



Upcoming Events

May 12, 2011
Infrared Thermography Workshop
Register/more information: Here

May 17 — 20, 2011
Electric Overhead Workshop
(Apprentice evaluations/beginning pole climbing pre-workshop May 17)
Register/more information: Here

May 25 — 26, 2011
Water Distribution & Leak Detection Workshops
Register/more information: Here

June 8, 2011
Underground Storage Tank Training Workshop
Register/more information: Here

Manilla utility suffers loss of Mitchell Hinners



Manilla Municipal Utilities is mourning the loss of staff member Mitchell Hinners.

The 22-year-old, originally from Carroll, was killed in a motor vehicle accident near Manilla April 24.

Hinners was a graduate of the Northwest Iowa Community College electric lineman program, and held a certification in lineman management. He began employment at Manilla Municipal Utilities as a lineman in March 2010. He then became the first employee in the history of the utility to achieve certification in maintenance of natural gas. He was also a member of the Manilla Fire Department and was among the mutual aid responders from Manilla who traveled to Mapleton to assist in restoration of utilities following the tornado there April 9.

Funeral services were held April 29 and burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Carroll.

Smart thermostats: Still a good idea for IAMU members

By Bob Haug, IAMU Executive Director



IAMU received confirmation today of a one-year extension in the time allowed to deploy smart thermostats under a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. With the extension, participating utilities have until March 31, 2013 to complete installations. Current Iowa participants include Algona, Atlantic, Cedar Falls, Rockford, and West Point. IAMU is also working with three out-of-state utilities that are eager to take advantage of the grant. There is still time for IAMU members to reconsider the offer to participate, even if only on a pilot project basis. Here are a few of the best reasons:

1. Some IAMU members pay as much as \$16 to \$20 per kW per summer month for capacity plus from \$2 to over \$7 per kW for transmission. By contrast, participants in the smart thermostat project will pay \$2 to \$5 per kW per summer month to avoid a peak kW (over a ten year period of analysis).

2. The Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) has proposed development of a capacity market, with similarities to markets in PJM and ISO New England. IAMU has actively opposed the market proposal through the Midwest Municipal Transmission Group and the MISO Transmission Dependent Utility group, but such markets are favored by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In large measure, markets are supported as a way to allow demand response to compete with generation on more-or-less equal terms. If the MISO market proposal goes forward, utilities would have to purchase capacity at the market clearing price for each kW of peak demand (plus reserves) or use their own capacity to cover demand. The market clearing price is the price bid for the last unit of capacity necessary to serve the projected load of all utilities in the market. Not only will peak load reduction reduce the need for capacity, the demand response from thermostats can be bid into the market as a resource.



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Gordon D. Greta, former IAMU attorney, passes away



Gordon D. Greta, a former IAMU Legal Counsel, and more recently a staff attorney with the Ahlers & Cooney law firm in Des Moines, passed away May 2 following a brief illness.

After joining the Ahlers firm, Gordon continued to work closely with IAMU and its members on utility legal matters, including municipal telecommunication issues. He authored IAMU's Disconnection of Service Handbook for member electric and gas utilities and also spoke at and hosted various IAMU functions, including a disconnection of service workshop and webinar at IAMU March 25 of this year. A graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law, much of his career was spent in public service, including working as a county attorney, a city attorney and community college general counsel.

In addition to being a highly regarded legal professional, he was also held as a good friend by many, including members of the IAMU staff, and will be remembered as a gentle and honorable man. He was a lay leader with Plymouth Congregational UCC, Des Moines. Gordon possessed a great command of the English language and an ability to write eloquently; but was also a great lover of off-the-wall humor and especially satirical and "corny" jokes.



Passings IAMU extends its sympathies to Gordon's family and many friends, to all IAMU members who knew and worked with him and to the staff of the Ahlers law firm. His body has been donated to the University of Iowa. A memorial service will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines, May 16 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that memorials be designated to the Stephen Ministry at Plymouth Congregational Church, or the Glacier National Park Fund. For more information click here.



Gordon D. Greta, pictured here at an IAMU clerk workshop in 2010, was a faithful resource for IAMU members.

Water Distribution/Leak Detection Workshops



◆ **IAMU's next back-to-back Water Distribution Training and Water Leak Detection/Line Locating Workshops will be held May 25 and 26. This will be the only offering of these workshops in 2011; therefore, early registration is encouraged.**



Both workshops feature rotating hands-on practice in numerous procedures with different types of equipment.

Participants may register for one workshop or both. A discount is available for early registration, with a deadline of May 18. A brochure and registration form has been distributed; or, learn more and register on the IAMU web site [here](#). For more information contact Jill Soenen at IAMU at jsoenen@iamu.org or 800-810-4268.

NTAS, new U.S. terror alert system, is unveiled



◆ **Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has announced the implementation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS).** Citing the importance of counting on the American public as a partner in securing the country, she reported the new system's goal is to provide timely information to the public sector about credible terrorist threats and replaces the color-coded system in place in recent years.

Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. The agency will also be launching a new "If You See Something, Say Something" awareness campaign. For more information click [here](#).

Smart thermostats, continued from Page 1



3. As a result of EPA's Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (RICE) rules and new rules limiting emissions of particulates (PM2.5), some diesel engines will not be included as reserve capacity. For each kW of lost capacity, the utility will have to buy capacity in the market or physically replace it. The capital and O&M costs are over \$20 per kW per summer month for a simple cycle gas turbine. Costs for a new diesel generator would be lower, but assuming an installed cost of \$500/kW and diesel fuel at \$4 per gallon, the energy cost would be 45 cents/kWh. Those are costs that would be wise to avoid.

4. Rates are going up for all utilities and many customers are having a tough time paying their bills. A programmable thermostat can reduce annual gas and electricity costs by as much as 15%. Savings to the utility from managing peak loads will also help hold down rate increases.



For more information about how smart thermostats can reduce your utility's operating costs contact Bob Haug (bhaug@iamu.org) or Sara Kaplan (skaplan@iamu.org) at IAMU.

Underground storage tank workshop is new offering



◆ **IAMU announces an all-new workshop: The Underground Storage Tank Training Workshop, conducted by engineering firm Barker Lemar, has been set for June 8 at IAMU's Training & Office Complex in Ankeny.**

All owners of existing Iowa underground storage tanks (UST) regulated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources must designate trained/certified operators by December 31, 2011. Persons responsible for the operation and maintenance of the UST system and for implementing UST regulatory requirements in the field should plan to attend this workshop (designed for tanks greater than 110 gallons).

The workshop will be hosted by Jeff Phillips of Barker Lemar, and will cover such topics as UST leak detection and vapor recovery; spill prevention and response; corrosion; inspections; state-specific information and Level A and B certification.

Registration is free for IAMU members; if refreshments and on-site lunch is desired, they may be purchased in advance at a cost of \$15 per person. A brochure and registration form has been distributed; or, register online with the IAMU web site [here](#). A minimum of ten registrants is required for the workshop to be held. The registration deadline is June 6.

For more information contact IAMU at 800-810-4268.

First apprentice completes IAMU wastewater program



◆ **IAMU Water Services Coordinator Jill Soenen recently presented Tim Chance with his IAMU wastewater treatment apprentice program certificate of completion from the Department of Labor.**

Chance, an employee at the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF), started in the apprentice program in June 2009.

To complete all the requirements of the apprentice program Tim obtained 4,000-6,000 on-the-job learning (OJL) hours, attained his grade II wastewater treatment certification, successfully completed and passed the online curriculum and achieved his CDL-A license (a WRF specific requirement).

The WRF is currently the only utility in the state utilizing the IAMU wastewater treatment apprentice program and has nine apprentices enrolled. IAMU congratulates Tim and the WRF! For more information about IAMU's water treatment or wastewater treatment apprentice program, contact Jill Soenen at jsoenen@iamu.org or 800-810-4268.



IAMU Water Services Coordinator Jill Soenen presents Tim Chance with his IAMU apprentice program certificate. He is the first to complete the IAMU program

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