



Upcoming Events

April 24, 2009

**IAMU Demand Response
Workshop/Webinar**

Register/more information:

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

April 28, 2009

**IAMU/ISWEP Green Roof
Workshop**

More information:

<http://www.iowastormwater.org>

May 1, 2009

Competent Person Workshop

Register/more information:

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

(click "May 2009")

May 5 — 6, 2009

**Gas Plastic Pipe Joining & OQ
Workshop**

Register/more information:

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

(click "May 2009")

May 19 —22, 2009

Electric Overhead Workshop

Register/more information:

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

(click "May 2009")

May 27 — 28, 2009

**Water Distribution/Leak Detec-
tion Workshops**

Register/more information:

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

(click "May 2009")

Feds, NERC address electric grid cyber security claims

◆ Attention-grabbing headlines recently revealed that the American electrical power grid is vulnerable to cyber attacks, and that it has allegedly been hacked by spies. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that spies have infiltrated the grid and have left software programs there that could be used to disrupt power to the country. In reacting to the story, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano declined comment on that claim, but confirmed that the national power grid is vulnerable to cyber attack. Officials claim that while cyber invaders have not attempted to damage the power system, they could potentially do so during national crisis or war.



Michael Assante, Vice President and Chief Security Officer of North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), sent a letter to electric industry officials analyzing the results of NERC's recently completed self-certification compliance survey for NERC Reliability Standard. He said



results "raise concern" about the identification of critical assets and the associated cyber assets which could be used to manipulate them, and that the sector needs to deepen its understanding of how cyber threats could undermine the security of the electrical system. He also stated that audits of compliance with NERC's

existing cyber security standards will begin July 1, 2009. Recent NERC documents pertaining to cyber security can be accessed via the following links:

http://www.nerc.com//news_pr.php?npr=276

http://www.nerc.com//news_pr.php?npr=279

The original *Wall Street Journal* story can be accessed here:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123914805204099085.html>

APPA offers guide to applying for stimulus funding



◆ With some deadlines for grant opportunities approaching fast, the American Public Power Association (APPA) has prepared a guide to the federal government's stimulus funding process, called "Stimulus 101: The Basics of Finding and Applying for Grants." The guide is posted on the Stimulus Information page on the APPA web site, which can be accessed via this link:

<http://www.appanet.org/legislative/index.cfm?ItemNumber=24024>

Stimulus 101 includes sections on when and where to apply for funding opportunities; where to look for help with the process; what you need to do to register to be able to apply for grants; and tips on applying.

APPA recommends that public power utilities take a couple of steps right away: registering with www.Grants.gov; and contacting your state energy office (in Iowa, go to: www.energy.iowa.gov). States must submit their plans for funds from DOE's State Energy Program (\$3.1 billion in funding) by May 12 and submit their plans for dispensing block grants (\$3.2 billion) by May 26. If public power utilities have not made their interests and programs known to the state offices by then, it may be harder for them to receive future consideration.

IAMU is preparing information specific to this association's members. Watch for announcements in the near future.

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

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