



President's Message

The new energy world

—by Raj G. Rao

We are living in a new and exciting energy world. The demand for energy is increasing at a constant pace. At the same time, we are faced with the reality that we must reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources and help make our environment safer. To accomplish this, we must find alternative ways to produce cleaner energy to meet growing demand. However, producing cleaner energy is not the only answer to this growing problem. We must also find ways to be more efficient in our energy use and conserve whenever possible to strike the necessary balance.

Energy efficiency is the first challenge that all of us face. IMPA continues to expand its current efficiency programs and investigate other energy alternatives. Demand Side Management, or DSM as it is popularly called, is one aspect of efficiency that IMPA takes very seriously for our members. DSM is our way as a utility to develop programs and install equipment that help our member communities and their customers modify their level and pattern of energy use, primarily during peak periods. IMPA manages switches on air conditioners and water heaters in our member communities throughout the state. Technology has evolved tremendously in recent years and

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IMPA Project Watch

Prairie State Energy Campus

Bechtel Power Corp. has been performing the engineering, procurement and other activities for the Prairie State Energy Campus to support the construction schedule for this generation project. Many equipment orders have been made and subcontracts put into place.

Bechtel continues with construction at the site, driving piles and doing site earthwork excavation. Road work around the site is also ongoing.

IMPA is taking an active

role in the construction and management of the project. IMPA President Raj Rao is Chairman of the Prairie State Generating Company Board of Directors and was recently chosen to serve as interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) until a permanent CEO is selected.



An aerial view of the Prairie State Energy Campus shows the progress that has been made thus far on the project.

Trimble County Unit 2

Trimble County Unit 2 construction continues to progress. The contractor is working to erect the top tier and

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Project improves power factor and builds relationships in Darlington

The old adage that “the customer is always right” certainly holds true in Darlington. In late September of 2007, one of Darlington Light and Power’s industrial service customers contacted the utility noting voltage disturbance problems at its facility. Darlington lineman Phil Mahoy turned to ISC, the municipal engineering arm of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, with whom the utility already has an ongoing Project Management Continuing Services Agreement. Mahoy contacted Kerry Vincent, General Manager of ISC, to meet with representatives from the utility’s customer and determine what they could do to help.

“After meeting with the industrial customer and examining their infrastructure, we determined the voltage to the plant was under what we consider good operating voltage due to the customer’s low power factor,” Vincent said.

After diagnosing the issue, ISC and

Darlington Light and Power took some immediate steps to stabilize the voltage. ISC generated an analysis of Darlington’s system and determined the best solution to the power factor issue was to add capacitor banks on Darlington’s system and within the customer’s facility.

Darlington did not have the manpower available to undertake the system capacitor installation project, so Vincent and Mahoy contacted Crawfordsville Electric Light and Power Manager Roy Kaser for assistance. Kaser and Line Superintendent Phil Goode went above and beyond to help, sending crews out until the banks were fully installed. With the utility’s assistance, Darlington’s system voltage to the industrial customer was stabilized by the end of October 2007.

“This is the perfect example of neighbors helping neighbors,” Vincent said. “Without Crawfordsville’s assistance, we would not have been able to complete this work so quickly.”

If you are interested in learning more about power factor analysis or other services offered by ISC, please contact Kerry Vincent at (317) 573-9955 or kerry@impa.com. ☞

Staff Announcements

IMPA is pleased to announce the addition of Katie Engle to its staff. Katie joins the Agency as Communications Specialist and holds a B. A. in Journalism from Indiana University, Indianapolis. She was most recently employed with Beck Toyota and has done freelance writing for NUVO Newsweekly and The Indianapolis Star. ☞



Project Watch

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trusses for the boiler structural steel and with items around the steam turbine-generator foundation area. Coal mill foundations and the main transformer foundation have also been started.

Foundation work is nearing completion for many of the air quality control system components and some structural steel is being erected for these systems on the already completed foundations. ☞



Structural steel is being erected for the boiler at Trimble County Unit 2.

The End is Near

- by Carolyn Wright, V.P. of Government and Member Services, IMPA

The first half of the 2008 "short" session of the Indiana General Assembly is over, and there are just a couple short weeks until the end of the regular session. Of the 770 pieces of legislation that were introduced this year, just shy of 280 of them survived the first part of the process. The dominant issue is exactly what it was anticipated to be – property tax reform for the citizens of the State of Indiana.

The legislature has until March 14th to conclude its business. It remains to be seen if the remaining weeks of the REGULAR session will be enough time. Unlike during sessions- past, we are seeing an unusual amount of discussion, negotiation and potential compromise now, as opposed to the final hour of the final day. That is not to say that will not happen, or that "politics" will not play a part. However, at this point, legislators seem to be heeding the public's call to do something substantive on the number one issue of the session.

Related to the property tax reform discussions, local government reform has also received a lot of attention since last fall when the Kernan- Shephard Report was issued, calling for major changes in the structure of Indiana's local units of government. While some tinkering around the edges likely will result this year, the General Assembly will probably determine that there is not enough time nor adequate information for such an overhaul. A study of local government reform could take place during the summer months, and potential legislative initiatives may be proposed for consideration during the 2009 session.

House Bill 1001 contains the property tax reform plan under consideration in the House. While it contains the majority of Governor Daniels' plan, the measure has been amended, with changes being brought by both Republicans and Democrats. This is an all-encompassing piece of legislation. In the Senate, at least 10 or 11 bills address property tax reform. For a Governor and 150 policy-makers, there are many points of common ground. But there are many divergent ideas, as well. Finding the

compromise as the session continues is the challenge for lawmakers.

For municipal electricians, all of these topics are of interest. From a utility-related perspective, however, it has been a relatively quiet legislative session. There has been debate on the subject of mandated renewable portfolio standards (RPS) once again this year, as well as discussions regarding some changes to the current law concerning coal gasification technology investment tax credits, net metering, and whether the state should join a national climate registry for emissions. Please be assured that we are keeping a watchful eye on all legislation as it moves through the process.

For specific information, please contact Carolyn Wright, Vice President of Government and Member Services for IMPA, at (317) 575-3873 or cwright@impa.com. ☞

Good Luck Steve!

IMPA will be saying goodbye temporarily to one of its power system coordinators. Steve Brown, who has been with IMPA since April of 2000, will be deploying to Iraq and Kuwait with the U. S. Navy Customs Battalion. Chief Brown will



perform customs inspections on the equipment leaving the war zone for the U. S. He reported for duty on February 15 to complete combat skills training and customs inspector training. After his training is complete, he will serve six months overseas. Steve has served in the military for 16 years, with 14 years on active duty and two years on reserve duty. Good luck Steve - we look forward to seeing you next fall! ☞

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with evaluations and communication upgrades in the works, this program promises to provide even further benefits going forward. Additionally, energy audits by utilities can help customers identify potential areas for improvement and work towards efficiencies, realizing energy savings in the process.

The second challenge we face is encouraging less – and smarter – energy use by consumers. It may seem counter-intuitive for an electricity provider to encourage customers to conserve, but we view conservation as another resource, much like we do an actual power plant. By encouraging end-use customers to use less energy, they lower their own energy bills, thereby reducing the need for power, power plants, transmission lines, and so forth.

To help our members' customers, IMPA has launched a Consumer Corner addition to its website at www.impa.com. The site clues customers in to the simple things one can do to reduce energy, such as changing incandescent lightbulbs to compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), improving landscaping choices and making wise decisions regarding energy use. Through its efforts, IMPA hopes to demonstrate how businesses and individuals alike can have a substantial impact on the environment.

We are a power provider, but we are also proud stewards of the environment. By investigating alternative energy sources and encouraging energy conservation and efficiency, we hope to continue operating in an exciting energy world for years to come. *✎*

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