

## MPUA PUBLIC OUTREACH RESOURCES – May 2014

### *GUEST OP-ED (guest commentary) – MUNICIPAL UTILITY CHALLENGES AND COMMITMENTS*

- *Please review carefully to determine if your utility is comfortable using all opinions/statements included.*
- *Feel free to use individual paragraphs or points to develop your own custom media commentaries.*

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### **MUNICIPAL UTILITY CHALLENGES AND COMMITMENTS**

A few weeks ago in Butler, Missouri, a crowd gathered to celebrate the startup of the state's first utility-scale solar energy farm. Partners that joined to launch the facility included the plant's owner/developer, the City of Butler, and the Missouri Public Utility Alliance.

Missouri's municipal utilities are often at the forefront of developing renewable energy and other new energy technologies. These sources hold great promise, but they are not yet able to generate the constant and sustained power we need. To provide the baseload electricity demanded by Missouri homes, businesses, and industries, coal-fired power plants will continue to be an energy foundation for decades to come.

This year the U.S. EPA proposed new standards under the Clean Air Act to require very low carbon dioxide emissions from new fossil-fueled power plants, effectively eliminating new coal plants as an option. Soon it will likely issue similar standards applying to already-existing plants. Many critics and lawmakers have voiced concerns over the achievability of the proposed standards, the costs estimated under the proposals, and both the process and science the EPA used to develop the rule. As those new standards for existing plants are being reviewed by the White House, their details are still unknown, and so are their likely economic impacts on our electric rates. Regardless of what the new federal rules require, **(CITY NAME)** and other Missouri municipal utilities will continue to work together to assure core values in Missouri's electric system – reliability, affordability and diversity of power supplies.

Missouri's municipal utilities are non-profit, community-owned and locally-controlled utilities that serve the public interest. They are driven by community service, not profits. They work together to meet current energy needs and future challenges by pooling long term purchasing, planning, and transmission arrangements through partnership in the Missouri Public Utility Alliance, its Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission... **[UTILITY SELECT additional as appropriate. ...and power pools like the [Missouri Public Energy Pool (MoPEP)] and/or [the Mid-Missouri Municipal Power Energy Pool (MMMPEP).]**

The energy mix of our nation's grid is changing. Nationally, some older coal and nuclear plants will come offline in the near future, the result of both market forces and regulatory constraints. Each source of energy has unique costs and benefits, and diversity in our power supplies makes for a robust, resilient energy system. At the same time, maintaining grid reliability while managing an increasingly variable energy mix will be a substantial challenge. Meeting that challenge through productive partnerships and careful planning, municipal utilities will ensure continued reliability and affordability in decades to come.

Municipal providers will continue to explore new technology and renewable energy options, and those sources will likely provide growing shares of future generation, hopefully because they become more cost competitive, not just because they are regulated into existence. But our priority will always reflect what we believe are our customers' priorities – to provide dependable service at an affordable price to the citizen owners of municipal utilities.

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**Tipsheet: WATER CONSERVATION TIPS – Home Tips for Saving Water and Money**

- *Please review the entire contents to determine if you would prefer to use individual sections and excerpts, or to edit and rearrange for your utility's custom needs.*

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**SPRING WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

Here are some water-saving tips you may want to consider as you look ahead to the heat of the summer.

**OUTDOORS**

- Position sprinklers so water lands on the lawn, not on paved areas.
- Try to water only in the evening or very early morning to minimize evaporation.
- Cut your grass at least 3 inches high to shade the roots, making it more tolerant of drought. Keep your mower blade sharp for the healthiest grass.
- Use drought-tolerant plants and grasses for landscaping and reduce grass-covered areas.
- Consider using porous pavement, such as gravel, instead of asphalt for driveways and walkways. The rain can recharge groundwater supplies instead of running off and contributing to erosion.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean off your driveway or sidewalk.
- Wash your car less often, or at a car wash where they clean and recycle their water. If you wash your car at home, use a bucket of soapy water rather than running the hose. Keep a spring-loaded nozzle on the hose.

**INDOORS**

- Install a toilet dam or plastic bottle in your toilet tank.
- Install a water-efficient showerhead (2.5 gallons or less per minute).
- Take short showers and draw less water for baths.
- Check your toilet for silent leaks by placing a little food coloring in the tank and seeing if it leaks into the bowl.
- When you buy a new toilet, purchase a low flow model (1.6 gallons or less per flush).
- Turn off water while brushing teeth and shaving.
- Compost food scraps rather than using a garbage disposal in your sink.
- Keep cold drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap.
- Run your washing machine with a full load of clothes.
- Wash with warm water instead of hot, and rinse with cold water instead of warm. Wash with cold water when you can.