

MEAN's Kimball Wind Project paved the way

First utility-scale wind farm in Nebraska being decommissioned

When the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska's (MEAN) Wind Project just outside Kimball, Neb., first stretched into the Western Nebraska sky in 2002, it was the first utility-scale wind farm in the state.

Now, 15 years later and with many more turbine blades dotting the region and nation's landscape, the wind project is coming down as part of decommissioning efforts. MEAN earlier this year signed a power purchase agreement with Sandhills Wind LLC for the output of a new larger wind project, to be located on the existing Kimball site.

The MEAN Kimball Wind Project was part of the first generation of wind farms built across many parts of the U.S. over the last couple decades. Those early projects are now nearing the end of their useful life. Most utility-scale wind farms built during this era had an estimated operational timeframe between 15-20 years. As with all equipment with moving parts and subject to mother nature's harsh elements, they eventually wear out.

The Kimball Wind Project consisted of seven, 1.5 megawatt turbines for a nameplate capacity of 10.5 megawatts. The new wind farm will have a nameplate capacity of 30 megawatts and include 12 larger, 2.5 megawatt turbines, which are more efficient than the older, smaller turbines.

During its lifespan, MEAN's project had an average capacity factor



Kimball Wind Project by the numbers...

Total kilowatt-hours (kWh) generated..... 401,115,857

Peak annual generation 31,583,734 kWh in 2004

Average overall capacity factor (2002-15)..... 32%

Peak monthly capacity factor..... 58% (Dec. 2004 and Jan. 2014)

(Capacity factor is the ratio of energy produced over a period of time to its maximum nameplate capacity.)

of 32 percent from 2002-2015. The national average capacity factor for utility-scale wind generators in 2016 was nearly 35 percent, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The new wind project is expected to be operational in spring 2018.



NMPP Energy photos

What goes up...

The Kimball Wind Project being erected in 2002 (top). It is being decommissioned (bottom photo) to make way for a new wind project.



Funds remain for MEAN commercial lighting program

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska's Commercial LED Lighting Program still has funds available this fiscal year for commercial businesses looking to upgrade to more efficient LED lighting.

The program, in its second year, provides incentive funds for commercial businesses in MEAN long-term total power requirement communities.

The program provides the following lighting option upgrades:

- Indoor high/low bay lighting
- LED exit signs
- Linear replacement or retrofit lighting
- Incandescent replacement (150 watts or less)
- Customized requests

The MEAN board of directors approved allocating \$75,000

for program funds which are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum of \$2,500 per customer/owner for the year. The fiscal year runs from April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018.

To date, there have been 38 projects in 21 communities, which accounts for more than \$48,500 in program funds. There has been a diverse mix of projects including municipal buildings, schools, churches and local businesses.

The cities of **Burwell** and **West Point** in Nebraska have led the way in projects. Burwell completed nine projects this year and 22 projects last year while West Point has completed four projects this year and seven last year.

"This has been a successful program," said Member Services Coordinator Amanda Hansen,



Program brochure and application

A program brochure and application are on the MEAN web page on the NMPP Energy website (NMPPEnergy.org) or email Amanda Hansen at ahanzen@nmppenergy.org.

who serves as administrator of the program. "Saving energy through lighting upgrades is the low-hanging fruit and the more communities can save through energy efficiency, the more it delays having to purchase new electric generation resources."

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NDEQ designated to administer state's share of Volkswagen settlement funds

The financial settlement from the Volkswagen air emissions scandal is now making its way to individual states.

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts earlier this fall designated the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to administer funds allocated to the state from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust. The state's allocation is expected to be approximately \$12.25 million. NDEQ has been seeking public input on the development of a plan to best use these funds to benefit the state.

The settlement establishes a list of the types of projects available for the states' settlement funds, and the states' plans will describe the options they intend to pursue. Some examples of the eligible projects for funding include:

- Recharging equipment for zero-emission vehicles, including all-electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.
- Replacing older diesel vehicles or their engines with cleaner diesel or alternative fuel, hybrid or all-electric vehicles or engines. This includes vehicles such as school buses, transit buses, medium and large local freight trucks, garbage trucks and railroad freight switcher locomotives.
- All-electric replacement of airport ground support equipment and forklifts.



Courtesy photo

NMPP/MEAN represented on EV panel discussion

NMPP's Andrew Ross (second from right) participated in a recent panel discussion on "Challenges and Benefits of Electric Vehicles on the Grid" at the Smart Energy Talks at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

VW Settlement Allocations by State

Colorado	\$68.7 million
Iowa.....	\$21 million
Kansas.....	\$15.6 million
Nebraska.....	\$12.2 million
Wyoming	\$8 million

*Approximate allocations

• Matching funds for projects under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, which is an EPA-funded program that is administered by NDEQ.

NMPP staff is active as part of a task force with other Nebraska electric utilities looking at growth of electric vehicles in the state due to possible expansion to the state's electric vehicle infrastructure.

"Electric vehicles are a growing reality that electric utilities and customers need to address and prepare for," said Andrew Ross, NMPP director of retail utility services and member rela-

tions and a member of the task force. "Several large vehicle manufacturers are planning to expand their line of electric vehicles in the coming years so it's good that electric utilities are looking at this possible growth sector now and its possible impacts."

The mitigation funds to states are part of a \$2.9 billion settlement by Volkswagen in 2016 for falsifying vehicle emissions tests in violation of the Clean Air Act.

The website www.vwclearinghouse.org includes information on each state's funding allocations and plans.

Auburn utility educates students on energy

Nearly 125 fourth grade students from Auburn, Johnson-Brock and a homeschool in Nebraska learned how electricity is generated and water is delivered to their homes at the Auburn Board of Public Work's Energy Fest in October.

"We started this program eight years ago to encourage kids to think more

about the uses and the dangers of electricity," said David Hunter, general manager of the Auburn Board of Public Works. "Some of them might not have known how we generate electricity and deliver water in Auburn."

The groups of students rotated through four different areas: a tour of the power plant, a session on producing electricity, a session on electric safety and a tour of the water plant. Students saw an engine that could power subma-



Member News



Auburn Board of Public Works employees educate students at Energy Fest.

League Association of Risk Management photo

rines and now makes electricity for the community; made their own electrical circuit; saw what happens to a hot dog that touches a hot electrical wire; and visited the water plant that delivers water to their homes.

More than 25 members of the Auburn Board of Public Works' staff helped in presenting the Energy Fest to the students.

— Source: League Association of Risk Management

South Sioux City receives WAPA's Administrator award

The City of South Sioux City, Neb., received Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) Administrator's Award in October. The presentation was part of 2017 National Bioenergy Day, an

event attended by local, state and federal officials along with high-ranking industry representatives.

In presenting the award, WAPA Administrator and CEO Mark Gabriel noted the City consistently delivers innovation along with affordable, reliable power year after year.

In January, the City began operation of a 21-acre, 2.3 megawatt solar park, which generates five percent of the city's total energy needs. Gabriel also noted the City's plan to purchase 15 megawatts of a new wind project, which is scheduled for completion in 2018. The City also has several projects that reclaim natural gas from biomass.



NMPP Energy photo

Users of NMPP and Salt Creek Software's PowerManager® software attended a Refresher Course in November at NMPP Energy. The workshop focused on new features of PowerManager 2017.



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MEAN Board approves extending power agreement with Holyoke, Colo.

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors approved extending its five-year wholesale power contract agreement with the City of Holyoke, Colo., at its board meeting in November.

The new contract is set to run from October 2018 through September 2023. With a population of approximately 2,300, Holyoke has a summer peak electric load of nearly five megawatts that includes a federal hydro allocation. The City is located in northeastern Colorado. MEAN has provided wholesale electricity to Holyoke since 1994.

Holyoke also receives services through the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, the utility services organization of NMPP Energy, such as Powermanager utility billing software, utility safety training and mutual aid.

“We’re pleased to continue serving Holyoke,” said Tim Sutherland, MEAN’s director of wholesale electric operations. “We look forward to continuing our relationship and assisting the City any way we can.”

MEAN serves 69 participants with wholesale power and/or related services in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.

NREA names new general manager

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association recently announced the appointment of Kim Christiansen as its new general manager and executive vice president. She assumed responsibilities Nov. 13.

Christiansen joined the NREA from the Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc., where she served as director of government relations and legal counsel. Christiansen brings three decades of organizational leadership to NREA from her past experiences in Kansas.

NREA is the private non-profit trade association for 33 rural electric systems in Nebraska.



FES provides website, branding, network and IT services

Located in Lincoln, Neb., FES (Foundation for Educational Services) is a nonprofit organization that provides professional services to communities and community-based nonprofit organizations. Part of its mission is to help communities stay connected and thrive.

FES services include: websites, community branding, network services and IT security. The website services are sub-branded as SOCS (Simplified Online Communications) websites. There are more than 40 SOCS websites for NMPP member communities as either the community website or for their local school district. In addition, FES worked with the Nebraska cities of Crete and Beatrice to rebrand their communities.



FES is proud to support NMPP and its member communities. For information about using FES services, contact Mike Murray at (402) 479-6667, mikem@fes.org, or visit us online at www.FES.org.

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

Employment Opportunities

Water/Sewer Superintendent

(\$27.00-\$30.00/hour DOQ plus comprehensive benefit package). The City of **Denver**, Iowa (Pop. 1,780) is accepting applications for the water/sewer superintendent position. Duties include all aspects of public works including water plant/distribution, sewer plant and collections system, streets, parks, cemetery, building and property maintenance. Position requires an A.A. Degree and a Class B CDL. Residency is required within three miles of Denver. Candidate should have basic construction and/or mechanical skills and have a Water Treatment Plant Operator Grade II, Water Distribution Grade II and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Grade II Certifications on the date of hire with the ability to obtain a Grade III Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator within one year from date of hire. Applicants should submit resume, cover letter, and salary history to the City of Denver, 100 Washington Street, Denver, Iowa 50622.

The deadline for submitting the application materials is December 14, 2017. EOE

Utility Groundman

The City of **Broken Bow**/Broken Bow Municipal Utilities (Neb.) will be accepting applications for a groundman in the Utility Line Department. Applicants should have completed an instructor led utility line program. Duties will include assisting in the operation and maintenance of the City of Broken Bow electrical distribution system. Starting pay will be between \$16.29 and \$21.84 based on prior experience and certifications. Applications and job descriptions are available at the Broken Bow Municipal Building at 345 South 10th Ave in the utility office, and should be returned to the utility office with applicable resume. Applications are available at www.cityofbrokenbow.org and will be taken until the job is filled. The City of Broken Bow is an equal opportunity employer. For more information call (308)

872-6884 or email: dstaab@cityofbrokenbow.org.

Electrical Supervisor

The City of **West Point**, Neb., is accepting applications for the electrical department. The job is a full-time position and includes but is not limited to working with high voltage electricity, operating bucket trucks and digger derricks. The position is responsible for the management and operation of the electrical system. Supervises the installation of all electrical services and meters; repairs and maintains all electrical lines, transformers and meters; maintains an updated map of all lines; supervises operation and maintenance of power plant and substations; schedules and supervises department personnel; schedule and maintain safety meetings and training; and works in all types of weather conditions and performs other duties as required. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent and

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

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

Community/Utility

EnergySolutions, Inc. (energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
Fairbanks Morse Engine (Fairbanksengine.com).....	Beloit, Wis.
Hometown Connections, LLC (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
Hubbell Power Systems (Hubbellpowersystems.com).....	Bellevue, Neb.
Foundation for Educational Services (fes.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
JK Energy Consulting, LLC (JKenergyconsulting.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Kriz-Davis Co. (Krizdavis.com).....	Grand Island, Neb.
NovaTech (Novatechweb.com).....	Lenexa, Kan.
PDS, Inc. (PDSinc.biz).....	Omaha, Neb.
Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory (petl.com).....	Great Bend, Kan.
REM Electric, Inc. (Davidsoncompanies.com).....	Nebraska City, Neb.
RESCO (Rural Electric Supply Cooperative) (resco1.com).....	Ankeny, Iowa
Solomon Corporation (Solomoncorp.com).....	Solomon, Kan.
Stanley Consultants, Inc. (Stanleyconsultants.com).....	Muscatine, Iowa

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.
HDR (hdrinc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (jeo.com).....	Wahoo, Neb.
Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC (ldbeng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.
Olsson Associates (Olssonassociates.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Power Engineers (powereng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.

Insurance

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

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

Telecommunication

Consortia Consulting (consortiaconsulting.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com).....	Centennial, Colo.



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Employment Opportunities (cont.)

a valid driver's license. Bachelors or associates degree preferred, but not required. Five years related experience in utility maintenance and/or construction, to include three years in a supervisory position. City has an excellent benefit package with health and life insurance, retirement, vacation, sick and personal leave and paid holidays. Successful applicant must pass a pre-employment drug test. Position open until filled. Applications/resumes may be submitted to the City of West Point at 444 S Main Street or PO Box 327- 68788. Questions call the City office at 402-372-2466. The City of West Point is an EOE.

**Office Manager/Accountant
Nebraska City (Neb.) Utilities**
is accepting applications for an office manager/accountant. This position supervises the accounting system, prepares annual budget and fiscal year-end reports, oversees utility billing and collection process, and other administrative office duties. Knowledge in computer technology and strong organizational skills required. Minimum three years supervisory and accounting experience with a college degree in accounting or a business-related field required. A detailed job description and application are avail-

able by contacting Nebraska City Utilities at 402-873-3353 or on the website www.nebraskacityutilities.com. Nebraska City Utilities offers an excellent benefit package. Submit applications and resumes to Nebraska City Utilities, 100 Central Ave., PO Box 670, Nebraska City, NE 68410 by December 15, 2017. Nebraska City Utilities is an equal opportunity employer.

Upcoming Meetings

Dec. 13 — MEAN Committees

Dec. 14 — NPGA Board

For descriptions of all employment opportunities go to NMPPenergy.org.

To submit an ad: NMPP members can advertise job openings for free in the Essent newsletter and on the NMPP energy website. E-mail your job opening to: info@NMPPenergy.org.

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