



Upcoming Events

May 7, 2009
**Stormwater Construction Site
Inspector Training Workshop**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iowastormwater.org>

May 19 —22, 2009
Electric Overhead Workshop

Register/more information:

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

(click "May 2009")

May 27 — 28, 2009
**Water Distribution/Leak Detec-
tion Workshops**

Register/more information:

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

(click "May 2009")

May 29, 2009
**Rain Gardens & Bioretention
Cells for Managing Stormwater
Quality**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iowastormwater.org>



◆ **Access back issues of the IAMU Informer and the Informer Story Index on the IAMU web site's [Informer page](#).** It may be necessary to download the latest version of Adobe Reader (Adobe Reader 9.1) to view the IAMU Informer. Download it [here](#).

Alternative energy was highlight of 2009 legislature



◆ The 2009 legislative session ended in the early morning hours of April 26. At this date, bills are still being rewritten in their final form to be sent to the Governor for signature.

The session was dominated by reaction to the disasters that occurred last summer, particularly the flooding in Cedar Rapids; and marked by disputes over various labor issues and the elimination of federal deductibility. Despite the fact that several bills were filed that could have been harmful to municipal utilities, ultimately those bills – to impose energy efficiency and renewable energy mandates, raise water operator fees, and impose more stringent open meetings and records requirements – did not pass this session.

One of the high points of legislation pertaining to municipal utilities involved alternative energy. Thanks to an amendment that was added to Senate File 376, municipal utilities will now benefit from the \$10 million allocated to the Alternate Energy revolving loan fund which is administered by the Iowa Energy Center. The loan fund was originally funded as part of a regulatory settlement with investor-owned utilities. As part of the settlement, it was agreed that municipal utilities would not be allowed to access the loan fund. This year, the legislature added \$10 million to the loan fund from the Iowa Power Fund. The amendment allows municipal utilities to access the added dollars and. The maximum loan is \$500,000 per applicant per two year period. House File 817, which was signed by the Governor on April 23, expands research activities tax credits for innovative renewable energy components manufactured or assembled in the state. An amendment to Senate File 478 expanded property tax exemptions for landfill methane gas conversion property to other property used to convert biomass to methane for production of electricity.



A detailed summary of the legislative session was in a special edition of IAMU's Capitol Links newsletter distributed May 4.

A complete bill tracker chart has been posted on the IAMU web site, www.iamu.org (look for the link under "Hot News").

"Red Flags" Rule enforcement date again pushed back



◆ The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced April 30 that it has once again pushed back the enforcement date for the "Red Flag Rule" until August 1, 2009. The agency says this is necessary to give creditors and financial institutions more time to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs. Municipal utilities are considered "creditors" due to their routine billing practices and customer accounts, and are included in the businesses covered by the Rule, which was developed as part of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (FACTA).

Despite the further delay in enforcement, utility officials who have not done so are urged to finalize a written Red Flag compliance policy as soon as possible. IAMU members still in need of establishing a plan should contact IAMU to obtain a Needs Assessment Form to help them identify areas of their systems where customer personal information could be vulnerable. IAMU also offers a template to help in establishing a plan. Contact Sandy Longfellow at 800-810-4268 or slongfellow@iamu.org.

A news release from the FTC regarding the new enforcement delay can be accessed [here](#). A detailed guide about the Red Flags Rule is available on the FTC website. Click [here](#).

Leon Rodas retirement party at Spencer May 15

◆ Leon Rodas, General Manager of Spencer Municipal Utilities, is retiring after 30 years of service.

A reception in his honor will be held Friday, May 15 from 2 – 4 p.m. in the Spencer Municipal Utilities Operations Center, 712 Grand Ave. in Spencer. Any utility representatives are invited to attend. No R.S.V.P. is required.

In addition to his service to Spencer Municipal Utilities, Rodas has also been a key contributor to IAMU, serving as Board President in 1996, and as Chairman of the association's Insurance Committee.

Contact Spencer Municipal Utilities at 712-580-5800 for more information.



H1N1 flu update: State sets up information sources

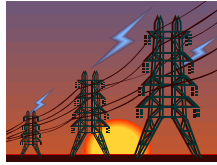
◆ Health officials in the state continue to closely monitor the novel influenza A (H1N1). As of May 4, a possible case of the disease had been detected in Polk County.



The Iowa Department of Public Health has established a telephone hotline (1-800-447-1985) and web page (access [here](#)) for more information.

IAMU continues to stress to members that if you do not have a pandemic flu plan in place, it is important to do so. See the April 27 IAMU Informer for a list of resources to help.

Demand Response plan survey: Have you responded?



◆ IAMU hosted a seminar on April 24 to present information about a joint demand response (DR) project. The presentation illustrated the power of many utilities, working together. The project enables utilities to achieve economies of scale in the deployment of shared technology to reduce on-peak electric demand. That technology then becomes a platform for implementing a variety of smart-grid options, including the essential web portal for customers to access information about their energy use.

The next step is to determine whether there is sufficient interest in this project. IAMU will be applying for ARRA funds and we need to know the scope of our proposal. A survey has been sent to all electric utilities, but if you missed it, please send an email to bhaug@iamu.org or fax to 515-289-2499 with an indication of your utility's interest. No commitment is implied, but an indication of interest is essential for planning.

Additional information about the project can be found on the IAMU web site, www.iamu.org (look for the links on the home page, under "Hot News.")

Compressed Air Challenge = savings for customers



◆ The Compressed Air Challenge national training program is coming to Iowa in June. Sponsored by the Iowa Energy Center and co-hosted by IAMU, the program is designed to help find cost-effective solutions to pressing, everyday operational problems.

It is designed for facility engineers and maintenance supervisors of small to medium plants, though individuals from larger plants, equipment distributors, and engineering consultants will also benefit. Utility managers should consider recommending this program to key business accounts as a way for them to learn how compressed air systems work, and how savings can be attained through proper operation, controls and maintenance.

The program is divided into two courses: Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems, June 16 in Iowa City and June 17 in Ames; and Advanced Management of Compressed Air Systems, June 18-19 in Ames. Individuals may attend one or both courses.

A brochure and registration form for the courses can be found here. Detailed information about the Compressed Air Challenge can be found [here](#).

Emerald Ash Borer training classes are in the works

◆ Iowa State University will soon begin a series of specialized Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) trainings in southeast Minnesota and northeast Iowa in cooperation with Minnesota and Wisconsin officials. "First Detector Training" is a type of first responder program. People trained as "First Detectors" will have special responsibilities in the effort to identify EAB activity.



As reported in the April 20 IAMU *Informer*, an EAB infestation has been discovered in Victory, Wis., just across the Mississippi River from Allamakee County, Iowa. EAB infestations can severely damage ash trees, and cause severe financial hardship to communities not properly prepared to deal with the problem.

For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer click [here](#) or contact Robin Prusiner, Iowa Department of Agriculture, 515-725-1465, or Robin.Prusiner@IowaAgriculture.gov.

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

Editor: John Burnett 515-289-1999 jburnett@iamu.org

To add an *Informer* subscriber: contact Sandy Longfellow at: slongfellow@iamu.org*

To unsubscribe from this publication, contact Sandy Longfellow at: slongfellow@iamu.org*

* When emailing to add or remove a subscriber, please include full name and affiliation