

IMPA Wire



News from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency
March/April 2020 • Volume 25, Issue 2

Legislative Update

The Indiana General Assembly completed the 2020 “short” legislative session and adjourned *sine die* shortly after midnight on March 12th, before the statutory deadline of March 14th. The General Assembly was fortunate to have finished when they did, as shortly after adjournment, the COVID-19 outbreak altered the course of all state business.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis, and the many resulting postponements and cancellations, one of the most critical developments has been the delay of Indiana’s May 5th Primary Election until June 2nd. The Election Commission met on March 25th and approved changes to the voting process for this Primary to allow all, in addition to in-person voting, registered voters to vote by mail. Currently, Indiana voters can vote absentee by mail only if they have a specific reason. All deadlines related to the Primary Election have been extended 28 days to correspond with the new date. The new voter registration deadline is May 4th, and early voting begins May 5th.

The General Assembly focused on several key issue areas during the 2020 legislative session. For IMPA and our municipal electric members, we watched all legislation for possible impact on our interests. Several energy and utility-related bills were introduced, but those issues did not dominate the agenda except House Enrolled Act 1414, known as

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IMPA’s Response to a Global Pandemic

The rapid emergence of COVID-19 shocked the global community and changed the daily lives of millions in the United States, as well as here in Indiana. As a power provider, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency’s (IMPA) role in maintaining high quality electric service for its 61 member communities became more essential than ever before. Through the challenging outbreak, IMPA has remained committed to the health and safety of its member utilities, communities, and its staff, eagerly complying with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and state mandates. As the Agency continues to monitor the ever-evolving global situation, IMPA is proud to continue providing the low-cost, reliable, and environmentally responsible power that is so essential to our communities through this pandemic.

Access to power is a crucial need for communities as they battle the COVID-19 crisis. With record numbers of individuals working from home on remote devices, power is the lifeline that keeps many businesses operating and productive. Electricity helps provide a sense of normalcy during this challenging time, giving individuals the ability to call and FaceTime friends and family, watch educational videos, participate in live religious services, stream entertaining content, and stay up to date on the development of the international pandemic. Power is the underlying element that is keeping our world and communities connected through COVID-19. IMPA continues to work with its member communities through this difficult time to supply the indispensable service of electric power.

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IMPA Offers Webinars



Through the current global pandemic, IMPA has been working to help professionals stay connected. Fortunately, current technology allows the Agency to explore new opportunities in sharing ideas and information through virtual meetings. In April, a series of educational webinars organized by IMPA staff provided forums for conversations regarding social media implementation and the future workforce. These successful webinars connected IMPA's member communities with marketing and economic development professionals, and the Agency is looking forward to offering more webinars in the weeks to come as more and more individuals work from home.

Continuing throughout the summer is a series of webinars that specifically cover topics in economic development. As communities seek opportunities to support local businesses, these economic development webinars provide actionable tips and insights that can be applied in the towns and cities that IMPA serves. As each webinar takes place, a recording of the virtual seminar is uploaded to IMPA's website so that members who are not able to attend still have access to the valuable information. IMPA webinars are free to all IMPA members and member employees. Visit impa.com/webinars to view past training series and stay up to date on future webinars. *W*

Economic Development Webinar Schedule



New Ways to Tell Your Community's Story

May 11 | 10am- 11am EST

Maureen Krauss, *CEO of Donohue Krauss LLC*



Data Centers 101

June 23 | 10am- 11am EST

Joe Suppers, *Founder & President of NodeCom*



Site Certification: The 5 W's

July 21 | 10am- 11am EST

Courtney Zaugg, *Founder and CEO of Plaka*

Visit impa.com/edwebinars to register.
Separate registration is required for each training session.

Legislative Update

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the “coal bailout” bill. HEA 1414 adds some additional regulatory provisions for utilities to follow if they plan to retire any Indiana coal plants prior to May 1, 2021. The two-year 21st Century Energy Policy Development Task Force will be completing its work in December, making policy recommendations for the legislature’s consideration in the next legislative session. The COVID-19 emergency will likely add a challenging new dynamic to Task Force meetings as it deliberates Indiana’s energy resources and future energy policies. *70*

For more information, contact Carolyn Wright, Vice President of Government Relations, at cwright@impa.com.

Annual Report Now Available



IMPA’s 2019 Annual Report, “Transformation,” is now available online! To request a hard copy, contact Niki Dick at niki@impa.com or 317-573-9955.

Global Pandemic

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Amid growing concerns in early March, IMPA made the well-informed decision to limit travel to and from its 61 member communities to preserve the health and well-being of the numerous towns and cities that the Agency serves. Canceling and postponing upcoming events such as the IMPA Annual Meeting, monthly workshops, and April’s Lineman Appreciation event served to protect the Agency’s member communities and staff. Approaching the abrupt outbreak of COVID-19 in Indiana, IMPA quickly adapted to remote work and holding virtual board meetings and webinars to substitute for physical gatherings. Through these changes, the Agency remained in close communication with its member utilities to share vital information and develop resource guides for members. Public health continues to be at the forefront of IMPA’s concerns as the Agency provides access to reliable power across Indiana and Ohio.

While many staff members are working remotely to combat the spread of COVID-19, several IMPA specialists, including power plant operators, lineworkers, engineering and operations personnel, and market operations coordinators, continue working in the field and at the IMPA office to protect the electric grid and ensure our communities’ access to power. As an essential service provider of electric power, IMPA still has staff on

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IMPA’s crew of lineworkers continue working in the field to ensure essential access to power.



Lineworkers are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide a reliable supply of electricity.



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, Indiana 46032

The IMPA Wire is published by the
Indiana Municipal Power Agency

Phillip Goode, Chairman

Raj G. Rao, President

Send submissions and suggestions to:

Whitney Hicks · IMPA Wire
Indiana Municipal Power Agency
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032
(317) 573-9955
whitneyh@impa.com

www.impa.com



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Global Pandemic

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the front lines, operating generation facilities, maintaining electric infrastructure, and monitoring the power market to provide electricity to homes and essential businesses. Without these skilled individuals, the public power system would not function. IMPA is working to keep these individuals safe so that they can continue performing their essential tasks for the Agency's member communities. Social distancing and hygienic precautions are consistently practiced by these professionals so that they remain healthy.

"During this pandemic, IMPA embraces its role as an essential service to thousands of individuals in our communities across Indiana and Ohio," said IMPA President and CEO Raj Rao. "All of our staff is working to provide secure and reliable access to power, whether they are working remotely, along utility lines, in our market operations office at headquarters, or at one of our solar parks or power plants."

Not only are IMPA's staff members diligently working to continue supplying power, but the utility personnel in the Agency's public power communities are also working tirelessly to provide electric service in their municipality. IMPA communities are separating line crews to be in smaller groups and requiring their offices to operate with smaller teams. The ongoing coordination between IMPA and all member community utility staff has been vital in assuring a continuous power supply to all 61 member communities.

IMPA is proud to do its part to help combat the spread of COVID-19 and continue providing low-cost, reliable, and environmentally responsible power all the while. All IMPA teams and services remain available through this challenging time and continue to work for the benefit of all 61 member communities.

For updates on IMPA's response to the COVID-19 crisis and a compilation of helpful resources, visit www.impa.com/covid19. *W*