



President's Message

Maintaining your Public Power Utility

—by Raj G. Rao

Indiana's 72 municipal electric communities are part of a vast network of over 2,000 public power utilities nationwide. Together, they deliver power to over 49 million people in 49 states and 5 US territories. Public power utilities provide local ownership, local jobs, and reliable service. They exist to serve their customers – NOT shareholders – keeping electricity rates reasonable for customers. The local utility provides jobs for local people, who work to deliver the most reliable service possible to customers. That reliability is rooted not only in the local utility's people, but in its infrastructure and equipment as well.

Taking care of your utility's infrastructure is vital to maintaining reliability and security in your service to customers. While putting off maintenance or delaying upgrades increases cash flow in the short term for many utilities, over time it can lead to more costly improvements. In the meantime, customers are often the ones caught in the middle as they experience less than reliable service if the utility's infrastructure is not maintained.

One cost effective service many utilities can tackle today is evaluating their vegetation management system to ensure they are doing all they can to prevent future issues. For one Indiana community, IMPA Service Corp observed that nearly 60% of the service requests

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IMPA and the City of Anderson celebrate 5 MW solar park



Children from local schools joined with Mayor Tom Broderick, State Representative Terri Austin, Senator Tim Lanane, AML&P Superintendent Tony Pochard and IMPA President and CEO Raj Rao to cut the ribbon on the Anderson 1 Solar Park.

Children from local Anderson schools joined with Anderson Mayor Tom Broderick, representatives of the City of Anderson, Anderson Municipal Light and Power (AML&P) Electric Utility Director Tony Pochard, AML&P employees and Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) representatives to officially cut the ribbon on the Anderson 1 Solar Park in June.

The solar facility is the thirteenth such facility constructed by IMPA throughout the state, and is the largest at 5 Megawatts (MW). The Anderson 1 Solar Park is located on 35 acres of land and is comprised of 19,584 panels. The facility can produce up to 5 MW of energy, or enough to power approximately 750 homes.

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IMPA Recognizes State Senators with Legislative Award



State Senators Jim Merritt and Eric Koch were recently recognized by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) for their efforts this past legislative session in supporting IMPA and Indiana's municipal electric communities.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, Senators Merritt and Koch authored Senate Enrolled Act 2 (SEA 2), which modernizes the statute that originally created IMPA in the early 1980s. The new legislation recognizes many of the changes that have occurred in the electric utility industry over the past 36 years, including the evolving relationship between IMPA and its members. SEA 2 provides updates that allow IMPA to continue serving its member communities with low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible power, as well as many other critical services, well into the future. SEA 2 was passed unanimously by both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly earlier this year and signed into law by Governor Holcomb.

"As chairman of the Senate Committee on Utilities, it is one of my top priorities every session to ensure that Hoosiers across the state have access to reliable and affordable power," said Senator Merritt. "It was my pleasure to work on Senate Enrolled Act 2 to further this goal."

"IMPA greatly appreciates the effort put forth by Senators Merritt and Koch this past legislative session on behalf of IMPA and Indiana's municipal electric communities," commented Raj Rao, President and CEO of IMPA. "The world, and more specifically the utility industry, has changed greatly since IMPA began operations back in 1983. SEA 2 ensures that IMPA is able to maintain the strong partnership we have with our municipal electric community members, as well as continue to provide the customers in their service territories with reliable and low-cost power. We are extremely grateful to both Senators for their leadership and for guiding SEA 2 through the process. We are honored to present the Senators with IMPA's 2017 Legislative Service Award."

The 2017 Legislative Awards were presented to Senators Merritt and Koch at the Agency's monthly board meeting on June 30th. *W*

2017 Summer State Legislative Activities

Each year during the regular state legislative session, many resolutions are passed that seek further review of certain subject matter that might be extremely complex, too expensive, or just too controversial to be handled during that session. The Legislative Council, the governing arm of the General Assembly when the legislature is not in session, takes all of that into account and then selects which topics will be addressed by a study committee. These committees typically meet throughout the late summer and fall months and then make recommendations to the full General Assembly for the next legislative session.

Some of the difficult issues from the last legislative session to be studied this summer include a comprehensive look at Indiana's alcoholic beverage laws, local restrictions on short-term rentals, confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), jail overcrowding, education-related issues, various tax matters, healthcare, and several Bureau of Motor Vehicle issues.

The Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications will be receiving the annual reports from the IURC and the OUCC, and will study self-generation of electricity by school corporations, the construction of wind power devices, including health effects, public safety implications, property values, policies surrounding conflicts of interest and economic development, pole attachment rates on utility poles owned or controlled

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Prairie State Energy Campus Tour



Representatives from several of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency's member communities, as well as personnel from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) and the offices of Congresswoman Susan Brooks and Congressman Jim Banks, joined IMPA staff on a visit to the Prairie State Energy Campus earlier this summer.

Over 30 people toured the Prairie State facility, where attendees were able to see the plant in action and gain a better understanding of how the mine-mouth coal fired facility provides power to hundreds of thousands of consumers in Midwestern public power communities.

Staff from the IURC, Congresswoman Susan Brooks's and Congressman Jim Banks's offices joined a group of IMPA's Members on a tour of the Prairie State Energy Campus and Lively Grove coal mine. The Congressional staff members commented that they greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn more about public power, Prairie State and the municipal electric utilities in their district.

IMPA is a co-owner of Prairie State, along with eight other nonprofit, public power joint action agencies and generation/transmission cooperatives. The 1630 megawatt (MW) plant consists of two 815 MW units and the adjacent Lively Grove coal mine. Having onsite coal reserves eliminates the need to ship coal to the plant and reduces emissions associated with delivering coal to the electric plant. Additionally, Prairie State was designed to meet and exceed the latest environmental regulations, and has achieved some of the highest standards of efficiency and emissions control. *☞*

IMPA Commissioner Honored with National Award

Rising Sun Utilities Superintendent and IMPA Commissioner Shawn Guidice was recently named a recipient of the 2017 American Public Power Association (APPA) Seven Hats Award.



The American Public Power Association, the national organization representing the needs of over 2,000 public power utilities across the United States, annually recognizes utilities and individuals that support and benefit the interests of public power. Guidice received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award, which was created to recognize utility managers who serve in the nation's smaller communities and whose management responsibilities extend beyond those of a manager in a larger system with larger staff. Individuals who receive the award must demonstrate expertise and skill in seven different areas: planning and design, administration, public relations, field supervision, accounting, human resources and community leadership.

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency appreciates Guidice's commitment to his utility, his community, the Agency and public power as a whole. His leadership and dedication to advancing the mission of public power are impressive. Congratulations! *☞*

Solar Park

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IMPA is constructing a second solar park in Anderson, with a capacity of over 8 MW, that is scheduled to come online later this year. To date, IMPA has constructed thirteen solar parks totaling 24.25 MW throughout the state. Anderson, Argos, Bainbridge, Crawfordsville, Frankton, Huntingburg, Pendleton, Peru, Rensselaer, Richmond, Tell City, Washington and Waynetown all are home to solar parks built by IMPA, ranging in size from .25 MW to 5 MW. *☞*



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received were related to vegetation management. When the utility initiated proper vegetation management, they were able to drastically reduce the number of nighttime and weather related emergency service calls. By simply increasing their tree trimming efforts and more strictly maintaining vegetation, they've made a positive impact on overall reliability as well as community morale.

Two of the trademarks of public power are reliable service and economic rates. Through vegetation management and infrastructure improvements, public power utilities are able to keep these two trademarks alive and well. Undertaking a proactive approach to vegetation management and other infrastructure improvements means any potential issues can be prevented within both your utility's work and budget schedule, keeping service reliable to customers while maintaining a low-cost bottom line. *🌱*

Legislative Activities

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by REMCs, and rural broadband.

The IURC conducted a technical conference to discuss questions and concerns regarding the implementation of the net metering and distributed generation section of the newly-enacted SEA 309. That section of the legislation does not apply to municipal electric utilities; however, IMPA will be monitoring the IURC's activities.

The Interim Study Committee on Environmental Affairs will examine Indiana's public water supply, including lead removal, affordability of water utility service and overall adequacy of water in Indiana. Improving Indiana's aging water infrastructure, as well as addressing supply issues, will be a major focus of the legislature moving forward.

For additional information, please go to <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/committees/interim> for a complete listing of all interim study committees. *🌱*