

ALLIANCE Advantage

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improving local quality of life through hometown utilities



MPUA brings together 120 hometown utilities for the collective good. We support community-owned, locally controlled electric, water, wastewater, natural gas, and broadband utilities in Missouri and beyond. MPUA provides utilities with energy supply, training, advocacy, and technical support. We're proud to collaborate with communities to achieve our mission of strengthening hometown utilities and improving the local quality of life.

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Seth Nelson, Cabool Water Department Supervisor, collects a water sample for testing.



John Twitty
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Hitting the 2024 on-ramp while tidying up 2023

We've just completed a successful **MPUA Annual Conference** with excellent attendance and informative program sessions and are appreciative of your support and, of course, your attendance. We hope you found your time to be well spent in Branson. If there are suggestions you have for us, we would be pleased to have them.

One of the important topics we discussed informally with many of you in attendance was **future power supply**. We used this opportunity to build upon our Power Supply Summit earlier in the year. As you all certainly know, electric capacity is getting tighter and tighter, and as we all plan for the future, working together has the potential of providing rich dividends. We specifically discussed the plans that Rick Landers and our friends in Sikeston are working on as they see the retirement of their unit in the foreseeable future. As we discussed at the conference, we hope you'll let Rick or us know if you think there might be interest in being considered with Sikeston's plan for the future. This potential project and several others will be important for us as we consider the needs for MoPEP, MMMPEP, and SWMPEP, and for our members who are project partners. Certainly, much more to follow but all the discussion is a great start.

We've reported on several occasions that we're in the process of working to **refinance**

some of the debt of our generating units and place **permanent financing** on other units. We refinanced a portion of the debt on our ownership share of Iatan 2 and project that MoPEP and Independence and Columbia will save about \$6M over the next ten years. RBC was our principal underwriter on this project, and they did a great job for us. Permanent financing for the Nixa Solar Farm is lined up for November 2. We'll know more about those costs in the next couple of weeks. We have permanent financing to put in place for our Nixa and Hannibal transmission systems, with an eye to adding the Sikeston/New Madrid project to that portfolio early in 2024. We'll have other opportunities to refinance existing debt over the next couple of years, and will, of course, be looking to save money when we tackle those projects.

You approved our **2024 Operating Budget** at the Annual Conference, and we are most grateful for your support. As you know, the format was markedly different from years past and we appreciate the expressions of approval we received from many of you. This document will be a guidepost for us as we move into the new year and beyond, and this is especially true since the new budget includes projections for 2025 and 2026. If there are additional details or schedules you would find useful for future budgets, we hope you will let us know so they can be incorporated.

As you know, the Missouri General Assembly created a task force to study **net metering** issues, and we have earlier reported that it did not appear there would be much output coming from the work they have completed to date. Another meeting is now scheduled in the next week so perhaps there is a little bit of life left in the task force. As we've discussed before it is our hope that any work on potential legislative language could include a customer bill of rights relative to solar developers and installers, and better definitions of exactly what net metering is and how it should be metered and billed. We continue to hear difficult stories of less than reputable installers and

(continued on page 3)

“ELECTRIC CAPACITY IS GETTING TIGHTER AND TIGHTER, AND AS WE ALL PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, WORKING TOGETHER HAS THE POTENTIAL OF PROVIDING RICH DIVIDENDS.”

Calendar of EVENTS

For the latest information and registration information, visit [MPUA.org/Events](https://mpua.org/Events)

developers and there is certainly plenty of misunderstanding of net metering between utilities, developers, and customers, so any help in these regards would be most helpful. We will see and we will keep you posted as we learn more.

And speaking of the Missouri General Assembly, **prefiling of bills** will begin in little over a month. This is always a nervous time as we begin to get an idea of what might be on the minds of the 197 House and Senate members. 2024 will bring a presidential election and elections for five of the six constitutional officers in Missouri, as well as all House members and half the Senate, so lots of jockeying for position will be a part of the action beginning in early January.

Many of the **grant applications** that we've submitted on your behalf are nearing decision time. Many of you are interested in the outcome of those decisions and we remain hopeful that some of the available funds will find their way to Missouri hometown utilities. Some of the subsidies for solar development, for instance, would make investments in additional projects very easy to pursue. Other monies that would assist in rehabilitation of your distribution systems would also be very helpful and ease the burden on your customers as those efforts are pursued.

As always, we remain at your service and look forward to serving your needs as you serve the needs of your customers. 🇺🇸

November

- 1 MPUA Prairie State Participant meeting
- 1 MPUA Plum Point Participant meeting
- 2 MMMPEP Committee meeting (St. Robert)
- 7-9 Substation Training for Lineworkers
- 8 Legislative Roundtable (Chillicothe)
- 9 Legislative Roundtable (Willow Springs)
- 15 SPP RTO Committee Meeting
- 16 MISO RTO Committee Meeting
- 17 Economic Development & Municipal Utilities Virtual Meeting
- 23-24 MPUA office closed (Thanksgiving holiday)
- 28 Legislative Roundtable (Shelbina)
- 29 Lineworker & Mutual Aid Committee Meetings

December

- 6 Communications Roundtable
- 13 Member Services Committee Meeting
- 14 MPUA Board of Directors, MEC, & RSC Meetings
- 14 MPUA RTO Committees (MISO & SPP) Meeting
- 19 MPUA Legislative Committee Meeting
- 25-26 MPUA office closed (Christmas holiday)

January 2024

- 1 MPUA office closed (New Year's Day holiday)
- 16 MPUA Legislative Committee Meeting
- 17 Missouri Gas Commission Meeting



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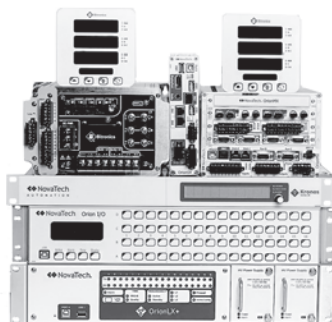
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Welcome, new MPUA staff members!




Keith Carter joined MPUA's Engineering team on Sept. 11 as Training Services Associate. He will develop and implement natural gas, water, and wastewater training for MPUA members. Before coming to MPUA, Keith worked for 33 years at Macon Municipal Utilities, serving the utility

most recently as MMU's Supervisor of Underground Facilities. He has extensive gas utility knowledge in installing gas service and service replacements, leak repair, meter issues and customer service. He was also a pipeline inspector for the Laddonia Combined Heat & Power generation plant. Keith makes his home in Moberly. He and his wife enjoy camping and spending time with their three children and six grandchildren. He used to compete in barbecue contests, but now just enjoys cooking for family and friends.



Steve Stodden joined MPUA's staff on Oct. 2 as the Director of Electric Transmission & Distribution. He helps manage the electric power and transmission needs for MPUA members. Steve was previously Vice President at City Utilities of Springfield. He was employed at City


Utilities for more than 25 years. During that time, he managed Power Generation, Power Marketing, Water Operations, Gas Operations, Transit, and Fleet and Facilities. Prior to City Utilities, he was an electrical engineer for Black & Veatch. Steve has a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University. He currently resides in Springfield while he builds a house in Columbia. In his free time, he enjoys camping and hiking, and traveling to somewhere warm in the winter. 

Linneus and Meadville join MPUA


MPUA welcomed the cities of Linneus and Meadville, two neighboring Linn County communities, as new municipal members in July of this year. Both cities have electric, water, and wastewater utilities, and are now part of the Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities (MAMU).

"Meadville is very pleased to join MPUA," said Meadville's City Treasurer and acting City Clerk, Bobbi Meneely. "The readiness of the mutual aid network and the technical support MPUA can offer our electric utility are benefits we are especially glad to have available."

Linneus City Clerk Patty Brandes echoed similar thoughts. "Our city was struck by a tornado in May. As we were rebuilding from that storm, we learned about MPUA and services it can coordinate like mutual aid, line crew services, and utility legal guidance," she said. "I think it's great that we've joined."


With the additions of Linneus and Meadville, MPUA's membership now includes 126 utilities, serving communities in Missouri (112) and beyond, including utilities in Arkansas (10), Illinois (2), Nebraska (1) and Mississippi (1). 


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Terry M. Jarrett

Electric service territory changes that affect municipal utilities

In 2021, Governor Parson signed into law HB 734, which made several changes to the process surrounding disputes of the electric service territories between municipal utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and investor-owned utilities.

The last major rewrite of the requirements for the transfer of electric service territories between electric service providers was in 1991. The requirements laid out in the 1991 law worked well for many years, but by 2021, territorial disputes between electric service providers began to increase, so much so that complaints to the state legislature generated support for changes to make the process fairer. The interested parties began negotiations to improve the law, which led to a compromise and HB 734 was adopted and became law.

It is important for municipal utilities to be acquainted with these changes because they altered the process that utilities must utilize to make changes to service territorial boundaries, service to existing structures after annexation, purchase by a municipal utility of a rural electric cooperative's facilities in an annexed area, and other items. Following is a summary of the changes:

Territorial Agreements. Perhaps the most important changes wrought by HB 734 affect territorial agreements between electric service providers, especially in municipal annexations where another electric supplier currently is not providing permanent service to a structure. Under the prior law, that area became the exclusive service territory of the municipal utility. Under the new law, if a rural electric cooperative has existing electric service facilities in the area proposed to be annexed, the majority of the existing developers, landowners, or prospective electric customers in that area may, anytime within forty-five days prior to the effective date of the annexation, submit a written request to the governing body of the annexing municipality to invoke mandatory good faith negotiations as provided in the bill. These provisions shall also apply in the event an electrical corporation rather than a municipally owned electric utility is providing electric service in the municipality.

The new law includes a "Mandatory Good Faith Negotiations Process":

The negotiation period is 45 days. In such negotiations the following factors shall be considered, at a minimum:

1. The preference of landowners and prospective electric customers;
2. The rates, terms, and conditions of service of the electric service suppliers;
3. The economic impact on the electric service suppliers;
4. Each electric service supplier's operational ability to serve all or portions of the annexed area within three years of the date the annexation becomes effective;
5. Avoiding the wasteful duplication of electric facilities;
6. Minimizing unnecessary encumbrances on the property and landscape within the area to be annexed; and
7. Preventing the waste of materials and natural resources.

If the municipally owned electric utility and rural electric cooperative are unable to negotiate a territorial agreement within forty-five days, then they may submit proposals to those submitting the original written request, whose preference shall control. The governing body of the annexing municipality shall not reject the petition requesting annexation based on such preference. This does not apply to municipally owned property in any newly annexed area. (*Section 386.800.2, RSMo.*)

Service to Existing Structures. Under the old scheme, if a retail electric supplier was providing service to a structure located within a municipality that was previously a rural area, and the structure was demolished and replaced by a new structure, the municipal utility had the right to provide electric service to the new structure. Under the new law, if a retail electric supplier is providing service to a structure located within a municipality that was previously a rural area, and the structure is demolished and replaced by a new structure, the retail

electric service supplier may provide permanent service to the new structure

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IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH THESE CHANGES BECAUSE THEY ALTERED THE PROCESS THAT UTILITIES MUST UTILIZE

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upon the request of the owner of the new structure. (Sections 91.025 and 394.315, RSMo.)

Purchasing co-op facilities in annexed areas. When a municipal utility is purchasing a rural electric cooperative's facilities in an annexed area, the new law provides a formula for determining the fair and reasonable compensation for the purchase. HB 734 changes the term "fair and reasonable compensation" to 200%, rather than 400%, of gross revenues less gross receipts taxes received by the affected electric service supplier from the 12-month period preceding the approval of the municipality's governing body. This potentially lowers the purchase price for municipal utilities of the rural electric cooperative's facilities. (Section 386.800.6(3), RSMo.)

Settling Disputes at the Public Service Commission. HB 734 also made changes relating to the process when the municipal utility and the rural electric cooperative are unable to reach an agreement on the purchase. In the event the parties are unable to reach an agreement, within sixty days after the expiration of the time specified for

negotiations, the municipally owned electric utility or the affected electric service supplier may apply to the commission for an order assigning exclusive service territories within the annexed area and a determination of the fair and reasonable compensation amount to be paid to the affected electric service supplier. The change makes it clear that either the municipal utility or the rural electric cooperative can apply to the commission. (Section 386.800.7, RSMo.)

Public Service Commission jurisdiction not expanded. Historically, The Public Service Commission has had little regulatory authority over municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives. A provision was added to HB 734 clarifying that nothing in the bill expands Commission jurisdiction over municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives. Nothing in HB 734 shall be construed as otherwise conferring upon the Public Service Commission jurisdiction over the service, rates, financing, or management of any rural electric cooperative or any municipally owned electric utility. (Section 386.800.9, RSMo.)

Definition of Rural Area. HB 734 included a change to the population limit for the definition of a "rural area." In the old law, the population limit was 1,500, where it had been since the 1930s. Now, the current limit is 1,600, and it will be increased by 6% every 10 years after each census beginning in 2030. (Section 394.020, RSMo.)

Clean Up Provisions. HB 734 contained a few clean-up provisions, including changing the term "a rural electric cooperative" to an "electric supplier" in the definition of "structure" or "structures" to make clear that it can also include municipal utilities and investor-owned utilities. (Section 394.315, RSMo.)

The changes contained in HB 734 have been in effect for almost two years, and by all accounts, they appear to be successful in dealing with territorial disputes between electric providers. If you have any territorial disputes with another electric provider, consult with your attorney to determine your rights under the law. ■

Terry M. Jarrett is an attorney with Healy Law Office and is a nationally recognized leader in energy, utility, and regulatory issues. Jarrett formerly served as a Commissioner on the Missouri Public Service Commission. Before serving the Missouri PSC, he was Chief Legal Counsel to Missouri Governor Matt Blunt.

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WORK THAT WILL PAY DIVIDENDS.

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Politics. It's always hard to tell how politicians are going to impact utility work, especially for hometown utilities. Utilities are probably one of the most complex of a city's services. Plus, city government officials have many diverse items to tackle. That is why it is crucial for utility staff members to regularly communicate with governing bodies. It is foundational work that will pay dividends.

Ideas for utility communications

- The best tools you can give your governing body are education and information. Keep the information at a very simple level and use analogies to help people understand more complex concepts. Remember that all people learn and retain information differently, so use a variety of written, visual, and auditory methods.
- Schedule tours of work sites. Have several employees conduct the tour so they can share personal experiences about their jobs.
- Provide a basic utility overview for each utility annually and highlight the areas where customers have the most concern. Some examples of topics: showing how electric reliability is achieved, the source and quality of water supply, and how regulations impact utility operations.
- Be upfront and regularly discuss any problems with utility service. Especially those relating to reliability, cost, and quality of service. Getting in front of issues provides greater transparency and continues the trust in your hometown utility.
 - Whether it is how you respond to outages or sewer backups, the more your policymakers understand, the better they can be your advocate when responding to constituents.
 - Provide a simple overview of the problem, what you are doing to fix the problem, and be realistic about when the problem will be resolved. If you include how the utility will try to avoid the problem in the future, it shows the utility's commitment to excellent customer service. It also sets the stage for approval of future budget items needed to improve reliability.
- Utility budgets can appear to be large in comparison to other city departments. Throughout the year and during the annual budget process, provide visuals to tell the budget story. A pie chart that shows categories of expenses can easily show where the money is going. Remind people

that utilities are funded by the rates charged for the service, not tax money. Use examples of what the cost would be to replace a transformer at a substation or a pump at a plant when discussing a utility's cash reserve policy, so the scale of expenses is clear.

- Tell the story of your utility's contributions to the city government. Whether Payment In Lieu of Tax (PILOT), franchise fees, direct transfers, or work supplied by utility staff, keep careful track of what the utility provides. Share that information throughout the year, not just at budget time.
- Highlight the work of utility staff members who are a vital part of the community. Remind your customer that utility workers are highly skilled employees who must often report to work at all hours to ensure reliable service. This could come in handy when there are questions about utility salaries.

Governance Training Resources

The American Public Power Association has new on-demand training available to educate your board and council about governing utilities. MPPA is working with them to provide an in-person workshop in the spring/summer of 2024.

Public Power Governance Essentials: this training offers a convenient way to get up-to-speed on the nuts and bolts of governance requirements through a series of 15 short videos (an average of 15 minutes each). A Policymakers Handbook is also available.

- The lessons are designed to help you build the skills necessary to become a productive board member who contributes to the long-term success of your organization. Topics include complying with charters and bylaws, understanding duties and legal obligations, conflicts of interest, facilitating effective board meetings, and other keys to governance success, including how to communicate effectively, meaningfully monitor performance, foster accountability, and much more.

There is also a handbook available from APPA. Look for the Policy Makers Handbook: A Nuts and Bolts Guide to Governance in Public Power on their website.

For more information: publicpower.org/governance-resources or contact Connie Ford if you are interested in attending the future MPPA workshop. 📍



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Elizabeth Smith
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Priorities take shape for 2024 advocacy season

The MPUA advocacy team is gearing up for the coming 2024 legislative session. This year is shaping up to be quite active with several issues already brewing, including net metering and other solar energy issues, transmission siting, underground facility safety, time-of-use rates, PSC changes, and eminent domain. In addition, we should be looking at some significant appropriations items with federal disbursements for water, broadband and electric systems.

On the Federal level, we continue to monitor and report on utility-related funding opportunities. In addition, we are following some interesting initiatives involving potential changes in oversight for broadband and pole attachments.

The APPA Legislative Rally, in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for February 26-28, 2024. APPA registration is due to open November 1, and the Rally will, again, be at the Mayflower. In an effort to lessen the cost to our members, we have reserved a block of rooms at Hyatt Place – White House. This location is about two blocks from the conference site. We will soon share much more information about the APPA Rally.

Our issues statement for state legislation this year includes eight topics, pending approval from the Legislative Committee.

Local Control

Municipal utility services are determined, monitored, and regulated by the citizens receiving service through locally-elected officials. MPUA works to preserve local control over these assets, and all decisions related to the maintenance, management, cost, and quality of services.

Telecommunication Collocations

MPUA supports local control and management of pole attachments and rights-of-way. Safety, maintenance, and utility service reliability must be prioritized when allowing access to these hometown utility assets. Companies using these poles should pay for their portion of the cost of constructing and maintaining this asset that is paid for by electric utility customers.

Regulatory Policy

New environmental permitting and regulatory requirements should consider the additional cost to the consumer and whether the technology exists to meet the new regulation. MPUA supports common-sense regulatory policy designed to protect and preserve the quality of life in Missouri cities while keeping utility rates for essential services cost-effective.

Infrastructure Investment

Utility infrastructure underpins the quality of life and economic prosperity for all Missouri communities. MPUA urges state and federal investment in hometown utility infrastructure that supports low-cost, reliable utility service, especially for community-owned hometown utility projects or collaborative endeavors.

Power Generation and Transmission

As the electric grid transitions to more intermittent, renewable energy, there are times when demand now outpaces the supply. To avoid electric service interruptions when this occurs, investments need to be made in electric generation and transmission lines to move electricity around the grid. MPUA supports the commonsense development of new generation and transmission projects. Traditional tools for new right-of-way access and control must be preserved to ensure reliable, affordable power to Missouri homes.

Net Metering


MPUA supports customer-owned generation to hometown utility systems as outlined in Missouri's current net metering law. Any changes to the existing law should include consumer protection measures, the ability for municipal utilities to set rates, and address new safety concerns. The current thresholds for net metering need to stay in place since they allow for electric rate equity for customers who can't install their own solar energy systems.

Underground Facilities (MO One Call)

MPUA supports state laws that improve worker safety and protect vital underground assets that deliver essential utility services. The main legislative goal should be to retain safe excavation standards so there are no service disruptions to essential utility services.

Eminent Domain

Eminent Domain should remain in place for hometown utility projects needed for cost-effective, reliable utility service. On the rare occasions that Eminent Domain must be used to secure property, MPUA also supports due process and just compensation for landowners.

As we encounter bills related to these and other topics, we may ask members to participate or testify in House and Senate hearings. Participation by the actual people impacted by proposed legislation is always more effective. 

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Member Spotlight: City of Cabool

Small Ozarks town gets big results from new technologies

by Kerry Cordray

MPUA's "spotlight city" for this edition is reportedly the only city in the world spelled "Cabool". This city of just over 2,000 stands near the headwaters of the Big Piney River and is surrounded by scenic splendors like the Mark Twain National Forest and the nearby Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

Local lore says the town started out in 1878 under the name of Cedar Bluff, then got its unique new name in 1882 as the Frisco railroad was being built through the Texas County town. A railroad engineer who had served in the British army said the surrounding hills reminded him of the area around Kabul, Afghanistan, and an older-style spelling of Cabool was adopted. Another local legend claims the town was named after a local American Indian chief. Regardless of how its name came about, Cabool has all the qualities and challenges of being a Missouri small town. But its hometown utilities don't let size stand in the way of employing and mastering new technology, and serving the community in ways that could scarcely be imagined only a few years ago.

AMI EXPANDS ELECTRIC & WATER CAPABILITIES

Cabool's electric and water utilities very recently joined the ranks of smaller utilities now benefiting from the installation of automated metering infrastructure (AMI). As AMI systems have become more widespread, affordable, and reliable, even smaller hometown utilities are increasingly installing and using them to improve their services.

"Last year we finished up installing a water metering AMI system," said Ron Sheets, Cabool's City Administrator since 2019. "We did the system on the electric side about a year before we started the water side, and we're starting our second year of water AMI."

Sheets detailed some of the immediate service improvements made possible by automated metering. "We have the ability to disconnect residential meters remotely from city hall," he said. "A remote disconnect is a very nice feature to have in the event of a fire, in the event of a nonpayment, or

when contractors need to come work on something. Saves us a lot of overtime from having to call guys in to come turn power off or back on."

Cabool also welcomed AMI's ability to help customers understand high electric bills. "You can sit down with a customer upset about a high bill and show them how when it's a hundred degrees outside that the air conditioner's running more and their power use shoots way up," Scheets said. "That helps not only the resident, but the worker in the office. It gives them information to show the customer, so they see it more clearly. What a great tool to have!"

Scheets went on to describe advantages that AMI brings the water utility. "On the water side, leak detection is a major change. We don't use all the information available to us yet, but we do have the ability to set an alarm," he elaborated. "If a customer's water runs continually for so long, it'll trigger a red flag, and when we arrive in the morning we have a warning saying, 'Hey, looks like so-and-so's got a leak.' So, you can call that person immediately. When we did manual readings, if there was a leak at a residence it may have been running for 30 days by the time the reading was loaded into the computer and reviewed."

CREATURES FIX A BAD LAGOON

Not all new technology is about computers and electronics. Some is about biology.

In 2018 Cabool was faced with a looming challenge. Because of a problem with an upstream wastewater source, its primary wastewater lagoon was prematurely filling up with sludge.

Waste stabilization lagoons are an older, low-cost, and usually reliable process for wastewater treatment. Man-made ponds or lagoons are confined by earthen berms, and incoming wastewater or "influent" enters one side of the lagoon system. Waste is naturally biodegraded by bacteria in the lagoon, and cleaner treated wastewater exits on the other side as "effluent" after spending several days in the pond. But such a system



(continued on page 14)

ABOUT CABOOL MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

ELECTRIC: Cabool's electric utility established service in the 1930's. It currently serves 988 meters. The utility shares a substation with Intercounty Electric Cooperative. Its distribution system includes 23 miles of overhead lines, and 8.2 miles of transmission line. The city has about 380 streetlights and 700 utility poles. Cabool is a

charter member of the Mid-Missouri Municipal Power Energy Pool (MMMPEP), purchasing all its wholesale power through the pool.

WATER: Cabool's municipal water system was established in 1926, and currently serves 990 meters. The water plant built in 1966 has had many upgrades through the years. The system meets current drinking water regulation standards, delivering water through 27 miles of distribution mains. The source of the city's water is groundwater from three city wells. Storage includes one water tower, one ground tank, and a standpipe. Water usage currently averages about 0.18 million gallons per day, with a supply capacity of 1.54 MGD.

SEWER: The first sanitary and storm sewers in Cabool were constructed in the 1940s. The city serves 950 connections. It maintains 27 miles of collection lines, 480 manholes and 5 lift stations. The existing wastewater treatment plant is a lagoon system constructed in 1982-84. The WWTP processing average is currently 800,000 gallons-per-day, with a capacity of 1 MGD. The receiving stream is the Big Piney River.



(continued from page 13)

is susceptible to problems when the 'input' has an abnormally high biological oxygen demand, or BOD.

"A lagoon system works great naturally, as long as they're not overwhelmed," said Seth Nelson, Cabool's water department supervisor. "But we had started getting influent wastewater that was in the three thousand and four thousands on BOD readings because of somebody else's upstream waste material that was feeding to us, and that pretty much killed our bacteria."

City Administrator Scheets explained further. "We never were outside of our permit requirements, but we were headed that way. The sludge built up too quickly over time because of the dirty stuff coming into the system, and our primary cell was

full. You couldn't run a johnboat over it."

The city reached the point where it would soon have to dredge the lagoon or seek another solution. Cost estimates for dredging the lagoon came in the range of \$2.5 million. Then city engineer Duane Ottmar and wastewater treatment plant operator Tim Curry recommended a possible biological solution. A company called Advanced Microbial Solutions (AMS), had developed varieties of microbes grown especially for breaking down sludge. "The AMS consultant came to look at the lagoon and thought they had a method they could use to 'eat' the sludge without having to dredge," said Scheets. "We were a test case, so they made us a deal: If it works, you owe us, and if it doesn't, you don't owe us anything."

AMS set up a microbial drip feed system and was onsite regularly to monitor progress. "By the time we were finishing up, they actually moved in for 30 days to supervise the most intensive 'feeding' and were actually growing the microbes onsite," Scheets said. The lagoon's recovery and speedy decrease in sludge were dramatic. "After five to six weeks you could see clean gravel 30 feet out from the bank. Minnows are now living in all five cells. It has cleaned it up unbelievably," Scheets said.

At a final cost of about \$1.5 million, the biological solution turned out to be a big money saver for the city. "It sounds bad when you spend over a million dollars doing some cleanup, but it could have been a lot worse," said Scheets. "And the upstream issues that led to that have been taken care of, so now we are in much better shape." ■



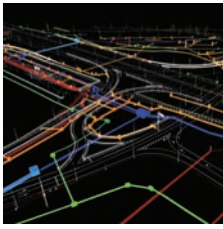
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2023 ALLIANCE AWARDS

Congratulations to all those honored with this year's Alliance Awards. MPUA honors the individuals, utilities and communities that have served the hometown utility industry with honor and distinction. These select few were nominated by their peers to receive these awards and be recognized. MPUA announced these honorees at our Awards Luncheon at the 2023 Annual Conference.



Duncan Kincheloe Value of Hometown Utilities Award
Chuck Bryant, General Manager, Carthage Water & Electric Plant



Dan Watkins—Gary Whorton Personal Service Award
JT Hardy, City Administrator, City of Sullivan



John "Tom" Tinsley Distinguished Service Award
Zac Johnson, Utilities Director, City of Cameron



Paul Jensen Individual Achievement Award
Dennie Carothers, City Administrator, City of Clarence



John "Tom" Tinsley Distinguished Service Award
Steve Stodden, VP - Strategic Projects, City Utilities of Springfield



Honor Award
Rick Lunceford, Safety & Training Specialist, Independence Power & Light

2023 RECOGNITIONS

APPA Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)

Carthage Water & Electric Plant
Conway Corporation
City of Fulton
Independence Power & Light
Marshall Municipal Utilities
Nixa Municipal Utilities
City Utilities of Springfield

APPA Safety Award of Excellence

Carthage Water & Electric Plant
Conway Corporation
Hannibal Board of Public Works
Independence Power & Light
Marshall Municipal Utilities
City Utilities of Springfield





Iatan Power Station - Unit 2


Located on a 3,000-acre site along the Missouri River just outside of Weston, MO, the Iatan Generating Station site has two coal-fired electric generating units – Iatan 1 & Iatan 2. The newer of the two units, Iatan 2, has been one of the reliable mainstays of the baseload power for MPUA's hometown electric utilities for the past 12 years.

Iatan 2 is a highly efficient 870 MW coal-fired, steam-electric generating station. The plant has the largest capacity in all of MPUA's 'fleet' of coal-fired generation. The unit consists of a single supercritical pulverized coal-fired boiler and a single reheat steam turbine, both of conventional design. Steam generated by the boiler is supplied to the steam turbine to generate power. Iatan's power production is fueled by coal that comes primarily from the Powder River Basin.

The Missouri Electric Commission has owned an 11.76 % ownership interest in Iatan 2 since it began service in January 2011. Other utilities besides MEC in the current ownership group include Evergy (majority owner and operator of the plant), Liberty Utilities and the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative.

MEC receives approximately 102 MW of the unit's current output. Thirty-one megawatts of the power is sold to the Missouri Public Energy Pool, with the remainder contracted to the hometown utilities in Independence and Columbia.

Iatan 2 is committed and dispatched by the Southwest Power Pool to optimize the asset in the energy market.

On June 15, MEC members authorized a refunding on its Iatan 2 Series 2014 Revenue Bonds. The refunding is forecasted to save MEC more than \$6million in debt service costs over the life of the debt. The refunding closed on Oct. 17. 



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Lead service line inventory and impeding due date

MPUA continues to inform members about the U.S. EPA's finalization of the Lead and Copper Rule Revision that was signed back in December of 2022. EPA has a goal of better protection for children, removing lead water lines, and providing communities with more information on what is in their drinking water.

The EPA promulgated the Safe Drinking Water Lead Ban in 1986, which became effective in Missouri in 1989. In 2014, the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act amended the definition of "lead free" pipes as having less than 0.25% lead in water pipes and fittings. A part of the 2014 regulation requires the Lead Line Inventory, which is due by October 16, 2024 -- just less than one-year away.

What questions you will need to be able to answer are listed in the official form located on DNR's website on their Lead Service Line Inventory page. This page contains all



the guidance documents and spreadsheets for both small/medium and large systems. Other items on this page that can be of help to members are the fliers, bill stuffers, and door hangers that have been developed for use by your systems.

MPUA has received many questions regarding how the inventory should be

done, what happens when you can't get homeowners to let you into basements or crawlspaces to inspect the lines, and what qualifies as a sufficient process for identifying material types.

The best place to start your inventory is installation and maintenance records. If you have this information and know

it hasn't been replaced, you're one step ahead. If not, then the next step would be to start visual examinations. This would include a point of entry into the building, examination at the meter pit, and then if it is still inconclusive it is recommended that communities dig pothole inspection sites two to three feet on either side of the meter pit for visual verification. In some situations, customers may not give you access to do this on their ownership side. In this case, customers can self-examine, then the customer must complete a form or affidavit to how the inspection was completed, provide a photo of the lines, and sign the form.

Some of the non-traditional methods that have been implemented are sequential sampling and resistivity testing. These both can provide guidance on whether there are lead service lines present. A drawback to sampling is that it could indicate presence of a lead service line, but it does not guarantee an absence. Resistivity testing can provide a decent scientific approach if you have consistent readings, but if there are fluctuations in the readings it will then

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YOUR INVENTORY
IS INSTALLATION
AND MAINTENANCE
RECORDS ”



be necessary to 'pothole' to visually inspect the line. This method should be used with caution, and only as a step in the scientific identification of service lines.



After the inventory is sent in, the Public Water System must submit updated Lead Service Line Inventories to the Missouri Department of Natural

Resources on a schedule of each year or every three years, depending upon the frequency of the utility's lead and copper sampling schedule. When you update your Lead Service Line Inventory it should include all newly identified service materials and all replacements completed during that time. Remember, only a complete service line replacement can count as a replacement if there was a lead line present. If you replace just the PWS side, that doesn't count. Lastly, if you happen to be a water system that has previously indicated that you do not have lead, you must still complete the Lead Service Line Inventory.

As always, MPUA staff is here to provide help and guidance for complying with regulations set by the State of Missouri or the Environmental Protection Agency. **A**

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Grain Belt Express approved for major upgrade by Missouri PSC

Grain Belt Express

The Missouri Public Service Commission (MoPSC) approved the request filed by Invenenergy's Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (GBE) to increase the size of the direct current to alternating current converter station in Missouri from 500 MW to 2,500 MW, and to build the project in two phases. The MoPSC found that this increase in the size of the converter station would have significant savings to Missourians, and that the two-stage construction process would shorten the time for those benefits to be obtained by Missourians. Additionally, the MoPSC authorized GBE to relocate the Missouri converter station from Ralls County to Monroe County, and to relocate the alternating current connector line from Ralls County to Monroe, Audrain, and Callaway Counties.

One particular benefit the MoPSC found of the GBE project was to "...help guard against price spikes and outages such as those experienced by Winter Storms Uri and Elliot." With the new converter station design allowing electricity to flow bi-directionally, the converter station can become a major source of reliability for Missouri in the future.

Additionally, the MoPSC found the evidence submitted by MEC persuasive to the benefits that the GBE would provide to Missouri, as well as the larger MISO footprint. These savings, associated with lower MISO market prices, would result in over \$1 billion dollars in savings.

The Commission found that numerous conditions to which Grain Belt Express voluntarily agreed were reasonable and necessary. The conditions include provisions related to financing, interconnection, nearby utility facilities, emergency restoration, construction and clearing land, maintenance and repair of the line and right-of-way, and landowner interactions and right-of-way acquisition.

In conclusion the MoPSC found that (1) there is a need for the service, (2) GBE is qualified to provide the proposed service, (3) GBE has the financial ability to provide the

service, (4) GBE's proposal is economically feasible, and (5) the service promotes the public interest.

At this point, we expect the landowners, the agricultural special interest groups, or both to appeal. We will continue to monitor this litigation and defend the MoPSC order as necessary.

FERC-NERC joint inquiry into Winter Storm Elliott

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) recently performed a joint inquiry into Winter Storm Elliott (Elliott). Elliott was the Christmas 2022 storm that contributed to massive power outages in the Eastern half of the country. FERC and NERC staff jointly recommended eleven items, including completion of cold weather reliability standard revisions for generators stemming from 2021's Winter Storm Uri, improvements to the reliability of the domestic natural gas infrastructure, gas-electric coordination and electric grid operations.


FERC and NERC staff highlighted several key facts about the December 2022 event, including the following:

1. There were unprecedented unplanned generating unit losses, with nearly 90,000 MW out at the same time. Over half of this was natural gas generators.
2. Nearly 80% of the generating units failed to perform at temperatures above their own documented minimum operating temperatures.
3. Several electric grid operators had to shed load to maintain system reliability. The Tennessee Valley Authority accounted for the largest load-shedding, dropping 3,000 MW of load over a nearly 8-hour period.
4. Natural gas pipeline pressures dropped largely because of freeze-related production. Every cold weather inquiry report that has studied natural gas production has found cold-related declines in natural gas production, by as much as 70% in some cases.
5. Consolidated Edison Inc., which serves the greater New York Metropolitan area, faced reliability-threatening low pressures on its delivery pipelines, forcing it to

declare an emergency and use its own liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility to maintain service. If not for the LNG facility, it is likely Manhattan would have lost system gas pressure.

The report also recommended congressional and state legislation or regulation to establish reliability rules for natural gas infrastructure to ensure cold weather reliability. Currently, no regulatory entity is tasked with ensuring the reliability of the natural gas infrastructure on which the electric grid now heavily relies.

Finally, the report recommends the North American Energy Standards Board convene a meeting of gas and electric grid operators and gas distribution companies to identify improvements in communication during extreme cold weather events to enhance awareness across the natural gas supply chain.

Winter Storm Elliott is the fifth major winter storm in the last eleven years that has resulted in significant system endangerment. Both NERC and FERC emphasized the need for the industry to increase their storm planning and remediation actions. 



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Lawmakers consider hydropower transformers, water & air regulations

Public Power Utilities Eligible to Receive Tax Incentive Under Hydropower ITC Legislation

Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) recently introduced legislation that would establish a 30 percent investment tax credit for hydropower environmental and safety improvements. The tax incentive is available to public power utilities through elective pay. APPA said that it strongly supports the Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity and River Restoration Act of 2023.

Lawmakers Voice Concerns About DOE Transformer Proposal

Lawmakers voiced concerns on Sept. 13 about a Department of Energy (DOE) proposal that would require a stricter standard that changes the material used in distribution transformers from grain-oriented electrical steel to amorphous steel. The lawmakers highlighted their concerns about the proposal at a legislative hearing held by the House Energy & Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security titled, "Keeping the Lights On: Enhancing Reliability and Efficiency to Power American Homes." APPA submitted a Statement for the Record for the hearing where it highlighted impacts the current DOE proposal would have on the supply chain, as well as its support for Representative Richard Hudson's (R-NC) bill to delay the rulemaking for five years.



APPA Emphasizes Need to Streamline and Reform Hydropower Licensing Process

APPA on Sept. 19 underscored the need to streamline and reform the licensing process for hydropower projects. Desmarie Waterhouse, Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Communications & General Counsel at APPA, outlined APPA's positions on hydropower in a Statement for the Record submitted for a hearing held by the House Energy & Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security.

EPA Issues Final Water Quality Certification Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency on September 14 issued a final rule that modifies and replaces the 2020 regulatory requirements for water quality certification under Clean Water Act section 401. The final 2023 Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule (2023 Rule) does not apply retroactively to actions already taken under the 2020 CWA 401 rule.

Senators Urge EPA to Rescind Proposed Reconsideration of Standards for Particulate Matter

A group of Republican senators sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan arguing that EPA should rescind its proposed reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter. The letter, which was signed by 23 Republican senators, specifically addresses EPA's proposal to reconsider the PM 2.5 NAAQS and review the NAAQS under the Clean Air Act's regular five-year review schedule. ■

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Lebanon creates Board of Public Works to address utility issues

It's no secret that we are in a contentious time in American politics. Turn on the news and you get bombarded with the latest political drama from the federal House of Congress, all the way to the state legislature. It's a scene that often halts important work from getting done regardless of what side of the aisle you represent, and local governments aren't immune.

Across Missouri and the United States there seems to be an uptick in the number of municipalities that are considering altering their governing body that oversee utility operations. For some, this means removing the board that is the primary decision maker and putting that power into the hands of a city council or other more general body. Lebanon, Missouri, however, took the opposite approach.

"Running a city in general is becoming more complex, whether it be with law enforcement, fire, parks, airport, community development and code enforcement," said Richard Shockley, Director of Public Works at Lebanon. "By developing a board of public works, we've enabled a governing body to be able to become highly knowledgeable about our unique infrastructure within our community and then also be able to have a robust discussion whenever items come before them for their approval."

The Lebanon Board of Public Works was established in July 2022. Comprised of

four members serving four-year terms, the board meets bi-weekly to discuss public works matters including electric, water, and wastewater services.

Developing a board was not a decision that was made overnight. About 10 years ago Shockley and other staff members saw the need to add a monthly work session for City Council so that they could have more in-depth discussions and get educated on specific matters. As the utility industry continues to become more complicated, so did the need to develop a separate governing body to oversee their services.

"Back in the 60's, 70's, and even the 80's, 90's, utilities were steady as you go, kind of boring stuff, other than for us utility nerds," said Shockley. "But as water and sewer regulations became more stringent and caused more improvements on treatment facilities with more complex treatment, then along with managing delivery of reliable energy, I think that's probably what's steering this."

Shockley noted that extensive education needed to be done so that board members understood the history and status of Lebanon Public Works. For the first six months no board business was conducted. Instead, each meeting was spent educating the board members on all aspects of public works services. This included presentations from staff and field trips. All education materials are then placed in a binder that acts as a manual for reference and to help train future board members.

"They have basically slowly walked us through the whole process and give us opportunities to learn and answer any question we've ever had," said Don

Anderson, board member. "I couldn't have asked for a better transition into this role, just to be able to really understand why we're making the decisions we make."

And there are a lot of decisions to make. Shockley says Lebanon is experiencing unique growth following the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for folks who can work from home and want to experience more small-town community. In fact, one woman shared at a public meeting that she chose to move from Florida after throwing a dart on a map and it landed on Lebanon. By having a separate entity governing utilities, the City Council can focus on other aspects of a growing community.

"Not every community even has their own utilities, so it does need some oversight that requires more than what a city council probably has the time to deal with because they've got everything else on their plate," said Leann Mather, Board Chairman. "It's a big part of our central government here in Lebanon, and it is an entrepreneurial

branch. It's how the city can make money to supply the utilities, so there definitely needs to be some accountability there in all the decisions."

After a little more than a year under their belt, the board is hard at work for their community. As of October 4, 2023 they have

passed 36 resolutions and hope to continue to build on their momentum.

"The way I see it is all boards, the community, your organization and organizations outside of yours need to be a cohesive team to make your community successful," said Shockley. "It's hard to argue that it's not a good model making the community successful." ■

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MPUA's Mutual Aid Network: Neighbors helping neighbors in times of need



It's a setting all too familiar to Missouri residents: the humidity feels like you're swimming through the air, the winds start to pick-up, and the skies grow dark. It's another summer storm that can cause severe damage to the community.

This was the scene in Springfield, Missouri as a severe storm rolled in unexpectedly just after 11 p.m. on July 30, 2023. The sustained winds reached nearly 70 miles per hour, bringing down trees and limbs that damaged City Utilities' electric system. At its peak, about 15,500 customers throughout the service area found themselves without power.

CU swiftly declared a large-scale emergency. Mutual aid partners through the MPUA mutual aid network quickly arrived the next morning to help assess damages and restore power. Crews came from Columbia, Hannibal, Independence, Kirkwood, and Lebanon, as well as contracted crews from surrounding states.

"The rapid response we received from our employees and utility partners was the key to meeting our goal of completing the majority of the restoration within 48 hours and is a testament of their dedication to our community," said Warren Brooks, Vice President of Electric Operations at CU. "Outage events of this magnitude are uncommon, but they always remained focused on our mission to quickly and safely restore power."

This storm is just one example of the efforts and comradery of mutual aid. Crews across the state are prepared to jump into action if an emergency were to arise. Since 2001, more than 70 Missouri and Arkansas communities in MPUA's Mutual Aid Network have responded and proved the network's strength when neighboring electric systems were torn by tornados, ice storms, floods, and other disasters.

"You don't want to be in that situation, but it's good to know you have that back-up support when you need it," said Brooks.

Mutual Aid is an exclusive member benefit. Not only does it provide relief to your municipal utility staff during round-the-clock recovery efforts, but it is also required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

There is no cost to join and participate in MPUA's Mutual Aid Network. Assisting utilities are reimbursed by the communities receiving assistance. Signing a Mutual Aid agreement does not mean a utility is required to respond or request assistance through MPUA.

For more information on the MPUA Mutual Aid program, please visit [MPUA.org/mutualaid](https://mpua.org/mutualaid). 



Hometown superheroes in training

MPUA Apprentice Lineworker Program provides top quality lineworker training

Proper training is essential to retaining quality utility lineworkers, keeping them safe, and improving the reliability of a hometown electric system. MPUA's Apprentice Lineworker Program is an exclusive MPUA member benefit that provides hometown utility lineworkers applied learning through on-the-job work, hands-on learning, and classroom units. Accredited through the US Department of Labor, the program's 4-year curriculum and hands-on training covers the wide variety of concepts and skills the Apprentice Lineworker needs to earn their federal certification for journeyman status.

MPUA's training associates have years of experience in developing well-rounded lineworkers. Trainers keep a close eye on their students over their four years.

Frequent testing ensures that students master the concepts and skills they need to obtain federal certification.

This year's current roster of apprentice lineworkers-in-training includes a total of 175 enrolled at different years in their training. There are 52 students in their first year of training. Another 44 apprentices are in year-two of their program and there are 47 third year-students. A class of 32 4th-year apprentices will soon take their final exams to qualify as Journeymen Lineworkers.

MPUA also offers specialty training for Journeymen who need refresher courses to stay current and safe. This year, 42 journeymen at hometown utilities attended multi-day Journeyman Refresher training sessions on subjects including rubber glove and coverup, transformer connections, storm restoration, metering, and protective grounding.

Thirty-five years of success

MPUA's Apprentice Program was first developed in 1988 to meet the need for quality training for municipal lineworkers. In all, 825 apprentices

have graduated to Journeyman Lineworker status through MPUA's apprentice training program since its inception.

"MPUA's lineworker training program has achieved a long and proud tradition of developing safe, high quality lineworkers," said Mark Mustain, MPUA Manager of Training Services. "The success of our hands-on training approach over the years testifies to how cities coming together can meet their needs while keeping costs low."

MPUA's lineworker training facilities entered a new era in 2022 with the opening of the new MPUA Training Center, featuring a new outdoor pole yard, a state-of-the-art indoor pole and bucket-truck training complex, and classrooms fully dedicated to training activities. The program also continues to provide training opportunities at member utility locations, such as a recent Pole Top and Bucket Rescue training session at Kennett, MO.

Application deadline for new apprentices

The application deadline is December 8 for NEW 2024 apprentices (those not currently in the program). To apply, or for more information, please visit our program's webpage or email training@MPUA.org.

Dec. 8, 2023 is the last day for new cities to get apprentices registered for the 2024 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 and Dept. of Labor apprentice application forms. They can be found on our website (MPUA.org), under the Training & Events tab at Apprentice Lineworker Program.
- **CURRENT APPRENTICES** are all 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 training@MPUA.org.

NOTE: if you anticipate putting a student in the program but can't commit before the Dec. 8 deadline, contact Cathy Susa to be placed on a draft travel schedule. We will finalize or remove you later when you have made a final decision.



Deadline: 2024
Apprentice registrations





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