



Upcoming Events

April 2 — 3, 2009

IAMU/ISWEP Wetlands Symposium

More information:
<http://www.iowastormwater.org>

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")

April 21 — 23, 2009

Diesel Generation Workshop: Village West Resort, Spirit Lake Resort and on-site at utilities

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

April 28, 2009

IAMU/ISWEP Green Roof Workshop

More information:
<http://www.iowastormwater.org>

May 1, 2009

Competent Person Workshop

Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "May 2009")

Guests top 100 at IAMU Energy Efficiency Workshop



◆ A huge turnout of more than 100 attendees helped make the March 26 IAMU Energy Efficiency Workshop a success.

Workshop information revolved around the new mandatory state requirements for utilities regarding energy efficiency, including: Assessing potential; establishing a goal; establishing a cost effective efficiency program; and providing a report to the Iowa Utilities Board.



George Phillips of Morgan Marketing Partners (left) and Steve Kihn of the Energy Center of Wisconsin were just two of the presenters who brought valuable information to the workshop.

Steve Kihm of the Energy Center of Wisconsin (which IAMU has contracted with to provide an efficiency assessment for all IAMU members) was a special guest, and presented results of the assessment, along with a discussion of goal setting, with IAMU's Joel Logan. George Phillips of Morgan Marketing Partners discussed energy efficiency basics for cities and utilities. Curt Atkins of Waverly Light & Power, Pete Olson of Cedar Falls Utilities and John Root of Muscatine Power & Water related their experiences with energy efficiency programs. IAMU's Legislative Counsel Julie Smith provided a legislative update on efficiency topics.

Attendees were provided with the results of the completed assessment and preliminary cost effective energy efficiency goals suggested by IAMU, customized to each utility's profile.

Presentations from the workshop are now available on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (look for the link under "Hot News.").

State makes more changes in electric inspection rules



◆ Municipalities and municipal utilities should take note that the State Electrical Examining Board has made more recent changes to the State of Iowa Electrical Inspection Program.

While permits and inspections will still be required, licenses will NOT be required in the following cases:

1. Homeowners are not required by the State to be licensed for any work they perform on their principal residence, including a service upgrade. The single family dwelling must be an existing structure, and the residence must qualify for homesteader's tax exemption. **New homes will still have to be wired by a licensed electrical contractor.**
2. Farmers are exempt from licensure while performing work on their principal residence and farm property.
3. Employees of commercial/industrial manufacturing operations are exempt from licensure while performing work under the scope of their employment.

"This is a huge win for home owners," remarked Eric Stoll, IAMU Electric Services Coordinator. "Now a homeowner can work on his or her own home without hiring a licensed electrician. It's a big victory for do-it-yourselfers."

For questions about electrical licensing requirements, use the following link:
<http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/electrician/index.shtml>

For questions about permits and inspections, use the following link:
<https://iowaelectrical.gov/index.php/pages/home>

EPA move would find CO2 emissions a health hazard



◆ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken

steps to officially declare carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases a public health threat.

The EPA recently sent a proposed "endangerment finding" to the Obama administration. This means the agency has found what it considers a scientific case that global warming poses a threat to human welfare.

The finding stems from a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2007 that said the EPA must determine whether CO2 and other greenhouse gases are pollutants under the Clean Air Act. The utility industry has been identified as one of the major contributors to CO2 emissions.

Culver to help welcome Story City wind turbine facility



◆ Governor Culver will join local officials in Story City Wednesday, April 1, to welcome NextEra Energy in groundbreaking for a new wind turbine

repair facility. The Story City Municipal Electric Utility, an IAMU member, has been involved in planning the NextEra facility.

The project will add 60,000 square feet to an existing 30,000 square foot building in the Story City Business Park. NextEra Energy (formerly Florida Power & Light) of Juno Beach, FL, owns wind farms in central and northern Iowa. The Story City facility will perform maintenance and repair on all of NextEra's Midwest turbines.

Moody's report: Issue of utility risk with cap & trade



◆ A report by Moody's Investors Service predicts U.S. electricity prices will rise and municipal electric utilities will face risk factors if proposed cap and trade policies for carbon dioxide emissions are implemented. The report also points out that public power utilities are among the best insulated sectors of the industry in regard to long-term credit risks from carbon regulation.

In the report, "Carbon Risks Becoming More Imminent for U.S. Electric Utility Sector," Moody's states that U.S. electricity prices are likely to rise 15 – 30% under current cap and trade system proposals for carbon emissions and "the vast majority" of the burden for increased costs will rest on residential electric customers. It predicts federal carbon legislation will be passed in 12 –18 months, though implementation of a program may be several years away. Although the report predicts that near-term credit impact on utilities will be neutral – mostly because companies will have a chance to make adjustments to finance policies – operating costs for utilities will rise due to the costs of CO2 mitigation. Coal-dependent utilities are projected to suffer the greatest negative credit implications. The Moody's website can be accessed at www.moody.com (registration is necessary).

IAMU to host Demand Response workshop, webinar



◆ New technology and municipal joint action combine to provide an opportunity to reduce load during peaks on hot summer days.

Cooper/Cannon and IAMU will host a workshop on Friday, April 24 to explain the proposal and answer your questions.

Members can attend the meeting in person or by webinar at no cost. To learn more about this exciting Demand Response project, including registration information, use this links under "Hot News" on the home page of the IAMU website, www.iamu.org.

Iowa AG Miller signs on to railroad antitrust letter

By Robert Varela, American Public Power Association Public Power Daily



◆ The attorneys general of 20 states have urged House and Senate leaders to enact the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009 (S. 146 and H.R. 233), which would eliminate the exemption from the antitrust laws currently enjoyed by the railroad industry. In a March 17 letter, the attorneys general said the railroad industry's exemption from the antitrust laws, created in an era when railroads were regulated extensively, "is no longer necessary or desirable."

Railroads' antitrust exemption "does not seem to have benefited competition," the attorneys general said. In the freight rail market, where four railroads control over 90% of the nation's rail traffic, "shippers have reported that they are subjected to supra-competitive rates on monopoly routes."

Enactment of the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act "is an important step toward the goals of improving the financial viability and efficiency of our nation's rail system, protecting shippers from anticompetitive practices, and ensuring that consumers benefit from lower prices and more innovation," the attorneys general said

Signing the letter were the attorneys general of Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Utah.

IAMU has lobbied for removal of the antitrust exemption for several years and sees the support of state attorneys general as an important milestone in this effort.

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

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