



**Upcoming Events**

**October 7**

**Basic SWPPP &  
Inspections Workshop**

**More information:**

[kqibbons@iamu.org](mailto:kqibbons@iamu.org)

**November 6**

**Advanced SWPPP &  
Inspections Workshop**

**More information:**

[kqibbons@iamu.org](mailto:kqibbons@iamu.org)

**November 18 — 20**

**Water/Wastewater Operators  
Training Workshop**

**Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines**

**Register/more information:**

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

**(Click on "November")**



**Do your part to help your  
customers take advantage  
of this important recovery  
program!**

## “Jumpstart” update: equipment, contact info released



◆ This article provides updates to the one published in the IAMU Informer September 23 regarding the “Jumpstart Iowa” program announced by Governor Culver.

The Jumpstart Iowa Disaster Recovery Initiative will provide financial assistance to small business owners and homeowners who suffered damage due to the severe weather in the spring and summer of this year. Included in the program is money for homeowners and small businesses for the purchase of qualifying energy efficient equipment. Homeowners are eligible for a combined total of up to \$10,000 of Jumpstart money and utility rebates, and small businesses are eligible for a combined total of up to \$5,000 of Jumpstart money and utility rebates. A list of equipment eligible for Jumpstart money can be found at [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (link on the front page)

The Jumpstart program will be administered by your local Council of Governments (COG) (except for a few large cities). While this will not directly impact municipal utilities, they will still have two main responsibilities:

1. To supply information to the COGs regarding utility rebate programs. The existence and amount of utility rebates for eligible equipment will affect the amount of Jumpstart money available to customers.
2. Knowledge of the program in order to inform customers about it and where to refer inquiries.

Counties eligible for individual FEMA assistance are covered by the Jumpstart Iowa program. To determine if your county is included and which COG will be administering the Jumpstart funds in your area, use the link to the Disaster Declaration map updated by IAMU at [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org).

**To prevent a delay in distribution of Jumpstart money to your eligible customers, you are strongly urged to immediately do the following:**

- ✓ Designate a contact person in your city or utility for COG communication.
- ✓ Provide a list of current customer rebates in effect as of May 25, 2008 to your local COG.
- 🔗 COG contacts for the housing program: [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (link on the front page)
- 🔗 COG contacts for the business program: [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (link on the front page)
- ✓ If your utility does not have customer rebates, it is still necessary for you to make your COG aware of this.
- ✓ Prepare a list of all residential and small commercial customers who have been affected by severe weather in 2008.

Communication and cooperation with your local COG is essential for this program to properly benefit your utility customers with their recovery efforts. If you are not able to satisfactorily answer questions about the program from your utility customers, they should be referred to your regional COG office. For your office’s contact information, use the following links:

- 🔗 Homeowner Questions: [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (link on the front page)
- 🔗 Business Questions: [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (link on the front page)

For more information about Jumpstart Iowa, use the following link:  
<http://rio.iowa.gov/resources/jumpstart.html>



*The holding in this case establishes strong precedent restricting the ability of states and local governments to tax natural gas transported in interstate commerce.*

### Mary Meyerring, Neola Light & Power

◆ IAMU staff was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Mary Meyerring, retired City Clerk in Neola, who worked with the Neola Light & Water System.

IAMU extends its condolences to Meyerring's friends, family and co-workers in Neola.

### Current Transformers Wanted!



Does your electric utility have used CTs no longer in service?

Replacing substation equipment?

Please consider donating to IAMU for training purposes. All ratios and rating factors will be considered.

Contact Eric Stoll at IAMU: 800-810-4268 or [estoll@iamu.org](mailto:estoll@iamu.org).

## Texas court rules against taxation of stored gas

◆ Efforts by government entities to levy taxes on natural gas in storage have been made in the past, including in the State of Kansas in recent years. A similar case in the State of Texas has just been decided, and the ruling is in favor of utilities.

The Court of Appeals of the Sixth Appellate District of Texas has ruled that natural gas stored in a FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)-jurisdictional storage facility is being transported in interstate commerce, and thus cannot be subject to a local tax. The Harrison County Appraisal District levied an ad valorem tax against Peoples Gas, Light and Coke Company on natural gas stored in Natural Gas Pipeline of America's North Lansing storage field in Harrison County, Texas. The Court of Appeals held that the action violated the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

The holding in this case establishes strong precedent restricting the ability of states and local governments to tax natural gas transported in interstate commerce, including natural gas that is stored in FERC-jurisdictional interstate facilities owned and operated by interstate gas pipeline companies pursuant to FERC-approved transportation and storage agreements. The decision confirms that natural gas shipped on interstate pipeline transportation systems with integrated storage facilities, cannot, under the federal Constitution, be subjected to local property taxes.

A PDF document with more details regarding the case is available on the IAMU website, [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org). Look for the link on the site's front page.

## IUB warns gas consumers prices may still be high



◆ The price of natural gas has risen dramatically since the 2000/2001 heating season. The Iowa Utilities Board has released a review of natural gas prices and the impact they may have on consumers in Iowa. The Henry Hub spot price for natural gas averaged \$7.17 per Mcf in 2007 and is expected to average \$9.71 per Mcf in 2008 and \$8.55 per Mcf in 2009.

The investor owned utilities in Iowa estimate consumers will see a 20 to 30 percent increase in their natural gas bills during the 2008/2009 heating season. The IUB is warning consumers to plan accordingly and cautions that if the weather during the winter heating season is unseasonably cold or if there are any hurricane-related supply constraints, a larger increase in natural gas bills during the upcoming heating season should be expected.

The IUB has posted The Natural Gas Price Volatility White Paper, Fifth Update at: [www.state.ia.us/iub](http://www.state.ia.us/iub).

## Use IAMU shuttle Tuesday for Fall Conference



◆ Coming to the IAMU Fall Conference Tuesday? Plan to leave your vehicle at the Courtyard by Marriott host hotel when you arrive, and use an IAMU shuttle to get to the afternoon sessions and Oktoberfest. IAMU will offer shuttles from the hotel beginning at noon and continuing into mid-afternoon. Conference registration will be held at IAMU, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The Conference opening workshops begin at 1 p.m. at IAMU, with the Oktoberfest on IAMU's Safety & Training Field getting underway at 3:30 p.m. Shuttles will return you to the Courtyard by Marriott following Oktoberfest.

For a complete conference agenda, see the IAMU website, [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (look for the link on the front page).

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

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)

To unsubscribe from this publication, contact Sandy Longfellow at: [slongfellow@iamu.org](mailto:slongfellow@iamu.org).