Gas City Municipal Utilities

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Volume 22, Issue 2 | Summer 2016

Dick Justice, Gas City's Electric Supervisor, will now serve as Gas City's Commissioner for the Indiana Municipal Power Agency.

Meet Gas City's New IMPA Commissioner

The City of Gas City recently appointed Gas City's Electric Supervisor, Dick Justice, to serve on the Indiana Municipal Power Agency's (IMPA) Board of Commissioners. In addition to serving on IMPA's Board, Justice also serves as the President of the Indiana Municipal Electric Association.

As an IMPA commissioner, Justice will represent Gas City's public power interests and provide essential input in directing IMPA's future. Justice will be a vital addition to the Board as he has a working knowledge of both the City of Gas City as well as the management and maintenance of electrical infrastructure.

IMPA provides wholesale electric power to 60 communities, and each community has a representative on the Board. The Board is comprised of a diverse group of individuals with backgrounds

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Anatomy of an Electric Utility Pole

Utility poles are a common sight throughout the United States, as they are located adjacent to many roadways that are visible while driving. While you see these poles every day, have you ever thought about the function of the poles and the lines and attachments that hang onto them?

Utility poles play an important role in electrical distribution, which is a fancy term for how electricity travels to your home or business. All of the lines and attachments that sit on the utility pole play an essential role in this process. Read on to learn more about the different parts that make up your everyday electric power pole.

1. Insulator: The insulator prevents wires from coming into contact with each other on the utility pole, which could cause fires, outages and other dangerous conditions.

2. Guy wire: The guy wire is a tensioned wire that helps to stabilize the utility pole to the ground.

3. Transformer: An electrical device, typically in a metallic enclosure, that converts high voltage electricity to a lower voltage for use in homes and businesses.

4. Fuse cutout: A combination of a fuse and a switch, the fuse cutout is used to protect power lines and other equipment from surges or overloads by disconnecting the power line from a transformer.

5. Crossarm: This horizontal piece of the utility pole is typically made of high-quality wood and holds power lines and other equipment, such as transformers, onto the pole.

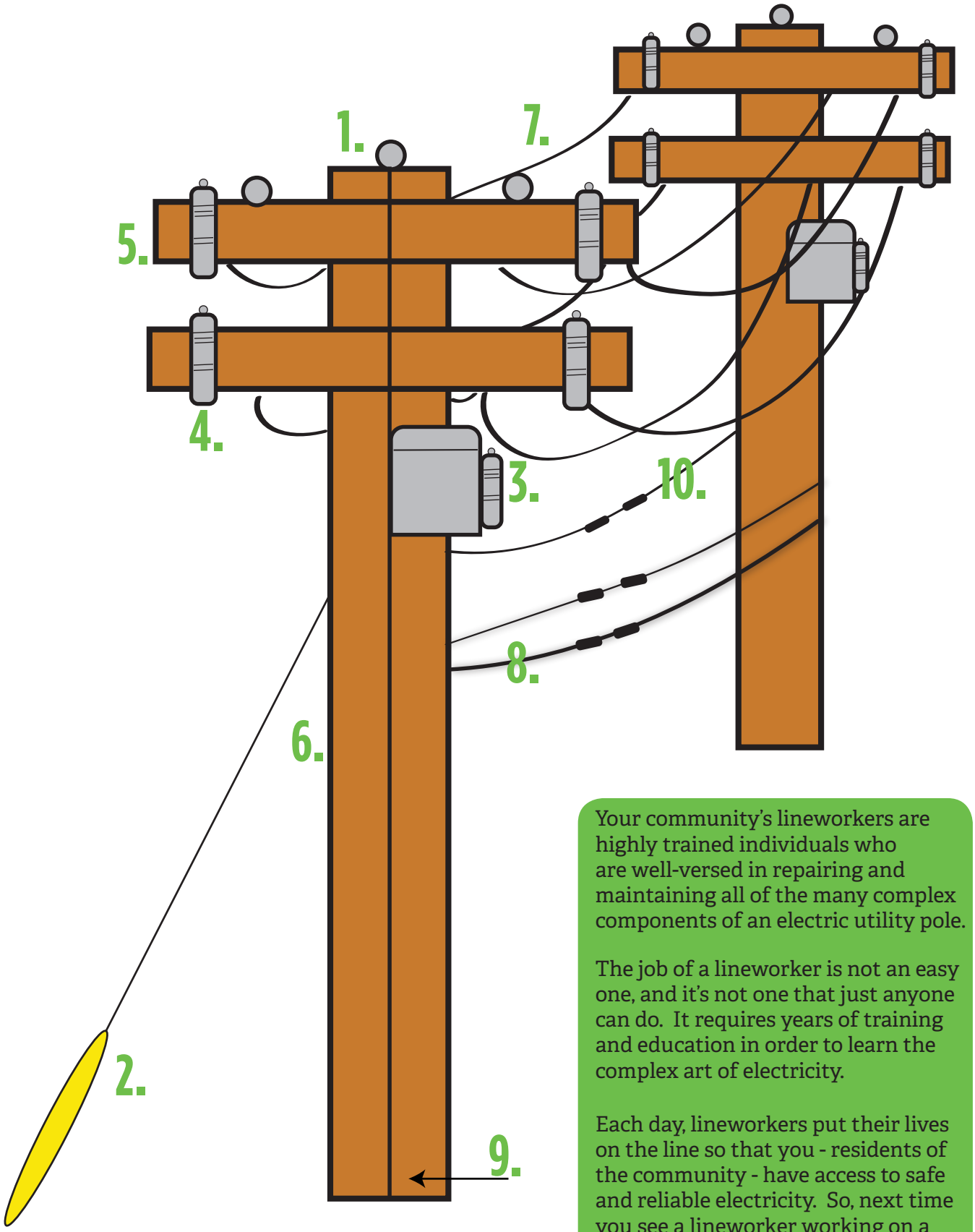
6. Utility pole: The utility pole is typically made of wood or steel, and can range in height from 30 feet to more than 100 feet. The pole serves as the backbone for the electric line and holds all of the components and equipment.

7. Primary wire: These wires are on the very top of the utility pole, and usually carry high voltage electricity from a substation.

8. Lowest wires: Utility poles don't just hold electric wires; other wires, such as telephone or cable wires, are also attached to these poles. Typically, these wires are found closest to the ground and are the lowest wire on the utility pole.

9. Ground wire: This wire runs the entire length of the utility pole, directing any electricity on the pole safely into the ground.

10. Secondary wire: Once the high voltage electricity has been converted to a lower voltage, the secondary wire carries that electricity to homes and businesses.



Your community's lineworkers are highly trained individuals who are well-versed in repairing and maintaining all of the many complex components of an electric utility pole.

The job of a lineworker is not an easy one, and it's not one that just anyone can do. It requires years of training and education in order to learn the complex art of electricity.

Each day, lineworkers put their lives on the line so that you - residents of the community - have access to safe and reliable electricity. So, next time you see a lineworker working on a utility pole, stop and thank them for their service to the community.

City's Utilities Superintendent Retires

After serving as the Superintendent for Gas City Municipal Utilities for many years, Ray Smith retired from his position on May 4, 2016. Smith leaves a lasting legacy on public power, not only in Gas City, but also throughout the State of Indiana.

In his role as the Superintendent, Smith was responsible for overseeing all operations of Gas City's utilities, which includes water, wastewater and electric. During his tenure, Smith played an integral role in planning for the future power supply of Gas City, and helped spearhead the decision to join the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) in 2006. Since joining IMPA, the city now purchases 100 percent of its power requirements from IMPA, ensuring that Gas City residents continue to receive a low-cost, reliable power supply.

Smith's dedication to Gas City Municipal Utilities extended beyond his work day. He represented the city and its utility on the IMPA Board of Commissioners since the city joined in 2006. He also participated in IMPA's Executive and Legislative Committees. Smith was also heavily involved with the Indiana Municipal Electric Association, serving as the president of the Association in 2004 and as a committee member of the Nominating & Awards and Mutual Aid committees.

"Ray played an integral role in IMPA's development and leadership as a dedicated Commissioner," stated Raj Rao, President and CEO of IMPA. "All of IMPA wishes Ray well in his retirement."

The City of Gas City appreciates Smith's years of service to the community and to the utility. IMPA and all Gas City officials wish him well in his retirement!

Ray Smith served as the Superintendent of Gas City Municipal Utilities for many years before retiring from his office this year.

Community Building Renovation Project in the Works

A $400,000 grant will help breathe new life into one community building in Gas City. This grant, which was awarded by the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs, is part of the Public Facilities Program, which aims to focus on long-term community development projects. These funds will go towards a complete interior and exterior renovation on the longstanding Hontz Hall Community Center, located inside the Gas City Park. Renovations include a kitchen remodel, updated restrooms and many other infrastructure-based updates.

The Gas City Electric Department has assisted with the renovations on Hontz Hall as well. In order to ensure that the building would have access to the most reliable electricity, the department

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Commissioner

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ranging from utility superintendents and lineworkers to town council members and clerk-treasurers. Although their daily jobs may be different, these individuals do have one thing in common when they arrive at an IMPA Board meeting – their commitment to their community. Justice is no different.

IMPA commissioners dedicate their time and energy to the Board, a commitment outside the realm of their daily life. Justice will give his time to attend meetings and workshops so that he may bring information back and use it in Gas City. Justice and IMPA's other commissioners evaluate proposals, plan for the future and make decisions that are in the best interest of their community's municipal electric utility customers.

IMPA's commissioners serve another role as well – that of communicators. Justice will serve as a channel of communication between IMPA and Gas City. He is responsible for bringing information about the community and its needs to IMPA, as well as taking information learned from IMPA back to share with those in Gas City. Amongst all the obligations of a commissioner, this is perhaps one of the most important duties. IMPA is a member-driven organization. It exists because of its member communities, and to serve its member communities. As Gas City's representative to the Board, Justice will be an advocate for public power to ensure that Gas City's customers continuously receive low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible electric power from IMPA.

Tidbits & Trivia

Question: Which type of wire on a utility pole carries the high voltage electricity from a substation?

a) Secondary wire
b) Primary wire
c) Ground wire
d) None of the above

Send your answer to the question to IMPA, and we will randomly select winners from all of the correct entries to receive an energy efficiency prize pack. Please send your name, e-mail address and address with your answer to:

newsletter@impa.com

OR

MPN Energy Efficiency Quiz
11610 North College Avenue
Carmel, IN 46032

The **Indiana Municipal Power Agency** (IMPA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides a low cost, reliable and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members.

IMPA member utilities purchase their power from IMPA and deliver that power to the residents and companies within the community.

Substation

noun.

A facility used for switching and/or changing or regulating the voltage of electric energy. A substation may tie generating stations to transmission systems or transmission systems to distribution systems.

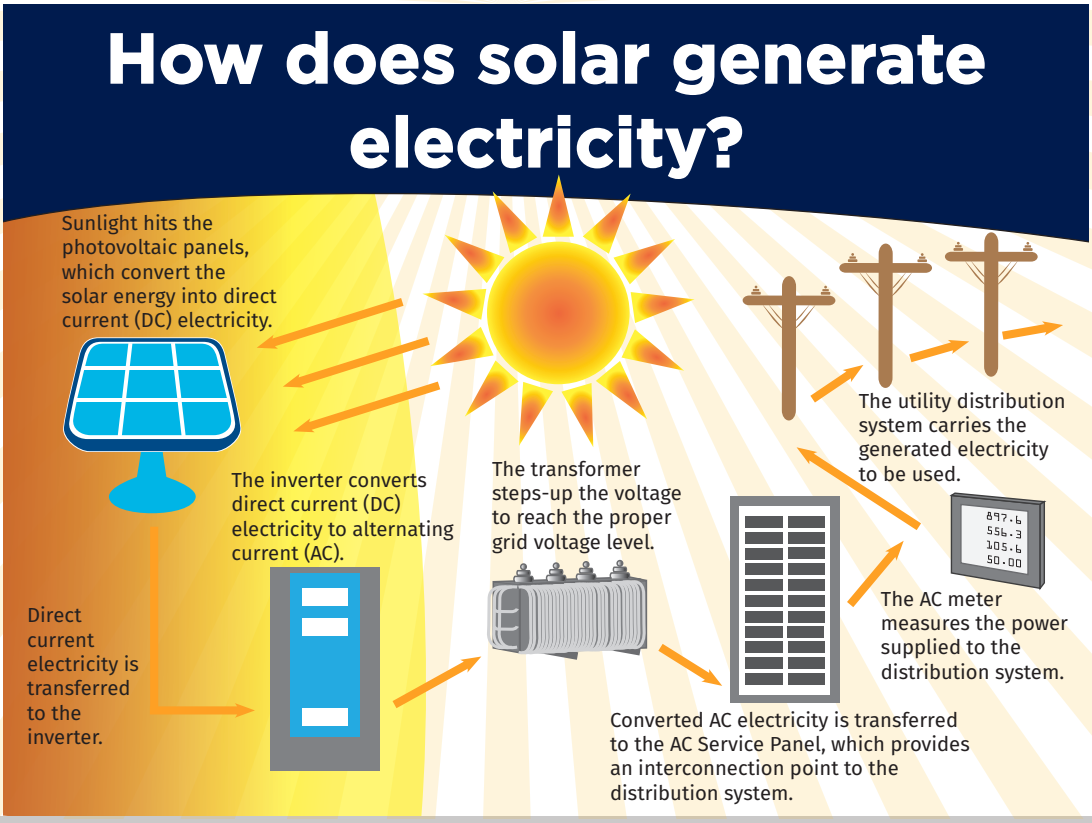
IMPA Continues Building Solar Parks in Local Communities

Throughout the last two years, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) has constructed nine solar parks in large and small IMPA communities throughout Indiana. This year, the Agency is in the midst of constructing four additional solar parks in the communities of Anderson, Huntingburg, Waynetown and Washington. These solar parks are all aimed at adding more renewable and economical energy resources to IMPA's power portfolio.

When energy is created by the solar parks, it is then placed onto the local distribution system in whichever town or city the solar park is located in. As the solar power is produced, it becomes a part of all of the electric generation that is supplying the system, which is typically a mixture of power produced via coal, natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear.

The process of generating electricity from the sun may seem to be a complex one, but in reality, is really quite simple. When sunlight hits the solar panels, the panels convert that energy into direct current electricity. That electricity is transferred to an inverter, located within the solar park. The inverter then takes the direct current electricity and converts it into alternating current (AC) electricity. Once converted to AC, the transformer steps-up the voltage to the proper level, and is then transferred to the interconnection point on the distribution system. The AC meter measures the energy from the solar park prior to its connection to the distribution system and ultimately the customer.

IMPA plans to add approximately 10 megawatts of solar capacity into its overall power portfolio each year, meaning more and more IMPA member communities will have solar parks within the coming years. For more information on IMPA's solar parks, visit www.impa.com.



Cooking Corner

For a chance to be featured in the newsletter and win a prize, send your recipe to:

MPN Recipes
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032
or
newsletter@impa.com

Chicken and Dumpling Casserole

Recipe submitted by Vicky Hicks-Spear of Tell City, Indiana.

-1 pound chicken breasts
-2 cups chicken broth
-1/4 cup butter
-2 cups Bisquick
-2 cups whole milk
-1 can cream of chicken soup
- 3 tsp. chicken bouillon
-1/2 tsp. sage
-1 tsp. black pepper
-1/2 stick butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a 9x13 baking pan, melt 1/2 stick butter. Shred chicken and spread over butter. Sprinkle black pepper and sage over the chicken. Do not stir. In a small bowl, mix milk and Bisquick. Slowly pour over chicken. In another medium bowl, whisk together 2 cups of chicken broth, chicken bouillon and soup. Once blended, slowly pour over the Bisquick layer. Bake casserole for 30 to 40 minutes, or until golden brown.

Strawberry Delight

Recipe submitted by Burdett Parsons of Washington, Indiana.

-1 pre-made angel food cake
-8 oz. cream cheese
-16 oz. strawberry glaze
-16 oz. tub whipped cream
-1 1/3 cup sugar
-1 qt. fresh strawberries

Tear angel food cake into pieces and mix with 1/3 of the tub of whipped cream. Put whipped cream mixture into the bottom of a serving dish. Mix the rest of the whipped cream with the cream cheese and the sugar and place on top of the cake. Slice strawberries into quarters and mix with the strawberry glaze. Then, spread the strawberry mixture over the top of the cake.

The **MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS** is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 60 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

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IMPA Commissioner: Dick Justice

Community Building

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converted the power lines leading to Hontz Hall from single phase to three phase. It's easiest to think of power lines like the branches of a tree: in a three-phase power system, power lines branch out from a local substation, and the three power lines carry electricity to homes and businesses, such as Hontz Hall. If one power line experiences an outage, the other two lines may not be affected and could continue carrying electricity as usual. However, in a single-phase system, all homes and businesses are on the same, singular power line. If an outage occurs, everyone is affected. Upgrading this portion of the electric system that leads to the Hall will increase reliability and bring a greater balance to the power lines in the area.

City officials hope that the renovations and updates to Hontz Hall will be complete by the end of September. Once finished, the City of Gas City will have an updated community building to use for a variety of public and private events.

Hontz Hall is in the process of undergoing significant interior and exterior renovations in order to utilize the building to its fullest potential.