

IMPA Named Top 20 Utility for Economic Development

Site Selection magazine has once again named the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) as one of its Top 20 US Utilities in economic development for 2021. Site Selection magazine, published by Conway Inc., delivers expansion planning information to 47,000 executives of fast-growing firms. Since 1954, Conway Inc. has been a trusted advisor to corporations, government economic development, and investment promotion agencies around the world. Being recognized as a top-notch utility for economic development by Conway Inc.'s Site Selection magazine reaffirms IMPA's excellence in cultivating employer attraction, expansion, and growth.

The 20 utilities chosen for the designation are determined by examining corporate end-user project investment and

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Linemen Appreciation Event Recognizes Essential Workers

On September 21, 2021, IMPA held its first ever Lineman Appreciation Event to recognize the dedication and commitment of Indiana's public power utility linemen to the communities they serve. Over 100 public power leaders and lineworkers from IMPA and its member communities joined to celebrate these frontline workers who exercise the utmost skill, expertise, and teamwork to keep the lights on in IMPA member communities each and every day.

The fun-filled day featured axe throwing, a cornhole tournament, raffle prizes, lunch, numerous vendors, and the presentation of IMPA's first Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award.

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Top 20 Utility

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affiliated job creation in those utilities' territories the previous calendar year, evaluated on a cumulative and per-capita basis. They also consider economic development programs and incentives for business, including energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, marketing/outreach, and rates. The top 20 utilities chosen for inclusion on the list stand out among over 3,300 utilities across the United States. IMPA was selected for the honor based on the job creation and capital investment commitments announced from project activity in 2020 within IMPA member service territory.

IMPA's several economic development programs and incentives that launched it to the top of Site Selection's list include the Agency's Mystery Shopper Program and the Economic Development Rider (EDR). IMPA's Mystery Shopper Program

allows interested IMPA members to participate in a mock request for information (RFI) process. Following this process, esteemed site selectors meet with the participating members to deliver feedback and help them gain knowledge and skills for future RFIs. IMPA's EDR provides an opportunity for member industrial and commercial customers to see a reduction in the cost of electricity based upon their energy consumption. Both the Mystery Shopper Program and IMPA's EDR have been commended by the Agency's members as wonderful resources that spur development and better communities.

Additionally, IMPA's solar program, which has resulted in nearly 40 solar parks constructed across the Midwest, creates a higher marketability toward potential customers who prioritize clean energy. Enhancing this advantage is IMPA's Green Power Program, which enables customers of IMPA's municipal electric utilities to support the use of renewable energy resources in the production of electricity. Several member customers value IMPA's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability, and it's been a useful development tool to attract new businesses to IMPA communities.

"IMPA is thrilled to once again be recognized as one of the top US utilities for economic development," commented Bryan Brackemyre, Vice President of Member Services for IMPA. "We take pride in working with our 61 member communities to attract businesses and industries to help grow and strengthen their economic base and quality of place."

Recipients of the designation were selected from across the country and include investor-owned utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and municipal electric utilities, as well as joint action agencies. IMPA is the only Indiana-based utility to receive the distinction this year.

For more information about IMPA's Economic Development team, visit the Agency's website at www.impa.com/economicdevelopment.

Linemen Appreciation Event

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The one-day event honored lineworkers for their hard work, innovation, and commitment to public power. However, it is every day that these utility staff members risk their lives in order to provide IMPA communities with reliable power. From restoring power during emergencies to hanging holiday lights, lineworkers serve as the backbone of any public power community. IMPA was glad to have its Lineman Appreciation Event in celebration of these workers, and encourages everyone to remember the devotion that is given by lineworkers to supply our power at all times. ●



Bob Lichtenfels of Richmond Receives Kerry Vincent Award

The IMPA Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award was established in 2021 to honor the life and legacy of Kerry Vincent, a longtime employee of IMPA and advocate for public power who passed away earlier this year. Kerry's career in the public power industry spanned the course of four decades, including time with Richmond Power and Light and IMPA. His passion for the industry and the brotherhood of linemen was evident in everything he did, and his kindness and unshakeable spirit made him a good friend to all who met him. The Kerry Vincent Award was established to recognize a lineworker from a member community that embodies the traits Kerry exhibited in his everyday life: Commitment, Compassion, Character, and Community.

Bob Lichtenfels, a 48-year veteran of Richmond Power & Light (RP&L), was unanimously chosen by the award selection committee and the IMPA Board of Commissioners to be the first recipient of the award due to his qualifications in each of those categories. Bob's lengthy career with RP&L began in 1973 when he started working for the utility as a janitor. He earned his Journeyman Lineman card in 1979 and became Line Foreman in 1994. He currently serves as Assistant Transmission and Distribution Superintendent.

Bob is a devoted and knowledgeable lineman who has served as a mentor and friend to many at RP&L throughout his tenure. Those who work alongside him describe Bob as a caring individual who is always ready to help anyone in need. Bob is also committed to serving other communities to the best of his ability, always taking the opportunity to travel and work in other communities when they request mutual aid. He has also been active in Richmond's Partners in Education program for

over 32 years, meeting with school-aged children to explain his role at RP&L and teach them what it means to be a driven worker. Throughout his career, Bob has proven himself to be a fantastic role model to both young and old.

"We are honored to present Bob with the very first Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award," commented Raj Rao, President and CEO of IMPA. "Through Kerry's Commitment, Compassion, Community dedication, and Character, he left a lasting impact on the public power community. It is fitting that an award established in his honor be given to Bob, who epitomizes those same traits in his everyday life." ●



Lichtenfels (third from right) with his wife, Vincent's family, and IMPA President and CEO Raj Rao.

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Richmond 4 Solar Park Recognized for Excellence

IMPA's Richmond 4 Solar Park project was presented the 1st place Award of Excellence at the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Excellence in Construction Awards this September. The ABC awards program honors all construction team members of a winning project, which is judged by eight different metrics: complexity, attractiveness, unique challenges overcome, completion time, workmanship, innovation, safety, and cost. The Richmond 4 Solar Park was constructed in 2020 and is one of IMPA's largest solar parks, rated at 7.0 megawatts (MW-AC). Award of Excellence recipients include all construction team members, including Brandt Construction Inc. and Gaylor Electric, who were both instrumental in the development of Richmond 4.

IMPA's Vice President of Generation, Chris Sanders, accepted the award on behalf of IMPA at the Excellence in Construction Awards Gala at the Indiana Roof Ballroom on September 30. Sanders leads many of IMPA's solar park projects throughout the state of Indiana.

"I'm glad to accept the ABC award on behalf of IMPA and the entire construction team that worked together to build the Richmond 4 Solar Park," said Sanders. "We take pride in all of our solar parks and work hard to maintain high standards through the construction of each project. Being recognized for the efforts that we put in to serve IMPA's member communities is an honor."



Chris Sanders, right, accepting the ABC Award