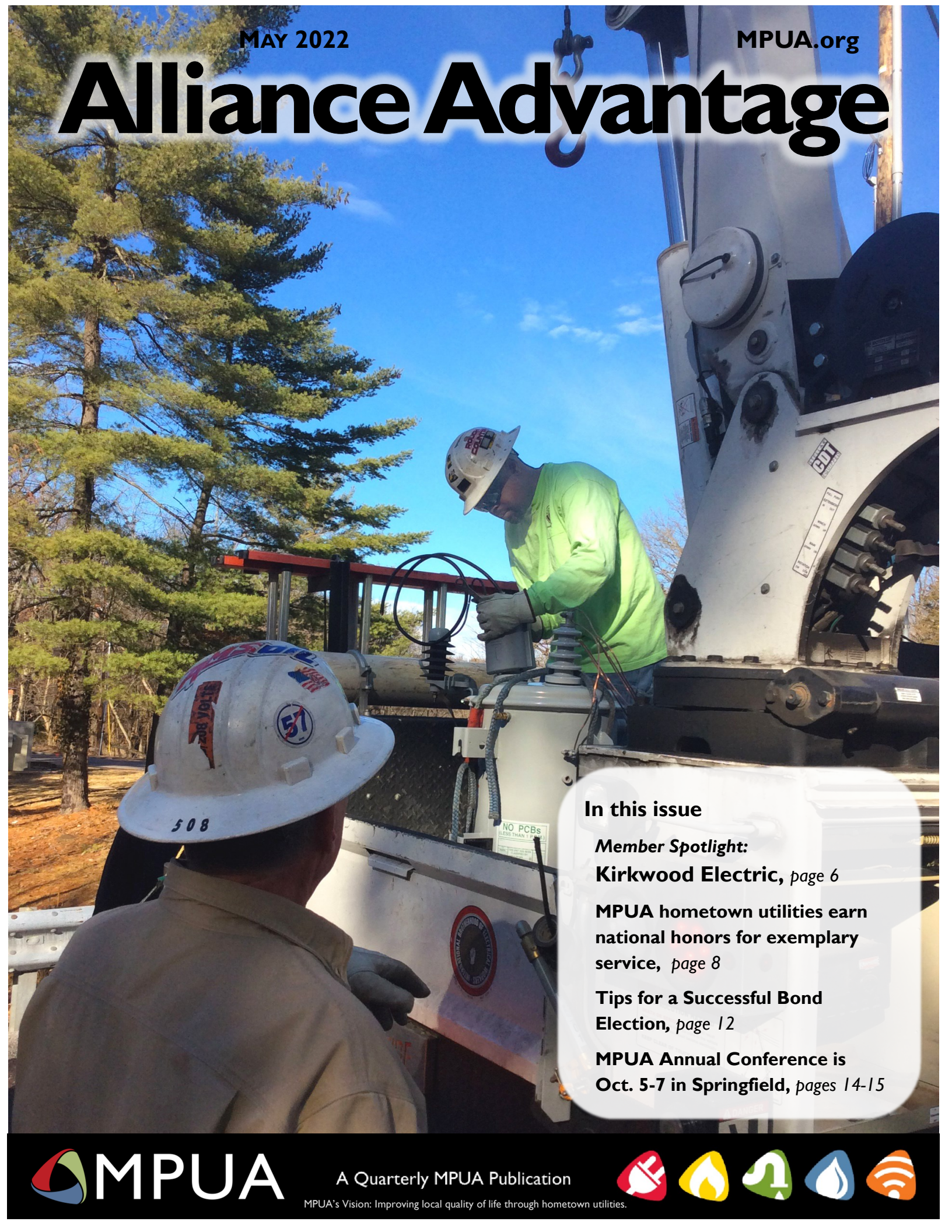


MAY 2022

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A Quarterly MPUA Publication

MPUA's Vision: Improving local quality of life through hometown utilities.



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2022 MPUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Regulatory Review: Transmission projects and joint ownership continue to move forward, **p20**

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MPUA CALENDAR

May 1-7 | Drinking Water Week
May 15-21 | National Public Works Week
May 18 | **1pm** - SPP RTO Committee (*conf.call*)
May 19 | **9am** - MISO RTO Committee (*conf. call*)
May 20 | **10am** - Rolla Regional Utility Roundtable (*Rolla, MO*)
May 24 | **10am** - MoPEP Committee (*MPUA office*)
May 24 | **11am** - MoPEP Virtual Ownership Subcommittee (*MPUA office*)
May 25 | **10am** - MPWC Roundtable (*MPUA office*)
May 30 | MPUA office closed (*Memorial Day*)
June 1 | **10am** - Lineworker Advisory & Mutual Aid Committees (*MPUA Training Center*)
June 10-15 | APPA National Conference (*Nashville*)

The following are at the MPUA Office & Training Center (2200 Maguire Blvd, Columbia). Virtual meetings also provided:

- **June 22** | **10:00 am** - Member Services Committee meeting
- **June 22** | **1:30 pm** - MPUA RSC meeting
- **June 22** | **2:30 pm** - Joint Operating & Executive Committees meeting
- **June 23** | **9:00 am** - MPUA Board of Directors meeting
- **June 23** | **1:00 pm** - MPUA RTO - MISO & SPP committees meeting



MPUA Board of Directors Meeting

June 23 beginning at 9:00 am
MPUA Office & Training Center,
2200 Maguire Blvd, Columbia, MO 65201

JUNE 22 MEETINGS (MPUA Office, in-person & virtual)

10am: Member Services Committee - open to all members

1:30pm: MPUA RSC

2:30pm: JOC & Executive Committees

JUNE 23 MEETINGS (MPUA Office, in-person & virtual)

9am: Board (MAMU, MJMEUC, MMMPEP, MoPEP)

1:00pm: Joint RTO Committees

COVER PHOTOS (by Kirkwood Electric)

FRONT (L to R): Kirkwood Electric lineworker Jeff Welker and lineworker foreman Greg McClinton fit a transformer for installation on a utility pole.

BACK: Kirkwood Electric lineworkers Greg McClinton (on truck) and Brandon Kelley set a new distribution system pole.



Elections spark need for education of new elected officials

As this is written, it is the day after election day across Missouri. That likely means some fresh faces and new partners for you all to work with in the months ahead. Community leadership is critical to the success any of us enjoy. Whether your town is a department of the city or has a Board or Advisory Board as a governing body, leadership of the folks elected or appointed is critical to your success. Education of those folks is also critical. Some of these volunteers are moving up the ladder, say from a member of the Board or Council to Mayor. Others may be completely new to the governance structure. It is the latter group that will require the most attention. Operating a hometown utility is a big deal in all our communities. It is likely the biggest operation of the city and your expertise and extensive experience is critical to continued success, not only for the utility operation but for the city itself. We urge you to jump right in to get the education process started, and we hope you will let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Another year of the General Assembly means another effort to stop the Grain Belt Express. This year's legislation contains some new ideas we've not seen in the past, and the most troubling aspect of this bill is that it would be retroactive. There are some in the House and Senate who would like to further consider current statutory aspects of the right of eminent domain. If that is something that gains support, and if it is only future looking, we would want to be at the bargaining table to protect your rights. We are working hard to make sure this project is brought to completion in a few years, and we are most grateful for all of you who have traveled to Jefferson City to offer your thoughts in House and Senate hearings. We need to push all the way through the finish line on May 13 and we will continue to keep you posted as we learn more.

Since we last visited in this column, we've had several new additions to your MPUA team. Jack Young will be maintaining our solar farms. Ashton Day has joined us as Communications Coordinator. Jessie Davis is our new Accountant. Kevin Thornton is our new Electric Line Services Superintendent. We welcome Jack, Ashton, Jessie, and Kevin to the MPUA family, and we know you will want to welcome them and meet them soon.

Many of you attended the Water/Wastewater Tech Summit, and based on my unscientific poll, it was a big hit. I heard from several of you, and others on the MPUA team reported lots of good comments. You have provided us with a new Office and Training Center, and we intend to offer many chances for further education and training for your teams. If you have ideas on what you would like to see us offer, please give us a call and we will work on a program.

During the March board meetings, you approved the outline for new governance processes and changes to the bylaws of our various agencies, and we'll be back in June with nominating committee recommendations and updates on how the various boards will conduct their business in the future. Among the changes we want to offer, as we have reported previously, is an extended 'Spotlight Issue' time to discuss big-ticket issues. We have already had a couple of suggestions in that regard, and we encourage you to let us know topics of interest to you.

We continue to work diligently on a proposal for virtual ownership of some of the generating units owned and operated by many of you. The idea is that some may not want to continue to own or operate these units. Couple that with new rules from MISO and SPP about the capacity credits you receive, and there may be the basis for MPUA offering to virtually own and operate these units. Maintaining and exercising these units regularly will be even more important in the future, as will making certain of fuel supply and delivery. We hope we can find a 'sweet spot' for those of you who are interested in this type of arrangement. More to come, for sure.

Finally, we are in discussions with the members of the MMMPEP and SWMPEP pools about contractual changes that would extend those agreements further into the future. Our belief is that consideration of longer-term purchase power agreements, and potential ownership of generating assets will require agreements not specifically limited to a set number of years. That work is continuing, and we look forward to continued dialogue with the members of both pools. As always, we remain at your service and look forward to serving your needs as you serve the needs of your customers. ◀

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Proud to be an Associate Member of MPUA

Welcome new MPUA staff

MPUA is very pleased to welcome four new staff members to our team!

Jack W. Young joined MPUA as a Solar Field Technician on March 14. He stepped quickly into his role of operating inverters at all 12 solar fields and assisting with maintenance at power plants. Prior to joining MPUA, Jack worked as a Solar O&M Technician at MC Power Companies and previously worked for 34 years in the automotive repair industry as a service manager. He grew up in Independence and has lived in Oak Grove since 1984. When Jack isn't spending time with his wife, two daughters and five grandchildren, he can be found hunting or fishing.



Kevin Thornton joined MPUA as a Line Crew Leader on April 11. In this new role he will lead the overhead and underground line crew that will be responsible for providing assistance to any member city for special projects or on-going operational support. Kevin rose through the ranks of the City of Columbia from 1988 to 2020 as an equipment operator, apprentice lineworker, journeyman and line superintendent. Before joining MPUA he worked as a Line Crew Leader with the City of Fayette. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1982 to 1986. He is from Columbia and currently resides in Sturgeon. In his spare time, Kevin runs a small hobby farm and enjoys fishing on the Missouri River. ◀



Jessie Davis joined MPUA's accounting team on April 4 as an Accountant. She worked at OCCI, Inc. in Fulton as a Senior Accountant and as an Accounting Manager then as a Controller at Providence Bank in Jefferson City before joining MPUA. Jessie has a BS in Accounting and an MBA with an emphasis in Accounting from Lincoln University. She grew up and currently lives outside of Jefferson City in Wardsville with her husband, son and daughter due to arrive later this year. She and her family are looking forward to cheering on the Chiefs again this fall as season ticket holders.



Ashton Day joined the staff of MPUA on April 4 as a Communications Coordinator. She is excited to share her knowledge and help municipalities better communicate their utility services for their communities. Before joining MPUA, Ashton led communications as a Health Educator and later Senior Planner for two years at Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services. Born and raised in Columbia, she has earned three degrees from the University of Missouri including a Bachelor of Journalism, Master of Arts in Strategic Communications and a Master of Public Health in Policy and Promotion. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, tailgating at MU football games, cooking, reading, and keeping up with the latest pop culture trends.



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Kirkwood Electric

story by Kerry Cordray, kcordray@mpua.org

photos by: City of Kirkwood and Creative Commons



Utility steams toward new tech frontiers

Born from a history of hope, the City of Kirkwood sprang from the roots of the cutting-edge technologies of its earliest times.

After the Great Fire of 1849 destroyed a fair-sized swath of the St. Louis riverfront, and an ensuing cholera outbreak decimated a tenth of the city's population, only a few years later ever-optimistic developers made plans to establish a suburban municipality outside the St. Louis city limits, the first such planned suburb west of the Mississippi.

Around the same time, James P. Kirkwood, a chief engineer of the Pacific Railroad (predecessor of the Missouri Pacific), happened to be laying out a route for one of the first railroads west of the Mississippi. The new train line from St. Louis would steam through the new suburb, and eventually head further along 'out West'. The railway line broke ground in 1851, the new city was laid out, and the famed civil engineer became the namesake of the City of Kirkwood at its 1853 debut.

Flash forward some 169 years, and the city now bearing the name of Kirkwood is a thriving and diverse community of about nine square miles and just under 30,000 people (29,461 at the 2020 U.S. census)



Kirkwood Electric lineworkers Greg McClinton, Joe Martin, and Steven Bulback install new distribution system circuit wire.

(photo: Kirkwood Electric)

LONG HISTORY OF LOCAL CONTROL

Among Kirkwood's many distinctions now is the fact that it is the only municipality in the Greater St. Louis area that owns and operates its own electric utility. In keeping with the city's roots, that electric utility is also embarking on a planned journey to upgrade much of its electric system to the most current technologies available.

The utility's earliest days began in July of 1902 when the city began a public lighting program and built its own power plant. "From that origin, the city began a pattern of being a self-sustaining municipal utility, with local governance over its power plant and the poles and wires delivering power," said Kirkwood Electric's Director Mark Petty. "The utility grew with the city, and as new homes and neighborhoods were constructed, they were supplied by Kirkwood Electric rather than the St. Louis-based Union Electric, which later became Ameren."

Petty, who has been in his current position at Kirkwood Electric for 16 years, noted that the same spirit of local control remains a prime quality of both the utility and its service to the community. "I often try to remind people that local control is a hallmark of our ability to



Kirkwood's historic 1893 train station is one of the city's most beloved landmarks. It still welcomes Amtrak passengers daily.

(Photo: public domain, from Creative Commons)

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succeed. Local control gives us the ability to stay in touch with our customers, to know what they need and provide those things,” Petty said. “It gives us the ability to have quick decisions at our city council. With one meeting or two meetings we can pivot and be flexible, quick and agile, to make decisions that help customers and help our utility, both financially and otherwise. And of course, local control means we have the ability to communicate, with an open-door policy where our customers can come right in.”

5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN LAUNCHED

In late April, the Kirkwood city Council made the decision to ‘float’ a bond issue for \$15 million to finance a 5-year program of improvements and upgrades to its electric system. The bonds were issued this April, and \$15 million in bond proceeds with a 20 year term are now available, to be used for a 5-year project of distribution system improvements including the overhaul of a substation, converting city streetlights to LED lighting, new public EV charging stations, an outage management system, and completing system voltage upgrades that began in 2019.

Groundwork for Kirkwood’s modernization effort has been previously laid with the implementation of an AMI (automated metering infrastructure) system in 2016, and a GPS mapping system that was completed in 2005.

“In order to do the bonding, we had rating calls with Moody’s (Investors Service) for their credit ratings, and we had a very successful rating outcome,” said Petty. The city achieved Moody’s ‘AA1’ rating, its highest rating for cities of Kirkwood’s size.

“As a roadmap to discuss our performance with Moody’s, we used criteria set by the APPA (American Public Power Association) for their RP3 (Reliable Public Power Provider) designation,” Petty went on to explain. “Showing the rating agency that we met

standards associated with the RP3 criteria – reliability, financial solvency, safety, workforce development and system improvement – and the way that we address all those, was a framework that helped us achieve our high score.” The utility has held APPA’s 3-year RP3 designation for 12 years running, first achieving the mark in 2010, then being renewed in 2013, 2016 and 2019. The utility also earned APPA’s Smart Utility designation in 2019, and a Tree Line USA Utility designation from the Arbor Day Foundation in 2018.

“WE ARE BIGGER”

Operationally, Kirkwood Electric is small-but-mighty, operating with a total of 19 staff. “That number includes 12 lineworkers, along with support staff and management,” detailed Petty. ““But I’ll say this, we are bigger, because we are part of the MPUA and the APPA (American Public Power Association). We are just as big as anybody else when it comes to trying to know things about our business, know the best way to deliver,” added Petty. “Our team isn’t just the 19, because we have the support of our fellow MPUA utilities, and our national organization.” ◀

ABOUT KIRKWOOD ELECTRIC

ELECTRIC: Kirkwood’s electric utility established service in 1902. It serves 10,008 meters. The utility owns and maintains six substations. It has 132 miles of electric distribution lines, which includes both 4,140 kV and 12,470 kV lines. The city has 2,000 streetlights. Kirkwood has been a member of the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission since 1962, from which it purchases a portion of its power supply.

Below left: A bird’s-eye view from a bucket truck demo at Kirkwood’s Green Tree Festival

Below right: Lineworker Chad Jeffery provides giveaways to attendees at Kirkwood’s Route 66 Festival *(Photos by Kirkwood Electric)*



MPUA hometown utilities earn national honors for exemplary service, safety, and reliability

JACKSON AND ROLLA EARN 2022 APPA DESIGNATIONS AS RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDERS (RP3)

Both **Rolla Municipal Utilities** and **Jackson Municipal Utilities** earned 2022 Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designations from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for providing reliable and safe electric service. As announced by APPA on March 28, the utilities were among 54 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities that earned a 2022 RP3 designation from APPA.

Rolla's 2022 designation is a new consecutive recognition, after a past RP3 designation that ran from 2018-2021. Jackson last received an RP3 designation in 2015.

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.

"Running a reliable and safe utility has never been as important as it is today," said Aaron Haderle, Chair of APPA's RP3 Review Panel and Manager of Transmission and Distribution Operations at Kissimmee Utility Authority, Florida. "Utilities that have earned this designation have demonstrated commitment to serving their communities and constantly looking to improve."

This is the seventeenth year that RP3 recognition has been offered. In total, 275 public power utilities nationwide now have RP3 designations.

Fourteen other MPUA member electric utilities (12-Missouri and 2-Arkansas) also hold current RP3 designations that were awarded in the past two years. Those utilities include:

MISSOURI:

- **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)**
- **Carthage Water & Electric Plant (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)**



ARKANSAS:

- **Conway Corporation (AR) (Diamond level, 2020)**
- **Clarksville Connected Utilities (AR), (Platinum level, 2021)**

FIVE MPUA HOMETOWN ELECTRIC UTILITIES EARN APPA SAFETY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

APPA also announced on March 29 that MPUA member utilities at **Hannibal, Higginsville, Jackson, and Monett**, as well as **Clarksville, AR** were among 138 public power systems nationwide that earned the association's Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2021.

APPA said that 318 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 2021. A utility's 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 2021, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The safety awards have been held annually for more than 65 years.

E-RELIABILITY TRACKER: CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE FOR RELIABLE PERFORMANCE

On April 1 the APPA recognized 14 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 11 in Missouri and three in Arkansas. The Missouri utilities were from **Farmington, Fulton, Hannibal, Harrisonville, Higginsville, Jackson, Lebanon, Marshall, Monett, Rolla and Waynesville**. The Arkansas cities were **Clarksville, Conway Corporation, and Siloam Springs**. The utilities were among 199 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. ◀

Budget, FERC, EPA, and social costs of carbon

Here's a quick overview of what's happening inside the beltway of interest to public power utilities.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL TO CONGRESS

DOE funding would nearly double, thanks largely to enactment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including \$4 billion allocated to accelerating clean energy resources and \$700 million to expand the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy to include climate adaptation and resilience innovations. The proposal also includes a \$225 million increase for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and \$9 million to the Environmental Protection Agency for a coal combustion residual federal permit program, an APPA-supported request. Congress ultimately determines how federal funds are appropriated across federal agencies.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Natural Gas: FERC backtracked on how it would evaluate new natural gas project applications under the Natural Gas Act, announcing that recent policy statements would be designated as drafts while seeking further public comment. A general policy statement updated how FERC would grant certificates for pipelines and liquefied natural gas. A second interim policy statement explained how FERC would assess the effects of natural gas infrastructure projects on climate change. Both, once finalized, will only apply to subsequently filed pipeline and LNG certificate applications.

Winter Readiness: An April 27-28 virtual technical conference will "discuss how to improve the winter readiness of generating units, including best practices, lessons learned and increased use of the NERC Guidelines, as recommended in the Joint February 2021 Cold Weather Outages Report."

Internal Network Security Monitoring: APPA filed joint comments with other trade groups on a notice of proposed rulemaking directing NERC to develop new or modified Critical Infrastructure Protection mandatory reliability standards, to include INSM requirements within a trust zone. The comments highlight significant obstacles and technical barriers for near-term implementation, support for a narrowed applicability focus on high and medium impact Bulk Electric Systems at control centers, and that any standard be practical, flexible, and use objective compliance measures.

Transmission Task Force: The joint FERC-State task force on electric transmission will meet on May 6 to examine barriers to the efficient, expeditious, and reliable interconnection of new

resources through the FERC-jurisdictional interconnection processes. Stakeholder comments were due April 12.

EPA ACTIONS ON POWER INDUSTRY EMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES

A forthcoming white paper on greenhouse gas control options for new natural gas power plants marks a first step to amend current rules around electricity sector pollution. Public comment would then inform a proposed update to EPA's 2015 GHG limits for new plants. EPA is also planning to propose a rule addressing legacy coal ash surface impoundments and another supplemental effluent guidelines to limit power plants' wastewater discharges.


FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN CALCULATE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON

The federal appellate court granted the Biden administration's request to stay a lower court's preliminary injunction that had blocked use of the social cost of carbon estimate to assess the impact proposed rules have on climate-related benefits. The court agreed with the government that the 10 challenging states lacked standing to sue. The administration had moved to set the SCC estimate last year at \$51 per ton (the same value used under the Obama administration) for federal agencies to use in rulemakings.






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Consistent dysfunction foreshadows coming legislative end

As we enter May, legislators are working diligently to finalize priority measures. May 13 is the deadline for legislation, however the budget must first be completed by May 6th. As the session ends, several matters still in play could have a significant impact on hometown utilities.

This session has been overshadowed by several factors contributing to consistent dysfunction. Election year positioning, majority party infighting, and issue posturing on Medicaid, gas taxes and vaccine mandates have combined to result in a slower start and little action, particularly in the Senate. Congressional maps have held headlines for weeks, and yet, the Senate fought over multiple versions of gerrymandered boundaries to determine who votes on Missouri's eight representatives to the U.S. House. At print, Capitol oddsmakers are split on whether a map will be finalized – or if the courts will step in to draw the map.

This session, MPUA has followed several issues:

Broadband – More than 30 bills were filed to regulate broadband development. These proposals impact everything from utility pole make-ready work to banning municipalities from using federal funds for broadband development unless engaging a private company for service delivery. The measures most likely to advance are a broadband study group, broadband development districts, increased speed thresholds for state grant issuances, and broadband mapping.

Anti-Grain Belt/Eminent Domain – House Bill 2005, is disguised as an eminent domain bill but targets the high-voltage, direct-current Grain Belt transmission line. MPUA testified against it, along with several member utilities, in House and Senate hearings. After House passage, it took a unique committee

assignment in the Senate Rules Committee chaired by the Majority Floor Leader. The bill sailed through committee and at print, is waiting for debate. Considerable backroom negotiations are ongoing. There is hope that if this bill passes, it will exempt out Grain Belt and only be prospective in nature. With the budget and a congressional map still pending, time is running out for any meaningful action without compromise.

Federal ARPA funding – The Governor's budget included more than \$410 million of federal ARPA funding for water and wastewater infrastructure grants. The House approved this in their version, but also included a 1-to-1 match of funding. MPUA opposes this match requirement as it puts hometown utilities behind in raising funds within the federal spending timelines. Additionally, MPUA supports inclusion of over \$295 million for broadband grants and projects impacting affordability, infrastructure development and pole replacements.

State Budget – MPUA is monitoring several matters impacting hometown utilities in the state budget, including state general revenue funding for LIHEAP (\$203M), multipurpose water commission funds (\$65M), Clarence Cannon funds (\$667K), broadband grants (\$49M), clean and drinking water state revolving funds (\$382M), lead service line infrastructure (\$27M), and low income water and wastewater assistance (\$22M).

Customer Data Privacy – The proposal supported by MPUA to exempt hometown utility customer data and privacy from the state's open records laws has widespread support. Efforts to amend the measure to several other pieces of legislation will assure passage again this year.

Net Metering – Several bills have been introduced this session impacting state net metering standards. Consensus has developed around the following changes: a study group on distributed energy resources and net metering that includes an MPUA member representative, inclusion of broader oversight of the state's merchandising practice standards on solar vendors, and limitations on homeowner association covenants impacting solar installations.

BPW Appointments – A perennial bill to allow communities with less than two thousand people to appoint Board of Public Works members from outside the city limits under limited circumstances

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(namely customers) has been introduced. MPUA cautiously supports and is monitoring amendments to ensure safe language is used.

EV Municipal ordinances – Pushback to St. Louis municipalities passing ordinances to require installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure has caused a bill to move through the General Assembly placing installation costs on the city and not developers. MPUA is monitoring to ensure control of safety and interconnection standards.

Water Districts – An effort to lower the threshold from 2/3 to a simple majority when selling a water district is supported by American Water. This parallels an earlier effort by the national water conglomerate to achieve the same result to target small hometown utilities. MPUA joined water districts in opposing this bill and is monitoring possible amendments through the end of the session.

As this year's session careens to an end on Friday the 13th, let's hope that superstitions are held at bay and MPUA's diligent work, persistence, and mission of robust advocacy for hometown utilities again carries the day and year. ◀



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Tips for a Successful Bond Election

Going to the ballot for voter approval can be daunting. That's why MPUA created a bond toolkit to guide you through the process. This plug-and-play instructional guide doesn't give financial or legal advice but focuses more on tips for successful outcomes.

Download the Bond Toolkit at MPUA.org under the public outreach tab. Look for the zipped file that includes Word documents to make creating your factsheet easier.

Pre-Bond Election Outreach: Communicate early and often! Full transparency and good communication with the community are key to a successful bond election. For community outreach, focus on construction project progress and communicating the response to emergency repairs. Educate your board and council by giving tours so they can talk with staff and see the challenges of delivering quality service.

Financing with Bonds: There are many points to consider when establishing bond funding so it is best to seek advice from a financial advisor, bond counsel, and your attorney. Gilmore and Bell's Municipal Finance Guide is a good reference tool.

Timing of Bond Election: Avoid asking your community for too many funding requests at one election. Work with the county, school district and others to stagger the number of bonds or taxes being asked for at one election. Notice of the election must be filed no later than 5 p.m. on the 10th Tuesday before the election.

Ballot Election Language: How many times have you gone to vote and the ballot language is so confusing you can't figure out whether voting yes means that you agree with the ballot question or not? Keep ballot language simple. Use terms the general public is familiar with and avoid legal lingo. The State of Missouri has text you need to use but there is room to describe in general terms what you plan on doing with the bond funds. See State of Missouri Statute Section 95.150 RSMo.

Creating a Bond Fact Sheet: The bond fact sheet can be started early in the process and be used for all your outreach leading up to the election. Stick to the facts and be all-encompassing by answering frequently asked questions in the document. The sample fact sheet provided in the toolkit makes it easier to get going with this important document.

Timing of Activities: Follow the Five Ps – proper planning prevents poor performance. Once the election date is established, create a timeline of activities leading up to the election to ensure all the necessary steps are completed on time. See the toolkit for more tips.

By starting with a comprehensive fact sheet, you can pull out important key messages for outreach outlets like social media, as shown in this example.

- Around 87% of sewer bond issue funds will go to meet mandatory federal regulations.
- Utilities use bonds to pay for expensive projects over time, like a homeowner who uses a mortgage to buy a home.
- Bond funding will allow current and future users of the sewer system to pay for long-term projects.

MO Ethics Commission Laws: Watch what paid city employees say! It is against Missouri law for city employees or city resources to be used to promote a bond issue. State only the facts! Promotion can be made by forming an election committee of citizens, commonly referred to as a PAC. Consult Missouri Ethics Commission website for more details.

Public Outreach & Sample Materials: There are more free outlets than ever before for communicating bond issue facts to your community members. The toolkit has a list of outreach options to consider and sample messages. Don't overlook the power of your employees to communicate the main themes of why the bond election is important. Presentations to civic groups can deliver high returns. Endorsements by community organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce are always beneficial. Make appointments with the media before the bond issue is on the ballot so they have all the information they need to cover the bond issue. If there are service or quality issues with your utility service, be upfront about them. Full transparency will go a long way in keeping the trust of your customers.

The bond issue fact sheet can be used to customize messages for different outlets. For example, you can take tidbits from it to use on social media to hit your main points. Remember to share a lot of photos so people understand the bond-funded projects and see the faces of the utility staff members who serve the community. Consult the toolkit for samples of different lengths of messages and ideas for key talking points. ◀

Link to bond toolkit files:

<https://mpua.org/resource/resmgr/docs/>

The Bond Toolkit was funded by the State of Missouri Clean Water State Revolving Fund and produced by MPUA. The toolkit and information in this article are provided as a reference only and MPUA is not responsible for meeting any current or future legal or fiduciary financial requirements. All recipients of this information are advised to consult with legal counsel and/or financial advisors regarding the subject matter herein. The information provided is offered solely as a courtesy and should not be construed as legal or financial advice of any kind. Consult professional financial advisors, legal counsel, state statutes, local election authority, and the Missouri Ethics Commission for further clarification on the information provided in this document.



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Looking forward to seeing you this year!

Join MPUA for an in-person conference this fall to keep up-to-date on the latest trends in the ever-changing utility industry. Learn from experts, your peers, and businesses specializing in utility products and services. We're getting our plans for Springfield in place and will announce more details and open registration this summer.

Sessions will focus on electric, wastewater, natural gas, water, and broadband utility topics of interest to hometown utilities.



MPUA.org
events@MPUA.org
573-445-3279

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 5

Golf or Trap Shooting

network with your peers while having some fun

Vendor Expo

connect with businesses that cater to hometown utilities' needs

Opening Reception

see old friends and meet new ones while snacking and chatting with vendors

Thursday, October 6

Water Council Annual Meeting (breakfast)

RTO Committee Meeting (breakfast)

Conference Presentations

presentations will focus on industry updates and expected changes to prepare for, so hometown utilities can continue to offer low-cost, reliable utility services

Vendor Expo

Lunch: Alliance Awards & Prizes

Networking Happy Hour

connect with your peers during happy hour and make your evening plans

Dinner & Entertainment On Your Own

head to nearby downtown with your associates where options abound for dinner & fun

Friday, October 7

MPUA Board of Directors Meeting

Annual Meeting

MPUA's annual budget, regular business items, and reports

LOCATIONS

Hotel

*University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
333 S John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield MO*

This contemporary city hotel offers an unbeatable downtown location. Modern amenities and Midwest hospitality combine to offer comfortable stays in a welcoming setting.

Golf

Rivercut, 2850 W. Farm Road 190, Springfield MO

Rivercut golf course was rated #1 Municipal Golf course in Missouri by Golf Digest.

Trap Shooting

This recent addition to MPUA's conference has been a popular alternative to golf. Location to be determined.

Explore Downtown Springfield

Wednesday or Thursday night are great nights to explore what downtown Springfield has to offer. Go to itsalldowntown.com to help with your plans.

VENDOR INFORMATION

Look for June registration announcements. MPUA Associate Members will get an early opportunity to sign up.

Sponsorships

Multiple levels of conference and event sponsorships come with a lot of perks, provide branding opportunities, and ways to interact with municipal utility staff members.

Exhibitor Booths

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registration starts in June



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Tech Summit draws a crowd, while regulatory processes and discussions roll on

MPUA recently held our inaugural Water and Wastewater Tech Summit for 2022! This was an amazing opportunity for members to engage in conversation with peers, learn from presentations on subjects like “Sourcing the Next Generation,” “Bond Education,” and “Fats, Oils, and Grease,” to name just a few. There were more than seventy people in attendance and ten vendor booths from industry companies. I want to thank each of you that took the time to attend or send staff to this event. This was an extremely good platform to build upon in the future for MPUA’s water and wastewater service offerings.



Barry Howell of Visu-Sewer leads a Tech Summit session on Sewer Evaluation and Nomenclature

In regulatory news the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has started the stakeholder process for the implementation of a Total Phosphorus Rule for the entire state. The current framework includes a tiered approach for all wastewater entities over 1 million gallons per day. The current target dates for compliance are January 1, 2029, for domestic design flow discharges over 15 million gallons per day; January 1, 2033, for domestic design flow discharges greater than 1 million gallons per day but less than 15 million gallons per day; and then industrial facilities regardless of

flow will have to comply by January 1, 2034. While these are the target compliance deadlines in the rule, in the rulemaking process the Department of Natural Resources may make alternative implementation dates available based on factors such as affordability, Integrated Management Plans, or regionalization plans. One of the areas the Engineering Section of the Department of Natural Resources is interested in is the optimization process for nutrient reduction. They are

investigating a program to work with wastewater treatment facilities to pilot optimization processes and the effects they have on nutrient levels. This would require some additional testing and monitoring but could help other utilities throughout the state in meeting the Total Phosphorous limit as efficiently as possible with less capital investment. If you are interested in this pilot, please reach out to me.

One of the other regulatory topics MPUA is monitoring is the implementation of a Nutrient Trading program. This would allow the trading of nutrient “credits” between point sources, as well as between non-point and point sources, to help with the



Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources Director Dru Buntin gave the opening day keynote presentation at MPUA’s Water & Wastewater Tech Summit

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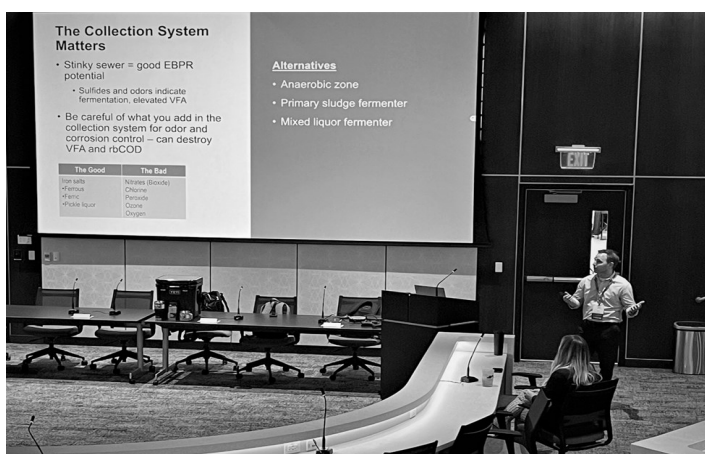
MPUA Water & Wastewater Tech Summit - MPUA photos by Ashton Day and Josh Youngblood

LEFT: Environmental consultant Kim Cole of KimHEC engages participants at a Tech Summit session dealing with 'FOG' (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

BELOW: Dave Bunch of HDR presents a Tech Summit session on Nutrient Reduction and Plant Optimization

(Continued from previous page 18)

reduction of nutrients to enable the State of Missouri to meet the goals in the Missouri Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy of 2014, which are intended to help address the hypoxia zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Currently the setup would allow the credit generator to set the market value for their credit and then an entity could purchase that credit and insert it into a department-approved nutrient reduction strategy to meet permitted limits. If you would like to know more about this program, contact MPUA staff for more information. ◀



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Transmission projects and joint ownership continue to move forward

FERC ISSUES TRANSMISSION NOPR

In a long-awaited Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR), FERC issued a transmission NOPR that seeks to reform FERC's regional transmission planning and cost allocation methodologies. The proposed reforms are intended to remedy deficiencies in FERC's existing regional transmission planning and cost allocation requirements so that FERC jurisdictional rates remain just and reasonable. Specifically, the NOPR would require public utility transmission providers to (1) conduct long-term regional transmission planning on a forward-looking basis to meet transmission needs, driven by changes in the resource mix and demand; (2) more fully consider dynamic line ratings and advanced power flow control devices in regional transmission planning processes; (3) seek the agreement of relevant state entities within the transmission planning region regarding the cost allocation methodologies that will

apply to transmission facilities selected in the regional transmission plan for purposes of cost allocation through long-term regional transmission planning; (4) adopt enhanced transparency requirements for local transmission planning processes and improve coordination between regional and local transmission planning with the aim of identifying potential opportunities to "right-size" replacement transmission facilities; and (5) revise existing interregional transmission coordination procedures to reflect the long-term regional transmission planning reforms proposed in the NOPR.

Most importantly to public power, and to transmission dependent utilities in general, the proposal would permit the exercise by transmission incumbents of a federal right of first refusal, but only for jointly owned transmission assets. This would provide a powerful incentive for joint ownership.

(Continued on next page)

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Additionally, the rule would not permit public utility transmission providers to take advantage of the construction work in progress incentive for regional transmission facilities selected for purposes of cost allocation through long-term regional transmission planning. Instead, utilities will be limited to recovering those funds through allowance for funds used during construction.

The Transmission Access Policy Study Group ("TAPS") is analyzing the NOPR, with comments due mid-June, and reply comments will be due mid-July. We'll look forward to participating in this major rule making and opportunity for increased involvement in transmission ownership.

FERC APPROVES NATURAL GAS PRICE INDICES UPDATES

One of the major complaints from many parties during Winter Storm Uri was the apparent lack of transparency surrounding natural gas pricing. FERC is attempting to address that problem by adopting policy recommendations, that were first recommended to FERC in December 2020, which would allow data providers (natural gas market participants that report transaction data to price index developers) to report either or both of their non-index based next-day natural gas transactions and non-index based next-month natural gas transactions to price index

developers. The policy change would also allow data providers to report their transactions to all FERC-approved price index developers and to self-audit every other year, rather than on an annual basis.

The genesis of these changes is that since 2010, FERC has seen a dramatic decline in the reporting of transactions to price index developers. This has resulted in questionable index prices, particularly during recent severe supply events. When there is insufficient reporting of transactions, the price indexes may fail to accurately reflect market conditions. FERC, in an attempt to encourage additional reporting, is reducing the burden of reporting by those who transact in the natural gas markets by allowing market participants to more broadly report any type of transaction that they engage in.

The purpose of the changes is to increase participation of those who provide data to those who produce index numbers. Given the number and amount of contracts for energy and natural gas supply connected to index prices, these actions by FERC should allow index prices to more closely reflect market activity. ◀



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Dynamic pricing provides cost benefits for utilities and customers

Dynamic pricing is a term used when a product or service has a flexible price that can shift based on market fundamentals. Dynamic pricing, sometimes referred to as time-of-use pricing, is used in many different industries to reflect current supply and demand conditions. One common example of where you've probably encountered dynamic pricing is in airfare. If you're looking for flights during peak seasons or times of day, you will likely pay more for the exact same flight than if you were willing to travel in the off-peak. If you try to find an Uber at rush hour, you're likely to pay "surge pricing." This change in price both incentivizes more drivers to enter the market and riders to consider waiting for their ride.

In the electric industry, dynamic pricing is not new at the wholesale level, where the electricity markets clear supply and demand on an hourly or five-minute basis. Like Uber, wholesale electric prices even include congestion premiums when transmission constraints bind. What's less common but finding

its way into many utilities on a pilot or opt-in basis is retail dynamic pricing rates. This can come in many forms and rate designs, but the general concept is to try to incentivize retail consumers to shift their usage to off-peak times, thus saving the utility money and giving the consumer more control over their costs.

As electric vehicles become more common, dynamic pricing will become more important at the retail level. Most electric vehicle charging is done at home, and without a price signal, it's likely customers will come home and plug in after work, when the utility is already close to its peak and electricity is most expensive. You can see this trend in the graph below. If you can use smart chargers to delay that charge until later in the evening you can still deliver the same electricity to the consumer but at a much lower cost. This is depicted in the graph as the red dashed line labeled "time restricted" charging. Not only is the electricity cheaper off-peak but keeping your peak under control will save on future investments in generation and transmission capacity. ◀

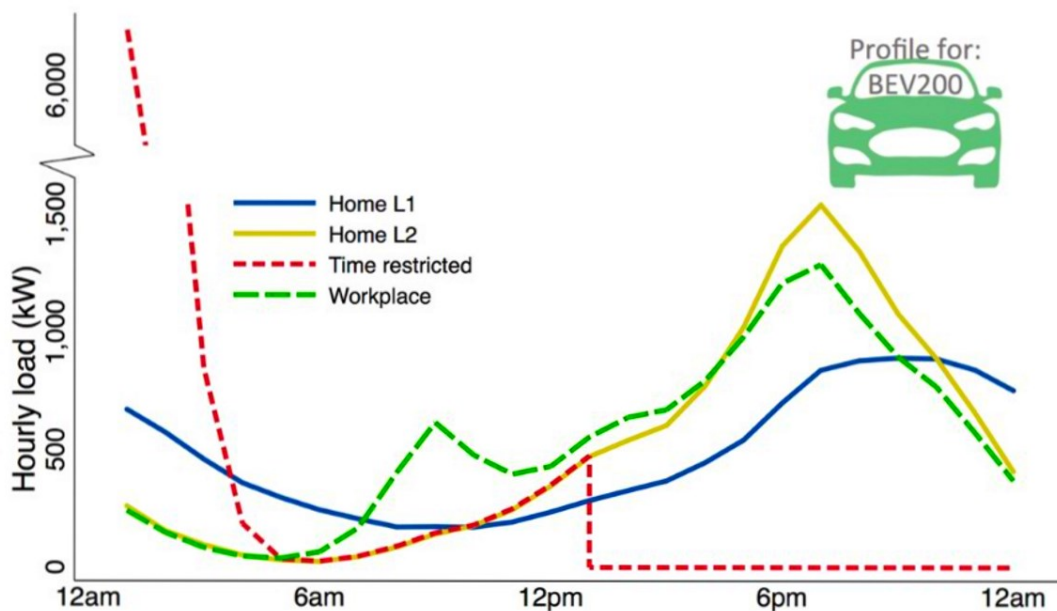


Figure 7. BEV load profile by scenario

Note: The scale in the figure is capped at 1,500 kW for presentation purposes (the time restricted scenario peaks at 6,200 kW at 12 a.m.).

The red dashed line in the figure above depicts how using smart chargers to delay electric vehicle charging in the evening hours can reduce peak loads.

(Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory)



Who uses it?



Facebook is one of the most popular social media sites available, with nearly 70% of U.S. adults reporting regular use. Majority of users are over the age of 25.



About 23% of U.S. adults use Twitter. It is primarily used for latest news and updates. Journalists and politicians frequently communicate to their audiences this way.

How often to post?



The frequency of Facebook posts depends on your audience size.

- <1k followers, post 1-3 times a week.
- 1-10k followers, post 3-7 times a week.
- >10k followers, post 5-12 times a week.



Post at least once a day. Space out your tweets by at least an hour if possible. Take advantage of tweet threads if trying to tell a longer story that requires more than the character limit.

When to post?



The most engagement on Facebook happens Tuesday-Thursday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. The avg. best time to post is 9 a.m.



The most engagement on Twitter happens on weekdays with the peaks being Wednesday and Friday. Best engagement is usually before and after the peak times of 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Quality over quantity

You don't need to post multiple times a day as long as what you're posting is quality, interesting stuff. This can be urgent information or evergreen content.

A picture is worth 1000 words

Sharing information visually with photos and videos can grab the user's attention and make them more likely to engage with your content. Show faces as much as possible so that your audience can see the people behind the work you do. Avoid static or posed photos as much as possible. Change your cover photo frequently to tell your evolving story.

Use a conversational tone

Your audience wants to know there's a person behind the posts. Posts with a personal tone or clever language receive 120% above average engagement. Be sure to keep your "voice" consistent across all social media platforms.

Consider your writing style

Share the necessary information in the least amount of words possible and use active voice sentence structure. This will help keep the attention of your audience in an easy to understand way. Try to use capital letters and emojis sparingly.

Engagement is the name of the game

Start conversations by including prompts or questions for your audience. Use the reply feature to answer questions or thank members for sharing their thoughts. Crowdsource content by calling for photos or testimonials and reshare or featuring the best responses on your website.

Scheduling is your friend

You can schedule posts directly in Facebook and Twitter in advance or use a third party scheduler like Hootsuite. Be strategic in the times you post and avoid times ending in :00 and :30. Scheduled content can include things like meet the team, holidays or observational days, energy conservation tips, etc.

"Management Minute" features short collections of tips and advice on utility management topics from MPUA member advisor Paul Jensen.

COMMUNICATIONS

PROVIDE UTILITY INFORMATION TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

There is often much more to utility department operations than meets the eye. In many cases utility department operations are complex and involve compliance with regulatory bodies. There are probably short term and long-term contractual obligations and expensive, critically important facilities that are not often seen by the general public. Providing a handout describing the utility department operations can be very useful in bringing newly elected up to speed and can serve as a reminder for those already in office.

Some of the information that can be useful includes:

- The origin, purpose, and description of each utility department
- How the utility departments are funded
- Basics of the budget; such as allocation of joint costs
- The division of responsibilities between the governing body and staff
- A brief summary of pertinent statutes and ordinances

Prepare this handout now, and update it annually, so it will be ready after every election.

PROVIDE A TOUR FOR NEW GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

Usually, when a person first joins a governing body, he or she has limited knowledge about the utility operations of the city. It can be helpful to provide them with written information about the utility operations and to provide them a tour of utility facilities. Don't just offer a tour; make a point of making it happen. The written information might be a single page or several pages. It can be a living document that only needs to be updated prior to each use. That same document, abbreviated perhaps, can also be used to educate new reporters. Reporters might provide better reporting after they are given a tour of facilities.

INFORM COMMUNITY OF IMPORTANT ISSUES

Important issues, especially those involving big expenditures, usually need to be discussed well in advance of any decision. Don't wait until decision time to inform your customers about the issue. Report on the discussions as they occur. You might get some feedback that sheds a different light on the issue. And when a decision is made, it is more likely that the public, having been informed along the way, will support the decision. ◀



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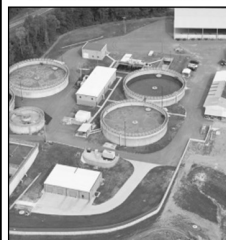
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