



Upcoming Events

August 24, 2009

Smart Grid Course presented by Skip Collier

Register/more information:

[Click here](#)

Sept. 1 — 2, 2009

Midwest Regional Gas Workshop

September 9-10, 2009

Water Distribution & Leak Detection/Line Locating Workshops

Skip Collier Smart Grid Course Aug. 24; register now!



◆ The highly regarded Skip Collier of Professional Training Systems will return to IAMU August 24 for a one-day Smart

Grid Course. In this new offering, Collier will present an overview of a smart grid system, including the economics of a smart grid, and the technical details how and why a smart grid works. Registration and a brochure are available under "Upcoming Events" on the front page of the IAMU web site, www.iamu.org.



The RAR Tesla Roadster strikes a pose next to Stuart Municipal Utilities' wind turbine.

FERC supports muni positions in MidAm/MISO deal



◆ The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved Mid-American Energy Company's request to join the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO). In doing so, FERC addressed several concerns raised by public power entities, including IAMU, and generally ruled in favor of public power.

The commission sided with the Midwest Municipal Transmission Group (MMTG) and Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) in rejecting a proposal by MISO and Mid-American to base transmission rate credits for network customers on the network customer's cost of debt. In keeping with previous orders, FERC said, network customers who receive credits for their integrated transmission facilities are entitled to earn equity returns at the same rate as other transmission owners.

Mid-American failed to support its proposal to revise or omit provisions in its tariff on joint planning and joint ownership, the commission ruled. The existing planning provisions, which Mid-American negotiated with MEAN and IAMU, required the company to consult and share information with MEAN and MMTG. Mid-American also has obligation to allow MMTG and MEAN to participate in investments in transmission line extensions.

The commission also ordered Mid-American to correct a transmission template error that would have greatly reduced transmission payments to some municipal utilities. Neither Mid-American nor MISO disputed that there was an error, but MISO said the issue needed to be addressed in a different proceeding.

The commission found that Mid-American will not have horizontal or vertical market power in the Midwest ISO and therefore can sell electricity at market-based rates in the region.

An official FERC news release can be found [here](#).

IAMU, Stuart, Villisca keep green "Roadtrip" rolling

◆ The Renew America Roadtrip (RAR) journeyed through Iowa last week, and IAMU, along with two member utilities, helped keep the green-minded tour moving on its coast-to-coast journey.

The RAR Tesla Roadster Electric Vehicle garnered plenty of attention as it stopped for recharging at IAMU's Training & Office Complex, Stuart Municipal Utilities and the Villisca Municipal Power Plant July 22. The 17-day trip, from New York City to San Francisco, is designed to support and raise awareness of green energy initiatives, and to support various charities.

The two-seater Tesla, a \$135,000 vehicle, is manned by RAR co-founders Michael Craner and Madushini Gunawardana, with tech support personnel also involved. After charging at IAMU, RAR traveled to Stuart, where municipal utility and city officials hosted photos at the city's municipal wind turbine and charging at the city's park. Near the end of the day, the Villisca Municipal Power Plant provided another charging prior to the final stage of the journey to Papillion, NE. IAMU extends thanks on behalf of RAR to Doug Christensen, Manager of Stuart Municipal Utilities, and Floyd Taber, Villisca Electric Superintendent, their staffs and officials, for their assistance.

More about the Renew America Roadtrip is available at www.renewamericaroadtrip.com.



The RAR Tesla gets a recharge at IAMU (top) as staff, energy officials and interested members of the public look on. Stuart Municipal Utilities Manager Doug Christensen (second from right), is joined by city officials at the city's municipal wind turbine. RAR co-founders Michael Craner and "Maddy" Gunawardana are at left.