



Upcoming Events

July 29, 2009

Steel Distribution

Maintenance Workshop

Register/more information:

[Click here](#)

Sept. 1 — 2, 2009

Midwest Regional Gas
Workshop

Sept. 15 — 18, 2009

Underground Electric
Workshop

Iowa municipals invited to MEUW Lineman Rodeo

◆ The Fourth Annual Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) Lineman's Rodeo is September 12 in Sturgeon Bay, WI. For the first time, MEUW is inviting municipal utilities in Iowa, Minnesota and northern Michigan to participate.



Two-person teams will compete in various structured events, including Pole Top Rescue, Dead End Bell Change Out, 600 Amp Switch Change Out, Transformer Change Out, and the return of the Knowledge Challenge. Safety and proper work procedures will be used to determine the best team for each event and an overall winner. The team registration deadline is July 30.

An official announcement and detailed rodeo booklet are available on the MEUW website home page at www.meuw.org.

UMTDI looks ahead, sets cost allocation principles



◆ The Upper Midwest Transmission Development Initiative (UMTDI) has released cost allocation principles that will guide its efforts to bring more electric transmission infrastructure to the Upper Midwest. The principles provide the policy parameters for moving toward multi-state agreement on sharing the costs for improvements to the high voltage grid spanning the country's best wind resource.

UMTDI was created by the Governors of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin in September, 2008. Its goal is to enable desired transmission to be built in the quickest and most cost effective way by identifying wind generation resources and the infrastructure needed to support those resources, and developing a cost sharing approach that will fairly apportion the cost of that investment. The UMTDI Executive Team is made up of utility commissioners and representatives from the Governors' offices. In addition to the eight principles announced, UMTDI has identified renewable energy zones that will allow for detailed transmission planning. It hopes to complete its work by the end of 2009. Additional information about UMTDI and the materials developed so far can be found at www.misostates.org.

IAMU provided comments to UMTDI in February 2009 which we summarize here: *We believe that developing the right approach to transmission upgrades in the Upper Midwest, including consideration of renewable resources, requires a careful and inclusive regional planning process, taking into account the economic and environmental impacts throughout the region, the impact of various scenarios on the costs and incentives for development of local renewables and the impact of such development on challenging wind integration issues, as well as on all other uses of the transmission. The use of EHV transmission impacts and depends upon lower voltage transmission so that planning must consider the availability and adequacy of all transmission. Thus, it should also take into account current regional planning, including the CAPX developments now underway. We also believe that consideration must be given to addressing current transmission inadequacies that now prevent the integration of generation and load.*

Furthermore, if large scale high voltage transmission projects are to be planned and constructed, they should include joint ownership opportunities for load serving entities. Consideration should also be given to other forms of investment, including the use of public funds that lower the impact of new facilities on utility rates.

Job openings? Let the National Guard help fill them

◆ IAMU member utilities are reminded that military service personnel (current or past) can be excellent choices for filling job vacancies. To that end, IAMU has teamed with the Iowa National Guard and its Job Connection Program.



The program is available to current and retired Iowa Army and Air National Guard members. There is no cost to entities that utilize it for filling jobs (the Job Connection Program is not a staffing or placement agency).

The Iowa National Guard has members statewide, and some may already reside in or near your community. It should also be noted that IAMU's apprenticeship programs for electric and water utilities can be paid for with GI Bills if you hire an Iowa National Guard member.

When distributing job opening announcements and classified ads, you are urged to share them with First Lieutenant George Mosby, Iowa National Guard Job Connection Program Coordinator, at george.mosby@us.army.mil. First Lieutenant Mosby can also answer questions at the same email address, or by phone at 515-252-4874.

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

Editor: John Burnett, jburnett@iamu.org. Subscriptions: Sandy Longfellow, slongfellow@iamu.org