

MEAN governance initiative moves forward

Goal: To Streamline, simplify governance structure

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska Board of Directors and Electrical Resources Pooling Agreement (ERPA) Management Committee at their quarterly joint meeting in August passed resolutions that transfers duties from the ERPA Management Committee to the MEAN Board of Directors as part of an ongoing MEAN governance restructure initiative.

The two-year transition process will ultimately phase out the role of the ERPA Management Committee, leaving the MEAN Board as the sole governance body of the organization. The MEAN Governance Review Committee, consisting of 19 representatives, has been working through the process of streamlining and simplifying MEAN's governance structure after nearly four decades as an organization.

The ERPA Management Committee has existed alongside the MEAN Board since the formation of MEAN in 1981. The MEAN Board currently consists of 54 directors – one appointed by each of the municipalities/utilities that have joined MEAN's charter. The 15 participant communities represented on the ERPA Management Committee but not on the MEAN Board can choose to take steps to join MEAN's Charter and appoint a representative to the MEAN Board. No additional action is necessary for the 54 participants currently represent-

MEAN NOTES

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska held its quarterly Board and Management Committee meeting in August. These are a few of the topics discussed and actions taken at the meeting.

ed on the MEAN Board to retain their representation in MEAN's governance.

In May the MEAN Board approved beginning the transition from a two-body governance structure to a single governing body. In June a letter was sent to MEAN Participants to give the required two-year notice to terminate the ERPA, effectively phasing out the Management Committee. Termination is set to take effect June 30, 2021. Certain policies and agreements will be updated, consolidated or terminated as needed at the MEAN Board level. Termination of the ERPA does not change any other agreements participants have with MEAN or any of the NMPP Energy entities.

Any questions regarding this initiative can be address to NMPP Energy General Counsel Chris Dibbern (800) 234-2595 or cdibbern@nmpenergy.org.

Upcoming services for 2020-21

The MEAN Board approved directing staff to develop the fiscal year

2020-21 budget including estimated costs for recommended services, which will include:

- MEAN scholarship programs (General and Lineworker)
- Learning Management System (LITMOS)
- Partial payment for Cost of Service/Rate Design Studies
- Partial payment for Participants in NMPP's/Salt Creek Software's PowerManager Value Support Plan
- Net Metering assistance service (Customer-Owned Generation Resource Guide provided to MEAN Participants)
- Energy Efficiency Programs (LED Commercial Lighting, smart thermostat, attic insulation, cooling system tune-up); and
- Energy Efficiency Audits.

Unit Capability Testing Update

MEAN's annual unit capability testing is winding down. Staff traveled to 19 communities as of mid-August and tested more than 50 generation units with a passing rate of more than 96 percent.

The annual testing process includes on-site visits to inspect the units and put them through a testing procedure to ensure they meet their specified capacity. The energy capacity from the units are leased to MEAN and make up a small portion of MEAN's overall power supply capacity.

SPP proposes Western Energy Imbalance Service Market

MEAN engaged in process, weighing options

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) announced in June its proposal to launch the Western Energy Imbalance Service market (WEIS) in early 2021. The wholesale electricity market will balance electric generation and load regionally in real time.

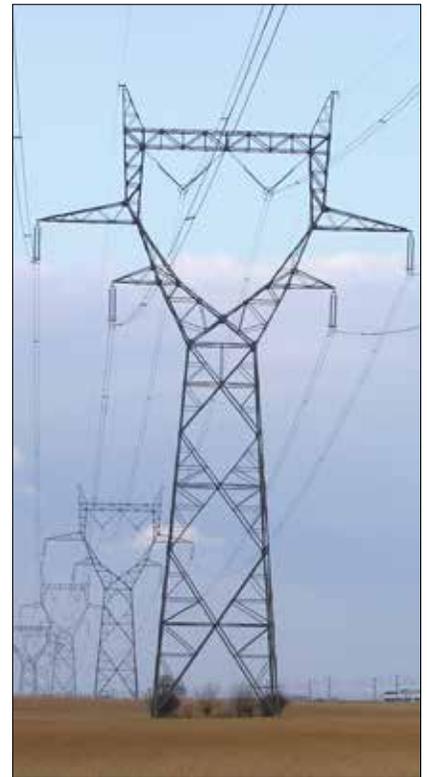
SPP plans to administer the WEIS on a contract basis, meaning utilities do not have to be a member of the SPP Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) to participate. The market will centrally dispatch energy from participating electric generation resources throughout the region every five minutes with the goal of enhancing reliability and affordability of electricity delivery from utilities to customers.

As the market's administrator, SPP will maintain reliability of the region's transmission system and meet demand with the most cost-effective generation available, reducing wholesale electricity costs for participants. SPP claims the WEIS will provide price transparency of wholesale energy, allow parties to trade bilaterally and hedge against costly transmission congestion.

Currently SPP manages the

bulk electric grid and wholesale energy market in a 14-state region covering the Central United States. The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) participates in SPP's existing wholesale energy market and is weighing its options in becoming a participant in SPP's new imbalance service in the West as MEAN serves more than 20 wholesale electric participants in the region that would be served by the new energy imbalance market. MEAN is considering many factors such as governance structure, financial impacts, generation flexibility and participation from other regional stakeholders.

SPP is seeking commitments from interested market participant stakeholders by early September and has a goal of going live in February 2021. The MEAN Board of Directors and Management Committee received an update during their joint quarterly board meeting in August as MEAN staff continues to stay engaged in the development process of the WEIS and provide input to SPP and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) on behalf of MEAN's wholesale electric participants.



What is an energy imbalance market?

An energy imbalance market is a voluntary real-time regional energy trading market that provides sub-hourly economic dispatch of participating resources for balancing electricity supply with demand every five minutes. The goal of an energy imbalance market is to dispatch the lowest cost resources available to serve electric load.

SPP president/CEO Nick Brown announces plan to retire in 2020

Southwest Power Pool President/CEO Nick Brown recently announced his plans to retire effective in April 2020. A comprehensive search has begun for his replacement. Brown has served as president/CEO of SPP since 2003.

Under his leadership, the organization earned

the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) regional transmission organization designation in 2004; launched an energy imbalance service market in 2007; built a new corporate campus in 2012 and launched its wholesale, day-ahead Integrated Marketplace in 2014.

New feature: This Month at NMPP Energy

Starting this month and continuing each month in the *Essent* newsletter, I'll be sharing some brief monthly highlights of projects and workstreams from each of the NMPP Energy organizations. The goal of this effort is to provide information and show the variety of projects occurring on behalf of the membership during each month within the organizations.



By Bob Poehling,
Executive Director

Nebraska Municipal Power Pool

- Staff is working on electric rates for **Kingman**, Kan., and assisting the city with a solar generation analysis.
- Cost of Service Rate Design Study work was done for **Superior**, Neb., **Wahoo**, Neb., **Aspen**, Colo., **Holly**, Colo., and **Gillette**, Wyo.
- Staff hosted the Nebraska Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) meeting at NMPP Energy with representatives from Lincoln Electric System, Nebraska Public Power District and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.
- Staff participated in a two-day PowerManager Training Conference in **Wayne**, Neb.
- A presentation was delivered to staff on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) at NMPP Energy.
- Preparations are under way for upcoming NMPP Board meeting set for Sept. 5 at NMPP Energy.

Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

- Staff completed its cell modem replacement project with trips to Colorado participants.
- Staff participated in the following meetings and conferences: APPA Midwest Regional Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Security Summit; Southwest Power Pool Board and Regional State Committee; Public Power Generation Agency.

- The MEAN Board and Management Committee, along with other committee meetings, were held at NMPP Energy.
- Local generation unit capability testing continued with testing in Oak Creek, Colo., Basin, Wyo., and Alliance, Neb.

National Public Gas Agency

- Research continued to find another option for an Asset Management Arrangement on Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline on behalf of members Auburn, Kan., and Superior, Neb.
- Nominations for August gas were entered for all Members and Customers on the six pipelines on which NPGA works.
- Completed extensive re-mapping project of NPGA network drive.
- Preparations are under way for the NPGA Board meeting Sept. 12 at NMPP Energy.

Public Alliance for Community Energy

- Staff is writing comments to the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) regarding the Nebraska Choice Gas Program. Staff is planning to attend a PSC workshop in September.
- Staff distributed the annual pricing report to member schools in the Choice Joint Utilities Management Program. This report provides member schools rate information necessary for budgets.
- Staff met with the Nebraska Association of School Boards to discuss the Choice Joint Utilities Management Program for schools.
- Feedback from a recent survey to ACE Members is being reviewed for incorporation into next year's marketing plan.
- Plans are being made to visit North-Central and Northeastern ACE member communities.
- Staff continues to update procedural documentation for internal training while compiling dates and deadlines for the 2020 Choice Gas program action plan.



Follow NMPP Energy on Facebook

Go to www.nmppenergy.org and click on the Facebook logo or search "NMPP Energy" on Facebook to follow NMPP Energy!

Joe Hobelman

Joe Hobelman recently joined the staff at NMPP Energy as a utility asset O&M specialist assigned to the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska. Hobelman manages all MEAN member generation unit testing and reporting processes, execution and tracking. Hobelman previously worked as a generation technician with Lincoln Electric System for more than six years. He is a graduate of the Southeast Community College (SCC) Energy Generation Operations program. He has also completed business degrees from SCC and Doane University.



Jeff Lindsay

Jeff Lindsay recently was named electric operations manager for MEAN. He serves as the primary operational liaison between MEAN and The Energy Authority (TEA) and is responsible for approving daily load and resource positions and development of MEAN's market strategy in conjunction with MEAN staff and TEA. Lindsay joined NMPP Energy in 2013 and previously served as forecast optimizer and energy dispatcher.



Public Power/Natural Gas Week set for Oct. 6-12

National Public Power Week and Public Natural Gas Week will be celebrated by municipal utilities across the U.S. Oct. 6-12.

This is an opportunity for public utilities to share benefits of their public power and natural gas systems such as low-cost energy, local control, reliability, in lieu of tax payments, local employment, donated labor/service, support to local economic development and customer service.

For assistance with no-cost materials such as a news release, letter to the editor

or an article for your utility newsletter, contact the NMPP communications department for assistance by emailing kwickham@nmppenergy.org.

Share your Public Power and Natural Gas Week Events

Share how your utility celebrated Public Power and Natural Gas Week. Email any event details and photos to kwickham@nmppenergy.org so that we can share with other NMPP members through the Essent newsletter, website and social media.



NMPP Energy photo

Energy Efficiency Partnership group meets

The Nebraska Energy Efficiency Partnership group met in August at NMPP Energy to provide updates and best practices for their respective utilities regarding energy efficiency efforts. The group consists of representatives from the Nebraska Public Power District, Lincoln Electric System, Omaha Public Power District, NMPP/MEAN and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

NMPP to host Transformer Workshop Sept. 24

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool (NMPP) will host a Transformer Workshop on Sept. 24 at Western Nebraska Community College's Powerline Construction and Maintenance Lab in Alliance, Neb., for NMPP member utilities.

The workshop will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and is geared toward new apprentice lineworkers looking for in-depth information regarding transformers and journey level lineworkers needing a refresher course. Topics will include:

- Theory and basics
- Parts and operation
- Nameplates
- Parallel transformers
- Windings, ratios and polarity
- Making connections, and
- Fusing

Cost for the workshop is \$7, which covers lunch. A registration flyer is on NMPP Energy's website: www.nmppenergy.org.



Download the workshop registration flyer at www.nmppenergy.org

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHAMPION BUSINESS



Employee-owned Border States serves multiple industries

Border States, ranked the seventh largest electrical distributor in the United States by Electrical Wholesaling magazine, is also one of the largest 100 percent employee-owned companies in the United States.

The company has approximately 2,600 employee-owners in 22 states who supply products, services and solutions to construction, industrial and utility customers in multiple industries including commercial, communications, education, electrical construction, government,

www.borderstates.com

health care, mining, oil and gas, plumbing and renewable energy.

Since 1952, when two entrepreneurs founded Border States to serve the electric utility industry, it has grown into a product and supply chain powerhouse. Today, each of its employee-owners has a real stake in the company's long-term success and the customer's success.

Employee-ownership drives its commitment to delivering total satisfaction — each employee

is empowered and expected to act decisively, exceeding our customers' changing expectations at every turn and with every interaction. The company also supports its employee-owners in their efforts to give back to communities in which they live and work with a formal volunteer policy.

Border States is proud to provide products and services to the members of NMPP Energy. Learn more at borderstates.com.

For a complete listing of NMPP Energy Champion Businesses, see page 7

Employment Opportunities

City Clerk/Treasurer Position

The City of **Red Cloud**, Neb., is seeking applications to fill the position of city clerk upon the retirement of the current city clerk. This position is responsible for the recording and maintaining of all municipal records and documents; directs the financial management and accounting system for the municipality; under the direction of an appointed, or elected official(s). Plans and supervises the work involved in the maintenance of the official municipal documents and records; attends all council meetings and records the proceedings, ordinance and resolutions; directs the official publication of notices, ordinances and resolutions; keeps an accurate and complete account of all municipal funds; invests money as directed; supervises the bank-

To submit an ad

NMPP members can advertise job openings for free in the Essent newsletter and on the NMPP Energy Web site. E-mail Kevin Wickham at kwickham@nmppenergy.org.

ing of money and maintains all accounting records; sign checks; supervises the checking and verification of invoices, warrants and claims presented for payment; prepares financial reports; analyzes expenditures and revenues; advises and consults with other departments regarding fiscal questions; and performs other duties as required. Wages based on experience including an excellent benefit package with insurance, vacation, holidays and retirement. Applications may be obtained at the City Office at 540 North Webster

Street, Red Cloud, NE 68970 or e-mail resume to citysue@gpcom.net. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE

Director of Utilities

The Town of **Lyons**, Colo., has an opening for director of utilities. This professional position reports to the Town Administrator and is a member of the executive team providing collaborative leadership to the overall operations of the Town. Performs administrative and professional utility work and coordinates projects involving the Public Utilities Department with other town departments. Provides management and supervision to the Utility Department, which includes Town water,

See 'EMPLOYMENT' on page 8

Support NMPP member communities through the Champions Business Program

Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP Energy's effort to provide products and services to members. Consider these businesses when your utility or municipality has a business need. If your business is interested in becoming an NMPP Energy Champion, call Andrew Ross at (800) 234-2595.



Champions Business Directory of Services

Financial

Ameritas Investment Corp. (Ameritas.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
D.A. Davidson & Co. (dadavidson.com/ficm)	Omaha, Neb.
First National Bank (Firstnational.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
UNICO Group, Inc. and Midlands Financial Benefits (unicogroup.com)	Lincoln, Neb.
Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union (ne-fcu.org).....	Columbus, Neb.
RBC Capital Markets (rbc.com).....	Denver, Colo.

Regulatory/Compliance

Power Plant Compliance (Powplant.com).....	Oketo, Kan.
NAQS Environmental Experts (naqs.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.

Utility/Community

Dogwood Energy	Columbia, Md.
EnergySolutions, Inc. (energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
Hometown Connections, Inc. (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
Foundation for Educational Services (fes.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
GenPro Energy Solutions (Genproenergy.com).....	Piedmont, S.D.
JK Energy Consulting, LLC (JKenergyconsulting.com)	Lincoln, Neb.
Border States (borderstates.com).....	Fargo, N.D.
NovaTech (Novatechweb.com).....	Lenexa, Kan.
PDS, Inc. (PDSinc.biz)	Omaha, Neb.
Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory (petl.com)	Great Bend, Kan.
RESCO (Rural Electric Supply Cooperative) (resco1.com)	Ankeny, Iowa
Sol Systems (solsystems.com).....	Washington, D.C.
Solomon Corporation (Solomoncorp.com).....	Solomon, Kan.

Computer/Technology

Proteus (Proteus.co)	Lincoln, Neb.
Salt Creek Software, Inc. (Saltcreek.com)	Lincoln, Neb.

Engineering

EPSIM Corporation (epsim.us)	Boulder, Colo.
Exponential Engineering Company (exponentialengineering.com)	Fort Collins, Colo.
JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (jeo.com)	Wahoo, Neb.
Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC (ldbeng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.
Olsson (Olsson.com)	Lincoln, Neb.

Insurance

League Association of Risk Management (larmpool.org)	Lincoln, Neb.
---	---------------

Legal

Chapman and Cutler, LLP (chapman.com)	Salt Lake City, Utah
Spiegel & McDiarmid (spiegelmc.com)	Washington, D.C.

Telecommunication

Community Broadband Action Network (broadbandaction.com)	Indianola, Iowa
River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com)	Centennial, Colo.



8377 Glynoaks Drive
Lincoln NE 68516

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 402
LINCOLN, NE

Essent

NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Employment (cont.)

wastewater and electric enterprises, as well as storm water and GIS operations. Maintains an operation through which all Utility projects are properly planned, designed and operated. Salary range: \$70,767-\$97,705 DOQ. Full-time exempt position. For complete job description, visit <http://www.townoflyons.com/Jobs.aspx>.

To submit an ad

NMPP members can advertise job openings free in the Essent newsletter and on the NMPP Energy Web site. To submit an ad, e-mail Kevin Wickham at kwickham@nmppenergy.org.

**Complete job descriptions are posted at
www.nmppenergy.org**

Essent is published as a service to NMPP Energy members. The subscription rate for nonmembers is \$50 per year. Copyright 2019, Nebraska Municipal Power Pool.
Send comments to: Essent, Attn: Editor, 8377 Glynoaks Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516 or e-mail: kwickham@nmppenergy.org
phone: (800) 234-2595 • Fax: (402) 474-0473 • NMPPenergy.org
Publisher: Robert L. Poehling, Executive Director, NMPP Energy
Editor: Kevin Wickham, Communications Specialist