



**Upcoming Events**

**December 3**

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility  
Regional Meeting, Denison (a.m.)/  
Sanborn (p.m.)**

**Register/more information:**  
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

**December 4**

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility  
Regional Meeting, Algona (a.m.)/  
Osage (p.m.)**

**Register/more information:**  
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

**December 5**

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility  
Regional Meeting, Dayton**

**Register/more information:**  
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

**December 8**

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility  
Regional Meeting, Mt. Pleasant**

**Register/more information:**  
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

**December 9**

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility  
Regional Meeting, Maquoketa  
(a.m.)/Independence (p.m.)**

**Register/more information:**  
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

**December 10 & 11**

**Water Lab Workshops  
(two separate workshops)**

**Register/more information:**  
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

## Harkin trading bill should aid in utility commodities



*Sen. Tom Harkin*

◆ **Senator Tom Harkin (D – Iowa) has introduced legislation calling for stronger standards of openness, transparency and integrity in the trading of swaps and other over-the-counter financial derivatives as a critical step toward rebuilding and restoring confidence in the financial system.** IAMU welcomes this news, as the association has been working with a national coalition toward achieving this result. Hedge fund trading in unregulated commodity markets has contributed to the volatility of natural gas prices.

Called the Derivatives Trading Integrity Act, Harkin’s bill would amend the Commodity Exchange Act to eliminate the distinction between derivatives traded over the counter and on an exchange. Over The Counter (OTC) swaps that are currently negotiated privately between two parties are exempt from disclosure to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The bill would force these derivatives onto an exchange and under the regulatory authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Senator Harkin’s legislation closes a loophole that has existed in commodity trading. It is hoped that with the stronger standards this bill will create, future cases of traders achieving significant leverage in the setting – and distorting – of utility commodity pricing will be avoided.

For more information regarding the Derivatives Integrity Trading Act of 2008, click here:  
[http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1812&Itemid=2](http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1812&Itemid=2)

## New GASB 45 information available on IAMU website



◆ **IAMU members are reminded of the GASB 45, the Government Accounting Standards Board rule that requires public entities to reflect the value of post employment benefits (health, life, dental, etc.) in your future audited financial statements.** This financial liability includes obligations required under Iowa law for provision of health insurance benefits to employees who retire prior to the age of 65.

The Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust, along with sponsoring associations (including IAMU), developed a request for proposals (RFP) for actuarial services in connection with GASB 45. This was sent to 15 actuarial firms. Two of these firms that were selected by the sponsoring associations have met the requirements set out in the RFP. Silverstone Group is an employee-owned consulting and risk management firm with offices in Council Bluffs, IA, Lincoln, NE and Sioux Falls, SD and Alliance Benefit Group (ABG) of Indiana is the retirement division of the Nyhart Company.

New information pertaining to the proposals submitted by Silverstone Group and Alliance Benefit Group, including new pricing information, is available in documents posted on the IAMU website, [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (look for the GASB 45 documents labeled “Silverstone Group” and “Alliance Benefit Group” under “Hot News”).



**Access back issues of the IAMU *Informer* and the *Informer* Story Index on the IAMU website’s *Informer* page:** <http://www.iamu.org/informer/default.htm>

It may be necessary to download the latest version of Adobe Reader (Adobe Reader 9) to view the IAMU *Informer*. Download it with this link:  
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

## Are you registered for your IAMU Regional Meeting?



◆ **Timely topics for your utility in a "short-format" form are waiting at IAMU's series of Municipal Electric and Gas Utility Regional Meetings, continuing this week and next.**

These fast-paced half-day meetings cover topics including the renewable energy and energy efficiency potential assessments and the State Energy Policy reports.

Another key topic is IAMU's new "town meeting kit," which assists managers and policy-makers in improving communication with customers regarding fundamental changes in the utility industry and in stressing the value of energy efficiency.

Upcoming meetings include: Denison (December 3, 9 a.m.); Sanborn (December 3, 1 p.m.); Algona (December 4, 9 a.m.); Osage (December 4, 1 p.m.); Dayton (December 5, 1 p.m.); Mt. Pleasant (December 8, 1 p.m.); Maquoketa (December 9, 9 a.m.); and Independence (December 9, 1 p.m.). Register on the IAMU website, [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (click on "Calendar/Registrations").

## Water Lab Workshops nearly full; register now!

◆ **Very few openings remain in the upcoming IAMU Water Operator Lab Workshops December 10 and 11 (two separate workshops).** Both workshops are limited to ten participants.



Register online with the IAMU website, [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (click on "Calendar/Registrations").

## IAMWind agency wants your utility's participation



◆ **The Iowa Agency for Municipal Wind (IAMWind) is continuing with its work on municipal wind projects, and is now seeking participation from Iowa municipal utilities.**

The initial members of the agency include: Ames, Atlantic, Breda, Cedar Falls and the 15 members of the South Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association (SIMECA). The current Chair of the group is Robert Dieter, from Cedar Falls Utilities, with Vice-Chair Donald Kom, City of Ames, and Allen Bonderman, Atlantic Municipal Utilities, as the Secretary/Treasurer.

The group has developed a packet of documents that would need to be executed by utilities wishing to participate in the project Phase 2 studies. The documents include an application for membership in IAMWind, a participation agreement, a membership certificate defining the number of megawatts of interest, and a form for designation of representatives. Participants must also commit to funding the wind studies. The group also has a Power Point presentation available, and representatives are available to speak to your councils or boards about the project. Deadline for participating in Phase 2 has been set for December 31. Contact any of the officers in the project, or Anne Kimber at IAMU at 800-810-4268 or [akimber@iamu.org](mailto:akimber@iamu.org) for more information.

## IDNR seeks public comment on water use permit fees

◆ **The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is seeking public comments on the proposed rules to revise the fee schedule for the water use and aquifer storage & recovery permits.** Water use permits are required of any person or entity using 25,000 gallons of water in a single day during the year, and are issued for a period of up to 10 years.



Storage permits are required of permanent storage of 18 acre-feet or more. The Environmental Protection Commission approved the notice to proceed to public hearings at their October meeting. The notice of intended action is available in the November 5 Iowa Administrative Bulletin: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/ACODOCS/DOCS/11-05-2008.Bulletin.pdf> (electronic pages 25 - 27).

People may submit written comments to Diane Moles at the IDNR, 401 SW 7<sup>th</sup> ST, Suite M, Des Moines, IA 50309-4611, by email to [diane.moles@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:diane.moles@dnr.iowa.gov), or via fax to 515/725-0348. Comments will be accepted through December 12, 2008. The commenter's name must be included. If the commenter wants to receive the responsiveness summary, their e-mail or postal address must also be included.

People may also comment orally or in writing regarding the proposed rules at three public hearings:

- ☐ Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 9:00 a.m. at the Onawa Community Center – Kelly Hall, 320 Tenth Street, Onawa.
- ☐ Friday, December 5, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at the Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn Street, Iowa City. Parking is available in the ramp at the corner of Linn and Burlington; the library will validate the parking stub for one hour.
- ☐ Thursday, December 11, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at the Wallace Building Auditorium, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines. Parking is available in the ramp west of the Wallace Building or in the lot east of the Capitol.

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Editor: John Burnett 515-289-1999 [jburnett@iamu.org](mailto:jburnett@iamu.org)

To add an *Informer* subscriber: contact Sandy Longfellow at: [slongfellow@iamu.org](mailto:slongfellow@iamu.org)\*

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