



Upcoming Events

August 24, 2009

Smart Grid Course presented by Skip Collier [Register/more information: Here](#)

Sept. 1 — 2, 2009

IAMU/APGA Natural Gas OQ Workshop [Register/more information: Here](#)

September 9 — 10, 2009

Water Distribution & Leak Detection/Line Locating Workshops [Register/more information: Here](#)

September 15 — 18, 2009

Underground Electric Distribution Workshop. [Register/more information: Here](#)

October 7 — 9, 2009

IAMU Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Des Moines — Airport/Conference Center. [Register/more information: Here](#)

November 17 — 19, 2009

Annual Water/Wastewater Operator Conference, Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines.

Iowa Environmental Conference is September 16



◆ **The Iowa Environmental Conference can help municipal utilities stay abreast of current and emerging environmental and energy policies.** The event is set for September 16 at the Foxboro Conference Center in Johnston. It is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry and the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

The conference will offer information on multiple topics, including the Iowa Department of Natural Resources anticipated focus on air and water quality and the proposed American Clean Energy and Security Act (the “cap & trade” legislation).

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Muscatine, Cedar Falls to be Midwest ISO members

MidwestISO ◆ Two IAMU members, Muscatine Power & Water (MP&W) and Cedar Falls Utilities, will join the Midwest Independent System Transmission Operator (Midwest ISO) as transmission-owning members. Energizing the Heartland

The Midwest ISO Board of Directors recently approved the utilities’ applications. They will integrate into Midwest ISO operations effective September 1.

With the agreement, the utilities will turn over functional control of their transmission systems to Midwest ISO, and in return will gain access to one of the world’s largest electric markets for buying and selling power.

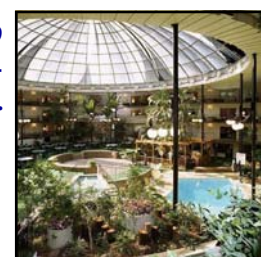
“All of MP&W’s needs will be met from the Midwest ISO market. We’ll benefit from delivery into our system, in addition to export when the market is favorable,” said Ray Danz, MP&W’s Director of Utility Operations. “We explored Midwest ISO for quite some time, plus other independent system operators,” said Sal LoBianco, MP&W General Manager. “We determined that joining Midwest ISO is in the best interest of our customers/owners.”

MidAmerican Energy Co. was also approved to join Midwest ISO. The three entities together will add close to 7,500 megawatts of generating capacity to the ISO’s footprint.

Register now for IAMU Annual Conference Oct. 7 — 9



◆ Registration for IAMU’s 2009 Annual Conference is now available. Utility members click [here](#). Associate members click [here](#).



With the theme “Embracing

Change – Supporting Tradition,” the conference is set for October 7 –9 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines – Airport/Conference Center, 6111 Fleur Drive (across from Des Moines International Airport).

Featured speakers include **Mark Crisson**, President/CEO, American Public Power Association (APPA), who will present an overview of APPA activities and a look at the national energy policy front; **John Erickson**, Vice President/Operations, American Public Gas Association (APGA) who will speak about DIMP and SHRIMP software in the gas utility industry; and **Gary Higbee**, President, Higbee & Associates. The internationally-known speaker on safety, health, environmental and business issues, will present a look at leadership, communication and customer service. Other topics planned for the conference include **ratemaking**; the **State of Iowa water plan**; an **Iowa Department of Natural Resources update**; **aquifer modeling**; and **sales tax issues** with Opal Current, Iowa Department of Revenue.



The popular **Issues Fair**, with multiple topics presented in rotating sessions among different stations, will return to the conference agenda.

Room reservations (special rate of \$89 per night) may be made by calling 515-287-2400. Mention the IAMU Annual Conference when reserving. The reservation deadline for the conference rate is September 15.

More information about the conference can be found with links on the front page of the IAMU web site at www.iamu.org (look for the conference logo under “Hot News”).

Water use annual permit fee to be discussed at meeting



◆ The water use annual permit fee is part of the agenda for the August Environmental Protection Commission as an information item.

The proposed agenda brief is available [here](#). The meeting agenda is available [here](#).

The meeting will be held August 18 at the Honey Creek State Park Resort in Moravia.

Railroad antitrust bill takes another step in Washington

◆ H.R. 233, the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009, has cleared another hurdle after being forwarded by the House Judiciary Committee to the Full Committee for further review.



The bill calls for subjecting the rail industry to the same antitrust laws that regulate most other businesses in America. At the heart of the issue is rates railroads are allowed to charge for their services. A similar bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee is March.

Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) is the sponsor of the bill. Three utility interests are official supporters: Lafayette (LA) Utilities System, the American Public Power Association and the Edison Electric Institute.

IAMU has lobbied for removal of the antitrust exemption for several years and is closely following this legislation.



Gas, water, electric workshops in busy September



◆ The month of September at IAMU will again be filled with numerous workshops, providing valuable hands-on training for gas, water and electric utility members.

The IAMU/APGA Natural Gas Operator Qualification Workshop will kick off the month's activity **September 1 – 2**. The workshop will provide gas system employees with proficiency in skills needed for their home-

town customers in addition to enhancing knowledge of the gas industry. Topics covered include atmospheric corrosion; inspecting and maintaining vales; metering; operating a backhoe; purging; service abandonment; steel pipe joining with mechanical couplings; Iowa One Call; work order; riser maintenance and repair; and a look at national gas issues with Bert Kalisch, President and CEO of the American Public Gas Association. Registration deadline is September 11.



Water hands-on training takes over with the **Water Distribution Training Workshop September 9** and the **Water Leak Detection Workshop September 10** (two separate workshops – participants may register for one or both). September 9 sessions will cover hydrant maintenance, water main tapping/HydraStop, water main installation and repair and fittings. On September 10 leak detection with various equipment, line locating and meters will be covered. Each workshop requires a minimum number of participants. Note the early registration deadline of September 3.

One of IAMU's longest-running annual training events, the **Underground Electric Distribution Workshop**, will be held **September 15 – 18**. 69KV terminator, URD construction, 200 amp splices, elbows and terminations will be taught. A beginning pole climbing workshop will be offered September 15 and 16, with apprentice testing and skill evaluation September 15. The general workshop begins the afternoon of September 16.

Full details and registration for all of the above workshops can be found via links on the front page of the IAMU web site, www.iamu.org, under 'Upcoming Events.'

IUB/OCA groundbreaking for new offices August 20

◆ IAMU members are invited to the groundbreaking of the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB)/Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) office structure **August 20 at 9:45 a.m.** The location is the southwest corner of East 14th and Court Avenues in Des Moines, southeast of the State Capitol. A short ceremony will involve Governor Chet Culver, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller, IUB board members Rob Berntsen (Chair), Krista Tanner, and Darrell Hanson; and Consumer Advocate John Perkins.



Like IAMU's office structure, the new IUB/OCA facility will include many energy efficiency and green energy features, including geothermal heating & cooling, on-site renewable generation and use of natural daylighting.

No R.S.V.P. or registration is required. For more information and a printed invitation, click [here](#).

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

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

To add an *Informer* subscriber: contact Sandy Longfellow at: slongfellow@iamu.org*

To unsubscribe from this publication, contact Sandy Longfellow at: slongfellow@iamu.org*

* When emailing to add or remove a subscriber, please include full name and affiliation