



Upcoming Events

July 30

**Gas Steel Pipe Distribution
Maintenance Workshop**
Register/more info:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(go to "July")

August 27

Water Distribution Workshop
Register/more info:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(go to "August")

Sept. 9 — 10

**IAMU/APGA Midwest Regional
Gas Workshop**

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(go to "September")

Sept. 16 — 19

Underground Elec. Workshop

Sept. 30 — Oct. 2

IAMU Fall Conference
Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny and
IAMU Training & Office Complex

Nov. 18 — 20:

**Water/Wastewater Operators'
Training Workshop**
Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines

IAMU criticizes IUB on municipalization case

By Bob Haug, IAMU Executive Director

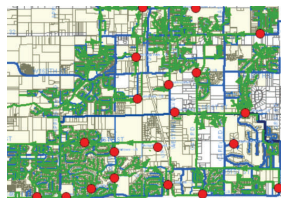
◆ One hundred years ago, private utilities called for the creation of state public utility commissions. At the time, more than 3,000 private electric utilities were competing with one another and with a growing number of municipal utilities. Proponents argued that state regulation would guarantee generous profits, allow consolidation, and discourage municipal ownership. We can only marvel at the foresight of the early industry barons, because the relationship utilities enjoy with regulators continues to serve them. **In an order issued July 11, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) overturned the decision of voters in five communities to establish municipal electric utilities. In doing so, the IUB failed its obligation to minimize costs to consumers and avoid duplication of facilities in such proceedings, elevated private profit over public will, redefined the democratic process, and set a precedent that virtually precludes the establishment of new municipal electric utilities in Iowa.**



Bob Haug, IAMU
Executive Director

The full text of Bob's analysis of the IUB's municipalization order can be found on the IAMU web site. To access it, click here: <http://www.iamu.org/default%20page%20links/BH%20Article%20on%20Municipalization%20Decision%20of%20IUB%20Jul08.pdf>

IAMU now offers low cost GIS mapping for members



◆ Is your system relying on copies of outdated maps pieced together from several different projects, handwritten notes on updates, and the memory of staff onsite during construction or repairs? If so, IAMU has a low cost solution for you!

GIS (Geographical Information System) is much more than just a mapping program. GIS mapping allows utilities to electronically keep track of their infrastructure through visual maps and record keeping databases for distribution system components. This technology can be applied to many types of municipal applications (wastewater, water, gas, electric, telecom, storm water) and provides the tools to manage, analyze, and display a system's infrastructure and assets.

IAMU's GIS Program objective is to provide utilities with a low cost, electronic alternative to maintaining their system's infrastructure internally without needing expensive software and an expert in GIS software on staff. A utility interested in IAMU's GIS Program will receive quality maps combined with a database of infrastructure information compiled from the utility's records. Free GIS software, training, and support will be provided to the utility for future mapping updates or an optional maintenance package will be provided for those systems requesting IAMU to complete changes as needed.

For more information contact Jessica Lillie at IAMU, 800-810-4268 or jlillie@iamu.org.

Mutual Aid Program always ready; handbook done

◆ The rough weather of 2008 has once again put IAMU's Mutual Aid program into motion, as some IAMU member cities in eastern Iowa were recently affected by wind damage from severe thunderstorms. IAMU's Mutual Aid Program of "utilities helping utilities" stands ready to assist association electric, gas and telecom members with just a phone call to their primary or secondary regional coordinators.



IAMU has just completed a new stand-alone Mutual Aid Handbook, which is being distributed at regional Mutual Aid meetings. Detailed information about the program and contacts can also be found on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (click on the "Mutual Aid" tab on the front page).



The *Informer* is IAMU's weekly electronic newsletter, keeping association members up to date on important news and issues affecting their cities and utilities. Questions? Comments? Contact John Burnett, *Informer* editor: jburnett@iamu.org

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller said the procedure in question typically involves a telephone call to a residence, where the caller falsely claims to be a representative of the customer's utility provider and demands an immediate payment in order to avoid service being disconnected. "It appears to be a scam to get your credit card number," Miller stated.



Complete agenda and registration coming soon!

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.

Iowa Attorney General warns of utility-related scam



◆ **The Iowa Attorney General's Office is warning of a scam involving people pretending to be from a utility and demanding money from customers.**

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller said the procedure in question typically involves a telephone call to a residence, where the caller falsely claims to be a representative of the customer's utility provider and demands an immediate payment in order to avoid service being disconnected. "It appears to be a scam to get your credit card number," Miller stated, pointing out to the public that "our utilities never operate like that," and consumers should not "be buffaloes into giving out a credit card account number, bank account number, Social Security number, or other personal information." He said the scam appears to be hitting all over Iowa. Some residents have reported making "payments" of anywhere from \$20 to \$200, only to later learn they had been scammed.

Miller said his office thinks the calls are originating from out of state, and possibly from a foreign country. He said in some cases, the caller identification on individuals' phones have displayed the name of the utility when the call came in. He said that the caller identification feature on phones can be "spoofed," or falsified, and so is not always reliable.

Miller is urging Iowans who receive such calls to immediately hang up and contact their local utility provider to question the legitimacy of the call. He emphasized that utilities do not ask for such personal information over the phone.

IAMU urges its member utilities to help make customers aware of such scams, and to urge them to contact you or the Iowa Attorney General's Office immediately if they receive such calls. The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division can be reached at 888-777-4590 or 281-5926 in Des Moines.

Reminder: NESC 2007 requirement deadline coming



◆ **As all electric utilities know, the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) 2007 requirements for employee safety officially take effect January 1, 2009.**

The biggest impact on utilities will be the revision to the code which states that effective January 1, 2009, "the employer shall ensure that an assessment is performed to determine potential exposure to an electric arc for employees who work on or near energized parts or equipment. If the assessment determines a potential employee exposure greater than 2cal/cm² exists, the employer shall require employees to wear clothing or a clothing system that has an effective arc rating not less than the anticipated level of arc energy." It goes on to state that clothing made of rayon, polyester, acetate, and nylon shall not be worn at any time.

Compliance with the rules has proved to be time consuming and costly for many municipal utilities. Implementation will involve not only identifying exposure levels, but also deciding on what method will be used to identify those hazards, selecting the proper PPE for the hazard, and training the workers to properly wear the PPE.

The NESC, administered by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, is a voluntary industry standard, not a federal mandate – however, all utilities are cautioned to follow the code, as officials agree that once a rule becomes a standard, the courts expect that it has been met in the event of any legal case that should arise.

For more information, contact Eric Stoll, IAMU Electric Services Coordinator, at 800-810-4268 or estoll@iamu.org.

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

Editor: John Burnett 515-289-1999 jburnett@iamu.org

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