



KMU DISPATCH

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

CITY OF WAMEGO

Wamego Wins Tank of the Year Competition

The municipal water tank in Wamego is this year's winner of the Tank of the Year competition sponsored by Tnemec Company, Inc. The pedestal water tank was selected by a panel of water tank enthusiasts based on criteria such as artistic value, the significance of the tank to the community, and challenges encountered during the project. The tank was a dual-award winner being designated as the People's Choice winner based on online voting conducted earlier this month.

"The Wamego tower represents a connection to the city's Oz museum, which includes a large collection of Oz memorabilia and artifacts," said Randy Moore, director of sales – Agency Development & Industry Affairs for Tnemec. "The 500,000-gallon Wamego water tank was repainted with a HydroFlon fluoropolymer coating system which will help the many hues on the tank retain their color and gloss over time."

The Wamego tank, which was painted by Classic Protective Coatings using eight different colors, received the most online votes to claim the People's Choice title. More than 300 water tanks were nominated, and nearly 20,000 online votes were cast this year from across the U.S. and Canada.



"This is the 14th anniversary of the competition, which recognizes the most impressive coatings projects in the water tank industry," Moore said. "This year's finalists represent several different types of water tanks including legged designs, composite constructions, ground storage tanks and pedestal styles in various shapes and sizes."

Wamego's Tank of the Year will be featured for January in Tnemec's 2020 water tank calendar.

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL

SPP Elects New Leaders, Directs Construction of 44 Transmission Projects

More than 120 Southwest Power Pool (SPP) stakeholders gathered in Little Rock on Oct. 28-29 for the annual meeting of members, held in conjunction with the board of directors and Regional State Committee (RSC). The board approved the 2019 Integrated Transmission Plan, requiring SPP members to construct 44 new projects, including 166 miles of 345-kV transmission. SPP estimates that the upgrades will reduce wholesale energy congestion costs by 21% on average, providing estimated future net savings of up to 23 cents on average monthly residential bills in SPP.

[see SPP on page 2](#)



SPP (continued)

“We collaborated extensively with our stakeholders to determine an optimized portfolio of projects we need to enable the future electric grid. We projected considerable wind and solar growth, conventional generation retirements and impacts of new electrification technologies over the next 10 years,” said Lanny Nickell, SPP senior vice president of engineering. “SPP members are proactively building infrastructure to ensure our region’s power grid remains reliable and affordable during a time of tremendous change in the electric utility industry.”

The board approved a report from the Value and Affordability Task Force (VATF), a stakeholder committee tasked with identifying opportunities to increase SPP’s value and improve affordability. The group made 13 recommendations in its report, such as developing a budget process roadmap and reducing meeting costs.

Seven stakeholders were elected to the Members Committee, which includes representatives from all types of SPP member companies:

- **Cooperatives:** Tom Christensen (Basin Electric Power Cooperative), Stuart Lowry (Sunflower Electric Power Corporation) and Joel Bladow (Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.)
- **Independent power producers/marketers:** Rob Janssen (Dogwood Energy, LLC)
- **Independent transmission companies:** Brett Leopold (ITC Holdings Corporation)
- **Investor-owned utilities:** Bleau LaFave (NorthWestern Energy) and Peggy Simmons (Public Service Company of Oklahoma)
- **Large retail customers:** Jeff Riles (Google Energy, LLC)
- **Municipals:** Chris Jones (City Utilities of Springfield)

SPP President and CEO Nick Brown recognized Harry Skilton and Jim Eckelberger as they complete their director emeritus roles after 19 years of service on the SPP board. He recognized Phyllis Bernard for 16 years as an SPP director as she ends her final board term later this year. Julian Brix and Mark Crisson were re-elected to the board.

In advance of the board meeting, the Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) met Oct. 15-16 and approved

a number of items, including a white paper on wind and solar accreditation and revisions to SPP’s Open Access Transmission Tariff regarding fast-start pricing, market ramp capability products and Attachment Z2 revenue crediting. These and other actions were taken to refine SPP’s markets, planning and operations processes and to position SPP to improve its responsiveness to technological changes, public policy and other industry trends.

KANSAS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Staying Safe During the Holiday Season

With the passing of Halloween, the holiday season is fast approaching. Although this season is filled with family and fun, it can also be filled with frustration, anxiety, depression, and fatigue. These feelings are often called “Holiday Fatigue” or “Festive Stress” and can increase the risk of making mistakes or getting injured. According to research at Michigan State, 62% all Americans describe their stress as elevated during the holiday season. Many factors contribute to this elevated stress. These factors include financial demands, family gatherings, and the relaxing of personal health habits. This stress reduces our ability to focus on routine tasks at work and at home potentially leading to an injury.



During the month of November, KMU cities enrolled in our Regional Training Groups and Safety Compliance Management programs are receiving training on how to identify holiday stress and fatigue and take actions to prevent the issues from causing injuries.

KMU staff members provide safety training to 59 different cities each month. If you have interest in joining one of our safety training or management programs, contact Brian Meek at (620)241-1423 or bmeek@kmunet.org.

EVENT CALENDAR

November 5, 2019

Distribution System Rules

Scott City, Kansas

November 12, 2019

KanCap Elected Officials Training

Pratt, Kansas

November 12-14, 2019

2019 PPO Workshop

Russell, Kansas

November 19, 2019

Asset Management (AM KAN Work!)

Cimarron, Kansas

November 20, 2019

Rates & Financial Planning Workshop

Cimarron, Kansas

November 26, 2019

Water Rate Checkup Tool Workshop

Garden City, Kansas

December 2, 2019

Rates & Financial Planning Workshop

Junction City, Kansas

December 2, 2019

KanCap Elected Officials Training

Junction City, Kansas

December 4-6, 2019

Transformer Connections Workshop

McPherson, Kansas

December 16, 2019

Groundwater Wells - O&M

Medicine Lodge, Kansas

December 17, 2019

Distribution System Rules

El Dorado, Kansas

January 14, 2020

Asset Management (AM KAN Work!)

El Dorado, Kansas

January 15, 2020

Rates & Financial Planning Workshop

El Dorado, Kansas

January 21, 2020

KanCap Elected Officials Training

El Dorado, Kansas

January 22-23, 2020

T&D Switching Workshop

McPherson, Kansas

AMERICAN PUBLIC
POWER ASSOCIATION

THE ACADEMY

2019 | Webinars

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Understanding Construction Claims (Nov. 4-18)

- Two webinars focused on understanding, managing and defending against utility project construction claims.

Wireless Pole Attachments (Nov. 5-Dec. 3)

- Three webinars covering the latest legal and regulatory developments and key issues at the federal, state, and local levels.

Disaster Planning Series (Nov. 13-Dec. 11)

- Three webinars focused on the challenges utilities face when working to secure and retain federal grant funding.



CAREER CENTER

WATER PLANT OPERATOR I

City of Ottawa

ASSISTANT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT

Leavenworth Waterworks

WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR

Leavenworth Waterworks

ELECTRIC UTILITY LINEMAN

City of Lindsborg

ELECTRIC LINEPERSON

City of Norton

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
COORDINATOR / GIS TECHNICIAN**

City of Ottawa

WATER OPERATOR II

City of St. Marys

**CERTIFIED WASTEWATER OPERATOR/
TRAINEE**

City of Haysville

To post a classified ad to our Career Center page, please email text to

kmu@kmunet.org.

CAREER CENTER

Communications:

Do you have important news or photos from a city event? Send materials to dnisly@kmunet.org.