than 25% of unobligated interest earnings. At our annual meeting in Branson this fall, MPUA members adopted an additional resolution committing to offset part of that financing cost by continuing the practice of MAMU, MGCM and Resource Services Corporation payments to MJMEUC for their shares of operating and overhead costs. This provides a particularly positive outlook as an increasing portion of MPUA staffing supports fee-based services that cover their overhead costs.

Today’s MPUA leaders—the officers and committee members giving attention to this project and so many other important MPUA functions—are carrying forward a great legacy. More than twenty years ago, leaders from Missouri’s municipal utility organizations began to envision an alliance that would magnify the strength of their communities and utilities. Those founders developed the vision of the Missouri Public Utility Alliance and equipped it to become a true force in serving their communities. Their vision of collective strength and shared service continues attracting additional participation every year. The physical building now being planned is just a tool for building the shared service and strength required for each community to prosper individually in decades ahead. Fortunately, your work of recent years has already built the institutional infrastructure that can make it a platform worthy of the efforts of our forebears and equal to the needs of our posterity.

See you in December. ►
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
Members Services Committee meetings are held the day before each Board of Directors meeting. The Member Service Committee is open to all members, meeting at 10 a.m. at the MPUA office (for board meetings held in Columbia).

2019 & 2020 Dates
- Dec. 5, 2019: Final 2019 meeting: Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East
- March 5, 2020: Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East
- June 4, 2020: Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East
- Oct. 2, 2020: St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles (at Annual Conference)
- Dec. 10, 2020: Drury Plaza Hotel Columbia East

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Meetings are at 10am at MPUA office in Columbia
- Meetings: Dec. 4 / March 4 / June 3 / Dec. 9

MISSOURI PUBLIC GAS COMMISSION
Meetings are at MPUA office in Columbia
- Meetings: Jan. 15 / Apr. 15 / July 15 / Oct. 21

2020 MPUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- Sept. 30 to Oct. 2: St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Open to all members, the Committee meets monthly during the state legislative session to advise staff and stay up-to-date on utility issues in the State Capitol. Each meeting is available as a conference call. For those who can attend in Jefferson City, they are held at either the Governor Office Building (GOB) or Truman Building, at room numbers indicated below.

2019 & 2020 Dates
- Dec. 10, 2019 (Conference call only)
- Jan. 14, 10 a.m., Governor Office Building 315
- Feb. 11, 10 a.m., Truman Building 490
- Mar. 10, 10 a.m., Truman Building 750
- Apr. 14, 10 a.m., Governor Office Building 315
- May 12, 10 a.m., Governor Office Building 315
- Dec. 8, 10 a.m., (Conference call only)

OTHER MPUA EVENTS
- Dec. 17-18: Infrastructure Disaster Mgmt classes (electric & water/wastewater), Columbia
- Jan. 8: Southwest Regional Utility Roundtable, Lamar
- Jan. 24: South Central Regional Utility Roundtable, Cabool

NATIONAL PROMOTIONAL WEEKS
- May 3-9: Safe Drinking Water Week
- May 17-23: National Public Works Week
- Oct. 4-10: Public Power Week
- Oct. 4-10: Public Natural Gas Week

Bridging the gap between idea + achievement
Marshall, Missouri – founded in 1839, named for the fourth Chief Justice of the United States, seat of Saline County, and vital to its area as a regional heart of agri-business and other commerce. Storied as the home of Missouri Valley College, and the birthplace of Nicholas-Beazley, pioneering makers of early models of aircraft. And to fans of oddball history, the final resting place of Jim the Wonder Dog, a marvelous depression-era pooch who could supposedly predict the future.

But to those in-the-know about municipal utilities throughout Missouri and surrounding states, this north-central Missouri town has long been known as a place where community spirit, good leadership, and plain old hard work has made Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU) a municipal system that is a model for how a smaller city can ‘do utilities’ well.

“It starts with people,” said Jeff Bergstrom, MMU General Manager since 2018. “This utility is really about the employees and the people. You can have the nicest water treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant, great facilities and equipment, and all that stuff. But if you don’t have good people, that stuff means nothing.” Before becoming general manager last year, Bergstrom worked 30 years for MMU, first as an electric lineworker and assistant director of the electric system, then since 2005 as its director of electric transmission/distribution.

The community of about 13,000 are served by 92 employees at MMU, who provide their neighbors with electricity, water, wastewater treatment, broadband internet service, and recycling services.

**FIXING THE FLOWS**

One of MMU’s critical recent achievements was the 2018 completion of an upgrade to the city’s water treatment facility. The project was in the works almost five years and took about two years to complete. “We were having difficulty meeting regulated levels for disinfection by-products,” Bergstrom explained. “We had to change our water treatment infrastructure and our disinfection process to reduce formation of disinfection byproducts known as trihalomethanes, or THMs.”

“To switch from free chlorine disinfection to a process using chloramines wasn’t cheap,” he said. “It required our making an investment of more than $7 million.” Complicating and setting back the project, in June 2017 floods dislodged and floated a new half-million-gallon ground storage clearwell, requiring it to be demolished and rebuilt. The City also replaced high service pumps, upgraded the SCADA system, and constructed a new administration building to house the plant’s laboratory, office and a conference/training room. “The project met needs for a far wider area than the city,” Bergstrom says. “We’re the major water producer for this area, and the success of the upgrade was also very important to our wholesale customers, rural water districts that supply water to five different counties. We were all having difficulty meeting regulated levels for the disinfection by-products. The good news is that testing now shows we are well within the regulations.”

Downstream, on the wastewater side of MMU’s service, reduction of inflow and infiltration (I&I) is an ongoing project. For the last ten years, MMU has reconditioned about 10,000 feet of sewer main every year using the cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) method. “We upgrade some portions of our system each year with ‘open cut’ projects as well”, said Bergstrom. “On the treatment side, we’re at the very beginning stages of looking at the possibility of upgrades on our aeration basins. The blowers, diffusers, all of our aeration equipment is original 1993 equipment, so we’re working to get an engineer on board and to study our needs there.”

(Continued on next page)
POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Also completed in early 2019, Marshall completed a major project to replace electric meters throughout the city as an upgrade to its previously-existing advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system. In early 2017 the utility began a pilot project, installing and evaluating 270 meters.

“After we had a satisfactory pilot run, the board decided to replace all our meters with a new system,” said MMU’s Bergstrom. “We spent early 2018 working on the full system design, ordering equipment and training. In the summer and into January 2019 we replaced about 6,000 electric meters. Our deployment was done completely ‘in-house’ using MMU’s meter technicians, billing and IT staff.”

After a year of operation, the biggest benefits of the new AMI system are the way it has improved customer service. “We now have the ability to do remote connects and disconnects, read customer voltage, e-mail usage reports to customers, and do real time outage/restoration monitoring and on-demand readings,” Bergstrom detailed. “With our old system, we weren’t able to do nearly as much for the customer.”

MMU’s electric system maintains a long-running distinction of being among the most reliable and safe public power utilities in the nation. In 2006, MMU was in the inaugural class of more than 60 utilities given a then-new Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA). The RP3 designation recognizes public power utilities that have demonstrated their proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. Currently, only 274 of the nation’s more than 2,000 public power utilities hold APPA’s RP3 designation, including 16 MPUA.

ABOUT MARSHALL MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

ELECTRIC: Marshall Municipal Utilities electric distribution system includes approximately 25 circuit miles of transmission line, 86 miles of overhead distribution line and three miles of underground distribution line. It has seven substations, and serves more than 6,100 meters. The electric utility established service in 1914. MMU has generation facilities that include six generating units, with a total of more than 30 megawatts of generating capacity.

SEWER: The first sewers in Marshall were constructed in the late 1880s. Marshall Municipal Utilities serves 4,830 connections, and maintains a collection system with about 100 miles of sewer mains, 1,523 manholes and five lift stations. The current Wastewater Treatment Plant is an extended aeration Schreiber system constructed in 1972 with an average design capacity of 7.1 million gallons-per-day. The WWTP processing average is currently 2.1 million GPD. The receiving stream is Salt Fork Creek.

WATER: Marshall’s water source comes from 10 unconsolidated alluvial wells. Its current water treatment plant was built in 1946, and received upgrades in 1963, 1977, 2008, and 2018. Its 2018 upgrade included the addition of a 500,000-gallon clearwell, a new high service building and pumps, and a switch from free chlorine disinfection to chloramines. The system meets current water regulation standards, delivering water through about 100 miles of water mains to 5,832 meters. Water usage currently averages about 2.65 million gallons per day, with a plant capacity of about 7 MGD.

BROADBAND: MMU provides broadband internet service by fiber optic cable to about 2900 active customers over 83 route miles of distribution fiber. It began its internet service in 2002.

RECYCLING: MMU has operated a recycling drop-off service for the city since 1996. The facility accepts glass, mixed paper, cardboard, steel & aluminum cans, some #1 & #2 plastic containers, and some small electronic waste.
Although municipal utilities are not required by the State of Missouri to follow the hot and cold weather rules related to disconnecting electric or gas service for non-payment, it is in the best interest of a utility to adopt ordinances that address the issue. Think of it from your customers’ standpoint. If a customer searches online about whether a utility provider can turn off service during extreme weather, it isn’t prominent that a municipal utility must follow these laws. In order to align yourself with customer expectations and not set the stage for future state regulations to include community-owned utilities, clearly state your policies in your city ordinances.

Many member cities have ordinances in place so if your utility needs sample text, contact MPUA. To review the State guidelines for investor-owned utilities, consult the Missouri Public Service Commission’s website.

COLD WEATHER RULE
Utilities regulated by the Public Service Commission can’t turn off gas or electric service used for heating. Some of the basic terms:

- From November 1 to March 31 service when the National Weather Service forecasts the temperature to be below freezing during the following 24-hour period. Customers with arrearages to be reconnected.
- Allows customer to make payments for arrearages over a 12-month period.
- Elderly, low-income, or disabled customers who make a minimum payment can’t be disconnected.

HOT WEATHER RULE
Utilities regulated by the Public Service Commission can’t turn off electric service used for cooling equipment.

- From June 1 to September 30 electric service can’t be shut off if the temperature is forecasted to be above 95 degrees or if the heat index is above 105 between 6 am and 9 pm and/or utility service can’t be reconnected if the same weather conditions exist. (natural gas cooling in residential exist?)

In 2008, the hot weather rule was changed during the legislative session and it was moved to a different section of the state statutes. When this occurred, the definition of which utilities needed to comply with the law included municipal utilities. The hot weather rules were switched back to the original section of the law so municipal utilities are not required by law to follow it any longer. It is still in the best interest of the utility to adopt an ordinance with the parameters for shut offs for non-payment are handled during extreme weather.

Utility Assistance Resources
Consult local resources that will help low-income, elderly, or disabled customers pay their utility bills and make a list of resources readily available to your customers. Federal LIHEAP funds are generally available through the local community action agency. Some churches or social service agencies might also have resources. Check with your local/regional/state social service agencies.
Electric utilities at Independence, Columbia and Kirkwood are among the first in the nation to earn a Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation from the American Public Power Association. This is the first year the Association has offered the SEP designation, earned by 67 public power utilities nationwide.

The utilities earned the new SEP designation by demonstrating commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support a goal of providing low-cost, quality, safe, and reliable electric service.

Chris Van Dokkumburg, Planning Analyst at Holland Board of Public Works presented the designations Oct. 29 during the Association’s annual Customer Connections Conference held in New Orleans, La.

The SEP designation, which lasts for two years (December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2021) recognizes public power utilities for demonstrating leading practices in four key disciplines: smart energy program structure; energy efficiency and distributed energy programs; environmental and sustainability initiatives; and the customer experience.

“This designation highlights utilities that are really stepping up to deliver their customers top-notch programs and services,” said Van Dokkumburg. “These utilities are going beyond ‘keeping the lights on,’ and their communities should be proud.”

The Association rolled out the SEP program earlier this year. Additional information about the program and the full list of new SEP designees is available at PublicPower.org.

City Utilities of Springfield and Conway Corp earn Excellence in Public Power Communications Awards

Two MPUA member utilities earned Excellence in Public Power Communications awards from the APPA at the Association’s 2019 Customer Connections Conference. City Utilities of Springfield won an Award of Excellence in the Video category and another in Web/Social Media, and earned an Award of Merit in Print/Digital media. Conway Corporation took home an Award of Excellence in Web/Social Media and an Award of Merit in Print/Digital media.
What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been manufactured in a variety of industries. PFAS are commonly found in commercial household products such as: stain- and water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products (Teflon), polishes, waxes, paints, and fire-fighting foams. Common industries that are releasing PFAS into the environment are: chrome plating, electronics manufacturing, or oil recovery plants that use PFAS in their products. PFAS have been manufactured in the United States since 1940s, yet new studies have found that several of these substances do not break down, causing bioaccumulation which can lead to adverse human health effects.

The two most common types of PFAS that are a major health concern are perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOA and PFOS). These substances were phased out of production in the United States but are still found in imported products.

Why should water & wastewater utilities be concerned?

Publicly owned water and wastewater utilities should be concerned that laws and regulations with thresholds, notification levels and limits are being developed in advance of scientific and public process.

In 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency established a drinking water health advisory for PFAS, stating, “When PFAS are found in drinking water, the concentrations of PFAS should be compared with the 70 parts per trillion health advisory level.” However, data has been inconsistent since 2016, and EPA has not provided an appropriate method for sampling and a minimum contaminant level (MCL). Due to EPA’s lack of progress on developing an MCL for PFAS, several members of Congress have become tired of waiting on EPA to complete a risk analysis to determine if PFAS should be designated as a hazardous substance or a toxic pollutant. Therefore, an amendment to H.R. 2500, the “National Defense Authorization Act” was proposed requiring EPA to classify PFAS as hazardous substances, triggering regulation through the Clean Water Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Regulating through CERCLA creates liabilities for publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) that receive PFAS-containing influent and dispose of PFAS-contaminated biosolids. Public drinking water treatment systems, wastewater treatment facilities, and municipal solid waste landfills are not “producers” of PFAS and have not profited from the production of PFAS chemicals.

What can we do now?

As public utility providers, it is important to us that we provide the highest level of safe drinking water, wastewater treatment, and sanitation services to our communities. Therefore, there are several things community leaders can do now in order to prepare for future PFAS regulations. Community leaders can start by reaching out to local industries and discuss whether PFAS are being created or utilized at the site. If so, discuss pretreatment options and consider adding local limits of 70 ppb to your pretreatment ordinances. Additionally, reach out to the fire departments and helipad emergency response teams and ask them to consider use of a training foam without PFAS during drills. These sites are important to target, as firefighting training sites and military bases have been found to have PFAS levels as high as 6,950,000 ppt. In contrast, the action levels currently being discussed for drinking water are 5-40 ppt, a very small fraction of the concentrations found at contaminated sites.

As PFAS policy and regulation continues to progress, MPUA’s goal is to work with regulators to determine how to best manage PFAS holistically.
**Deadline: 2020 Apprentices**

*Dec. 13 2019* is the last day for new cities to get apprentices registered for the 2020 Apprentice Program! If you already have an apprentice in the program, additional apprentices can be added until mid-January.

- **NEW APPRENTICES** in the program need to fill out the MPUA & Dept. of Labor apprentice application forms. They can be found on our website, MPUA.org, under the Services tab → Apprentice Training.

- **CURRENT APPRENTICES** are automatically registered for next year so there is no need to re-register them.

If you have any questions on the forms, please contact Cathy Susa at csusa@mpua.org.

**NOTE:** If you anticipate putting a student in the program but can’t commit before the December 13 deadline, contact Cathy Susa to be placed on draft travel schedule - we will finalize or remove you later when you have made a final decision.

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When it comes to a wide range of significant electric policy issues, the American Public Power Association sees value in partnering with other trade groups and industry participants to make its voice heard on issues such as transmission costs, wholesale markets and cybersecurity, said Delia Patterson, Senior Vice President, Advocacy & Communications and General Counsel at the Association.

In a recent example of what Patterson described, the Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in October sent a letter to members of the Pacific Northwest congressional delegation in which the groups said that the Bonneville Power Administration and the federal hydropower it markets “will continue to provide value to the region and nation for decades to come.”

Patterson made her comments at a Women In Energy breakfast held on Oct. 16. at an Energy Bar Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

She said that when it comes to various power industry issues, her first thought is how can the Association “align ourselves with others in the industry on an issue – we tend to do better and I think anybody tends to do better when you’re in a coalition.”

She said that “it’s very important for all of us to know where various stakeholders are on different issues. You just never know where you’re going to find support.” The Association needs to know which parties “within the beltway and outside the beltway that are on the same page with us,” Patterson said.

“Although we feel like we’re a little different as public power, we do have a lot in common with our IOU [investor-owned utility] and co-op brethren,” Patterson noted.

“We’re not aligned on every issue, but there are many issues that we’re aligned on,” the Association official said.

Patterson said that the Association is usually on the same page with the Edison Electric Institute, which represents IOUs, and the NRECA, when it comes to cybersecurity issues. When it comes to issues tied to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, “we’re similarly aligned.”

In the area of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction, the three trade groups are on the same page with respect to FERC’s Order No. 841. That decision adopted rules aimed at removing barriers to the participation of energy storage resources in wholesale power markets operated by regional transmission organizations and independent system operators.

The Association, NRECA, EEI, the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners and American Municipal Power are jointly appealing Order No. 841 before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on jurisdictional grounds.

“Something like FERC jurisdiction – that, to me, is an existential threat to what we believe in, what we control and local authority,” Patterson said. She knew even before asking Emily Fisher, general counsel and corporate secretary at EEI, and Randy Elliott, regulatory counsel at NRECA, that “they would be on board for appealing that order.”

Meanwhile, the Association, NRECA and EEI agree on the need for reforms of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). FERC in September proposed to modernize its regulations under PURPA.

“We work really well together with NRECA on PMA and TVA (Continued on page 17)
According to the State of Missouri law, all electric utilities must:

- Disclose to customers annually that net metering is available (method and manner determined by utility)

- Municipal utilities must submit an annual report for the previous year to the governing body and any customer who requests it:
  - Total number of customer-generator facilities
  - Estimated generating capacity
  - Estimated net kilowatt hours received from customer-generators

MoPEP and MMMPEP members should submit the annual report to John Grotzinger (jgrotzinger@mpua.org).

Reminder: it’s that time of year for net metering reports
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has developed an information clearinghouse to better ensure that drivers cannot conceal drug and alcohol violations by moving on to another job. There are no exemptions for municipalities.

The FMCSA Commercial Driver’s License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse is a secure online database that will give employers, the FMCSA, state driver licensing agencies and state law enforcement personnel real-time information about commercial driver’s license (CDL) and commercial learner’s permit (CLP) holders’ drug and alcohol program violations.

An act of Congress directed the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Clearinghouse.

The clearinghouse will enable employers to identify drivers who commit a drug and alcohol program violation while working for one employer, but who fail to subsequently inform another employer (as required by current regulations).

FMCSA said that drivers are not required to register for the clearinghouse. However, a driver will need to be registered to provide electronic consent in the clearinghouse if a prospective or current employer needs to conduct a full query of the driver’s record. This will include all pre-employment queries beginning on January 6, 2020.

A driver must also be registered to electronically view the information in his or her own clearinghouse record.

Drivers who register before January 6, 2020, will have their clearinghouse accounts and contact preferences set up, allowing them to quickly respond to query requests from employers on or after January 6, 2020, FMCSA said.

Employers are required to enter data regarding drug and alcohol violations into the clearinghouse. This includes, but is not limited to, violation, and substance abuse professional program completion.

The system is now open for registration.

Additional information about the clearinghouse is available at: https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/About

Municipalities must register with alcohol, drug violation database

By Paul Ciampoli, News Director, APPA

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has developed an information clearinghouse to better ensure that drivers cannot conceal drug and alcohol violations by moving on to another job. There are no exemptions for municipalities.

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Meet the 2020 Executive Committee members

Front Row: Skip Schaller (Monett), Greg Beavers (Farmington), Rodney Bourne (Rolla), J.T. Hardy (Sullivan), Rick Landers (Sikeston), Don Huff (Perry)

Second Row: Ron Scheets (Cabool), Kyle McClure (Springfield), Darrell Dunlap (Fulton), Chad Davis (Rolla)

Third Row: Jeff Hanshaw (West Plains), Mark Petty (Kirkwood), Doug Colvin (Nixa), Dennis Klusmeyer (Shelbina), Chuck Bryant (Carthage), Richard Shockley (Lebanon), Duncan Kincheloe (MPUA)

Back Row: Zac Johnson (Cameron), Derek Brown (Albany), Stephanie Wilson (Macon), Dennie Carothers (Clarence), Bruce Harrill (Waynesville)

[Not pictured: Tad Johnsen (Columbia), Steve Stodden (Springfield), Mary Kay Villegas-Alitz (Independence), Jeff Tumiati (Stonington, IL)]

training

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**MGT-345**

**Electric Power Systems**

This course is designed to provide training to electric systems managers and employees to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, or mitigate against threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters affecting electric power facilities and systems. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to implement techniques to prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents that threaten electric power systems.

**Topics:** Threats to Electric Power Facilities and Systems, Mitigating Threats, Responding to Disasters, Recovering from Disasters, Public Information, and Preparing for Disasters

**Participant Audience:** Municipal and County Employees, Electrical Power Transmission and Distribution Suppliers (T&D) personnel, Utility Commission Personnel, Management, Supervisors, Foremen, and Field personnel

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**MGT-343**

**Water and Wastewater Systems**

This course presents information regarding preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural or man-made incidents affecting water and/or wastewater facilities. The course introduces the various hazards to which water and wastewater systems may be vulnerable and the potential effects hazards may induce. Participants are guided through portions of the EPA’s Response Protocol Toolbox to identify steps in the response and recovery processes. Case studies on disasters and hypothetical water and wastewater incidents are examined. Participants also practice developing a response and recovery plan for water or wastewater incidents. DNR training credits are being requested from the State.

**Topics:** Threats to Water and Wastewater Facilities and Systems, Disaster Planning and Management, Disaster Mitigation, Disaster Response, and Disaster Recovery

**Participant Audience:** Water and Wastewater Utility Personnel, Operators, Field Personnel, Lab Personnel, Management, Supervisors, Customer Service, Inspectors, and Engineers

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**THREE Step Registration Process: DEADLINE is December 5**

1. **FEMA Student ID Requirement:** Prior to the course, all participants are required to establish a [FEMA Student Identification Number (SID)](https://www.fema.gov/). This can be accomplished by registering at FEMA’s [website](https://www.fema.gov/). Participants will be asked to provide their SID when they arrive and complete the registration process for the course.


3. **Register for your overnight stay:** Go to [drunlyhotels.com](http://drunlyhotels.com) or call 1-800-325-0720 and use Group Number 2395696 for a two queen bed deluxe room for $100 a night.

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*New to FEMA classes? Consider taking these courses online at [http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.aspx](http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.aspx) – IS-100P/Wb, IS-200, IS-700 & IS-800*

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Co-hosted by MPUA: For any questions about these concurrent training events, call 573-445-3279 or email training@mpua.org.
issues,” she said. The Association and NRECA earlier this year voiced opposition to renewed federal efforts to sell the transmission assets of three federal Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) and the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) transmission assets and change the current cost-based rates structure for all four of the PMAs.

When it comes to wholesale power markets, the Association is generally aligned with NRECA, consumer advocates, states, end users and renewable energy supporters, Patterson noted.

The Association is also in agreement with NRECA, consumer advocates and end users with respect to transmission issues. In August, the two trade groups were joined by more than 40 entities in sending a letter to FERC that said the agency should strive to ensure that transmission costs remain at a reasonable level for consumers as it weighs possible changes to its transmission incentives and return on equity policies.

In a recent blog, Patterson wrote that the “robust pace of transmission development over the past decade indicates that there is no need for FERC to loosen the incentive purse strings now to get transmission projects built.”

Patterson told the group of energy attorneys that “it’s important to understand generally where different folks are situated within the industry.” If attorneys in the energy sector are working on a particular issue, they should think about “who am I likely to be aligned with? Could we form a coalition?”

NRECA, Association detail how BPA is well positioned to provide long-term value

In early October, Sue Kelly, President and CEO of the Association, and Jim Matheson, CEO of NRECA, sent a letter to members of the Pacific Northwest congressional delegation in which they said BPA and the federal hydropower it markets “will continue to provide value to the region and nation for decades to come.”

BPA rates are set to cover all the generation and transmission costs, as well as repayment, with interest, of the federal hydropower projects, the letter notes. None of the costs are borne by taxpayers.

“Moreover, the federal hydroelectric projects for which Bonneville markets power are multipurpose – in addition to generating

(Continued on page 25)
“Busy time” of advocating to begin

Missouri’s legislative session starts in January and runs through May. One can easily see that MPUA’s advocacy “busy time” is during these months. However, did you know that MPUA also spends summer and fall interacting with these same policymakers? We keep up with legislative leaders and educate them on your utilities’ value to your communities. We also work with federal congressional leaders on the impact federal activities have on your operations.

In 2020, we see several state level issues brought to bear ranging from workforce development to tort reform, charter schools, and a statewide prescription drug program. Federally, a drawn-out impeachment discussion seems to consume all the attention. And, let’s not get started on the impact that a presidential election year will have on state and federal legislative activity. However, MPUA stays focused on what matters to you, and here are a few issues we will be watching for you.

Expected issues impacting municipal utilities next session in Jefferson City:

Grain Belt Project – MPUA will be working to stop legislative efforts that kill this transmission project from delivering low cost energy to 39 consumer-owned utilities. This is an important state infrastructure development which surprisingly does not require any state subsidies. It is estimated to save 39 consumer-owned utilities $12.8 million annually. The project helps avoid congestion and constraints along the SPP-MISO seam that adds costs for many of these consumer-owned utilities.

Pole Attachments – The state’s laws on small cell pole attachments maintain local utility regulation and control of community-owned electric poles for safety and proprietary reasons. The law sunsets next year. MPUA supports sunset renewal but opposes efforts to limit local regulation or negotiations for return on asset investments paid for by electric customers.

Customer Sunshine Law Protections – Last year MPUA was very close to passing customer protections that exempt certain customer usage and billing records from the state’s sunshine law. The proposal died during the final crunch of bills at the end of session. Because of last year’s work, we do not expect any significant opposition in the next session. We will again be working to pass this legislation.

Net Metering – An effort is afoot to increase to the cap on customer-generation from 100kW to 2MW. This exposes customers to grid costs from customer generators and can raise wholesale costs stemming from stranded wholesale supplies. MPUA and other consumer-owned utilities will oppose.

Water Asset Management mandates – These plans are part of existing federal regulations. MPUA opposes efforts to mandate a one-size-fits-all standard on water utilities, irrespective of size, which will increase costs of water service on small utility consumers.

Budget/DNR Multipurpose Water Resource Fund – MPUA will work to maintain last year’s $13M set aside for water commission grants that regionalize water supply for future resource development.

Budget/DED Rural Broadband Grants – Recently announced grants to promote rural broadband from last year’s appropriations have been opened to all available network providers, including community-owned, to ensure connectivity in rural communities. MPUA supports this program and will work to protect the $5M annual appropriation.

MPUA has recently been communicating with federal congressional leaders about:

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) - MPUA sent a letter Missouri’s congressional delegation to strike an amendment that would allow per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to be regulated through

(Continued on page 21)
FERC investigates SPP exemptions on transmission upgrades

SECTION 206 FERC COMPLAINT AGAINST SPP

On Oct. 17, 2019, FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) issued an order opening an investigation into whether the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is following the provisions of Order 1000. Particularly, SPP’s practice of invoking the reliability project exemption to avoid making projects open to bid under Order 1000 is being examined.

In Order 1000, FERC permitted an exemption where the existing utility would be allowed to build a transmission upgrade to satisfy a reliability criteria violation that was time sensitive. That exemption was subject to certain criteria. In the order establishing the complaint docket, FERC stated that it was concerned that SPP may be inconsistently or more expansively implementing the exemption. Among its concerns, FERC referenced (i) how certain of the projects have “need-by dates” that are prior to the year that SPP designated such projects as immediate-need transmission projects, (ii) that some projects listed as immediate-need reliability projects have not gone into service by their need-by dates, and (iii) that certain required posting information is difficult or impossible to find on SPP’s websites.

At the most recent SPP Board of Directors meeting (after the filing of the complaint by FERC), two Order 1000 projects were authorized by SPP. Both projects are substantially larger than other Order 1000 projects previously considered by SPP. We will be monitoring SPP’s response to this complaint docket, and participating as appropriate to ensure that Order 1000 will be implemented correctly in SPP.

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM AT FERC, PART II

As discussed in August’s edition of the Alliance Advantage, cooperative federalism is very much in discussion at FERC. Order 841-A, and FERC’s declination to follow Order 719-A’s ‘opt out’ provision resulted in the American Public Power Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and Edison (Continued on page 26)
The Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) has long been a partner with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA) to protect and maintain the federal hydropower assets that serve power to citizens across the Midwest, including Missouri and Arkansas. Through our program of customer funding, SPRA is able to ensure reliable energy will continue to be delivered for generations to come.

Some of the current buzzwords in Washington, DC are “Public Private Partnerships” or “P3”. SPRA and its federal partners had one of the first P3 programs in the country, which has reaped huge dividends for our area. Beginning in the 1990s, federal power customers began noticing increased unscheduled outages at Corps and Bureau of Reclamation hydropower plants. These outages were increasing costs to the federal hydropower customers because significant outages often make it necessary for SWPA to purchase expensive replacement energy to meet their contractual obligations to their customers. Further, because of federal budget cycles, waiting for appropriated funding for a crippled plant that requires significant equipment repair or replacement before returning to service might extend the outage – and the cost – over multiple years, all while the customers pay the bill.

Even though there was an increase in outages due to maintenance issues, SPRA saw significantly decreased appropriations for maintenance of this infrastructure. Reduced appropriations to the federal power program do not represent savings to the U.S. Treasury. We pay the costs, whether we provide the funding directly to the Corps or indirectly through appropriations that are subsequently returned to the Treasury. By paying up front, before the equipment failed, we could save millions of dollars for our utility customers and sustain this important federal infrastructure.

With this in mind, SPRA in partnership with the Corps and SWPA, put together the Trust Memorandum of Agreement (Trust MOA). Under this agreement, the customers meet with the Corps and SWPA to determine the funding needs for the following fiscal year. Together we rank projects based on need and risk of failure and then choose the projects that should be funded in the next fiscal year. This cooperative process allows the customers, the ones that pay the expenses, to have input on how their money is spent, and it allows the Corps to have a predictable revenue stream to sustain this federal infrastructure. We have committed to the Corps that we will fund through the Trust MOA about $2.4 billion for hydropower infrastructure over the next 30 years to complete rehabilitation of all 24 Corps hydropower plants marketed by SWPA. Through this process we are able to keep local control and oversight, sustain federal infrastructure, and assure the longevity and future of the federal hydropower program.

Our program of customer funding is just another example of the strong working relationship SPRA has with SWPA and its federal hydropower partners, which has proved invaluable for the nearly 10 million federal hydropower customers in the Midwest. Unlike other federal programs, this program and existing partnerships cost the taxpayers absolutely nothing yet benefit millions of citizens while investing in federal infrastructure assets. We are proud of the work that we have done in our area with SWPA and the Corps to be good stewards of the federal infrastructure, and ensure its viability. These dams provide so many benefits to our region including navigation, flood control, water supply, environmental programs, and recreation. Without the federal hydropower customers paying the bills, more of the costs of these joint activities would be borne by the taxpayer.
CERCLA law (Superfund). We received positive responses from Senator Hawley and Representatives Hartzler and Graves and that a “skinny” version on the NDAA has been proposed.

NPDES Permit Cycle Extension – MPUA encouraged state congressional leaders to cosponsor H.R. 1764, a bipartisan effort to change the federally regulated 5-year permit cycle to a 10-year cycle. A longer cycle provides more regulatory certainty to communities spending money on infrastructure upgrades. Congressman Graves proposed a similar bill (H.R. 1623) in 2015.

Climate Change – MPUA staff was invited to share a Midwestern perspective on efforts to adjust to a 100% clean energy economy by 2050. Our comments centered on the innovative and industry leading work MO municipals have made toward climate sensitive operations through utility scale solar and regional wind resources. We asked for special attention to nonprofit, consumer-owned utilities’ debt burdens and costs associated with newer, economically viable assets. Also discussed was the need for transmission to integrate new clean energy resources.

Wastewater Blending – MPUA informed House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leaders on the impact of blending by point source dischargers during wet weather events. The practice allows wastewater operators to manage excess wet weather flows during rare events. No known health impacts have occurred due to blending practices during these times. This practice has saved sewer ratepayers millions of dollars without expensive, limited use infrastructure upgrades.

In February 2020, MPUA members will be making an annual group pilgrimage to Washington, DC to visit with federal lawmakers. The group meets with Missouri’s members of the House and two U.S. Senators. The dates are set for February 24-26.

This year, MPUA members will be advocating to:

- protect LIHEAP funding,
- reinstate the municipal bond advance refunding,
- preserve electric transmission options,
- maintain congressional exemption from FCC oversight in pole attachment negotiations, and
- mitigate the risk exposure of customers and utilities in the nonprofit sector from climate policy shifts.

Please let staff know if you plan on making the trip. One scholarship for the trip is available to pay for a first-time member’s hotel and registration expenses. The member utility is responsible for airline and some travel incidentals. Most meals and DC transportation are covered by group activities.

The next MPUA Legislative Committee will be a conference call on December 10 at 10am.

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member electric utilities that were awarded in the past three years. “Since that first RP3 recognition in 2006, we’ve requalified as an RP3 designee every time we applied for it,” said Bergstrom. MMU’s last 3-year designation came in 2017, and it has submitted an application for a new designation in 2020.

MUNICIPAL BROADBAND PIONEER

Marshall’s fiber-optic municipal broadband system, serving about 2,900 customers, is a feature that sets MMU apart from many utilities of its size. “We're right around 6,000 electric customers, and we're now approaching half of that for internet subscribers,” said MMU’s Bergstrom. “I think we’re a little ahead of the curve as far as providing that in a community this size, for sure.” MMU’s internet service was established in 2002.

MMU may be looking to expand its system, having recently applied for a grant to extend service outside its city limits, under USDA’s ReConnect Rural Broadband Pilot Program. “That program calls for a 50/50 match and the total grant project is for about a million dollars,” said Bergstrom. “So if we would receive that grant we’d get about $500,000.”

But still, as Bergstrom repeated several times during the visit for this story, the formula for success in all of MMU’s operations starts with people helping people. “Two o'clock in the morning when there’s lightning and thunder and rain and you make a repair and throw a switch and half the town lights up, that’s pretty rewarding work to be in. But it's really about the people, that go to work day in and day out to make sure their neighbors have utility services on – and I'm super proud of the group we have here. They do an excellent job.”

An anonymous MMU lineworker makes transmission line repairs as skies darken. [photo: MMU]
By Gary Smith, Director of Programs, Sagewell

Just a 5% increase in off-peak sales could double a utility’s income and “Building Your Utility’s Future” could mean more to MPUA members than just the name of our annual conference. With electric sales growth flat in many areas across the country, and carbon reductions an increasingly large part of customers’ goals and governmental policies, electric utilities can act now and build towards a stronger financial and environmental future. With the right choices, utilities can increase kWh sales significantly, and the majority of those increases can come at off-peak times - delaying capital investment in new generation assets and minimizing peak costs. These additional off-peak sales, and the increased margins that go along with them, can have a major impact on a utility’s economics. These financial gains could grow customer value through increased contributions to their local communities or governments, and lower rates for all customers. The key to this success is electrification.

Electrification is the process of switching from one fuel (natural gas, gasoline, etc.) to electricity. This can happen with all your electric customers, from industry to commercial to municipal, but the majority of accounts at most utilities are residential, which means there are significant opportunities for fuel switching. Additionally, switching away from fossil fuels reduces total carbon emissions, particularly as the grid gets greener. The biggest opportunities to fuel switch come from home heating, transportation and hot water, but nearly every fossil fuel end use has an electric equivalent. Utilities need to prioritize not just those technologies that result in maximum kWh sales, but also those that don’t increase peak costs. It is also crucial to consider the customer. As a community-owned utility, a recipe for success is to ensure increased electric usage can lower other costs for the customer while improving customers quality of life. How can utilities know which technologies are good, how much they are worth, and how to increase adoption?

Hometown Connections, the trusted resource for insights and services for community-owned utilities, has partnered with Sagewell, Inc. to deliver load growth consulting to public power organizations across the county. Sagewell provides consulting analysis and recommendations to utilities on how to achieve growth through evidence-based high-impact electrification programs.

In such a study, the first step is to understand what various electrification opportunities are worth to the utilities and their customers, and how much carbon emissions can be reduced.

Electric vehicles and heat pumps will most likely have the biggest impact, but other technologies, like water heating, can be analyzed as well. If a utility has AMI meter data, Sagewell can use the local meter data in the analysis. If it does not, Sagewell has AMI data in its extensive data library, and can build accurate models based on real-world data, rather than assumptions, to estimate costs and income.

Once the value of different technologies is understood, Sagewell, MPUA and member utilities can design high-impact programs to drive electrification technology adoption. Through significant first-hand program operating experience and studying electrification programs nationwide, Sagewell has deep, data-driven insights into how to drive adoption of EVs and heat pumps. For example, it may come as somewhat of a surprise, but traditional methods of driving adoption - education and rebates - aren’t the most effective way to increase customer adoption. Also, picking the wrong technology may not increase sales or reduce emissions at all. On the other hand, active target marketing to customers can deliver the best-suited technologies to those customers who are the best fit for them and thus creating high customer satisfaction.

A great example comes from Electric Vehicle (EV) load management. With typical charging rates between 6kW and 11kW, or even as high as 19kW, EVs are uniquely likely to increase peak and capacity costs, particularly for utilities that peak in the early evening when drivers are getting home from work. Hardware load-control solutions are often more expensive than the value of saved capacity. One alternative is the Bring Your Own Charger® (BYOC) program, an EV load management solution that doesn’t use any hardware, but instead leverages whole-home AMI meter data. BYOC has off-peak compliance rates over 95%, has a national record-breaking EV enrollment rate of 50% and costs less than half what many hardware-based programs do. And, for those familiar with the Net Promoter Score customer satisfaction metric, it has an exceptionally high score of 78.

MPUA and its members have a great opportunity to increase sales, increase customer satisfaction and improve environmental outcomes. The first step is understanding how to move forward. Hometown Connections and Sagewell can help. For more information, please send email to info@hometownconnections.com.
On Nov. 5, Governor Parson and the Departments of Economic Development and Agriculture announced the launch of the state’s broadband grant program, which will award $5 million to bring high speed internet to Missourians across the state.

“It’s a huge problem that nearly 20% of Missourians lack access to high speed internet,” Governor Mike Parson said. “That’s the kind of problem that if you work toward solving it, it’s going to help with other problems, like retaining good talent or offering better health care and education for our communities. Broadband is exactly the kind of infrastructure that Missouri needs to grow and thrive in the future.”

“Missouri’s rural and urban communities are ready to put these funds to work,” Missouri Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn said. “By providing an opportunity for broadband infrastructure upgrades, we hope that all of our communities will soon have access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet. It’s our long-term goal to connect our communities, all the way to the last mile.”

Created by the Missouri General Assembly in 2018 and funded during the 2019 legislative session, the grant program matches up to 50 percent of the construction costs to expand broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the state.

“We want to thank Governor Mike Parson and the General Assembly for making this issue a priority,” Rob Dixon, Director for the Missouri Department of Economic Development said. “Broadband is the kind of infrastructure that is essential to our employers and to our economy.”

Guidelines and scoring criteria are now posted. The grant application period will be open on December 4, 2019.

Once the grant period begins on December 4, applications may be submitted through January 6, 2020. Projects will be selected based on the need for servicing unserved areas of the state, meeting or exceeding the state’s minimum definition of high-speed internet, the applicant’s share of total project costs, economic and community benefit, and adoption strategies.

The broadband grant program guidelines, selection criteria, application, and frequently asked questions are available on DED’s website at https://ded.mo.gov/content/missouri-broadband-grant-program
electricity, they provide flood control, irrigation, navigation services and recreation opportunities. The multipurpose nature of these projects is invaluable to the region and its economy,” Kelly and Matheson said.

They noted that like the entire electric utility industry, BPA is facing a fast-changing electric market landscape and the challenges that transition brings.

“We believe strongly that Bonneville is well-positioned to adapt to changing markets and energy policies to the benefit of consumers and the region,” wrote Kelly and Matheson. “Despite recent press reports of alleged financial distress, Bonneville has high investment-grade credit ratings and, together with its community-owned Northwest customers, is working to reduce costs and maintain competitiveness.”

Kelly and Matheson also noted that hydropower “is the premier renewable resource and offers unparalleled reliability.” As the rest of the country “grapples with how to ensure an affordable and reliable transition to a clean economy, the Pacific Northwest is leaps and bounds ahead. Innate to hydropower are attributes – low cost, non-emitting, and reliable – that are highly desirable energy policy goals that energy markets are moving towards appropriately valuing.”

(WASHINGTON REPORT: continued from page 17)
Electric Institute filing a joint appeal against FERC’s order. The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) also filed an appeal as a petitioner against FERC’s attempt to expand its jurisdiction to distribution facilities. The Transmission Access Policy Study Group (TAPS) filed a brief as an intervenor in the appellate action in the DC Circuit. The briefs filed by the petitioners and TAPS all raised the cooperative federalism arguments of Commissioner McNamee in his dissent to Order 841-A.

NEW FERC AND MISSOURI PSC COMMISSIONERS

As 2019 comes to an end, we have changes in the regulators at both the federal and state level. At the FERC, two seats are currently opening.

The seat left open by the untimely death of former Chairman Kevin McIntyre will likely be filled by James Danly. Danly, the current General Counsel at FERC, has been nominated by the President and had his first confirmation hearing on November 5. With the support of both parties’ senior leadership in the committee, his nomination is expected to go to a full Senate vote for confirmation shortly. Danly previously worked in the energy department of a major DC law firm, and served as a federal clerk in the 6th Circuit. Danly also is a former U.S. Army officer who was twice deployed to Iraq.

Comm. LaFleur, after serving eight years, has left FERC and accepted a position on the board of directors at New England ISO. Her seat will be filled by a Democrat nominee, who will most likely be Allison Clements, an energy lawyer who oversees clean energy markets at the Energy Foundation.

Until both seats are filled, FERC will operate with three commissioners. This is not unprecedented, and both seats are expected to be filled in the coming months.

At the Missouri Public Service Commission, Commissioner Daniel Hall’s term has expired and he has accepted employment at the American Wind Energy Association. His replacement has not yet been named. Commissioner Bill Kenney’s term is also set to expire. Both seats are expected to be filled shortly, with confirmation occurring in the upcoming legislative session.
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