

## IMPA Responds to Winter Storm Elliott

**F**rom December 23 to the 26 of 2022, Winter Storm Elliott swept across North America, causing record low temperatures and severe winter conditions throughout the United States. Snowfall, ice, and blizzard like conditions blew through much of the Midwest, and hazardous road conditions kept many of us hunkered down inside through the holidays. During these days of sub-zero temperatures, approximately 1.5 million utility customers throughout the country lost power (according to [www.poweroutage.us](http://www.poweroutage.us)).

Just before the storm, the regional transmission organization (RTO) PJM developed a conservative operations plan for that holiday weekend,

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## Agency Expands Renewable Portfolio

**B**y the end of February, IMPA officially had 44 solar parks online in member communities, providing 173.3 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity in its power supply portfolio. Construction continues on other solar parks, as well as plans to acquire additional land in member communities for future sites, bringing the Agency's current total planned solar capacity to 200.2 MW. In addition to its constructed solar parks, IMPA's long-term investments in renewable purchased power help bring the Agency toward a projected energy portfolio made up of 46% non-carbon resources by 2026.

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# Agency Expands Renewable Portfolio

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IMPA's continual procurement of renewable generation for a portion of its power supply ensures that the Agency's power supply is reliable today and into the future. No matter the political climate or economic conditions, the forethought put into IMPA's acquisition of environmentally-responsible resources will allow the Agency to prevail and provide members with stable, reliable power for decades to come.



While recognizing renewables' limitations due to being an intermittent resource, the benefits of these resources are numerous. While supplying non-carbon fuel, renewable generation units improve the diversity of IMPA's power supply portfolio. With a portfolio varied in fuel source and geographic location, IMPA always has strategic alternatives if any one power source fails or becomes financially disadvantageous. This diversity allows IMPA to be adaptable to nearly any situation.

The advantages of renewables in IMPA's power supply portfolio are pronounced, but the smaller-scale impact of IMPA-constructed solar parks is also worthy of note. The power generated by solar parks in IMPA members always stays within the community's service territory, cutting down on transmission costs and supporting local electric systems. These solar parks also bolster local economic development, as renewable energy is in high demand from potential industries and businesses in today's market. IMPA is proud that its solar program not only helps the Agency at a macro level, but also aids each participating municipal utility at the local level.

While no one can determine what the future holds, IMPA continues to build a portfolio that will provide a stable, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply for a bright future. ●

## Staff and Members Attend APPA Legislative Rally

During the last week of February, several IMPA employees and representatives from member communities attended the American Public Power Association's annual Legislative Rally in Washington DC. The group met with members of Indiana's Congressional Delegation to represent the interests of public power. ●



From left to right: Tony Foster, Richmond; Mayor Ryan Daniel, Columbia City; Ron Oler, Richmond; Shawn Lickey, Columbia City; Jack Alvey, IMPA; Jane Bumbalough, Richmond; Larry Parker, Richmond; Peter Prettyman, IMPA; Tony Pochard, Anderson

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prompting IMPA's combustion turbine staff to be placed on-call. Additionally, IMPA Service Corp's line crews made preparations to respond to potential outages in member communities should they arise. The drastic temperature drops on December 23 caused high holiday weekend usage, surpassing PJM. The extreme conditions caused 46 gigawatts of generation outages in the organization's territory. While PJM transitioned into emergency operations, IMPA worked diligently with the RTO and neighboring utilities to ensure reliability of the power grid.

The IMPA staff at the Agency's combustion turbines in Anderson and Richmond endured the severe weather conditions and worked day and night to keep the sites operating safely and efficiently, running close to 35 hours continuously from December 23rd to the 25th. During Winter Storm Elliott, IMPA Service Corp's crews also responded to eight IMPA member communities to assist with power restoration to keep utility customers warm in their homes.

IMPA is grateful for the dedicated staff members who braved the historic winter conditions to ensure the rest of us could remain safe through the holidays. The Agency's reliability, whether during a typical day or an extreme period of uncertainty, is its upmost priority. Now, as we head toward the warmer weather of spring, IMPA looks

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Indiana Municipal Power Agency

forward to continuing its legacy of reliable operations and excellent electric service for all member communities. ●



Anderson Combustion Turbine 3



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## AMI Program Expands

By the beginning of 2023, IMPA's operations and engineering subsidiary, IMPA Service Corp, agreed to work additional member communities through its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program. With the northern members of Argos and South Whitley signing on to receive the benefits of the cost-sharing program, the total number of participating members has reached fourteen.

IMPA Service Corp's AMI program allows members to share the cost of AMI software, server hosting, startup training, system monitoring, customer usage data, and more between all participants. This socialized method of costs drastically reduces the total

that the participating member would have to put up front if they were to pursue AMI independently.

Communities across the country are seeking to install AMI, as it provides labor savings and more accurate billing and customer data. Advanced meters can read utility meters remotely, giving utility offices real-time information about customer usage and the ability to remote disconnect/reconnect. The system also monitors the electric distribution system of any participating member, immediately sending notifications to the utility if issues like an outage or interruption occur. Through the several advantages of AMI, member utilities are better able to serve customers with a reliable power supply and satisfactory customer service. •