THE WIRE

News from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency
May/June • Volume 30, Issue 3

Agency Pursues Battery Project

IMPA's power supply portfolio includes coal plants, combustion turbines, wind power, nuclear power, and 52 solar parks throughout the Agency's member communities. This diversity in generation empowers the Agency to strategize for a better tomorrow while providing high quality electricity today. Historically, IMPA has benefitted from wise investments in innovative projects to stay on the cutting edge of new generation technologies that prepare the Agency for the future. One such effort is an upcoming battery storage pilot project at an IMPA solar park in Richmond, Indiana.

While renewable energy adds valuable resources to any utility's energy mix, sources such as wind and solar still run into the problem of intermittency. Wind turbines and solar parks generate electricity when the wind is blowing and the sun is shining. However, utility customers need power 24 hours a day, regardless of the weather or time of day, so relying solely on renewables

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Inside

IMPA Members Tour Generation Facilities

This spring, IMPA staff took leaders from the Agency's member communities on tours at both the Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC) in Southern Illinois and Whitewater Valley Station in Richmond, Indiana. Both of these generating facilities supply integral electricity to IMPA's diverse power supply portfolio, and the touring groups learned about each plant's contribution to member communities.

IMPA holds a 12.64% undivided ownership interest in PSEC, contributing about 200 megawatts to the Agency's power supply portfolio. The entire campus includes a pulverized coal-fired generating station and an adjacent underground coal mine, both of which attendees toured. PSEC is a base load

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Battery Project

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becomes difficult. Battery storage technology promises to help with this issue of intermittency, but the effectiveness of industrial-sized storage is still uncertain because batteries can only fill the gap over short durations, typically four hours. In preparation for future developments, IMPA plans to investigate the possibilities of battery storage.

The battery project design is intended to allow the solar park in Richmond to store 24 megawatts (MW) of energy. This means that when dispatched, the battery will be able to discharge six MW of power onto Richmond's distribution system for four hours. Once fully charged, the battery will be able to hold onto that power until needed, providing a beneficial resource to both IMPA and the local utility in Richmond.

"This test project will help our staff familiarize themselves with the technology while demonstrating the viability and nuances of battery storage for renewable resources," said Chris Sanders, IMPA Vice President of Generation. "If the project meets our expectations, it will add additional dispatchable resources to our power supply portfolio and will allow us to shift our load strategically when market prices fluctuate. With the data we collect from this project, we'll determine if incorporating batteries into other solar parks is worthwhile."

IMPA continues working closely with Richmond Power and Light to develop the project, ensuring that the battery storage equipment accomodates the local utility's existing infrastructure. The Agency also consulted with other not-for-profit power providers who have experience in battery storage projects to maximize the potential for a successful project. IMPA plans to begin installation of equipment to support the project this fall.

"We are always working to balance innovation with cost-effectiveness at IMPA," said Jack Alvey, President and CEO of IMPA. "Pursuing this battery project, which will deliver economic benefits, is the next step in planning for the energy needs of tomorrow." •

Crawfordsville Mayor Recognized by APPA

On June 10, the American Public Power Association (APPA) honored Mayor Barton of Crawfordsville, Indiana with the Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award. This award recognizes elected officials who have made outstanding contributions to APPA's goals and prestige. As Crawfordsville's mayor since 2012, Barton has made a name for himself as a public power advocate, whether supporting the local utility, public power communities across Indiana, or federal legislation that advances the interests of municipal utilities.

Barton (center) accepting the APPA Award.

Mayor Barton commits his time to being an energetic supporter of various electric system improvement projects for Crawfordsville's service territory. During Mayor Barton's four terms as Crawfordsville's

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Indiana Legislative Session Wraps Up

On April 25th, the Indiana General Assembly closed out its 2025 legislative session, sending 244 bills and 3 joint resolutions to Governor Braun for his signature into law. Through the session, several consequential bills pertaining to the electric industry were approved, including incentives to manufacture and build Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). SMR technology is a form of nuclear generation that is smaller than traditional nuclear power generation. Other bills expedite regulatory procedures for electricity generation for large load customers (including data centers and advanced manufacturing), siting for generation projects, and provide regulatory processes for retiring or refueling existing coal facilities. Additionally, a measure dealing with communications providers seeking to attach their facilities to electric utility poles passed. IMPA kept a close eye on other areas of interest, such as economic development, environment, cybersecurity, and all things local government.

Though the legislative session has wrapped for the year, IMPA's Government Relations team will continue to monitor any developments at the state and federal levels. Through participation and close monitoring of the Indiana General Assembly and Congress, IMPA works to ensure that the needs and concerns of the Agency's 61 member communities are represented.

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Generation Facilities

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generating station, and the campus is among the cleanest coal plants in the United States, with state-of-the-art environmental control technologies.

Whitewater Valley Station is a peak load generating station, coming online when energy needs surge. The station consists of two coal-fired units. Unit 1 has a generating capacity of 35 MW and Unit 2 has a capacity of 65 MW. Not only did IMPA's tour group get to see the coal-fired units, but they were also able to see one of IMPA's solar parks, which is located next to Whitewater Valley.

IMPA is proud to include both campuses in its power supply portfolio and provide educational opportunities to its membership to better understand how electricity is produced.

IMPA
Indiana Municipal Power Agency

11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, Indiana 46032

The IMPA Wire is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency

Dick Justice, Chairman

Jack F. Alvey, President

Send submissions/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

Printed on recycled stock

Crawfordsville Mayor

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leader, he helped the city's electric system increase reliability and become more environmentally responsible, all while remaining a low-cost electric provider. In recent years, he played an instrumental role in negotiating service territory with an investor-owned utility to bring a large bedding manufacturer to the community, benefiting the local utility and the economy of the city. He also attends economic development sales trips around the country, actively seeking to drive business to his community through highlighting the benefits of public power. These are just a handful of the myriad ways that Mayor Barton supports Crawfordsville's utility and public power nationwide.

"Mayor Barton provides unwavering support to our public power utility," said Allison Huenemann, General Manager of Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power. "His dedication to advancing renewable energy, particularly through local solar projects and electric vehicle charging initiatives, has been instrumental in driving sustainable growth. Mayor Barton provides valuable oversight while empowering us to operate effectively and meet the community's evolving needs. His proactive efforts in economic development, and in collaboration with our utility, ensure that our initiatives align with the City's vision for a prosperous future. We are grateful for his leadership and commitment to our shared success."