

MEAN Board, Committee approve decrease in wholesale electric rates

Targeted revenue requirement decreases for fourth straight year

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors and Management Committee at their joint meeting Jan. 17 approved a 5.8 percent decrease in MEAN’s overall targeted revenue requirement for fiscal year 2019-20.

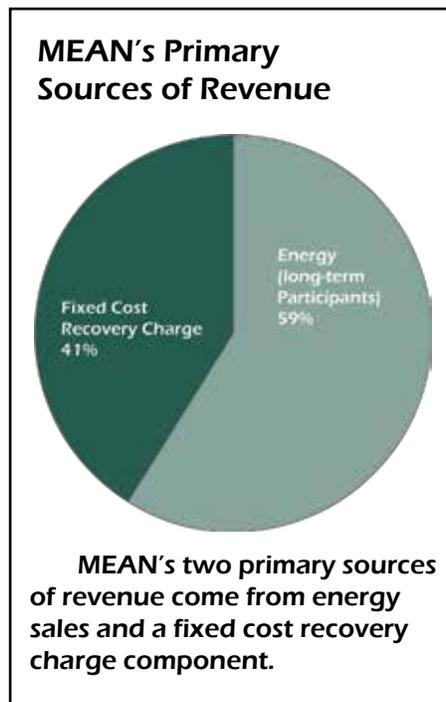
As part of the overall decrease, the Board and Management Committee also approved a 5 percent decrease in MEAN’s flat energy rate for its 54 long-term (Schedule M) wholesale electric Participants and a 3.3 percent decrease in its fixed cost recovery charge. Additionally, the energy rate for MEAN’s wind-generation resources decreased 9.8 percent. The new rates take effect April 1.

It is the fourth straight year MEAN lowered its targeted revenue requirement, which is the total net revenue required to cover MEAN’s cost of operation.

Primary reasons for the decreases include:

- Decreased fuel and contracted energy costs;
- Favorable market conditions for owned generation resources; and
- Decreased capital costs.

MEAN’s wholesale electric rate structure has two primary components for collecting revenue: a flat energy rate (usage) charged for electric



energy sales and a fixed cost recovery charge.

Electric Energy Sales

This source of revenue makes up 59 percent of MEAN’s targeted revenue requirement. Energy sales are highly variable as usage depends on consumer need, which varies due to weather, time of day, conservation, etc.

Fixed Cost Recovery Charge

The Fixed Cost Recovery Charge is 41 percent of MEAN’s targeted

revenue requirement. It allows MEAN to recover certain known costs related to ownership of power resources, power contracts and operations and better handle energy usage volatility due to weather and other unpredictable factors. This charge is allocated to long-term (Schedule M) and 10-year (Schedule K) Participants based on each Participants’ three-year historical average peak electric demand.

Accounting for certain known costs protects MEAN wholesale electric Participants from revenue volatility from energy sales caused by unpredictable factors such as weather-related usage fluctuations, unplanned resource outages, fuel costs and transmission congestion.

Two other primary cost components on MEAN Participants’ monthly wholesale electric bill are for transmission and federal hydropower allocations. These are third-party pass-through costs.

The MEAN Board and Management Committee annually reviews rates and charges to ensure operating revenues are sufficient to pay operating expenses in accordance with policies approved by the MEAN Board.

MEAN, ACE hold elections for 2019-20

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) and the Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) held officer and Executive Committee elections for their respective governing bodies at their annual meetings in January in Kearney, Neb.

Those elected to one-year terms as officers of the MEAN board of directors beginning April 1 were:

- Tom Goulette, city administrator/utility superintendent, **West Point**, Neb., chair
- Tom Ourada, city administrator, **Crete**, Neb., vice chair
- Darrel Wenzel, chief executive officer, **Waverly** (Iowa) **Utilities**, secretary/treasurer

The board acts as the final authority on rates and charges to MEAN long-term, total requirements participants.

The management committee officers elected were:

- Todd Kielkopf, City representative, **Carlisle**, Iowa, chair
- Brent Nation, director of water resources and utilities, **Fort Morgan**, Colo., vice chair
- Jeremy Tarr, electric superintendent, **Broken Bow**, Neb., secretary-treasurer

Among the committee's functions is planning current and future power supply. It includes a designated representative from each of MEAN's wholesale power participant communities.

Four representatives were elected as at-large Executive Committee members:

- Bill Hinton, electric superintendent, **Kimball**, Neb.
- Doug Schultz, city administrator/clerk/treasurer, **Curtis**, Neb.
- Adam Suppes, electric superintendent, **Delta**, Colo.
- Jeff Wells, city manager, **Fort Morgan**, Colo.

ACE elections

Those elected as ACE Board of Director officers for a 1-year term beginning April 1 were:

- Andrew Devine, city administrator, **Albion**, Neb., chair
- Jeremy Tarr, electric superintendent, **Broken Bow**, Neb., vice chair
- Mike Palmer, electric superintendent, **Sidney**, Neb., secretary/treasurer.

Those re-elected to the at-large Executive Committee were:

- Nancy Kopejtko, city clerk/treasurer, **Atkinson**, Neb.
- Doug Schultz, city administrator/clerk/treasurer, **Curtis**, Neb.
- Randy Horst, village board chairperson, **Gurley**, Neb.
- Dale Wilkinson, city council representative, **Neligh**, Neb.
- Paul Markowski, utility superintendent, **Ord**, Neb.

The Executive Committee assists governing the organization between board meetings as necessary.



ENERGYsmart energy efficiency programs to expand in 2019-20

The Municipal Energy Agency Board and Management Committee at their joint meeting in Kearney, Neb., in January approved continuing MEAN's ENERGYsmart Commercial LED Lighting program in 2019-20, along with adding three new energy efficiency programs at the retail level.

The three retail-level programs to be added include financial incentives for purchasing programmable thermostats, tune-up service maintenance on residential AC cooling units and home insulation. There will be \$75,000 set aside to fund the programs for the year. The new program year for the commercial LED lighting program will begin April 1 while the new programs are expected to be rolled out this summer.

LED Commercial lighting update

To date, 34 communities have participated in the LED commercial lighting program, which closes its fiscal year March 31. Approximately \$70,000 out of the total \$75,000 has been pre-authorized for projects. There is still time to apply for projects before the fiscal year ends. Go to www.nmppenergy.org/mean to download a brochure and application or contact Mandy Hansen at ahansen@nmppenergy.org.

Sue Kelly to retire from APPA at end of year

American Public Power Association President and CEO Sue Kelly recently announced her plans to retire at the end of 2019.

Coleman Smoak, APPA board chair and general manager of Piedmont Municipal Power Agency, said that Kelly has provided ample notice to the Board



Sue Kelly

and Executive Committee to allow time to identify and hire her successor. Smoak noted the Executive Committee of the Board will begin planning for the transition and conduct an in-depth assessment in early 2019 of the Association's future leadership needs.

"Sue is committed to ensuring the Association continues to thrive in 2019," said Smoak. "She and her excellent staff will continue their good work throughout next year to make this a smooth transition."

Kelly has been with the Association since 2004 and has served as President and CEO since 2014.

Public utilities incorporating renewable energy in their mix

Colorado and Iowa are trendsetters in many areas and promoting more renewable energy sources certainly is one of those avenues.

In 2004, Colorado passed the first voter-led Renewable Energy Standard (RES) in the nation, requiring large electricity providers to obtain a minimum percentage of power from renewable energy sources. Today, investor-owned utilities in Colorado are required to generate 30 percent of their electricity from renewable energy by 2020 of which three percent must come from distributed energy (behind the meter) resources. Recently elected Governor Jared Polis is focusing on advancing more renewable energy development in the state.

Iowa, an early leader in wind energy, has promoted a new energy plan with more renewable wind energy and additional transmission infrastructure to support it. Iowa's first female Governor Kim Reynolds is no stranger to supporting energy plans, believing energy is a key to economic development and job creation across the state, especially in rural areas. MidAmerican Energy and Alliant Energy in Iowa continue to support the next wave of wind development by continuing to add to their respective renewable energy portfolios.

Legislative Notes



By Chris Dibbern

How do publicly-owned municipal electric utilities fit into this renewable energy trend? Are they moving toward using more renewable energy? The answer is absolutely yes. Guided by local control, public electric utilities across the NMPP membership footprint have supported more renewable energy options.

- The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska added 30 megawatts of wind energy capacity as the Kimball Wind Facility went online last year. It continues working with its wholesale electric member participants on fulfilling their respective renewable energy goals.
- Larger public electric utilities in the region, including Lincoln Electric System, Omaha Public Power District and Nebraska Public Power District continue to add wind and solar electric generation.

Public electric utilities assess the impact cautiously as technology develops. It's important not to overlook the fact renewable energy is more widely available through regional transmission organization footprints. With local control at their core, public electric utilities continually investigate options and set voluntary targets/goals for renewable energy generation while keeping in mind reliability, affordability and sustainability.

Public electric utilities must remain mindful and sensitive to the reliability risks and impacts on the entire community they serve. Unique opportunities exist for public electric utilities such as forming public-private partnerships that can capture tax incentives for private developers while providing low-cost clean energy for public utilities.

MEAN keeps its options open for local development of larger and smaller community renewable energy projects as they are presented to the board.

* * *

Chris Dibbern is general counsel of NMPP Energy. Contact her at cdibbern@nmppenergy.org or (800) 234-2595.

Bayard earns ED certification

The City of Bayard, Neb., recently earned recognition from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) as the state's newest Leadership Certified Community.

Bayard (pop. 1,140) is Nebraska's 25th community to qualify

for the program, created in 2011 to help Nebraska communities adapt

to ongoing changes and opportunities in economic development. Qualifying communities must demonstrate an understanding for and preparedness in strategic and community planning, as well as display readiness in technological development to help new and existing businesses grow. Certified communities earn designation in the program for five years and are required to update and maintain information and websites.

City leaders' efforts to build relationships with area business owners were at the forefront of Bayard's successful designation. In 2018, officials completed nearly 20 Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) surveys in the community, which provide insight about local infrastructure and workforce needs. Bayard officials also developed strategies to grow the community's online presence to market available sites and buildings, as well as Chimney Rock, a nationally-known nearby tourist attraction.

"These efforts, led by outgoing Mayor Michelle Coolidge, were really part of a bigger vision to raise awareness about our at-



Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development photo

Representatives of the City of Bayard, Neb., accept the City's Leadership Certified Community designation from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

tractions, businesses and quality of life in Bayard," said Bayard City Clerk Sam Jackson. "Our team appreciates her dedication to our community and our overall efforts to grow. We are proud of our community and her continued leadership."

"This certification is the culmination of work by not only city staff, but several committees made up of members of our community," Mayor Coolidge said. "This speaks to the level of commitment of those citizens to their town and their neighborhoods. These community supporters spent many hours in planning meetings and input sessions to identify and verbalize their priorities. Beyond the planning, becoming an LCC is the result of action and implementation by those individuals in moving Bayard forward. I'm excited to be able to acknowledge them in this way."

Over the past several years, Bayard leaders created a comprehensive plan to further develop businesses, as well as to grow and retain its population. The com-

munity worked closely with the regionally-based Western Nebraska Economic Development (WNED) group to develop strategies to create new opportunities for growth. Successful efforts to address local nuisance and abated properties are also underway, opening the door for additional efforts to enhance the community's quality of life.

For additional information about the Leadership Certified Community (LCC) program, contact Kelly Gewecke at kelly.gewecke@nebraska.gov or (308) 627-3151 or visit www.neded.org.

Atkinson installs solar array to power wastewater plant

The City of Atkinson, Neb., held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in January to celebrate its new solar array that will power the City's wastewater plant. The solar array is a tracked system that will provide enough energy to offset the energy consumption of its water treatment plant.



Register today!

Conference topics cover a variety of issues

Several timely learning lab topics will be presented, including:



Fraud — Trust is Not an Internal Control

One of the most common pitfalls for organizations with limited resources is to place the majority of financial responsibility with one “trusted” individual. However, this arrangement can have negative ramifications if the necessary controls are not put in place. This presentation will detail real-world situations where fraud occurred as a result of this trusting relationship and look at ways smaller organizations can enhance their internal control environments in a cost-effective manner.

Communicating the Value of Public Power: Whose Job is it Anyway?

As competition evolves in new and different forms, it’s more important than ever before to convey the distinctive value of your municipal utility to multiple stakeholders. This is not just up to the communications or customer service person on staff. Everyone — including the mayor, city council members, and general manager — plays a critical role in communicating to preserve the utility business model. Several easy, low-cost outreach initiatives can help you build community trust and goodwill. Learn how utilities like yours are engaging audiences through social media, community involvement, and key partnerships. Leverage the American Public Power Association’s expertise and resources to help you raise your profile in the community and engage every citizen.

Registration Form *(Clip and mail to: NMPP Energy, 8377 Glynoaks Drive, Lincoln NE 68516)*

Municipality/Firm Name: _____
 Name(s): _____ Title(s): _____
 Street/PO Box: _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

One complimentary registration will be given to an elected official with every paid member registration.

Elected Official Name: _____

Fee & Payment Options

Registration Fee	Member/Champion Rate# _____ @ \$150 ea. = _____
<i>Fee includes: pre-conference workshop, all programs, breaks, breakfasts, lunch and banquet</i>	Non-Member Rate.....# _____ @ \$275 ea. = _____
	Additional Banquet Tickets# _____ @ \$45 ea. = _____
	TOTAL PAYMENT DUE: \$ _____

_____ *Planning to attend Pre-Conference A-Z Infrastructure Workshop March 26.*

_____ *Planning to attend first night reception.*

Payment Enclosed Please Bill Me To Pay Electronically via ACH, contact Laurie for instructions - 800.234.2595

LATE REGISTRATION: After Mar. 1, 2019 registration will be \$175 each for members/champions.

TO BOOK LODGING: Go to nmppenergy.org, click on “Annual Conference” link and then click on the “Book a Room” link. You can also call Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel 333 So. 13th St. Lincoln NE 68508 at 1-888-236-2427. Group rate: \$90+tax. (Cut off date 3/12/19 for group rate. Group name: NMPP 2019 Annual Meeting. Group Code: MPP.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Email Laurie Keiser at lkeiser@nmppenergy.org.



N-Sentinel provides cybersecurity protection designed for small-medium electric utilities

Hackers today are creating sophisticated attacks that routinely slip through firewalls and then lie in wait on your networks, virtually invisible to antivirus software. Larger organizations understand this vulnerability and rely on IT professionals with specialized cybersecurity training to detect and respond to these threats before they are weaponized into an attack.

Most medium and smaller-sized organizations would be challenged to afford the \$100,000+ needed to hire a trained cybersecurity specialist – assuming one could be found during the current talent shortage.

That's why N-Dimension Solutions developed N-Sentinel, a Managed Detection and Response (MDR) technology that is specifically designed for small and medium sized electric utilities.

For one-tenth the cost of a single cybersecurity specialist, N-Sentinel, provides protections that preventative measures like firewalls and antivirus software cannot:

- Detection of hidden and unknown threats missed by firewalls
- Detection of connected attacks that antivirus software sees as

less dangerous, single incidents

- Constant updates on emerging threats happening at other public power utilities
- Priority classification of critical threats for a more targeted response and less costly recovery.

60-Day Free Trial

N-Sentinel is offered as a 60-day free trial to members of the American Public Power Association. The offering features a comprehensive set-up and support system that provides a no-hassle, no-risk way to improve your security.

- Easy, fast deployment and hands-off management of sensors
- 24/7 remote monitoring and detection of network issues
- Alerts with actionable steps to mitigate the issues
- Cloud-based threat analysis and information on threat activity
- Web-portal access to reports and Community Data of threat activity being found across other utilities

www.n-dimension.com

- Access to cybersecurity experts to answer questions and provide guidance.

N-Dimension designed the N-Sentinel Monitoring MDR technology for IT and OT networks. Monitoring of the network traffic with alerting on suspicious activity, cloud-based cybersecurity reports, and threat intelligences are all included in the service. Volume discounts on the annual subscription fee are available through your joint action agency or state association.

N-Dimension Solutions is a cybersecurity partner of Hometown Connections. To arrange your N-Sentinel 60-day free trial contact Scott Mossbrooks (scott.mossbrooks@n-dimension.com). For more information on the products and services from N-Dimension, visit www.n-dimension.com.

For information on products and services through Hometown Connections, visit www.hometownconnections.com or email info@hometownconnections.com.

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

Employment Opportunities

Town Administrator

The Town of **Holly**, Colo., is accepting applications with resume for 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 electric, water, wastewater and garbage/landfill services to residents.

city administrator. Salary is negotiable and is based on experience and qualifications.

Water Supervisor

The City of **David City**, Neb., is accepting applications for a full-time water supervisor. Record keeping, computer skills, mechanical ability and a valid Nebraska driver's license are required.

Village Clerk/Treasurer

The Village of **Utica**, Neb., is seeking a full-time person to fill the appointed position of Village clerk/

Complete job descriptions are posted at www.nmppenergy.org

treasurer. This position is responsible for preparing and maintaining official municipal records, preparing for Board meetings, utility billings, animal licensing, payroll, budgets, audit preparation, correspondence, scheduling, grant writing, economic development, assisting the Planning and Zoning Commission and coordinating with other departments.

See 'EMPLOYMENT' on page 8

City Administrator

The City of **David City**, Neb., (pop. 2,906) has an opening for a

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

EnergySolutions, Inc. (Energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
Hometown Connections, Inc. (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
Foundation for Educational Services (fes.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
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
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.
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 (spiegelmcd.com).....	Washington, D.C.

Telecommunication

River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com).....	Centennial, Colo.
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Employment (cont.)

EOE. The applicant must be able to work well with the public. Experience with QuickBooks and Microsoft Office software is preferred. Competitive pay based on experience and certification. Job description and applications are available at the Village Office. Email: uticanebraska1@gmail.com; phone: (402) 534-4237.

Electric Lineman

The City of **Wall Lake**, Iowa is in a transition period with its current electric superintendent getting closer to retirement. They City is looking for a lineman to oversee its electric distribution rebuild. Along with our electric distribution rebuild our lineman apprentice needs supervision

and hours to attain his lineman certificate. If this interests you and you meet the basic requirements (see full ad at www.NMPPenergy.org) please call Chris at (712) 664-2216.

Utility General Manager

The City of **Wahoo**, Neb., is searching for a utility general manager. Located just 30 minutes north of Lincoln and 30 minutes west of Omaha, Wahoo is situated in one of the best locations in Nebraska. With a population of 4,500, the community strives for the small-town appeal but due to proximity to the two largest communities in Nebraska, is able to provide many attractive amenities like shopping, cultural events, with close access to a major airport, I-80 and Amtrak.

The City of Wahoo Utilities, which includes electricity generation and distribution, water, sanitary sewer, and natural gas, operate under a Board of Public Works. With an annual budget of \$10 million in expenditures, the general manager is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all four utility systems. In addition, the general manager will work with and report to the city administrator. The City of Wahoo Utilities operate with a staff of 21 full-time employees and take pride in providing continuity of service and quality customer relations all while maintaining some of the best utility rates in the country. Additional information including job description and an organizational chart are available under the careers tab on the City's website: www.wahoo.ne.us.

Complete job descriptions are posted at www.nmppenergy.org

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