



**Upcoming Events**

March 16 — 19, 2009

**Gas Pipeline Welder Qualification Workshop (Ankeny & Emmetsburg; two workshops)**

*Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny; Iowa Lakes Community College, Emmetsburg*

*Register/more information:*

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

March 17 — 19, 2009

**Electric Substation Short Course (co-sponsored by IAMU)**

*Scheman Bldg., Iowa State Univ.*

*For more information:*

<http://www.uccs.iastate.edu/mnet/substation/home.html>

March 26, 2009

**Energy Efficiency Workshop**

*Register/more information:*

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

April 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 24, 2009

**Consumer Confidence Report Workshops: Alta, Atlantic, Ankeny, Coralville, Manchester, Mason City (see online calendar or brochure for exact dates, locations)**

*Register/more information:*

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

April 15, 2009

**Natural Gas Fire Control Workshop**

*Register/more information:*

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

**Billions for utilities in stimulus bill; what's the plan?**



◆ The recent stimulus bill, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed by President Obama on February 17, provides tens of billions of dollars for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Municipal utilities have the opportunity to obtain some of this money directly or help leverage it for projects within their communities. While details are still being worked out on how the money will be distributed, the broad guidelines on how the money will be spent are known. Below is a brief summary of some of the money that is available for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects:

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants:** \$3.2 Billion. Among other items, this money is available for developing energy efficiency plans, establishing financial incentives for energy efficiency, implementation of energy efficiency measures in city facilities, replacement of traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient technologies, and installing renewable electric generating systems on government buildings.

**State Energy Program:** \$3.1 Billion. Iowa's portion of this money will be provided through the Iowa Office of Energy Independence. This money will be provided for a wide range of energy efficiency education and implementation projects. We will have to wait and see how the Office of Energy Independence decides to distribute this money.

**Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate:** \$300 Million. This money will provide supplemental rebates for the purchase of Energy Star rated appliances. The money for Iowa will be provided through the Office of Energy Independence.



**Electric Delivery and Energy Reliability:** \$4.5 Billion. This money is for modernizing the electric grid including implementing load management and smart grid technologies. The Department of Energy (DOE) issued an Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity on Smart Grid Demonstrations with a 50% cost-share requirement, including regional demonstrations, utility scale energy storage demonstrations, etc. See: <https://e-center.doe.gov/doebiz.nsf/d76fbc294818822885256d98006c63b6/08c978e8e5bddde38525756d006f14d1?OpenDocument>. Also included is \$100 million for job training with the smart grid.

**Renewable Energy and Electric Power Transmission Loan Guarantee Program:** \$6.0 Billion. The DOE will provide guaranteed loans for renewable energy, transmission, and bio-fuel projects. Municipal utilities can apply directly for this money.



This is only a brief summary of the money that is available for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that your municipal utility may be able to access. For more details see APPA's website: <http://www.appanet.org/legislative/index.cfm?ItemNumber=24024>. The White House has set up a web site that explains the stimulus bill and will track how the money is spent: <http://www.recovery.gov>.

**It should be noted that money for water/wastewater and telecommunication interests will also be available.** IAMU will continue to monitor how the stimulus money is to be spent and report on funds that are available to municipal utilities. More information will be forthcoming.



Access back issues of the IAMU *Informer* and the *Informer* Story Index on the IAMU website: <http://www.iamu.org/informer/default.htm>

It may be necessary to download the latest version of Adobe Reader (Adobe Reader 9) to view the IAMU *Informer*. Download it with this link: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

### FERC's Joseph Kelliher announces resignation



◆ FERC Commissioner Joseph T. Kelliher has announced he will resign from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), effective March 13.

Kelliher was Chairman of the Commission from July 9, 2005 until Jan. 22, 2009, and has served at FERC since November 20, 2003.

To read a statement from Mr. Kelliher, click here: <http://www.ferc.gov/news/news-releases/2009/2009-1/01-07-09.asp>

### Amanda James is new IAMU Legal Counsel

◆ IAMU welcomes Amanda James as the association's new Legal Counsel.



Amanda James

Originally from Creston, Amanda is a 2008 graduate of the Drake University Law School, and also possesses a B.A. in International Relations from Grinnell College. Her recent work experience includes serving as a Judicial Law Clerk for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, State of Iowa; and as a Judicial Intern for Judge Robert Hanson, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, State of Iowa. Her father owns the James Law Firm in Creston, and practices in southwest Iowa.

Amanda lives in Pleasant Hill and enjoys biking, running and taking care of her Golden Retriever, Zack.

## Rob Bernsten named IUB chair; Tanner reappointed

◆ Governor Chet Culver has nominated Rob Berntsen, a native Iowan and utility attorney, to serve as the Chair of the Iowa Utilities Board. The Governor also reappointed Krista Tanner to the board.



A native of Marion, Berntsen, 39, began his career in state government in 1998 with the Iowa Secretary of State's Office. In 2005, Berntsen was activated and deployed as an officer in the United States Army Reserve, serving on active duty until 2006. Berntsen served as Chief of Administrative Law for the 3rd COSCOM as a member of the Army Judge Advocate General's corps during Operation Iraqi Freedom, rising to the rank of Captain.

Berntsen currently serves as Corporate Counsel to Vectren Corporation, an energy holding company based in Evansville, IN. He is licensed to practice law in Indiana and Iowa, and received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and his law degree from the University of Iowa.

Krista Tanner of Clive began serving as a member of the Iowa Utilities Board on April 16, 2007. She will complete the remainder of John Norris' unexpired term which continues through April 30, 2011. Berntsen's term will begin May 1, 2009 and continue through April 30, 2015. The appointments require Senate confirmation.

## New IAMU Disconnection Handbook is online



◆ IAMU's Disconnection of Service Handbook has been revised and updated, and the new issue is now available on the IAMU web site, [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) (click on 'Publications & Resources,' then look for the link to "Disconnection of Service Handbook").

The "Handbook For Municipal Utility Disconnection of Residential Gas, Electricity and Water Services for Non-Payment" 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Gordon Greta of Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., is in effect. The accompanying "Overview of Forms Appendix" has also been revised and updated and is also posted.

User-friendly features of the handbook include button hyperlinks throughout to immediately connect the user with the table of contents, and to external resources, such as appropriate sections of the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code. Each topic in the table of contents is also hyperlinked to the corresponding section of the handbook, for quick reference. The handbook also includes an overview of disconnection legal requirements, types of enforcement, LIHEAP considerations, advice on dealing with difficult customers, and more.

The accompanying "Overview of Forms Appendix" includes all pertinent forms and notices for dealing with disconnection of customer utility service, along with a quick reference chart to determine the proper forms for type of service affected.

## Plans for Sutherland 4 generation plant are shelved



◆ Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL), a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corporation, has cancelled plans to construct the proposed Sutherland Generating Station Unit 4 in Marshalltown. The project's other partners are Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Corn Belt) and North Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association (NIMECA).

IPL reported the decision to cancel the project was based on a combination of factors including the current economic and financial climate, increasing environmental, legislative and regulatory uncertainty regarding regulation of future greenhouse gas emissions and the terms placed on the proposed power plant by regulators.

A full news release on the subject can be found on the Alliant Energy web site at: <http://www.alliantenergy.com/Newsroom/RecentPressReleases/023120>

*“Railroads should not be allowed to abuse their market power, charge excessive rates and provide inadequate service at the expense of (Wisconsin) businesses and their customers.”*

— Matt Bromley, Badger-CURE (Consumers United for Rail Equity)

**When it ordered the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad to reduce its rates by nearly 60% in the Basin Electric case, the U.S. Surface Transportation Board called it “the single largest reduction in rail rates ever ordered by this agency.”**

### APPA webinar on starting an EE program is March 17



◆ The American Public Power Association (APPA) will offer a webinar called “The Importance of Energy Efficiency: Starting an Energy Efficient Program That is Right for Your Utility,” March 17 from 1 –2 p.m. CDT.

One of the featured presenters will be Glenn Cannon, retired general manager of IAMU member Waverly Light & Power. Mr. Cannon is now serving on the Steering Committee of the Clean and Efficient Energy Project.

A phone and a computer with internet access is the only equipment needed to take part. The webinar will examine how an energy efficiency program can help reduce customer costs, reduce power demand and promote environmental leadership.

Cost is \$79 for APPA members and \$159 for non-members. To register, go to the APPA website, [www.appanet.org](http://www.appanet.org) and click on “Events,” then “Events Calendar.”

## Legislation aims to put railroads under antitrust laws

◆ Legislation that would place U.S. railroads under federal antitrust laws has received Senate approval. A bill authored by Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wisconsin), calls for railroads to be governed by the same antitrust laws that apply to many other businesses. The vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee on S. 146, the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009, was unanimous, 14-0.



The U.S. House of Representatives is also discussing the proposed legislation, with H.R. 233.

Currently, American railroads are exempt from antitrust laws, and customers – including those in the utility industry – who depend on rail transport for delivery of commodities, have long complained that because of their monopoly position, railroads have been able to provide substandard service and charge unreasonable fees without fear of legal consequences.

Badger-CURE (Customers United for Rail Equity), a Wisconsin-based group, was the impetus behind the proposed legislation authored by Sen. Kohl.

The news comes on the heels of a recent ruling by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) involving rates charged to Basin Electric Power Cooperative by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad for transporting coal to a power plant in Wyoming. The railroad was ordered to reduce its rates by about 60%. The ruling had a direct impact on municipal utilities in Iowa that purchase electricity through Missouri River Energy Services, which is affiliated with Basin.

IAMU applauds these recent developments. IAMU has been calling for additional review and reform of the STB for several years. To view a statement from Sen. Kohl regarding the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act, click here: <http://www.railcure.org/upload/File/Kohl%20S.%20146%20Floor%20Statement.pdf>.

For an Issue Brief on Railroad Antitrust Enforcement from the American Public Power Association, click here: [www.appanet.org/files/PDFs/23%20Rail%20Antitrust.pdf](http://www.appanet.org/files/PDFs/23%20Rail%20Antitrust.pdf)

## IAMU co-sponsors substation course at Iowa State



◆ Iowa State University’s Electric and Computer Engineering Extension will present an Electric Substation Short Course March 17 – 19 at the Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, in Ames. The course is co-sponsored by IAMU.

Subjects covered will include First Response to Substation Outages by Operations Staff; Arc Flash Prevention and Protection; Transformer Diagnostic Evaluations and Oil & Gas Analysis; Application of Thermography to Substation Equipment; SF6 Gas Handling and Circuit Breaker Service; Substation Battery and Charger Design & Sizing; Rebuild & Restoration of Downtown Substations in Cedar Rapids Following Record-Setting Floods. 1.9 CEUs are available.

For a detailed brochure and registration form, click here: <http://www.uccs.iastate.edu/mnet/substation/home.html>

For more information contact Tom Baird at 515-294-7678 or [tbaird@iastate.edu](mailto:tbaird@iastate.edu).

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

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