

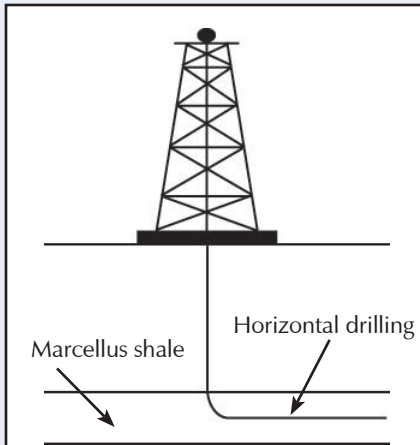


President's Message

Mega trends in energy

—by Raj G. Rao

Approximately 7,000 feet below the Earth's surface lies an energy breakthrough. Shale gas, nestled right in North America's soil, could be the next wave of a reliable, low-cost and environmentally-responsible



Shale gas wells drill to deep depths and then horizontally to retrieve the energy source. A system known as hydraulic fracking is also used to promote the flow of oil and gas in the reservoir.

energy source. It has been predicted that shale gas reserves in America and Canada could be enough to last more than 100 years. Shale gas's abundance and reliability

could lead to a greater dependency on it during the next decade.

The non-traditional natural gas is extracted by fracking and horizontal drilling. Since the shale gas sits so low, the pressure between the rocks is enormous. Hydraulic fracking works by concentrating water, sand and a small amount of chemicals to promote the flow of oil and

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Tablet technology helps IMPA go green

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) is buzzing with the excitement of going green. In an effort to reduce the Agency's paper footprint, all 54 community commissioners received an iPad and access to IMPA's member section so that they can conduct business without ever printing a page. Board packets, agendas and committee notes by paper are now a thing of the past at IMPA.



Above, a screen shot of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency's (IMPA) member portal site as it appears on a commissioner's iPad. IMPA is taking steps to become greener by reducing its paper consumption.

Instead, commissioners can come fully prepared for a meeting with only the thin tablet in their hands. What used to be stacks of paper sitting in front of them is now condensed into a few megabytes accessed by a quick touch on the iPad's screen.

Commissioners can conveniently access the Agency's documents in their own office, at the IMPA headquarters or on the go. This secure member section, which can be accessed at www.impa.com, offers the convenience of having pertinent documents organized in one place and the ease of viewing files as PDFs to fit whichever interface the user has at hand. *W*

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Customer service seminar a success



In an effort to refresh and improve customer service, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) held a daylong seminar taught by Jean Freeman. Approximately 50 employees of IMPA's member communities, who work closely with their utility's customers, attended the seminar. The seminar reminded member utility staff how critical customer service is to good business.

Commercial and industrial energy efficiency program launched



On March 1, IMPA kicked off an Energy Efficiency Program to help commercial and industrial customers save money through incentives for implementing energy-saving measures.

The Agency is offering its 54 communities a menu of services to help reduce customers' energy usage. Franklin Energy Group, a firm that specializes in implementing energy efficiency programs for utilities and states around the nation, assisting IMPA by providing their expertise on the program details. With the IMPA Energy Efficiency Program, IMPA's members' commercial and industrial customers earn incentives while simultaneously reducing their energy consumption with projects like these: replacing incandescent lighting with more energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), upgrading

heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment to be more energy efficient, installing more efficient motors, fans or drives and replacing refrigeration, food service and controls with more energy efficient options.

Commercial and industrial customers located in the communities IMPA serves and interested in the program should contact their local utility to obtain a menu of services, application or brochure. The information is also available by clicking on Energy Efficiency Program on IMPA's homepage at www.impa.com.

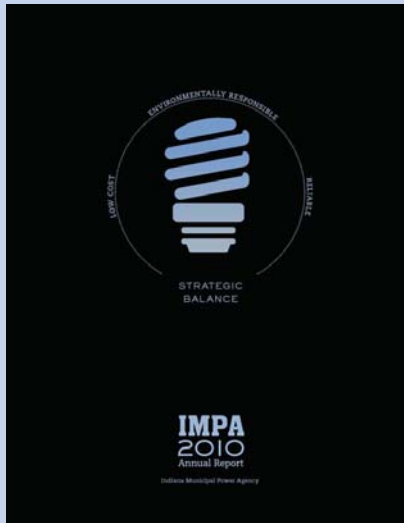
IMPA's Energy Efficiency Manager Dan Worl is overseeing the implementation of the program and working with member communities and customers to ensure all are getting the most out of the program. Worl came to IMPA in the fall of 2010 with a B. S. in organizational leadership and an A. S. in mechanical engineering technology from Purdue University. In addition, Worl received an A. S. in sustainable energy at Ivy Tech.

IMPA will hold several sessions throughout May to help local community contractors understand the program and offer them the opportunity to become a trade ally with the program. *TC*



Dan Worl was recently promoted as Indiana Municipal Power Agency's Energy Efficiency Manager and is responsible for handling the IMPA Energy Efficiency Program.

2010 IMPA Annual Report now available



The 2010 Indiana Municipal Power Agency Annual Report is now available. To view an online version of the report, visit http://www.impa.com/finance_reports.asp. To receive a copy in the mail, contact Niki Dick at (317) 575-3371 or e-mail niki@impa.com. *W*

President's letter

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gas in a reservoir. In 2010, approximately 3,400 shale gas wells were completed across the nation. In 2000, shale gas only made up about one percent of America's natural gas supplies, but today it makes up about a quarter of the natural gas supplies. America's dependency on shale gas is expected to rise to 50 percent in two decades.

The good thing is new technologies have brought down the cost of extraction to below \$3/MBTU. This opens up the possibility of using natural gas for transportation, replacing Middle East petroleum imports. Natural gas driven trucks and public transportation are already a proven technology. Further, the abundant natural gas can also be used for generation of electricity. To keep up with the growing energy needs, whether it is in production of electricity or transportation including automobiles, the abundant, low cost supply of natural gas available in North America may be a viable solution.

Yes, if we can eliminate our dependence on petroleum imports from the Middle East with our own shale natural gas, it could be the start of a mega trend in the future of the world's energy supply. *W*

Project Watch

Prairie State Energy Campus

The Prairie State Energy Campus power plant construction project is approximately 69 percent complete. The Unit 1 boiler will soon be chemically cleaned and flushed with steam prior to its startup and testing.

The remaining work to be completed on Unit 1 is to put the final touches on the flue gas ductwork and environmental control equipment devices. Work continues on the Unit 2 boiler, steam turbine sections, flue gas ductwork, and environmental control equipment. Also notable at the plant is the completion of the rail loop. At the Lively Grove Mine, construction is 76 percent complete and on schedule. The coal conveying systems from the mine to the power plant are complete and the first coal has been delivered at the plant. *W*



IMPA communities share their voice with legislators



The annual American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Rally in Washington D. C. was a tremendous success this year. Several Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) communities were represented by their IMPA Board Commissioner and community officials. Those who attended were given excellent opportunities to discuss legislation that could affect municipal utilities. Between meetings with Indiana congressmen and Indiana senators Richard Lugar (pictured above, front middle) and Dan Coats, attendees were able to give their communities a voice and help influence future legislation. A special thanks is due to those who attended the rally for helping shape the future of public power. *W*

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