



Upcoming Events

August 17, 2011  
Street Lighting Workshop  
Register/more information: [Here](#)

August 26, 2011  
Water Utility Rate Setting  
Workshop/Webinar  
Register/more information: [Here](#)

September 7 — 8, 2011  
IAMU/APGA Natural Gas Operator  
Qualification Workshop  
Register/more information: [Here](#)

September 14 —16, 2011  
Electric Underground Workshop

October 5 — 7, 2011  
IAMU Annual Conference, Holiday  
Inn Des Moines Airport/Conference  
Center

Water utility rate setting  
workshop/webinar is set

◆ IAMU member water utilities:  
Learn what you may be  
missing when review-  
ing and setting your  
rates with a work-  
shop/webinar at  
IAMU August 26.



The Water Utility Rate Setting  
Workshop/Webinar will offer util-  
ity representatives the option of  
attending in-person at IAMU's  
Training & Office Complex or  
from their own offices via  
webinar. The half-day  
event will begin at 8:30  
a.m. and will be  
hosted by IAMU  
Water Services Spe-  
cialist Jessica Lillie and  
attorney Ivan T. Webber of Ahlers  
& Cooney, P.C.



The workshop will be geared to  
water utility clerks and decision  
makers. A rate setting template  
will be provided to webinar par-  
ticipants by email and to in-  
person attendees via CD. To learn  
more or to register, click [here](#).

ISEP project terminated; unsuitable geology is blamed

◆ The Iowa Stored Energy Park Agency (ISEPA) has announced the termination of the Iowa Stored Energy Park (ISEP) project.



The 270 megawatt \$400 million compressed air energy storage (CAES) and elec-  
tric generation facility was to be located at Dallas Center, near Des Moines. In-  
service was planned for 2015. The project would have taken renewable wind and other resources  
available on the electric transmission grid during off-peak weeknight and weekend hours when  
customer electric loads and prices are low, and stored the energy as compressed air in a sandstone  
aquifer structure 3,000 feet underground. The compressed air would have been used during higher  
value, on-peak hours on weekdays to generate electricity and deliver it back to the grid when cus-  
tomers need it most.



However, geology studies of the project site show the storage reservoir is not  
suitable for the scale of the project that was envisioned. While the CAES project  
concept and potential long-term economics are sound, due to geology limitations  
specific to the Dallas Center site, it has been determined the project will not pro-  
ceed.

ISEPA represents 57 municipal electric utilities located in Iowa, Minnesota and  
the Dakotas. The decision affects only the ISEP project. The ISEPA members will  
determine at a later date whether they will consider or pursue additional pro-  
jects. In addition to investments by the ISEPA members, the majority of ISEP de-  
velopment funding has been provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Storage Program,  
with additional support from the Iowa Power Fund.

Ballot to set up Pocahontas municipal  
gas utility is defeated by large margin



◆ A ballot measure that would have allowed the  
City of Pocahontas to take steps toward managing  
the local gas utility was soundly defeated August 2,  
by a margin of nearly 77 percent to 23 percent.

Black Hills Energy (formerly Aquila), the incumbent gas sup-  
plier, mounted a large campaign in the community,  
including door-to-door canvassing, distributing  
yard signs, purchasing newspaper ads and radio  
spots, meeting with businesses and developing  
a web page directed to the residents of Poca-  
hontas urging them to vote "no" if in doubt about  
any part of municipal control of the system.



City officials had purchased newspaper ads since the first of  
June, dedicated pages of the city web site to the topic and sent  
mailings to each utility customer. City Administrator Bob  
Donahoo has his own theory of what may have contributed to  
the defeat: "Of all the days we could have had a vote, it coin-  
cided with the debate and vote on one of the most polarizing  
national issues we've ever seen — the federal debt, and a very  
anti-government mood," he said.

Donahoo reported the Pocahontas City Council can now either  
enter negotiations on a new agreement with Black Hills, or set  
another vote after four years, "and learn what would need to  
be done differently next time."



*IAMU's Energy Services Department was very visible in a recent energy event with member Anita Municipal Utilities. The promotional CFL balloon was part of a parade and IAMU's Pedal Power and lighting displays were also featured. Any IAMU member interested in renting the CFL balloon for utility or community events should contact IAMU's Jonathan Roberts at [jroberts@iamu.org](mailto:jroberts@iamu.org) or 515-289-1999.*



Thanks to A-Line Iron and Metals for their support of the event by sponsoring a beer tasting hole on the course (above) with samples from Oelwein's Hub City Brewing.



A-Line's Jim Kiffel is shown doing the honors. Kiffel and A-Line also donated a putter for bidding at the raffle. Brien Rindone of Algona Municipal Utilities (left) was top bidder.



Dick Kohler of SIMECA (right) won the Van Wert, Inc. putting contest and received a gold putter. It's presented by Mike Menke of the Fox Ridge club.

## Final days to sign up for street lighting workshop

◆ IAMU members are reminded that time is drawing short to register for the association's street lighting workshop.



"Understanding Street Lighting Technology & Science" will be held August 17 at IAMU and will feature preeminent researchers from the Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic of Troy, NY.

To learn more about the workshop or to register, click [here](#).

## Good fun, good funding with Golfin' for Safety event

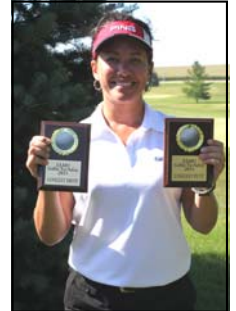


The winning team of (left to right) Bryan Palmer (Independence Light & Power), Jeff Keech (KW Associates), Brian Geschke (New Hampton Municipal Light Plant) and Darrel Wenzel (Independence Light & Power) smile with their trophies.

◆ More than 60 golfers and 17 businesses joined forces for a day of fun and fundraising in IAMU's second Golfin' for Safety event August 3. A total of \$4,626 was raised, with all proceeds to be used for IAMU's Safety & Training Field in Ankeny, primarily for the purchase of confined space entry training equipment.



Sixteen golf teams tested the Fox Ridge Golf Club course in Dike, with the group of Darrel Wenzel (Independence Light & Power); Bryan Palmer (Independence Light & Power); Brian Geschke (New Hampton Municipal Light Plant); and Jeff Keech (KW Associates) taking the win with a score of 54. An award, raffle and dinner ceremony sponsored by Jester Insurance Services wrapped up the day.



Cherri Popp of SIMECA was a big winner, taking both the Longest Drive and Longest Putt Awards.

IAMU extends its thanks to all who participated in the event, and to members of the planning committee: Duane Armstead, Greenfield Municipal Utilities; Darrel Wenzel, Independence Light & Power; Denny Weber, Alta Municipal Utilities/Border States Electric; Rex Van Wert, Van Wert, Inc. and Dave Hraha, Kathy Hoffman, John Burnett and Julie A. Smith, IAMU; and to IAMU staff members Julie Keever and Mike Hall for their assistance at the event.



Loren Rich of Mount Pleasant Municipal Utilities took the Closest to Pin Award. Golf teammate Ron Henle of Mt. Pleasant looks on.

Hole sponsor Denny Weber of Border States Electric (second from right) at the Border States hole with partners (left to right) Scott Tonderum (Graettinger Light Plant), Jeff Stewart (former Alta board member) and Ron Chapman (Alta Municipal Utilities, retired). At right, Collin Engebretson of Utilities Plus Energy Services is shown with his company's sponsor sign, at the event's "betting hole."



## Compressed Air Challenge returns to Iowa in September

◆ The Compressed Air Challenge Training Program, sponsored by the Iowa Energy Center, returns in September (click [here](#)). The cutting-edge program is designed to help operators tackle everyday challenges, learn how their plant's compressed air system operates, how much compressed air costs, and how to achieve savings. It is co-hosted by IAMU.



The program is divided into two portions: Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems, Sept. 20-21; and Advanced Management of Compressed Air Systems Sept. 22-23. IAMU member utilities may want to provide scholarships to commercial customers to attend the course, or may choose to send personnel.

## "TAP" steam system training is slated for October in Ames

◆ TAP Your Steam System training is set for October 12-13 at Iowa State University's Scheman Building (click [here](#)). Sponsored by the Iowa Energy Center and co-hosted by IAMU, the TAP (Ten Action Points) training features attendees working in teams to accomplish different tasks relating to steam systems.



The program is divided into Level One (October 12) and Level Two (October 13) and covers many steam fundamentals. Kelly Paffel, a worldwide authority on industrial steam systems, will be the course instructor.

IAMU member utilities may want to provide scholarships to commercial customers to attend the course, or may choose to send personnel.