

Kimball Wind goes online

MEAN adds to its renewable energy portfolio with output of facility

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) added to its renewable-energy resource pool as the new Kimball Wind Facility outside Kimball, Neb., went into commercial operation in June.

MEAN earlier signed a power purchase agreement for the output of the new facility, which has a nameplate capacity of 30 megawatts. The new facility, which includes 12 turbines, replaces the 10.5 megawatt MEAN Kimball Wind Project, which was decommissioned in 2017 to make way for the larger facility. The decommissioned project went online in 2002 and was the first utility-scale wind farm in Nebraska.

Today's wind turbines are more efficient than the first generation of turbines constructed in the early 2000s, due in large part to taller towers, longer blade lengths and overall improved technology and reliability. More efficient turbines result in a higher capacity factor, which is the ratio of energy produced over time compared with a project's maximum nameplate capacity. The projected capacity factor of the new facility is expected to be above 45 percent, compared to the old project's average capacity factor of 32 percent.

The wind generated from the new facility will be part of MEAN's overall wind resource pool in which MEAN's



Courtesy photo

The new Kimball Wind Facility went into commercial operation in late June. MEAN earlier signed a power purchase agreement for the output from the facility.

Rundown of MEAN's Renewable Resources

For a listing of MEAN's renewable resources throughout the region, see page 3.

Kimball Wind — Then and Now...

MEAN Kimball Wind Project Facts

Years in Operation:	2002-2017
Nameplate Capacity:	10.5 megawatts
No. of Turbines:	7 (1.5 megawatts each)
Total kilowatt-hours (kWh) generated:	401,115,857
Avg. Overall Capacity Factor:	32%

New Kimball Wind Facility Facts

Commercial online date:	June 2018
Nameplate Capacity:	30 megawatts
No. of Turbines:	12 (2.5 megawatts each)
Projected Avg. Capacity Factor:	47%

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

Darrel Wenzel elected to APPA Board

Darrel Wenzel, general manager and CEO of **Waverly Utilities** in Iowa was newly elected to the American Public Power Association board this year at the association's National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 20th.



Darrel Wenzel

Members are chosen for the association board to represent 10 regions across the country.

The American Public Power Association is the voice for not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. The association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations.

When partnering with its members, the association works to promote public power. Through joint advocacy, education, and collaboration the association helps community-owned utilities deliver superior services.

Wenzel also serves as President of the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Board of Directors and serves as secretary/treasurer on the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska Board of Directors

Acting EPA Chief Wheeler to continue Trump's agenda

Acting Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler recently said he plans to continue to carry out President Donald Trump's agenda of rolling back many of the energy regulatory policies put in place by former President Barack Obama.

In early July, President Trump appointed Wheeler as the new Acting Administrator of the EPA, replacing Scott Pruitt, who submitted his resignation after being dogged by scandals and potential ethics violations during the past several months. Wheeler previously served as the EPA Deputy Administrator since April 2018.

"I don't think the overall agenda is going to change that much, because we're implementing what the president has laid out for the agency," Wheeler recently told the Washington Post in an interview. Regarding addressing the climate change issue and President Obama's Clean Power Plan Wheeler believes the plan "was outside the four corners of the Clean Air Act." In looking for a replacement for the Clean Power Plan, he said the



Andrew Wheeler

EPA will take a hard look at what authority the act gives and put something forward that follows the law that Congress approved.

Wheeler began his career during the George H. W. Bush Administration as a special assistant in EPA's pollution prevention and toxics office. He also worked as a lobbyist for coal companies at FaegreBD Consulting and Faegre Baker Daniels law firm. He also served as an aide for U.S. Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, an outspoken opponent of former President Barack Obama's climate change policies.



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MEAN's Renewable Energy Resources

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska receives renewable energy from resources from several projects around the region.

Ainsworth, Neb., Wind Farm (7 megawatts)

- Operation began 2005
- Owned/Operated by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)

Wessington Springs, S.D. Wind Farm (10 megawatts)

- Operation began in 2009
- Owned/operated by Heartland Consumers Power District/Babcock and Brown

Elkhorn Ridge Wind Project (8 megawatts)

- Operation began in 2009
- Owned/operated by Edison Mission Group/NPPD

Laredo Ridge Wind Project (8 megawatts)

- Operation began in 2011
- Owned/operated by Midwest Wind Energy/NPPD

Crofton Bluffs Wind Project (4 megawatts)

- Operation began in November 2012
- Owned/operated by Edison Mission Group

Landfill Gas Project (4.8 megawatts)

- Operation began in 2014
- Owned/operated by WM Renewable Energy LLC

Shavano Falls Hydro (7.6 megawatts)

- Operation began in 2015
- Owned/operated by Delta Montrose Electric Association

Kimball Wind Facility (30 megawatts)

- Operation began in 2018
- Owned/operated by Aspenall Energies

Western Area Power Administration hydro

- MEAN and its participants total annual capacity allocation is approximately 120 megawatts



Courtesy photo

The Kimball Wind Facility being constructed earlier this year.

Kimball Wind

Continued from page 1

wholesale power participants subscribe for energy output. MEAN has power purchase agreements with several wind energy projects in the region. Nearly 40 of MEAN's wholesale power participants are subscribed to MEAN's Wind Resource Pool at varying levels.

Overall, MEAN has nearly 80 megawatts of renewable-generated energy capacity from eight projects around the region. In addition, MEAN and many of its power participants also receive a federal hydro allocation from the Western Area Power Administration.

Summer baseball comes to Gering

Pioneers open first season in new league

The air was filled with the crack of wood bats hitting baseballs in Gering, Neb., this summer.

The Western Nebraska Pioneers are winding down their first season in the newly formed Expedition League.

The wood-bat summer league includes Division I and II college players and runs from late May to mid-August. The Pioneer's roster includes more than 25 players from 13 states, including Hawaii, California, Florida, Oregon, Alabama and Texas.

Gering was in the process of building a new ballpark to accommodate hosting more regional tournaments and increase tourism revenue so the timing was right in landing a team for the new league. Oregon Trail Stadium seats approximately 1,200. The City owns the field and leases it to the Pioneers.

Other teams in the league include Hastings, Neb., Casper, Wyo., Pierre, Spearfish and Aberdeen in South Dakota and Minot and



Member News



Western Nebraska Pioneers photos

Oregon Trail Stadium is the home of the Western Nebraska Pioneers. It was built by The City of Gering to accommodate regional tournaments. The City leases the field to the Pioneers.

Dickinson in North Dakota. Each team plays a 64-game schedule with half home and half road games.

Fort Morgan begins electric line rebuild

The Fort Morgan, Colo., Light and Power Department began rebuilding a main transmission line in mid-July. The project is part of a 10-year plan to improve the city's electric system

reliability and to increase system capacity.

Conductors will be up-sized and electric feeder lines will be added, along with the installation of a new switch in the East Substation near Leprino Foods to allow that substation to be de-energized for maintenance without shutting down the main 115 kV (kilovolt) transmission line.

NMPP Energy's 2017-18 Annual Report is online

The 2017-2018 NMPP Energy Annual Report and audited financial information is now available online.

Go to www.nmppenergy.org and click on the Annual Report link on the home page.



Bloomquist appointed to lead Nebraska Electric G&T

Bruce Pontow announces retirement effective at end of year

The Nebraska Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc. (NEG&T) Board of Directors announced at their June 2018 meeting the appointment of Darin L. Bloomquist to the position of General Manager. Mr. Bloomquist will succeed Bruce A. Pontow, who will retire at the end of 2018.

Mr. Bloomquist has held the position of Assistant General

Manager for the Cooperative the past six years. Before his employment with NEG&T, Bloomquist held various positions with Loup Power District from 1990-2012. He is a graduate of Concordia University and holds a master's degree in business management from Doane College. Additionally, he has completed the Management Internship Program through the National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association.

NEG&T, headquartered in Columbus, Neb., supplies the power and energy requirements and assists with issues related to that supply for 19 rural public power districts and one electric membership cooperative that serve more than 150,000 rural consumers in the eastern two-thirds of Nebraska.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHAMPION BUSINESS



Power Engineers provides power generation, delivery services

Power Engineers Incorporated offers a world-class suite of services across the full spectrum of the power generation and delivery industries.

In July 2017, Power Engineers acquired Sega Inc., a Kansas City-based consulting engineering firm with deep experience in power generation and delivery. The combined company allows Power Engineers to provide a greater

range of services to clients while strengthening its regional presence. Sega Inc. was also a NMPP Energy champion business. Sega's existing clients will be able to work with the same teams they know and trust while enjoying the expanded service offerings and resources provided by Power Engineer's

2,100-person staff.

Power Engineers has more than 40 offices throughout the U.S., including two offices in Kansas (Overland Park and Lenexa). For more information, go to www.powereng.com.

www.powereng.com

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

Village of Bloomington joins NMPP

The Village of Bloomington recently became an associate member of NMPP. The Village, population 103, is located in Franklin County in South Central Nebraska.

As an associate member, the Village will have access to NMPP's cost-based services in the areas of utility rate study assistance, electric distribution/demand, utility/business software, regulatory assistance, education and other general services.

With Bloomington, NMPP's membership is now 186 communities.

Employment Opportunities

Electric Superintendent

The City of **Broken Bow**, Neb., a progressive rural community, population 3,539, is accepting applications for the position of electric superintendent. The electric superintendent reports to the city administrator, board of public works, mayor and city council, serves as the leader for the electric department, manages all activities in the municipal electric department, city wide technology, and assists in overall utility department administration.

Candidates must possess excellent written, verbal, organizational and interpersonal skills. Minimum qualifications: College degree or equivalent job experience with state certifications, five years previous utilities experience, possess working knowledge of civil and electrical engineering, and the ability to operate standard office equipment and software. Basic requirements may be waived at the discretion of the mayor and board of public works. Benefits include: vacation time, sick time, holiday pay, retirement, and a better-than-average health insurance. Salary will be negotiated based on qualifications and experience.

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 kwickham@nmppenergy.org.

All job openings posted at www.nmppenergy.org

Application, job description, and additional information are available at Broken Bow City Hall, online at www.cityofbrokenbow.org, or by calling (308) 870-2150.

The position will remain open until filled and will move forward immediately upon receipt of a small pool of well-qualified applicants. Broken Bow is an EOE. If interested, please email your completed city application, cover letter, and resume to: City of Broken Bow, Attn: Brent Clark, P.O. Box 504, Broken Bow, NE 68822. Email: bclark@cityofbrokenbow.org.

Electric Lineman

The City of **Carlisle**, Iowa, (Des Moines suburb; 4,168 est. pop.), seeks full-time Electric Journeyman

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.

Utility/Community

EnergySolutions, Inc. (energysolutions-inc.com)	Omaha, Neb.
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.

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 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 (spiegelmcd.com)	Washington, D.C.

Telecommunication

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

Lineman. Duties include operating and maintaining an overhead and underground electric distribution system. Radio reading and servicing meters, substation inspection and maintenance, operating construction equipment. Class (A) CDL driver's license needed. Salary DOQ. EOE. Send resume to City of Carlisle, 195 N. 1st Street. Carlisle, Iowa 50047 or dmiller@carlisleiowa.org . For more information please contact Don Miller at (515) - 989-0840, or Andy Lent at (515)-989-3224.

Upcoming Meetings

Aug. 15MEAN Committees
Aug. 16 MEAN/Mgmt Comm.
Sept. 6 NMPP Board
Sept. 13.....NPGA Board

Education Opportunities

Upcoming APPA Webinars (www.publicpower.org)

August 7: New Regulatory and Legislative Developments Impacting Wireless Attachments

August 16: Finances and Performance: Building Your Strategic Plan

September 6: Down to Brass Tax: Implementing Your Strategic Plan

September 10: Developing Cash Reserve Policies

(All webinars are 1-2:30 p.m. Central time.)

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