



Upcoming Events

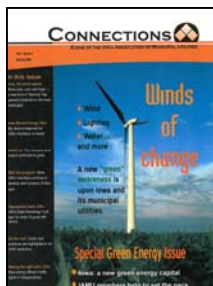
**June 25 — 26, 2009
Safety Workshop**

Register/more information:
[Click here](#)

**July 29, 2009
Gas Steel Pipe Workshop**



◆ The premiere issue of *Connections*, IAMU's new e-zine, was distributed Friday, June 12.



This issue spotlights the new green energy movement that impacts cities and IAMU member utilities.

Connections is a quarterly feature-oriented publication that presents important municipal utility topics, IAMU member activities and more.

If you're an IAMU member and would like to add your email to the distribution list, contact Sandy Longfellow at IAMU, 800-810-4268 or by email at slongfellow@iamu.org (*Connections* currently uses the same distribution list as this publication). *Connections* is also available on the IAMU web site, www.iamu.org (look for the "Connections" tab, or under "Hot News" on the site's home page).

The Spring 2009 issue of *Connections* includes a listing of IAMU member utilities that operate wind turbines. Waverly Light & Power was inadvertently left off the list. IAMU apologizes for the omission.

DNR watershed planning grants are now available



◆ With the knowledge that local efforts are at the heart of improving water quality in Iowa, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is introducing a new DNR Watershed Improvement grant program. This will help local officials create comprehensive plans to improve their community's watersheds.

The grants offer \$10,000 - \$50,000 to develop Watershed Management Plans that address problems and create solutions for rivers, lakes and streams on the state's impaired waters list. One-on-one assistance will be available to review project ideas and answer questions. Local or regional groups, organizations or agencies (public or private) are eligible. The DNR is accepting applications now through Sept. 1, 2009 (4:30 p.m. CST).



"Thorough, locally-led watershed management plans are consistently the major reason a watershed project is successful. This new grant focuses on helping local groups of Iowans concerned about lakes and streams in their communities. We're excited to give Iowans the resources they need to create sound plans for improving water quality," said DNR Director Richard Leopold.

More information is available on the DNR website. [Click here](#). Or contact Steve Hopkins, DNR Watershed Improvement Program Grants Coordinator, at 515-281-6402 or Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov.

IAMU develops EE standards for rental properties



◆ The Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, in cooperation with Morgan Marketing Partners (MMP), has developed minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties. These are being offered to IAMU member utilities so they may have the option of including them in municipal ordinances.

The objectives of the minimum energy efficiency standards are to reduce consumers' energy bills, lower the total cost of housing and help achieve the utility's energy reduction goals without having a negative impact on owners of rental property.

These standards were based on research of similar standards in other cities and states across the country and extensive knowledge of energy efficiency practices in residential homes. In creating the standards, consideration was given to the lack of current standards, the customer segment living in the rental units to which the standards would be targeted, the desire to have lower utility bills across the entire segment and the goal to reduce overall energy use, all without disrupting the economic and financial status of the landlord/tenant relationship.

The recommended minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties can be found on the home page of the IAMU website at www.iamu.org (look under "Hot News").



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

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Change A Light program now signing up utility participants

◆ Do you want to participate in a state-wide energy efficiency program? The Change A Light program helps utilities provide energy efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to customers at reduced cost.



Providing CFL bulbs is one of the most cost effective energy efficiency programs utilities can provide to their customers. In 2008 70 Iowa utilities participated in the program.

The program is administered by the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp (WECC), which has run successful Change A Light programs in Iowa and surrounding states for several years. Because WECC administers the program, utilities do not have to worry about developing and running the program themselves. The main job of local utilities will be to advertise the program to their customers. Participating utilities will gain access to customizable marketing materials, as well as the statewide participating retailer network that has been recruited.

IAMU has emailed information on how to sign up for the program to its municipal electric utility members. WECC requests that utilities sign up for the program by July 10. If you did not receive this information, please contact Joel Logan at jlogan@iamu.org or 800-810-4268. For questions about the program, you can contact Joel or Leo Perna at WECC at leop@weccusa.org.

Ames, Muscatine recognized at APPA conference



◆ IAMU members Ames Municipal Electric Services and Muscatine Power & Water (MP&W) both received awards from the American Public Power Association (APPA) at the group's national conference in Salt Lake City June 16. Ames and Muscatine were both presented with the APPA Community Service Award and Ames was also honored with the Energy Innovator Award.



The Community Service Award recognizes "good neighbor" activities that demonstrate the commitment of the utility and its employees to the community. The City of Ames Electric Services provides several year-round "good neighbor" activities, including its Smart Energy program, which uses a four-pronged approach to energy conservation and demand reduction in the city. The utility also holds an annual Energy Fair, which is free to the public and brings local energy conservation and green energy vendors together with customers; and an annual open house during Public Power Week, among other activities.



MP&W has played an active role in enhancing the quality of life in Muscatine. One of the utility's objectives in its strategic plan is social responsibility. Recently, MP&W participated in a comprehensive community improvement project designed to provide safe and attractive recreation and cultural facilities (particularly along the Mississippi River) for community residents and visitors. Equipment for new infrastructure that was installed was donated and utility employees played leadership roles in seeing the various projects through.

Power Watch, a part of the City of Ames Electric Services' "Smart Energy Program," was cited by APPA in presenting the utility with the Energy Innovator Award. Smart Energy helps increase energy conservation during times of high demand by providing a conduit for the dissemination of important demand reduction and energy conservation information from the utility to the public. The goal is to inform, educate and help citizens develop good energy habits aimed at conserving energy during peak demand periods. This is done through real time technology at the utility's electric facility and in communicating with customers.

IAMU congratulates both utilities on their effective efforts and on this deserved recognition. Photos of the award presentations will appear in the next issue of the IAMU Informer.

John Norris nominated for FERC commissioner job



John R. Norris

◆ Former Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) Chairman John R. Norris has been nominated to the post of Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by President Obama. Norris most recently served as Chief of Staff for Secretary Tom Vilsack at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Norris' resume includes being a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), where he worked on the Electricity Committee and was Co-Chair of the 2009 National Electricity Delivery Forum. He served as a Board Member, Secretary and President of the Organization of Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) States as well as Chairman of the MISO Demand Response Working Group. He also was a member of the FERC/NARUC Demand Response Collaborative. Norris was on the Board of Directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Power Fund and served on the Advisory Council of the Iowa Energy Center, among others. In 1999 and 2000 he was Chairman of the Iowa Electric Restructuring Task Force while serving as Chief of Staff for then Iowa Governor Vilsack. Norris also worked for U.S. Representative Leonard Boswell (IA-3rd) as Boswell's Chief of Staff.

Norris' wife, Jackie, who has served as Chief of Staff for First Lady Michelle Obama, also has a new job. She will serve as senior adviser to the Corporation for National and Community Service, which provides grants to service organizations and promotes volunteerism. It also oversees programs such as AmeriCorps and Senior Corps.