



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**

Dick Stevens, former Atlantic superintendent



Richard "Dick"
Stevens, AMU

◆ Richard "Dick" Stevens, former superintendent of Atlantic Municipal Utilities (AMU), died at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines June 24.

Dick served as the superintendent of AMU from 1970 until his retirement in 2000. He was a dedicated supporter of municipal utilities and IAMU activities, and held numerous positions in local, state and national organizations, serving mainly in electrical and water-related fields. He was IAMU board president in 1975 – 76, and was presented with the IAMU Lifetime Membership Award in 1999. He was also a member of the American Water Works Association and became a lifetime member of that organization in 1996.

He is survived by four children, 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and a sister. His funeral and burial took place in Atlantic June 29. Condolences may be left at the website of Roland Funeral Services at www.rolandfuneralservice.com.

DOE efficiency grant for Iowa will total \$16.2 million



◆ The State of Iowa will be the recipient of \$16.2 million to expand its "Build Energy Smart Iowa" program, with the focus on energy efficiency. The money is part of \$49 million in stimulus funding grants announced by the Department of Energy for Iowa, Michigan and Ohio.

The Iowa funding is managed by the state Office of Energy Independence, which plans to make grants of up to \$100,000 to public, private and nonprofit entities for energy training across the state.

This funding "reflects our commitment to support innovative state and local strategies to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy while insisting that taxpayer dollars can be spent responsibly," said U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu, who added, "This funding will produce an important boost for state economies, help put Americans back to work, and move us toward energy independence."

More information and grant applications can be found on the Iowa Office of Energy Independence website at www.energy.iowa.gov.

IAMU, member utilities to host "Roadtrip" stops



The Renew America Roadtrip's Tesla Roadster EV will roll into IAMU and two member utilities July 22.

◆ The IAMU Training & Office Complex and two IAMU member utilities will host stops for the Renew America Roadtrip (RAR), a cross-country journey promoting electric vehicles (EVs) and renewable energy. As first detailed in the June 23 issue of the IAMU *Informer*, RAR will feature a Tesla Roadster EV, "America's first, highway capable, all-electric sports car" and Toyota Prius hybrid vehicles.

RAR will stop at the IAMU Training & Office Complex from approximately 2 – 3:35 p.m. July 22. As it crosses western Iowa, the caravan will make a stop at Stuart Municipal Utilities (events at the city's municipal wind turbine) from 4:30 – 5 p.m. The Villisca Municipal Power Plant will host the tour from 6:50 – 7:50 p.m. before it proceeds to the day's final stop in the Omaha area.

The City of Atlantic will also host a stop the afternoon of July 22. Other stops are planned for the evening of July 21 and morning of July 22 in eastern Iowa.

Working cooperatively with green charities and sponsors across the country, the RAR team hopes to raise significant funds for critical infrastructure, renewability/sustainability projects and green charities in need. Following the roadtrip, organizers plan to sell the Roadster in a public auction with proceeds donated to eco-friendly charities.

More information about RAR can be found at www.renewamericaroadtrip.com.

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Water utilities also have stake in federal climate change bill



◆ Amid the debate over the American Clean Energy and Security Act (often called the climate change and energy bill) which now moves to the U.S.

Senate, water utilities are reminded that major water efficiency provisions are part of the bill.

Authorization of the WaterSense program, promoting increased efficiency of water use by the federal government and other public institutions and adding a new federal program that would provide millions of dollars for water efficiency rebates are all included in the proposed legislation.

Take steps to reduce fires, injuries from July 4 fireworks



◆ The Fourth of July holiday can be a time of fun, relaxation and a celebration of

America. But it can easily turn dangerous, especially when the holiday tradition of fireworks is involved.

In a typical year, more U.S. fires are reported on July 4 than on any other day and fireworks account for half of those fires. Sparklers, firecrackers, and rockets are the leading contributors to fireworks injuries. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration, in 2007, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,800 people for fireworks related injuries. Children age 5 — 14 are most commonly injured.

For more information click [here](#).

Climate change bill passes House; Senate fight ahead

◆ The controversial climate change and energy bill (formally known as the American Clean Energy and Security Act), was narrowly passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on a vote of 219-212 June 26. The bill now moves to the U.S. Senate, where much tougher challenges are predicted.



The bill would establish a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83% by 2050. Numerous changes to the bill were made during discussion in the House. Originally 946 pages, the bill swelled to 1,200 pages before a 309-page "manager's amendment" was produced.



Cap-and-trade debate

President Obama sees the bill as being vitally important for transforming how America produces and uses energy, and the impact that has on climate change issues. The President has also stated that the nation that manages to harness clean energy "will be the nation that leads the 21st century global economy." During his weekly radio and internet address June 27, the President said the bill is "a historic piece of legislation that will open the door to a clean energy economy and better future for America. Some officials have expressed concern that cap-and-trade policies could have a negative impact on the financial health of utilities. Many Republican legislators have condemned the bill as being potentially damaging to an already weakened national economy in the form of higher consumer prices and additional jobs lost overseas from companies moving operations to other countries that will not operate under the same provisions.

It is speculated that the Senate may not take up debate on the bill until this fall, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., told committee chairmen that he wants them to complete work on their pieces of the legislation and send it to the Senate floor by Sept.18.



IAMU's June 26 Safety Workshop included a number of presenters focusing on a variety of topics, including (top row, left to right): John McPhee, Fire Service Training Bureau (leadership); Ken Arp, IOSHA Consultation (OSHA update); Patrick Merrick, Iowa Dept. of Public Safety (electrical inspection program). Bottom row, left to right: Randy Lewis, Airgas (hand safety/respiratory equipment); and Matt Deutsch, Hydro-Klean (IAMU associate member), right, shown with IAMU Safety Specialist Mike Hamilton.