



### Upcoming Events

**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**  
Register/more information: [Here](#)

**September 19, 2011**  
**Permeable Pavement Systems Design Workshop**  
Register/more information: [Here](#)

**October 5 — 7, 2011**  
**IAMU Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport/Conference Center**  
Register/more information: [Here](#)

### Back to school means extra caution in driving

◆ It's back to school time, and IAMU's Job Training & Safety Department reminds all member utility employees to use extra caution, whether driving a utility vehicle or your personal car.



▮ Always be alert for stopped school busses and be prepared to slow and stop. Be aware the location of school bus stops can change.

▮ Watch for children running across streets and darting out between parked cars.

▮ Drop off and pick up school children only in designated areas.

▮ Limit cell phone usage near schools. All drivers are prohibited from texting while driving and teen drivers are prohibited from using cell phones when driving.

## Missouri River Energy Services announces hydro plans

◆ Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) has announced its intent to proceed with the planning and development of a hydroelectric generating facility at the Red Rock Reservoir on the Des Moines River.



The Red Rock Dam is located about three miles southwest of Pella, Iowa, and is operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission earlier this year granted a license for the Red Rock hydroelectric generating facilities to CRD Hydroelectric LLC (CRD), a wholly owned subsidiary of Nelson Energy LLC. The project was originally conceived and initial development was started by CRD and its parent Nelson Energy.

Last fall, Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA) entered into an agreement to acquire the Red Rock Hydroelectric Project (RRHP) from Nelson Energy. The project will be constructed and operated by MRES and financed and owned by WMMPA.

"The RRHP gives MRES another generating resource in our ongoing efforts to diversify our resource portfolio," said Tom Heller, MRES CEO. "The long-term life of a hydro facility such as RRHP allows MRES to spread the costs over an extended period of time to enable us to keep our costs reasonably stable through the addition of a base load, renewable resource. This project also will provide significant economic benefits of nearly \$250 million to the four-county region during construction from 2013 through 2015. During that three-year timeframe, our economic analysis finds that the project will bring an average of 448 jobs to the area ramping up to 732 jobs in 2014 and slowly decreasing until completion in late 2015," he said.

Ray Wahle, MRES Director of Power Supply and Operations said, "The design output of RRHP will be approximately 36 megawatts, but the project will be capable of generating up to 55 megawatts at certain times of the year when water is plentiful. This flexibility will further enhance the options for MRES in meeting our member loads in the most cost-effective and reliable manner." MRES expects construction of RRHP to begin in 2013 with the project becoming operational by early 2016.



Shown signing the project development agreement are (left to right): Douglas Spaulding, Nelson Energy; Robert Larson, Nelson Energy; Bill Schwandt, Vice President, Western Minn. Municipal Power Agency Board of Directors; and Harold Schiebout, Chairman, MRES Board of Directors.



The Red Rock Dam will be a key part of the new MRES hydroelectric project.

## Open house at IAMU will kick off Annual Conference

◆ IAMU's upcoming Annual Conference, "To Boldly Go....," will kick off with a special open house event at the association's Training & Office Complex in Ankeny October 5.



Food, games, demonstrations involving different IAMU departments and vendor displays will welcome early arrivals to the conference. The open house will take place from 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. There is no fee or registration required to attend the open house.

Annual Conference sessions will get underway October 6 with a keynote speech, "Never Give Up," by Dale Collie, a nationally-known speaker and author, who has addressed many utility gatherings. Utility member registration for the conference and a detailed agenda are available on the IAMU web site [here](#).



Dale Collie

## IUB report includes favorable stats for wind

◆ A report released by the Iowa Utilities Board estimates that 17 — 20% of all electricity generated in the state comes from wind. IUB also estimates that Iowa is currently ranked first in the nation in wind generation output as a percentage of all electricity generation in the state.



The figures are as of January, 2010, in the "Iowa Electric Profile." It contains electric information summarized by year from U.S. Department of Energy – Energy Information Agency information. Because of the time delay in EIA's published reports, as well as the rapid nature of wind development in Iowa, IUB staff periodically produces more current estimates of the progress of wind electricity production in Iowa.



The estimate is based on assumptions such as currently installed wind capacity in Iowa (per American Wind Energy Association), Iowa average wind capacity factor (per information from consultant Tom Wind, Wind Utility Consulting).

Using similar methodology and applying it to other states, IUB arrived at the estimate of wind generation output as a percentage of electric generation. More information regarding the IUB's report is available [here](#).



◆ Access back issues of the IAMU *Informer* and the *Informer* Story Index [here](#).

## Governor to hold roundtable on Missouri River floods



◆ Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds have announced they will hold a meeting with public and private sector officials and concerned citizens to discuss Missouri River flooding and overall river management. The meeting will take place Friday, September 9, 2011, 1 – 3:45 p.m., at Iowa Western Community College, Looft Hall, 2700 College Rd., Council Bluffs.

The announcement comes following a recent meeting of government officials from several states affected by the Missouri River flooding. "Lieutenant Governor Reynolds and I welcomed the opportunity to discuss Missouri River management with other elected officials," said Branstad. "We recognize, however, that local officials, community businesses, farmers, and residents living along the river also have concerns and suggestions regarding flood prevention, coordination, management and recovery. We look forward to hearing their perspectives, thoughts and concerns during this meeting."

The meeting will consist of an hour long public roundtable discussion with community leaders followed by an hour of open discussion with the general public.



"From Sioux City to Council Bluffs to Hamburg, there are still many Iowans hurting from flooding along the Missouri River," said Reynolds. "We want to hear how flooding has impacted Iowans along the Missouri River. We also hope this meeting will help to identify ways to increase the focus on flood control and improvement opportunities for information sharing, communication, and collaboration between federal, state, local and private sector entities."

The entire event is free and open to members of the public and media.

The Office of Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds continues to work closely with the State Interagency Missouri River Authority (SIMRA). To find more information on SIMRA and the Iowa perspective on management of the Missouri River, click [here](#). To access the Missouri River flooding page of Governor Branstad's web site, click [here](#).



## Efficient street lighting takes center stage in workshop

◆ A detailed look at implementing an energy efficient municipal street lighting program was the order of business as IAMU hosted the Understanding Street Lighting Technology and Science Workshop August 17.



The event was presented by John Bullough, Leora Radetsky, and Jeremy Snyder of the Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. A variety of topics were presented, including: Roadway lighting considerations, design strategies, pole spacing, the science of vision, light pollution, safety, street lighting reports, product testing, economics, field demonstrations, and new lighting techniques. The workshop was co-sponsored by Western Area Power Administration and funded in part by a grant from the Iowa Energy Center.

The workshop was well attended, as many utilities are currently either implementing their own energy efficient street lighting projects or considering initiating one. In June, IAMU distributed a survey regarding interest in a potential joint purchase of LED street lighting via an RFP process. So far, approximately 29 utilities have expressed interest in becoming part of a collaborative joint purchase. It's not too late to respond to the survey. Click [here](#) to respond from your browser.



Speakers (left to right) Leora Radetsky, Jeremy Snyder and John Bullough of the Lighting Research Center shared their lighting expertise.

IAMU is continuing to investigate the feasibility of developing an RFP for three common types of fixtures in an effort to achieve economies of scale for our members. In a separate project, IAMU is also seeking grant funding to document the process and develop a best practices handbook to help other small utilities duplicate our efforts and launch successful retrofit projects.