



Upcoming Events

March 4 & 5, 2009

**Advanced Water Treatment/
Distribution Workshops**
(Register for one or both)

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "March 2009")

March 9 — 10, 2009

**Iowa Storm Water Conference/
Iowa Water Conference**

Scheman Building, Iowa State Univ.

For more information:

<http://www.iowastormwater.org/>

March 16 — 19, 2009

**Gas Pipeline Welder Qualifica-
tion Workshop (Ankeny &
Emmetsburg; two workshops)**

Des Moines Area Community College,
Ankeny; Iowa Lakes Community Col-
lege, Emmetsburg

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "March 2009")

March 26, 2009

Energy Efficiency Workshop

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "March 2009")



◆ Access back issues of the
IAMU *Informer* and the *Informer*
Story Index on the IAMU web
site's *Informer* page: [http://
www.iamu.org/informer/
default.htm](http://www.iamu.org/informer/default.htm)

FERC rejects MISO transmission policy proposal



◆ Citing potential harm to consumers, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has rejected a proposal by the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. (Midwest ISO) that would have created a new class of transmission owners getting the benefits of participating in the Midwest ISO without the obligations of membership in the regional transmission organization.

While FERC found Midwest ISO's Market Service proposal to be innovative in its approach to expanding the geographic footprint of its market, the Commission expressed concern that the proposal could create a new incentive for current members to withdraw from the Midwest ISO.

FERC's concern is that Market Service could harm consumers by creating a new incentive for current members to avoid direct cost-sharing of new transmission investment while maintaining or gaining full access to Midwest ISO's markets. Such changes could generate large "holes" within the current Midwest ISO footprint and could threaten its ability to perform regional transmission operations and jeopardize the corresponding benefits that accrue to consumers.

"It is important that we consider the overall impact on consumers," Acting FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff said. "The introduction of Market Service could lead existing Midwest ISO transmission owners to withdraw from the RTO. That could be detrimental to the consumers who benefit from Midwest ISO's regional transmission operations, transmission planning and market management."

FERC also noted that there is concern that Market Service would create a disincentive for investment in new transmission by remaining Midwest ISO transmission-owning members. The Commission also said it was unclear whether Market Service would help bring more wind energy from the Mid Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP) into the market, noting that the proposal still contemplates use of pancaked rates on the MAPP seam, effectively institutionalizing the seam and thereby discouraging wind development in the MAPP regions of North and South Dakota.

FERC decision — what's next for Iowa?

By Anne Kimber, IAMU Director of Energy Services

◆ Municipal utilities in MidAmerican's balancing area, as well as municipal joint owners of MEC baseload generation, have been preparing since the summer of 2007 for a possible entry by Mid-



American into the MISO market via MISO's market coordination service proposal. The MISO proposal would not have eliminated the seams and rate pancaking issues that have characterized the transmission grid in Iowa.

Now that FERC has rejected MISO's proposal, the next steps are uncertain. The Iowa MAPP transmission owners who might have participated in MISO Module F could join MISO as transmission owners. Or, they might follow Nebraska's example, and join the Southwest Power Pool. A move to SPP would also not eliminate the seams and pancaking issues that make Iowa the "swiss cheese state" of transmission.

Against the backdrop of this uncertainty regarding the costs of seams and energy market access in Iowa, there are multiple proposals to upgrade the Midwest transmission system for the delivery of renewable resources. IAMU is participating in an effort by the governors of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, who have launched the Upper Midwest Transmission Development Initiative (UMTDI). UMTDI asks what transmission planning and cost allocation issues bar regional grid upgrades. We will be asking questions throughout this process to make sure that grid upgrades serve the needs of Iowa economic development, that proper planning is done for Iowa, and that the cost allocation mechanisms are fair.

You can access information about the UMTDI process at [http://
www.misostates.org/UMTDIList.htm](http://www.misostates.org/UMTDIList.htm)

Water, gas, EE workshops with IAMU in March



◆ Another busy month for workshops will help make up IAMU's March calendar.

Make plans now to attend the workshop or workshops that suit your needs.

One of the two Advanced H2O Workshops set for the first week of March is "sold out." The Advanced Water Distribution Workshop March 5 has no more openings; however, there are still openings for the **Advanced Water Treatment Workshop March 4**. 0.5 CEUs are available.

March 16 – 19 will see simultaneous IAMU Gas Pipeline Welder Qualification Workshops taking place at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny and at Iowa Lakes Community College in Emmetsburg. Curriculum will be the same in both workshops. Attendees should pick the one that is the closest to their location. The workshops allow gas operators a simple way to obtain their annual requalification by the Office of Pipeline Safety, and is designed for both beginning and advanced welders.

An important Energy Efficiency Workshop will be held March 26. IAMU members should be aware that important changes have been made in the state energy efficiency requirements for gas and electric utilities. This new required information will be presented at the workshop, to be held at The Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Ankeny.

Brochures for each workshop have been distributed, and are also available, with online registration, on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (click "Calendar/Registrations" on the front page).

Kennett, MO official praises aid from Iowa municipals



Municipal electric crews, including five from Iowa (a crew from Cedar Falls Utilities is shown above), faced a daunting task in helping to restore power to Kennett, MO following the late January storm.

◆ "They were our knights in shining armor who showed up to help us." With that comment, David Wilkins of the City of Kennett, MO summed up the feelings of the residents of his city toward the line crews of five IAMU member utilities that helped with the recovery effort after a huge ice storm there in late January (see February 3, 2009 IAMU Informer).

"People were amazed that so many crews came from so far way to help us," said Wilkins, Director of Operations of Kennett City, Light, Gas & Water (CLGW). Crews from

Algona Municipal Utilities, Cedar Falls Utilities, Indianola Municipal Utilities, Milford Municipal Utilities and Pocahontas Municipal Utilities all made the trip to the city in the "bootheel" region in the southeast corner of the state, joined by municipal crews from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Kansas as those that traveled the farthest. It was an all-municipal rescue effort in Kennett, "Because that's the way we wanted it," said Wilkins. "They (municipal utilities) knew how we felt about things, and how we worked." IAMU's Mutual Aid Program procedures quickly went into motion to put out the request for help in Kennett after IAMU's Electric Services Coordinator Eric Stoll received a call from the Missouri Public Utilities Alliance (MPUA).

*"...we're so much better off due to all the great help we received."
David Wilkins, City of Kennett, MO*

"They all had a great attitude, and were very professional," said Wilkins of the out-of-state crews on hand.

"They knew what to do, and how to make it happen." CLGW maintains a line crew of about 10 individuals, along with a tree trimming crew of four – all of whom were severely out-matched by the wrath of Mother Nature, in what has been called a "100-year ice storm." Except for one small part of town near the electric plant, the entire city was plunged into darkness when tree limbs and power poles began to snap under the weight of as much as five inches of ice, which built up slowly during many hours of rain. The city's Water Department employees also worked around the clock following the storm to ensure that residents had water and that no sewage backups into homes occurred.

Wilkins said local residents "rolled out the red carpet" for the visiting line crews, arranging accommodations and food. "And we're not talking about cold sandwiches and potato chips," said Wilkins, who reported a church became the site of home-cooked meals prepared and served to crews. The assistance will long be remembered, and appreciated. "We still have a couple months of work to do – but we're so much better off due to all the great help we received," said Wilkins.



The extent of damage to trees and utility poles in Kennett has been likened to that often seen following a tornado.

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

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