



Upcoming Events

November 2, 2011
IAMU Regional Meeting, Spencer
Register/more information: [Here](#)

November 3, 2011
IAMU Regional Meeting, Independence
Register/more information: [Here](#)

November 9, 2011
"Establishing a Stormwater Utility"
Register/more information: [Here](#)

November 15 — 17, 2011
Water and Wastewater Operator's Training Workshop, Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines
Register/more information: [Here](#)

November 21, 2011
Municipal Telephone Taxation Workshop

USF, landmark broadband overhaul, approved by FCC



◆ In what Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski has called a "once-in-a-generation" overhaul, the FCC unanimously approved the Universal Service Fund and the intercarrier access regime.

The new Connect America Fund (CAF) promotes universal broadband in addition to voice service that will especially benefit rural communities and needy areas. Genachowski praised the move as a significant step in carrying our President Obama's vision for a hyperconnected nation, calling it "a momentous step in our efforts to harness the benefits of broadband for every American."



The passage of the measure is seen as a major victory for FCC Chair Genachowski

In addition, Genachowski said, changing the system governing how phone companies pay each other for calls will eliminate billions of dollars in "hidden subsidies" in phone bills and put millions back in consumers' pockets. The Universal Service Fund, which consumers pay into as part of their monthly phone bills, in the past only supported basic phone service. The new program will direct money to upgrading networks to support broadband and mobile broadband.



The agency estimates that the program will bring high-speed Internet access to about 7 million people living in rural areas over the next six years and will create some 500,000 jobs.

An Executive Summary of the 500-page order has been released, but a full order has not yet been made public. Official information and further statements from Chairman Genachowski are available on the FCC website [here](#). The passage has also been covered by numerous news outlets.

The impact of the overhaul on Iowa's municipal telecom utilities is still unclear. IAMU will continue to examine the executive summary and the full order, when released, to help advise members on what the FCC's actions will mean.

Waverly L&P moves ahead with wind turbine reconstruction plan

◆ The rebuilding of Waverly Light and Power's Cannon II wind turbine will take a step forward with the **reinstallation of the second section of the tower.**



During the final stages of construction in 2009, a construction issue caused the blades, hub and generator assembly to break apart and fall to the ground. Since then, only the tower base has remained standing. "The second section passed all the structural examinations and tests. If we can reuse this section, it will save Waverly Light and Power \$165,000," said Mike Litterer, assistant general manager/operations manager.

"Litigation between Waverly Light and Power and Industrial Contract Services, Inc., the original installation contractor, continues, but now is the time to move forward with the reconstruction," said Diane Johnson, Waverly Light & Power general manager.

LIHEAP, Winter Disconnection Moratorium now in effect to April

◆ IAMU members are reminded that the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now in effect, with applications from households being accepted starting November 1 (the application period for households with elderly and/or disabled occupants began Oct. 3). LIHEAP applications will be accepted through April 30, 2012.



Iowans can apply for LIHEAP through their local Community Action Program (CAP) office.

The Winter Disconnection Moratorium is also in effect through April 1, 2012. During this time a utility cannot disconnect service to any resident that is certified as eligible for LIHEAP. IAMU maintains its Disconnection of Service Handbook for its members to utilize. Access it [here](#). Access the LIHEAP page on the Iowa Department of Human Rights web site [here](#).



A new fence on IAMU's property simulates electric poles and lines. City of Ames electric personnel (top) and IAMU's Steve McLaughlin (bottom photo, left) and Tom Erickson were instrumental in erecting the unique fence.