



Upcoming Events

December 10 & 11
Water Lab Workshops
(two separate workshops)
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

January 21 — 23 , 2009
Electric utility System Operation Short Course
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "January 2009")

February 2 — 6 , 2009
Watt-Hour Meter Workshops
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "February 2009")

February 10 — 11 , 2009
IAMU Winter Meeting
Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny



◆ 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>

Culver promotes energy issues with Obama, Congress



Gov. Culver

◆ **Calling on the nation to explore the renewable energy frontier, Governor Chet Culver has urged Congress and the Obama-Biden Administration to take steps to further develop alternative energy, create new green-collar jobs, and move towards energy independence.**

The Governor delivered the keynote address in Washington, DC to the Renewable Energy in America National Policy Forum sponsored by the American Council on Renewable Energy.

Governor Culver called on the Administration and Congress to address important issues starting in January, including:

- ▣ Repair and modernize the nation's transmission system to increase capacity and better allow for energy produced in one state to be moved to areas of demand;
- ▣ Implement a five-year extension of the Wind Production Tax Credit to help establish wind energy as a permanent component of a national energy strategy;
- ▣ Establish a national Renewable Portfolio Standard, which was first established in Iowa in 1990, to increase utilities' sales of renewable energy, open new markets, and encourage research and development.

Gov. Culver, who co-chairs the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, also spoke about how Iowa has become a leader in renewable energy, including:

- ▣ Creating a cabinet-level Office of Energy Independence;
- ▣ Developing the \$100 million Iowa Power Fund to support cutting edge projects;
- ▣ Being one of two states in the nation to manufacture the three main components of windmills;
- ▣ Creating the Iowa Green Corps to help people conserve energy at home;
- ▣ Supporting the Iowa Stored Energy Park, so that wind is no longer an intermittent power source

More information is available on the Governor's website at: http://www.governor.iowa.gov/news/2008/12/4_1.php

Energy Efficiency Interim Study Committee meets



◆ **The second and final meeting of the Energy Efficiency Interim Study Committee met December 3. The Committee heard testimony from utilities, including IAMU Executive Director Bob Haug, environmental groups, the Iowa Utilities Board, the Office of Consumer Advocate and others.** The Committee did not adopt official recommendations but legislators discussed their positions on a variety of energy-related issues. Several legislators focused on increased consumer education and standardization of energy efficient programs so that all consumers have access to the same basic set of programs.

Also discussed was the topic of municipal utilities and rural electric coops being in the middle of assessing their energy efficiency potential and determining utility-only energy efficiency goals. It was noted that the Committee should wait to take action until after seeing how these assessments come out. The Committee is expected to make some recommendations. The co-chairs will draft the recommendations and ask Committee members for their support.

The Committee is co-chaired by Senator Joe Bolckcom (Iowa City) and Representative Nate Reichert (Muscatine). Members of the Committee are Senators Bill Heckroth, Rich Olive, Pat Ward and David Johnson and Representatives Bob Kressig, Chuck Soderberg, Paul Bell, and Ralph Watts.

FERC/Amaranth settlement in high profile trade case



◆ The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has reached an agreement with

Amaranth LLC and two former traders in settling charges that the failed Amaranth hedge fund manipulated natural gas prices. FERC proposed civil penalties of \$291 million in the high profile case. The settlement must still be approved by a judge and the commission.

It was the Amaranth matter that was part of the impetus behind Senator Tom Harkin's recently announced Derivatives Trading Integrity Act, which would change the way certain trade transactions would be conducted (see the full story in the December 2, 2008 IAMU Informer, available on the IAMU website: <http://www.iamu.org/informer/default.htm>).

APPA arc flash webinar available December 11



◆ The American Public Power Association (APPA) is offering a webinar on the Arc Flash

Hazard Assessment December 11 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. (CST). The webinar covers the National Electric Safety Code (NES C)-2007 rule regarding arc flash hazard, which goes into effect January 1, 2009. The cost to participate is \$79 for APPA members and \$159 for non-members. For more information or to register, click here (a credit card is required to register): <http://www.appanet.org>

Public comment wanted in antidegradation policy



◆ The Iowa Department of Natural resources (IDNR) is seeking public comment on the proposed rules to implement the antidegradation policy in Iowa. The IDNR has added a hearing in the Iowa Great Lakes area on January 8, 2008.

Antidegradation policy is one of the three components of water quality standards (i.e. designated uses, water quality criteria to protect those uses, and antidegradation policy). The purpose of the antidegradation policy is to set minimum requirements for the state to follow in order to conserve, maintain, and protect existing uses and water quality. The department is required by 40 CFR 131.12(a) to develop and adopt a statewide antidegradation policy and to identify procedures for implementing the policy. The department is proposing a four-tiered approach and guidance document establishing procedures for implementing the antidegradation policy. The changes being proposed will propose the following:

- Incorporate by reference the document entitled "Iowa Antidegradation Implementation Procedure," which proposes an approach to be followed in assessing and minimizing degradation of Iowa's surface waters;
- Update antidegradation policy language with a four tier approach;
- Remove High Quality (Class HQ) and High Quality Resource (Class HQR) designated uses and add several waters to the newly proposed Outstanding Iowa Water (OIW) category.

Individuals can comment orally or in writing at eight public meetings:

Dec. 12, 1 p.m., Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth St., Des Moines

Dec. 15, 10 a.m., Washington Public Library, 120 E. Main St., Washington

Dec. 17, 10 a.m., Storm Lake Public Library, 609 Cayuga St., Storm Lake

Dec. 17, 6 p.m., Atlantic Municipal Utilities, 15 W. Third St., Atlantic

Dec. 18, 1 p.m., Clear Lake Community Meeting Room, 15 N. Sixth St., Clear Lake

Jan. 8, 7 p.m., Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Waitt Building, 1838 Highway 86, Milford

Jan. 14, 10 a.m., Manchester Public Library, 304 Franklin St., Manchester

Jan. 14, 6 p.m., Northeast Iowa Community College, 1220 3rd Ave., Suite 102, Waukon

Jan. 15, 1 p.m., Davenport Public Library, 321 Main St., Davenport

Written comments can be sent to: Adam Schnieders, Iowa DNR, 502 East 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319, or by email to adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov. The IDNR will accept comments until January 29, 2009. For more information, view the complete rule proposal at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/standards/antidegradation.html> or, contact Adam Schneiders by email or by phone at 515-281-7409.

Are you using the right chlorine colorimeter cells?



◆ Water operators using the Hach Pocket Colorimeter II are reminded that incorrect chlorine measurements can result through improper use of the unit's sample cells.

The Colorimeter II measures both high range and low range chlorine, which is why it comes with both plastic and glass sample cells. The glass sample cells should be used when measuring low range chlorine (0.02 – 2.0 mg/L). The plastic sample cells should be used for high range (>2.0 mg/L) chlorine analysis (along with adding two packets of DPD reagent).

If you have a Hach Pocket Colorimeter II that tests both pH and chlorine, the plastic sample cells should be used for measuring chlorine and the glass sample cells should be used to measure pH. The plastic cells have a shorter pathlength than the glass cells and if the glass sample cells are used instead of plastic, the results will be much higher than the actual sample's concentration.

This subject will be addressed as part of the IAMU Water Operator Lab Workshops December 10 and 11. A document posted on the Hach website dealing with the subject can be accessed at: http://www.hach.com/hc/view.knowledge.base.detail.invoker/PackagingCode=POCKET-II_8/NewLinkLabel=Plastic+vs.+glass+sample+cells+for+Pocket+II+Colorimeter/SESSIONID%7CB3hORFkzTORFeU9EWW1aM1ZsYzNSVFUxaEdVZz09QIRFeU1qZw==%7C

Work begins for installing new IAMU wind turbine



The foundation and base for IAMU's new wind turbine have been installed on the association's Safety & Training Field. The vertical axis wind turbine is scheduled to be in place this month.

Business operators eligible for BOC program classes



Municipalities and municipal utilities are reminded that they can offer rebates to local business representatives to

attend classes offering energy efficiency advice through the Building Operator Certification (BOC) program. A variety of classes are available, such as energy conservation techniques, HVAC systems, efficient lighting and indoor air quality.

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance provides BOC training in Iowa with the assistance of sponsors, such as the Iowa Energy Center. For more information, see www.boccentral.org.

Record investment numbers for State Revolving Fund



The State Revolving Fund (SRF), which supports water quality in the state, has more than tripled its investments in 2008, setting a new record average figure of \$204 million in loan commitments for water, wastewater and nonpoint source projects. The previous average was \$60 million.

The SRF is one of Iowa's primary sources for financing projects designed to improve Iowa's water quality. Two funds, one for drinking water and one for wastewater and pollution control, have provided low-cost financing worth almost \$1 billion to Iowa communities, farmers, watershed groups and others. The program is operated jointly through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA). IFA has issued approximately \$145 million in AAA-rated, double tax-exempt bonds to support additional water quality projects in 2009.

During 2008, the SRF program provided loans for:

- \$121 million for the design and construction of wastewater treatment upgrades, sewer rehabilitation, combined sewer overflow correction, and new collector and interceptor sewers;
- \$65 million to design and construct water treatment, storage, and water supply projects;
- \$18.4 million for nonpoint source projects to prevent soil erosion, manage manure, replace inadequate septic systems, improve storm water management, and conserve land for water quality and habitat protection.

The SRF provides below-market interest rates, saving borrowers on their financing costs. For example, if a community borrowed \$5 million from the SRF, ratepayers could save as much as \$1.5 million in closing costs and interest expense over 20 years.

The SRF offers three types of loans to cities, public water supplies, counties, sanitary districts or utility management organizations affordably upgrade their water and wastewater systems. More information on the state revolving fund is available at: www.iowasrf.com

More hazard mitigation money may be available



The State of Iowa will receive an estimated \$244 million under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of the Presidential disaster declaration for this spring's tornadoes and flooding. Initially, funds were only available for property acquisitions. Now, additional types of hazard mitigation projects may be eligible for grant funding.

Eligible projects may be of any type that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, including but not limited to:

- Construction of tornado safe rooms
- Acquisition, structural relocation or elevation of buildings located in a special flood hazard area
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities, or utilities
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects such as storm water management
- Localized flood control projects

The State will consider all HMGP project types except back-up power generation and warning systems at this time. The State will publish a notice if funding for back-up power generation and warning systems becomes available in the future. For more information see: <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/NewsRoom/Newsletters/tabid/75/Default.aspx> (Dec. 8 issue).

The IAMU Informer is an electronic publication of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

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