

Mountain West group evaluates joining SPP

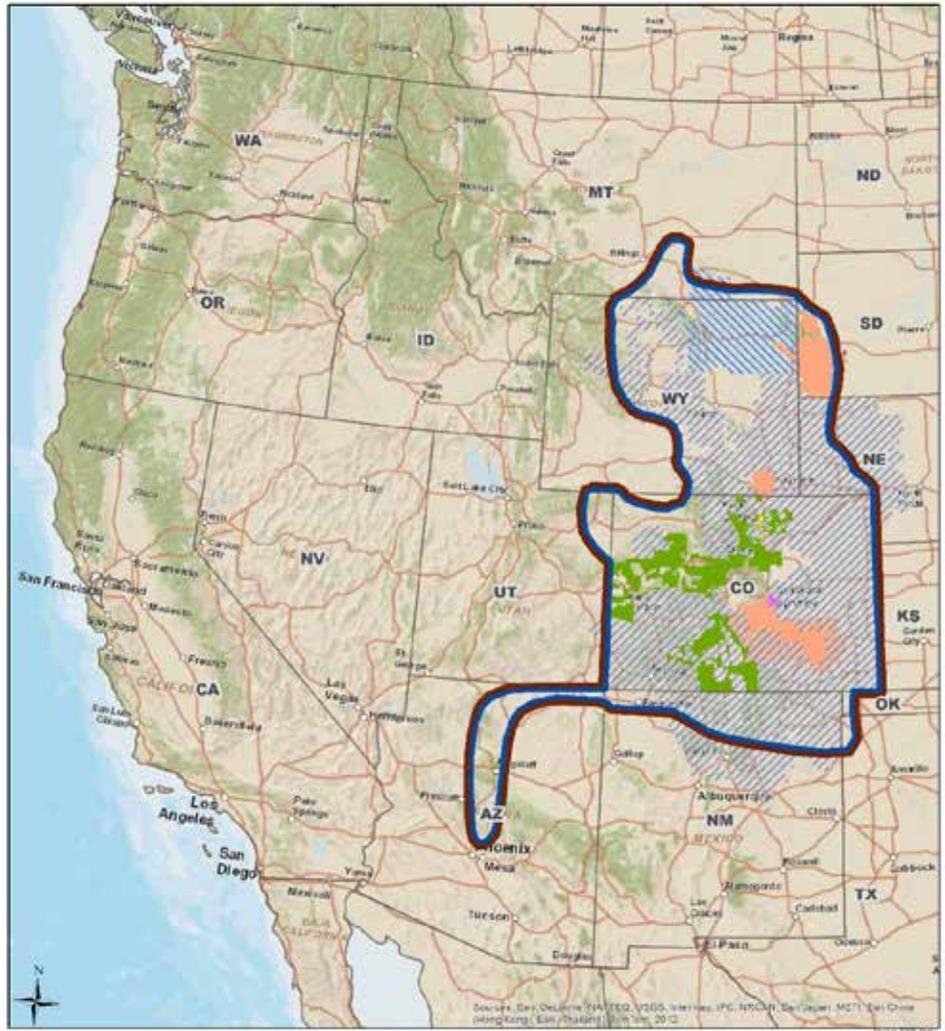
Impact to MEAN participants, other SPP members is uncertain

An informal group of electricity providers representing more than six million customers primarily in the U.S. Rocky Mountain Region is exploring potential participation with an existing Regional Transmission Organization (RTO).

The Mountain West Transmission Group (Mountain West) consists of investor-owned utilities, municipal electricity providers, generation and transmission cooperatives and federal power marketing administration projects. Formed in 2013, the group is evaluating ways to operate and adapt in an evolving electric industry, where RTOs coordinate the generation and transmission of electricity over large regional footprints to improve efficiency and reliability.

The group's evaluation includes studying possible membership in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the RTO that covers 14 states in the Midwest. The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, along with many other electric utilities and stakeholders in the region, is a member of SPP.

If Mountain West joins SPP, it would expand SPP's footprint to include most of Colorado and parts of Wyoming, New Mexico, Montana,



Mountain West Transmission Group

- Mountain West Footprint
- PARTICIPANT BY PLANNING AREA**
- Platte River Power Authority
- PARTICIPANT BY MEMBERSHIP AREA**
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Tri-State Generation & Transmission
- PARTICIPANT BY SERVICE AREA**
- Brack Hills Companies
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Public Service Co. of Colorado
- WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION**
- Loveland Area Projects and Colorado River Storage Project Transmission

If the Mountain West Transmission Group joined the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), it would extend SPP's footprint into the West and add more than 15,000 miles of transmission lines to SPP's network.

See 'MOUNTAIN WEST' on page 2



NMPP Energy photo

MEAN Ad Hoc, Power Supply Committee hold workshop

The Ad Hoc and Power Supply Committee members for the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska held a one-day workshop August 2 at NMPP Energy to discuss various power supply-related topics, including MEAN's Integrated Resource Plan.

Mountain West group

Continued from page 1

Arizona and Utah. The possible impact to current SPP members, including MEAN and its wholesale participants, is uncertain at this point. There likely would be impacts, positive and negative, regarding transmission rates to MEAN participant communities located within SPP's footprint.

As an alternative to joining SPP, Mountain West is also evaluating operating under a common transmission tariff. Currently, each Mountain West participant operates under its own transmission tariff(s).

Mountain West is currently in discussions with SPP regarding the possibility of joining the RTO. Ultimately, such a move would require approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Mountain West set an estimated timeline

Mountain West Transmission Group

The Mountain West Transmission Group includes:

- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Black Hills Corporation's three electric subsidiaries:
 - Black Hills Power
 - Black Hills Colorado Electric Utility
 - Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power Company
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Platte River Power Authority
- Public Service Co. of Colorado
- Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
- Western Area Power Administration:
 - Loveland Area Projects
 - Colorado River Storage Project



Source: WAPA

of getting regulatory approvals by mid-2018 and implementation in 2019.

Staff assigned to MEAN is keeping the MEAN Board and

Management Committee informed of developments and any possible impacts to its participating communities.

MEAN Integrated Resource Plan receives approval

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska's (MEAN) Integrated Resource Plan was approved at the MEAN Board and Management Committee meeting held in August. The plan is updated every five years and serves as a fluid roadmap for how MEAN moves forward in serving its electric load obligations in the regional footprints where it operates. Integrated resource planning was mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and all Western Area Power Administration customers are required to submit plans. More details on the plan will be coming in a future newsletter.

Contract renewal with Wray, Colo.

The MEAN board approved renewing a five-year agreement with the City of Wray, Colo., for power supply. Located in Northeast Colorado, the City has been a MEAN participant since 2013. The new agreement would be effective from 2018-2023. Wray has a population of 2,367 and has a peak electric load of approximately six megawatts.

Modification to Renewable Distributed Generation Policy

A modification was approved to MEAN's Renewable Distributed Generation Policy. The policy accommodates the integration of smaller, local renewable projects for long-term total requirement participants while still fulfilling obligations under MEAN's total requirements power supply contracts.

MEAN NOTES

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska held its quarterly board and management committee meeting in August. These are a few of the actions taken at the meeting.

The policy caps total requirements participants' aggregate annual output of qualified projects at two percent of the participant's most recent three-year historic average annual kilowatt-hour load served by MEAN. The policy was modified to allow participants the option to install facilities totaling up to 100 kilowatts (capacity) even if that exceeds the two percent cap. This option allows smaller communities to have larger projects.

The policy is part of MEAN's Electrical Resources Pooling Agreement Policies and Procedures.

Officer, executive committee vacancies filled

Brent Nation, utilities director, **Fort Morgan**, Colo., was elected to serve as secretary of the MEAN Management Committee through the remainder of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

Bill Hinton, electric superintendent, **Kimball**, Neb., and Chris Desplanques, interim city manager, **Indianola**, Iowa, were elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the fiscal year.



Staff news

Danielle Buck

Danielle Buck recently joined NMPP Energy as an administrative assistant as part of the gas operations team serving the National Public Gas Agency (NPGA) and the Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE). She previously worked



as a customer service representative for ACE during the 2017 Choice Gas campaign. Danielle has more than 20 years of experience working in the natural gas industry for Black Hills Energy, most recently as a training analyst.

PowerManager® courses to be held in October

The PowerManager® Refresher and Training Courses are set to be held in October in two different locations:

- **Session 1** - North Platte, Neb. (Oct. 10-12)
- **Session 2** - Lincoln, Neb. (Oct. 18-20)

This year's three-day sessions will include a refresher course on the first day for experienced users. The following two days will include training on each program with a focus on beginner users.

Registration forms were emailed in late August. The registration form includes discounted room rates and contact information for hotels for each session. Space is limited to 30 seats per day so make your reservation as soon as possible. Registration deadline is Oct. 4. If you have any questions about the Refresher and Training Course contact Amber Degner (adegner@nmppenergy.org) or (800) 234-2595.

Anderson re-appointed to APGA Board

Group also names new board chair

Chris Anderson, board chair of the National Public Gas Agency and city administrator for the City of **Central City**, Neb., was re-appointed to serve on the board of directors of the American Public Gas Association at the APGA Annual Meeting held in July in San Francisco. Anderson's term is for three years.

Greg Henderson, president and chief executive officer of Southeast Gas in Andalusia, Ala., was named the new APGA board chairman for a one-year term. Henderson previously served as the APGA first vice chair.

The APGA board of directors also appointed new members and had several other updates at the annual meeting. The new directors are:

- Jim Crowley, Easton Utilities, Easton, Md.
- Brian Dove, Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District, Cullman, Ala.
- Bob Dowell, Long Beach Gas & Oil, Long Beach, Calif.

- Gordon King, Okaloosa Gas District, Valparaiso, Fla.
- Mark Nibaur, Austin Utilities, Austin, Minn.
- Eduardo Noriega, Greenwood Commission of Public Works, Greenwood, S.C.
- Mark O'Neal, Greater Dickson Gas Authority, Dickson, Tenn.
- Durk Tyson, Greenville Utilities Commission, Greenville, N.C.
- Gerald Ballinger, Public Energy Authority of Kentucky, Carrollton, Ky.

Others re-appointed for three-year terms are:

- Gary Gibson, City Utilities of Springfield, Springfield, Mo.
- Don Stanton, CPS Energy, San Antonio, Texas
- Alonzo Weaver, Memphis Light, Gas & Water, Memphis, Tenn.
- Lincoln Duncan, BHMG Engineers, Arnold, Mo.
- Ed Young, Ed Young Sales Company, Charlotte, N.C.

Public Power/Natural Gas Week set for Oct. 1-7

National Public Power Week and Public Natural Gas Week will be celebrated by municipal utilities across the country Oct. 1-7.

This is an opportunity for public utilities to share the 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.

Lowell Johnson retires as Wayne city administrator

The City of Wayne, Neb., City Administrator Lowell Johnson retired at the end of July after serving in that position since 2000, according to the Norfolk Daily News.

Lynn Rex, executive director of the League of Nebraska Municipalities, credited Johnson for his dedication to Wayne,



Member News

noting he is one of the last “old school” type managers in the state, according to the Daily News article.

“Many times, the newer city managers/administrators and graduates getting out of universities with bachelor’s degrees (in policy or administration) will go from city to city, knowing they only intend to stay for up to five years and then move on,” she told the newspaper. “I so admire Lowell because, like a rare few administrators left in Nebraska, he has made Wayne his home. He has made Wayne basically a better city because of his commitment to it.”

Johnson told the Daily News of his good fortune to work under three strong mayors and city councils that haven’t been afraid to try new things.

Wayne Area Economic Development Executive Director Wes Blecke will succeed Johnson as the city administrator.



CAMU holds Annual Conference

Representatives from NMPP member communities attending the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities Annual Conference held in July in Glenwood Springs, Colo., included Will Dowis of Gunnison, Colo., (at right in top photo talking with NMPP Energy’s Tim Sutherland) and Rick Rigel of Lamar, Colo., and Curtis Mitchell of Fountain, Colo.

NMPP Energy photos



Bill Leners promoted to utilities superintendent

The Lake View, Iowa, city council voted in June to promote long-time city employee Bill Leners to utilities superintendent, effective immediately. Before becoming the utilities superintendent, Leners served as electric superintendent in the Public Works Department. His career in city government spans more than three decades with nearly 30 years at Lake View. Leners worked with the City of Bancroft in north-central Iowa previous to his time at Lake View.

— Source: www.1380kcim.com

In Memoriam

Cedar-Knox Public Power District General Manager Dan Leise died after being struck by a car while he was walking across Nebraska Highway 84 in Northeast Nebraska in early August. He was volunteering with a group cleaning up grounds of a cemetery near Hartington, Neb., when the accident occurred. NMPP Energy sends its condolences to Cedar-Knox Public Power District and the Hartington Community.



Hometown Connections partners with industry experts to protect public power utilities from cyber threats

Public power's most urgent priority is to build a comprehensive cybersecurity program at every utility, association, and joint action agency. In response, Hometown Connections, the utility services subsidiary of the American Public Power Association, provides public power organizations with three lines of defense against cyber threats: threat monitoring by N-Dimension Solutions, program development by AESI, and liability insurance by Wortham Power Gen Insurance.

Monitoring/Assessment by N-Dimension Solutions

N-Dimension's N-Sentinel Monitoring offers continuous monitoring of network traffic, detecting and alerting on cybersecurity vulnerabilities. The N-Sentinel Vulnerability Assessment delivers on-demand assessment of endpoint devices connected to the network, detecting latent vulnerabilities in operating systems and applications and providing insight into the cybersecurity issues. A secure web-based portal is easily accessible and provides detailed reports about threats. Cybersecurity experts are available to answer questions and assist customers via phone and email.

Engineering/Consulting by AESI

AESI supports the development and implementation of comprehensive cyber and physical security solutions for public power utilities, including risk assessments, product assessments, penetration testing, network architecture reviews, system integration, education & training, hands-on day-to-day routine tasks, and regulatory compliance.

Liability insurance by Wortham Power Gen Insurance

Developed by Hometown Connections and Wortham Power Gen Insurance, the Public Power Cyber Liability & Privacy Insurance Program provides data breach against risks not covered by property and casualty policies or TORT immunity statutes limiting lawsuit liability exposure for municipal entities.

* * *

For more information on the comprehensive cybersecurity offerings from the partners of Hometown Connections, contact:

Bill Smart
 bsmart@hometownconnections.com
 (303) 940-7331

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

Employment

Electrical distribution employee

The Town of **Julesburg, Colo.**, is accepting applications and resumes for an electrical distribution employee. The Town would like an experienced person but is willing to help the right person with education and training. The job is 40 hours per week with the ability to be "on call" when needed. Applicant will be required to work in all departments within the Town with some degree of responsibility. Salary negotiable dependent upon qualifications. An excellent benefit package is offered. EOE. Must have a class B CDL license or the ability to receive within 60 days of employment. Must have a high school education or GED. Background check

and drug screening will be performed upon hire and randomly throughout length of employment. Contact the Town of Julesburg, 100 West 2nd Street, Julesburg CO 80737 or (970) 474-3344 for an application. Application or resume should be returned to the above address. Questions regarding the position should be directed to Town Manager, Allen Coyne, at (970) 474-3344 or jsbg@pctelcom.coop. Position open until filled.

Electric Lineman

The City of **Kimball, Neb.**, is accepting applications for the position of electric lineman. Work duties include but not limited to testing, repair, building and maintenance of the municipal electric system. Lifting, construction, general labor and upkeep of

the electric system will be expected. Must have or be able to obtain CDL and pass pre-employment drug test. Salary is based on experience and knowledge. A City application form is required and may be obtained at City Hall, 223 S. Chestnut Street, Kimball, NE 69145 or at www.kimballne.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

Town Administrator

The Town of **Holly, Colo.**, is accepting applications with resume for the position of town administrator. The Town of Holly is a small statutory municipality located in southeast Colorado along Highway 50 near the Colorado/Kansas state line. The municipality owns, operates and provides

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

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.org).....	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 (Fairbanksmorse.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.
Power Engineers (powereng.com).....	Overland Park, 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 (cont.)

Continued from page 7

electric, water, wastewater and garbage/landfill services to residents.

The town administrator performs highly responsible management, administrative and professional duties as the chief executive officer of the Town government. Employees of this class are expected to exercise a high degree of independence, initiative and professional expertise in the administration and day-to-day management of the Town in accordance with policy established by the board of trustees, town, state, and federal laws, regulations and guidelines. An important aspect of this position is the very high profile as the Town's chief executive

officer and the overall responsibility for all Town departments. The individual filling this position serves at the pleasure of the board of trustees.

The position is full time permanent and offers salary with benefits. Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in public administration, political science, business management or a closely related field, and two years of responsible administrative, municipal, public agency or private sector background. Master's degree in public administration preferred. These requirements are subject to change by the board of trustees on a case-by-case basis.

Current job description and application are available online at: www.townofholly.com Interested applicants must submit application with resume (to include three work-related references). EOE. Position open until filled. Send information to: clerk@townofholly.com or mail to Town of Holly, PO Box 458, Holly, CO 81047. Fax will not be accepted.

Upcoming Meetings

Sept. 6 — MEAN Services Committee

Sept. 7 — NMPP Board

Sept. 28 — NPGA Board

For all descriptions of employment opportunities go to www.nmppenergy.org.

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

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