



Upcoming Events

July 29 Gas Steel Pipe Workshop Register/More information: Here

August 18 IDNR Bacteria Monitoring Workshop. More information: Here

August 25 & 26 Water Distribution/Leak Detection Workshops Register/More information: Here

September 1-2 Midwest Regional Gas Workshop

September 9 GIS Workshop Note: Workshop is full



The RICE NESHAP Workshop and webinar July 20 brought together numerous officials and industry experts for an important discussion on the new emissions policies for diesel generators. Pictured are (top to bottom and left to right): Diane Brockshus and Christine Paulson of IDNR; Steve Steenhoek, Ziegler; Marlin Vrbas, PS Analytics; Chad Kaderabek, Universal Acoustic & Emission Technologies; and Mark Holley, Fairbanks Morse.

Looking down the road: Smart grid challenge, rewards

By Bob Haug, IAMU Executive Director

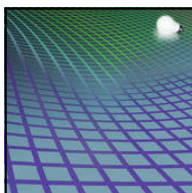


Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a smart grid conference that included speakers from utilities, research institutions, and regulatory agencies from across North America. The smart grid is all about increasing the efficiency with which we generate, transmit, deliver, and consume electricity. If there was a common theme to the presentations, it was that the smart grid is transforming the electricity business. Utilities are investing in smart meters and implementing time-of-use pricing. They are installing demand response technologies, such as smart thermostats and distribution voltage controls. They are giving customers more information and more tools to change the way they use electricity. And utilities are also preparing for the electrification of the transportation sector (plug-in vehicles), the integration of distributed generation, and the development of storage technologies. It was gratifying to know that Iowa municipal utilities are among the innovators and early adopters of all these transformative changes.

Among the blizzard of notable facts, I learned that 6 percent of U.S. electricity customers had smart meters in 2009. Spurred by stimulus funds from the ARRA, the penetration of smart meters is expected to reach 18 percent by 2013. Many countries are far ahead of us. Smart meters are fully deployed in Italy and nearing that goal in some other European countries. China is aggressively investing in smart grid technology and it expects to generate 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. By 2011, all of Canada's Hydro Ottawa customers will have smart meters and will be on time of use rates.



Some of the most interesting presentations described the ways utilities are helping to educate consumers - giving them more information and the tools to change the way they use energy. Oklahoma Gas & Electric conducted a pilot project in 2008 in which they installed a small number of energy use display devices. The utility was surprised by the extent to which customers want more information. One of the conference speakers compared the way customers pay for electricity to the purchase of gasoline. Imagine if the price was not posted and the pump did not display the gallons or cost. Isn't it possible that a customer paying the bill at the end of the month might conclude that he would have driven less had he known the cost? Another speaker followed up on the analogy, asking why utilities seem to think that customers who have no trouble with price per gallon or miles per gallon are incapable of understanding kW and kWh.



It's not just utility customers who need more education. Utility employees and policymakers also need to stay abreast of technology and trends. One way to do that is to experiment. If your utility is not ready for major changes, then consider a pilot project. Install smart meters and customer display devices in the homes of employees and board or council members. Get them familiar with the technology and the ways they can improve efficiency and lower costs. Prepare them for the questions your customers are asking and for the inevitable changes coming down the road.

Sign up for gas steel distribution workshop July 29



Gas operators planning to attend the July 29 Steel Distribution Maintenance Workshop should register as soon as possible. A minimum of 20 participants is required for the workshop.

New operators and operators needing a refresher on the skills covered should plan to attend (a full list of covered tasks in written and/or hands-on training can be found in the workshop brochure, which has been distributed, or can be viewed on the IAMU web site with the link below). To register, click here or submit the registration form in the workshop brochure. Questions? Contact IAMU at 800-810-4268.

Utilities are reminded to file the Municipal Utility Transfer Replacement Tax Rate form with the Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance by August 31, 2010. Instructions and the forms can be found on IAMU's website: www.iamu.org.



IAMU's Whole Town Energy Audit visits have racked up more than 1,200 miles in the past week! Recent trips were to (top to bottom): Brighton, Earlville, Westfield (for Westerner Days, and Mayor Bill Hummel and City Clerk barbette Grimm posing with CFLs) and Moulton.

APGA-EPA reach gas emissions reporting agreement



◆ APGA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have reached an agreement that would exempt small natural gas utilities (LDCs) from complying with annual EPA greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting requirements.

The exemption would apply only to gas systems that emit fewer than 25,000 metric tons of emissions each year, which is the equivalent of 460,000 MCF throughput. LDCs with emissions larger than 25,000 metric tons are still required to comply. The agreement calls for EPA to issue a proposed rule to provide the small LDC exemption. EPA will need to issue a proposed rule, take comments, and ultimately issue a final rule to set the exemption in stone.



The EPA GHG Reporting Rule was published on December 29, 2009. The rule requires annual reporting of annual volumes of gas delivered by LDCs broken down into certain categories beginning with Calendar Year 2009. The certificate of representation is due to EPA on January 31, 2011. The date for the first report is March 31, 2011.

As noted, the agreement to exempt small LDCs requires EPA to issue a proposed rule and then a final rule. EPA is required to resolve on a reasonable basis any concerns that are set forth in comments on the proposed rule. Thus, neither the timing of the final rule nor its content can be guaranteed. Nevertheless, APGA is reasonably optimistic that a final rule will be issued by the end of this calendar year exempting small LDCs from the GHG Rule's requirements.

Further information on this rule and the EPA's newly developed GHG electronic monitoring system can be found [here](#). For more information on this rule and other EPA actions contact Nate Hill or John Erickson at APGA at 202-464-2742 or nhill@apga.org or jerickson@apga.org.

Using GIS? Geographic Info Council wants to know

◆ The Iowa Geographic Information Council is conducting a series of case studies with financial analysis of costs and benefits of GIS technology in Iowa, working toward a seamless statewide data sharing network.



The initial case study addressed counties and state agencies. The second study dealt with response to the 2008 flood. This year's study is focused on municipalities, economic development and public/private partnerships involving utilities. Given the focus of



this year's study, the council would like to know about Iowa municipal utilities currently using GIS or considering adoption of the technology.

Contact IAMU's Jessica Lillie at jillie@iamu.org or 515-289-1999 with your information.

Applications for Iowa Smart Planning grants accepted



◆ Applications for the Iowa Smart Planning: Local Comprehensive Planning Grant Program are now available through the Rebuild Iowa Office and Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Eligible applicants include any of the 85 counties that were presidentially declared disaster areas as a result of the storms of 2008, as well as any city government within those counties. Up to \$50,000 per participating governmental entity may be requested. Applicants must provide a one-to-one match. Multi-jurisdictional plans are encouraged.



These grants are intended to support development and adoption of forward-thinking comprehensive plans that will guide long-term recovery efforts and subsequent decisions that reduce existing or future development in flood-risk areas. Application guidelines, as well as the application form, can be found [here](#). The deadline to apply is Sept. 30. The Rebuild Iowa Office is coordinating the program's application process and the Iowa Department of Economic Development is administering the contracting and reimbursement process.

◆ **Correction:** In the July 13 edition of the IAMU Informer, a story mentioning the July 4 parade mishap in Bellevue incorrectly stated there were two fatalities stemming from the incident. Only one fatality occurred in Bellevue. Another fatality resulted from a separate incident involving a horse in a July 4 parade in Bedford.