

# Public power utilities respond after tornado strikes Bayard

*Mutual aid assistance from nearby utilities gets electricity restored*

Public power utilities from around the region came to the aid of the Bayard, Neb., community after a tornado hit the Western Nebraska city on the night of June 12.

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool's mutual aid program was implemented to help assist and coordinate efforts among many of the utilities responding to help restore electricity to the community.

Damage to the city included downed trees and damaged homes and businesses as well as the entire city losing electricity. Crews and equipment from fellow NMPP member utilities Sidney, Mitchell, Gering, Kimball, Hemingford, Chappell, Bridgeport and the Nebraska Public Power District as well as many rural electric cooperative utilities assisted with restoring electric lines and downed poles in the city and surrounding area.

By the evening of June 14 more than 90 percent of the elec-



City of Bayard photo

**Public power utility personnel, including NMPP's Bob Meade, work together to coordinate getting electricity restored in Bayard.**

trical system had been restored.

Bayard is part of NMPP's Mutual Aid Program, which was developed years ago to provide assistance to utilities during times of emergencies

to get power restored as quickly as possible. NMPP staff members Bob Meade and Carol Brehm were

**See 'BAYARD' on page 2**

# Randy Devine to retire from NPGA in July

## *Beth Ackland named to new role*

Randy Devine recently announced his retirement from the National Public Gas Agency (NPGA) effective at the end of July. Devine served NPGA since 1997, including the last four years as director of wholesale gas operations.

With Devine's retirement, NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling recently announced that Beth Ackland will take over a new role within NMPP Energy as director of natural gas operations starting Aug. 1. She will oversee NPGA and ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy.

Ackland joined NMPP Energy in 2006 and has served as the director of retail gas services for ACE since 2013. In that role, she oversees ACE's activities in the Nebraska Choice Gas program.

"We wish Randy all the best in his retirement and thank him for his dedicated service," said Poehling. "We're also excited to have Beth transition to her new role, where there are similarities



Randy Devine



Beth Ackland

that should provide beneficial synergies in combining the two positions."

NPGA provides wholesale natural gas to 11 member communities and 10 non-member communities in seven states. ACE provides retail natural gas supply to more than 22,000 customers in the Nebraska Choice Gas program.



**At top, public power utility crews from neighboring communities share a lunch break while helping to restore electricity in Bayard.**

NMPP Energy photos



## Bayard

Continued from page 1

on the scene to help assist. Meade assisted with coordinating utility restoration efforts and Brehm supported back-end efforts for volunteers and utility crews.

"You hope something like this never happens, but living in the Heartland, this is tornado season," said Andrew Ross, NMPP director of utility services and member relations. "NMPP's mutual aid program exists for situations like this. When emergencies occur and a utility and community is in need, public power utilities stand ready to aid their neighbor. These kinds of emergencies bring out one of the best facets of public power."

# City of West Point teams with area educators to create career and technical training facility

Representatives of the City of West Point, Neb., and several area educational institutions formalized a collaborative effort to expand career and technical education in east central Nebraska.

At the conclusion of a special meeting of the West Point City Council June 12, West Point Mayor Marlene Johnson and others signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a new partnership that will provide career and technical education opportunities for area high school students, adult learners and business and industry training. Because of this demonstrated level of collaboration between the educational partners, a Career and Technical Training Facility will be constructed near the City's Nielsen Community Center.

In addition, two area foundations announced major gifts to assist in financing the project.

"This is a significant day for West Point and the surrounding region," Johnson said. "This facility will help retain and attract residents to the area, allow high school students to enroll in career pathways, provide additional undergraduate and graduate educational opportunities for local residents, and offer workforce training to businesses and industries in the region. We are grateful for this collaborative effort in order to execute this endeavor."

The proposed 15,000 square foot facility is a joint venture between the City of West Point, Northeast Community College, Wayne State College, Educational Service Unit 2 and Pathways 2



Courtesy photo

**West Point, Neb., Mayor Marlene Johnson (from row, center) is joined June 12 by area foundation representatives and area educational partners following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that will create a new partnership to provide career and technical education opportunities for area high school students, adult learners and business and industry training in a new Career and Technical Education Center near the City's Nielsen Community Center.**

Tomorrow (P2T), a consortium of six school districts consisting of Bancroft-Rosalie, Lyons-Decatur Northeast, Oakland-Craig, Pender, West Point-Beemer and Wisner-Pilger.

Based on a report by the National Skills Coalition, Nebraska continues to experience a shortage of middle-skill and high-skill workers making career and technical education even more important.

Johnson said, "Without dedicated space, equipment and faculty resources, programming and training will not be available to meet the needs of local employers in the region. We are committed to working with our partners to design the building to accommodate the latest technology for enhanced learning to include welding, manufacturing,

and technical education to train and retrain employees from area business and industry."

During the Council meeting, a representative of the Donald E. Nielsen Foundation announced it would contribute \$1 million to the project, while a representative of the Henry A. Stalp and the Ramona A. Stalp Foundation pledged \$500,000.

Operations in the new facility are expected to begin in fall 2018. The collaborative effort among the entities is focused on establishing unique career pathways for students in various fields, resulting in access to career and technical education that is not available in the six high schools. By fall 2019, up to six pathways are anticipated to be available to students in the P2T consortium.



Energy.gov

**There are four U.S. Power Marketing Administrations that provide cost-based hydroelectric power to not-for-profit public power and rural cooperative electric utilities.**

## APPA disappointed in Trump's proposal to divest PMA assets

The American Public Power Association in late May issued a news release to announce its disappointment to see that the fiscal year 2018 budget request released by President Trump proposes to divest the transmission assets of three Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs), which include the Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA), the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

The PMAs provide millions of Americans served by not-for-profit public power and rural cooperative electric utilities with cost-based hydroelectric power produced at federal dams. PMA rates are set to cover all generation and transmission costs, as well

as repayment, with interest, of the federal investment in these hydropower projects. None of the costs are borne by taxpayers.

Several municipalities that receive wholesale electricity from the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska receive federal cost-based hydro allocations from WAPA.

Selling the PMA transmission assets would threaten the ability of the PMAs to provide reliable, cost-based power to the approximately 1,200 public power systems and rural electric cooperatives in 33 states and the millions of customers they serve. The Association is urging Congress to reject this misguided proposal.

## MEAN issues credits back to participants

The MEAN Board and Management Committee at their meeting in May approved energy charge and fixed cost recovery charge credits totaling \$2.79 million to its wholesale electric participants. The actions were based on positive financial results for fiscal year 2016-17 that ended March 31.

The credits were allocated to all current long-term (Schedule M) and limited-term (Schedule K) participants and were issued in June.

The MEAN Board and Management Committee annually evaluates MEAN's preliminary fiscal year finances and makes adjustments in accordance with MEAN's financial policies and guidelines.

## JOC officers elected for 2017-18

The NMPP Energy Joint Operating Committee held annual officer elections for fiscal year 2017-18 at its May board meeting. The 12-member committee consists of the three representatives from each of the four NMPP Energy organizations. The officers elected were:

- Jeff Wells, city manager, **Fort Morgan, Colo.**, chairman;
- Andrew Devine, city administrator, **Albion, Neb.**, vice chairman;
- Darrel Wenzel, CEO, **Waverly, Iowa**, secretary.

The committee meets twice a year to provide joint guidance to the executive director, review budgets of each organization, determine allocation of expenses and approve compensation structure and benefits of NMPP employees.



For a list of Champion businesses, see page 7.

## NMPP Board approves Champions

The NMPP Board of Directors approved two businesses for the NMPP Champions program at the board's quarterly meeting in June. NMPP Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP's effort to provide products and services to the NMPP membership. The new Champions include:

### Exponential Engineering Company

Exponential Engineering Company is a full-service power engineering consultants providing services in the areas of substations, transmission and distribution, protective relaying, planning and studies, generation interconnection, renewable energy, industrial and commercial projects and education. ([www.exponentialengineering.com](http://www.exponentialengineering.com))

### Hubbell Power Systems

Hubbell Power Systems, based in Bellevue, Neb., manufactures a variety of transmission, distribution, substation OEM and telecommunications products used by utilities. In addition, HPS products are used in the civil construction, transportation, gas and water industries. Products include construction and switching products, tools, insulators, arresters, pole line

hardware, cable accessories, test equipment, transformer bushings and polymer precast enclosures and equipment pads. ([www.hubbellpowersystems.com](http://www.hubbellpowersystems.com))

For information on becoming an NMPP Energy Champion business, contact Amanda Hansen at (800) 234-2595 or email [Ahansen@nmppenergy.org](mailto:Ahansen@nmppenergy.org).



## Meet your staff...

BRITTANY MILLARD

### Compliance Analyst



**Joined NMPP Energy:** June 2012.

As compliance analyst, most of my time is spent working for the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN).

#### Primary responsibilities:

I track reliability standards, maintain the internal compliance monitoring plan for MEAN and create and coordinate compliance training for staff. I also track North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) business practice standards and maintain the Public Key Infrastructure compliance program. I also coordinate other compliance responsibilities for ACE (Public Alliance for Community Energy) and the National Public Gas Agency.

#### What I love about my job:

I love researching rules and helping to solve problems.

## Committee members reappointed at June NMPP board meeting

NMPP Board President Darrell Wenzel reappointed committee members to the Energy Research and Development Fund (ERDF) and the Computer Services Review Committee during the NMPP board meeting held in June.

Those reappointed to the ERDF Committee were:

- Collin Bielser, **Fairbury**, Neb.
- Pat Davison, **Imperial**, Neb.
- Tom Goulette, **West Point**, Neb.
- Duane Hoffman, **Oxford**, Neb.
- Bob Lockmon, **Stuart**, Neb.
- Mike Palmer, **Sidney**, Neb.
- Chris Rodman, **Wall Lake**, Iowa
- Jeremy Tarr, **Burwell**, Neb.
- Randy Woldt, **Wisner**, Neb.

The ERDF Committee manages ERDF grant funding for innovative energy projects

to communities/utilities participating in the voluntary program.

\* \* \*

Those being reappointed to the CSRC were:

- Nancy Bryan, **Stromsburg**, Neb.
- Kellie Crowell, **Ravenna**, Neb.
- Lanette Doane, **Ansley**, Neb.
- Stephanie James, **Wisner**, Neb.
- Karla Rader, **Cozad**, Neb.
- Pam Rasmussen, **Gibbon**, Neb.
- Mary tenBensel, **Arapahoe**, Neb.
- Kari Wilson, **Haxtun**, Colo.

The committee reviews PowerManager® software program requests from software users and assists in providing input and recommendations on software upgrades and improvements. For more information on these committees, contact Andrew Ross at NMPP, (800) 234-2595.

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## nmpp ENERGY

### Staff news

#### Sunny Sun

Sunny Sun joined the NMPP Energy team in June as a part-time rate analyst as part of NMPP's utility services team. She has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from East China University of Science and Technology and a master's degree in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She has more than 20 years of experience working at Novartis/GSK Consumer Health, most recently as a senior quality assurance analyst.



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## 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.



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### Champions Business Directory

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#### **Financial Services**

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.com).....	Columbus, Neb.
RBC Capital Markets (rbc.com).....	Denver, Colo.

#### **Regulatory/Compliance Services**

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

#### **Utility Services & Supplies**

EnergySolutions, Inc. (Energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
Fairbanks Morse Engine (Fairbanksormorse.com).....	Beloit, Wis.
Hometown Connections, LLC (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
Hubbell Power Systems (Hubbellpowersystems.com).....	Bellevue, 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 Services**

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

#### **Engineering Services**

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.
Sega Inc. (segainc.com).....	Stilwell, Kan.

#### **Legal Services**

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

#### **Telecommunication Services**

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



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## Employment Opportunities

### City Administrator

The City of **Cozad**, Neb., (pop. 4,000 ) located on Interstate 80, seeks to fill the position of city administrator. The successful applicant, appointed by the Mayor and City Council, would be responsible for day-to-day operations of the City of Cozad.

- Duties include, but not limited to, administration, finance, police, public works, streets, building/zoning, technology, utilities including electrical, recreation, library, volunteer fire dept./rescue unit, public relations, \$8.5 million annual budget, 40 full-time employees.

- Bachelor degree preferred, priority given to experience with public administration.

- Residency required.
- Salary range \$80,000-\$100,000 with excellent benefits. Salary negotiable based on qualifications.

Submit letter of interest, resume, list of references, salary history to Mayor Nancy Meyer at 314 East 19th Street, Cozad, NE 69130, (308) 784-4118, email: antnancym@gmail.com or Charlie Block (308) 784-2383, email: csblock@cozad-tel.net. Position open until filled.

### NMPP Energy job opening

NMPP Energy has the following position open:

- Database administrator

To learn more about this opportunity, visit [www.nmppenergy.org/careers](http://www.nmppenergy.org/careers) and click on "Current Openings."

## Upcoming Meetings

**August 9** - PPGA Meeting

**August 16** - MEAN Committees

**August 17** - MEAN Board/  
Mgmt. Committees

For all descriptions of employment opportunities go to [www.nmppenergy.org](http://www.nmppenergy.org).

**To submit an ad:** NMPP members can advertise job openings for free in the Essent newsletter and on the nmppenergy website. E-mail your job opening to: [info@nmppenergy.org](mailto:info@nmppenergy.org).

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