



COMMITTED TO OKLAHOMA'S
MUNICIPAL PROFESSIONALS

A publication of the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance/Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

June 2019

Kelly Danner Joins OMA Staff

Well known in municipalities across Oklahoma, Kelly Danner joined the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance (OMA) staff on June 3 to become OMA's first Director of Business Development.

"We're very excited to have Kelly join our team," said General Manager Tom Rider. "Kelly brings a wealth of knowledge and experience working with Oklahoma cities and towns."

As Director of Business Development, Danner will be responsible for developing training events and member value around the state. "Initially, Kelly will be

setting up training events that benefit municipal water and wastewater professionals," Rider said.

"For years, our members have pushed to have high quality safety and operational training for their water employees," Rider added. "Our goal is to provide this level of training across the state, and we want every municipality to have access to the training close to them."

Danner will be working closely with member and non-member municipalities to identify employee needs and other value-added services.

OMA to Partner with Water Professionals

What's the best way to train water and wastewater professionals? Have them work closely with their peers.

The Oklahoma Municipal Alliance (OMA) is partnering with select municipal water and wastewater professionals to provide hands-on operational best-practice training across the state.

"Water professionals who partner with OMA will hone their skills while ensure others are performing the skills correctly and effectively," said General Manager Tom Rider.

The training will have several components. The first training segment contains a video review of the skill being performed correctly. The second segment is a demonstration of the skill by the training partners. The third segment is hands-on practice by participants.

"Each segment of a training event focuses and reinforces the correct practice and application of a skill," Rider added.

To become a Water/Wastewater Training Partner

To become a training partner, an interested municipality should contact Tom Rider at tom@meso.org. A phone call and meeting will be scheduled to answer all questions the city or town may have about becoming a training partner.

"Our goal is to have training partners across the state. When we can offer regional training to small groups, there will be more opportunities for all municipal water personnel to attend quality training close to their city or town." Rider noted.

In This Issue

MESO Recognizes Duncan's David Yaeger – Page 3	GRDA, Pawnee Work Together to Restore Power Following Memorial Day Outage – Page 4	Coffeyville Light & Power Receives Electric Operations and Reliability Award – Page 6	MESO Presents Why We Ground / Hot Stick Training – Page 7
---	---	--	--

UPCOMING MESO & AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER EVENTS

June 7-12, 2019

American Public Power Association National Conference
Austin, Texas

September 25 – 26, 2019

MESO Lineworkers Rodeo and Safety Training
Ponca City, Oklahoma

MESO Job Training & Safety Sessions

- June 18-20, 2019 – Basic Lineman School, Fairview
- July 17, 2019 – Metering School, Edmond
- October 16-17, 2019 – Tree Trimming Class, Claremore

ON-GOING PROGRAMS:

MESO Electric Supervisor Development (ESD) Sessions

- Tuesday, October 1, 2019
 - Tuesday, December 3, 2019
- MESO Training Center, Okla. City



Fred Oberlender & Associates Inc.

Dallas ■ Ft. Worth ■ Houston ■ San Antonio ■ Tulsa ■ Oklahoma City

www.oberlender.com

Proudly representing the following manufacturers:

- American SuperConductor ■ Ameron International ■ Armorcast
- Cantex ■ Cementex ■ nVent/ERICO ■ GE Lamps
- Current Lighting ■ Virginia Transformer ■ Hastings Tools
- Hendrix Molded Products & Aerial Spacer Cable
- Lapp/Pfisterer Insulators ■ Mehta Tech ■ PASCOR HV Switches
- Power Delivery Products ■ Power Monitors ■ S&C Electric Company
- Sefcor ■ Tech Products ■ Trench ■ Unifin/Cardinal ■ Utilco

Doug Osborn ■ Tulsa Office

Mobile (918) 630-2782 Email: dosborn@oberlender.com

Matt Tiffie ■ Oklahoma City Office

Mobile (405) 760-6498 Email: matt@oberlender.com

MESO BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

President

Dwayne Elam, Wagoner

President-Elect

Keith Skelton, Sallisaw

Vice President

Mike Villareal, Altus

Secretary / Treasurer

Trey Phillips, Purcell

Directors

Tyler Cline, Miami

Jared Crisp, Pryor

Mike Doublehead, Tahlequah

Phil Johnston, Ponca City Dean

Sherrick, Edmond

Dave Sleazicky, Kingfisher

Loren Smith, Stillwater

Ex-Officio Members

Jennifer Rogers, OMPA Nathan
Reese, GRDA

General Manager

Tom Rider

Director of Administration & Finance

Deborah Gonzales

Administrative Assistants

Michelle Danner

Nita LaBlue

Director of Business Development

Kelly Danner

Director of Communications & Professional Development

Jeff Kaufmann

Director of Job Training & Safety

Tom Dougherty

Job Training and Safety Instructor

Richard O'Connor

MESO OFFICE

308 N.E. 27th Street Oklahoma
City, OK 73105-2717

(405)528-7564 or (800)636-
MESO

(405) 524-5095 FAX

www.meso.org

MESO Recognizes Duncan's David Yeager

MESO has recognized Duncan's David Yeager as a 2019 recipient of the association's Marvin Hicks-Al Middleton Meritorious Service Award.

The Marvin Hicks-Al Middleton Meritorious Service Award was established by MESO to recognize and honor an individual who is committed to the success of his or her community through both professional and personal efforts.

"Public Power has come to rely on David as a voice who works to ensure as many factors as possible are considered so informed decisions can be made," said MESO General Manager Tom Rider. "For his commitment and dedication, MESO is pleased to recognize him with this award."

Yeager began his long and distinguished career in public power in 1983. He became the Electric Utility Director for Duncan Power in 1999.

Highlights of his service to Duncan and locally owned and operated municipal utilities include:

- Served on the MESO Board of Directors for almost 20 years, serving as president in 2003.
- Served on the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA) Board of Directors at various times, representing Duncan and all OMPA's members.
- Serves on his Duncan's Main Street committee, working for the betterment of the community.
- Continues to work tirelessly for the enhancement and reliability of his city's power grid while existing in a competitive power market.

Rider attended the Tuesday, May 28, Duncan City Council meeting to present the award.


Save the Date

2019 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo & Safety Training
September 25-26, 2019 • Ponca City, Oklahoma



Power
by Design

Garver customizes energy services to meet client standards



High-voltage transmission lines
Power distribution substations
Distribution systems
Generation
System studies

Protection and control relaying
Route-selection studies
Environmental and permitting
Surveying and property acquisition

For more information contact Matt Robinson
at MJRobinson@GarverUSA.com



GarverUSA.com

Exceeding Expectations

GRDA, Pawnee Work Together to Restore Power Following Memorial Day Outage

Over Memorial Day weekend, while the Grand River Dam Authority Hydro Department was opening and closing floodgates to help manage heavy inflows of water into the Grand River system, another part of the GRDA system, far removed from the lakes, also suffered the effects of flooding.

Near the GRDA municipal customer community of Pawnee, a GRDA transmission structure on a 69 kilovolt (kV) feeder, toppled on Monday evening, when waters from flood-swollen Black Bear Creek finally eroded the ground around it. Although GRDA and Pawnee worked together to restore power to a portion of the community later that evening, the damaged line did cause an extended outage across another portion of town.

The biggest challenge was simply due to access. Because of the flooding in the area, GRDA's normal right-of-way path to the structure was not

accessible. However, GRDA Power Line Department Superintendent Chester Rothhammer credited Pawnee city officials with helping to resolve the issue.

"The city was able to put us in contact with the appropriate people, so that the GRDA Line Crews could proceed with minimal delays," said Rothhammer. Even while power line and vegetation management crews were working towards the site, GRDA was also bringing in its mobile substation, expecting to use it to provide a temporary solution.

However, before that could happen, crews were able to make the repairs to the line. By approximately 8 p.m. Tuesday evening, repairs had been made.

GRDA is very appreciative of Pawnee's patience and cooperation during this repair effort that presented some unique challenges. The two entities have been public power partners since 1953.



OMPA Announces Requests for Proposal

The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority recently announced that it would begin accepting requests for proposals for two different kinds of generation projects. The deadline to respond is July 3.

The first request is seeking proposals for solar and/or solar-plus-storage projects to meet capacity requirements starting on May 1, 2021.

The second request is for proposals for battery storage at a still-undetermined member city location.

OMPA currently has no solar in its resource mix. The Authority delivered 2585 gigawatts of power

to its 43 Oklahoma members in 2018, and natural gas made up 49 percent of OMPA's resource mix. Renewables, which included wind and hydro power, were 18 percent of the mix.

Solar still makes up a small portion of the overall generation mix in the United States but is growing quickly. In 2016 alone, 14,626 megawatts was installed, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. That was a 95 percent increase over the previous year. According to the same report, Oklahoma ranked 40th in installed solar capacity.

Metering Basics Scheduled for July 17 in Edmond

Metering Basics will be presented by Larry Chapman July 17 at Edmond's Cross Timbers Complex.

Both industry veterans and those beginning a career have a lot to gain from this one-day training course. Beginning with single phase meter application and moving through all aspects of metering field — self-contained and CT metering.

Topics to be covered include:

- Metering Terminology
- Selecting the Correct Meter
- Demand/TOU Metering
- Software Programming Overview

Chapman founded Chapman Metering in 1960 after working as a metering engineer for many years. The company's history has grounded in metering for more than 5 decades. Kriz-Davis Co. purchased the company in 2015, and it now operates as a wholly owned subsidiary of Border States Electric with Larry "the Old Guy" as General Manager.

The cost for the one-day session is \$99 and includes training, booklet, and lunch. Registration information is available at www.meso.org. The deadline to register is July 12.

Questions about the training session may be directed to MESO's Director of Job Training and Safety, Tom Dougherty, at tomd@meso.org. Registration questions can be directed to Deborah Gonzales, MESO Director of Administration and Finance, at deborah@meso.org.

The Deadline to Register for Basic Lineman School is June 12

MESO will host Basic Lineman School June 18-20 at OMPA's Fairview office.

The course includes classroom training sessions which cover the basics of electricity, lively discussions, and a supporting workbook with reference materials and classroom activities. Hands-on instruction is performed outdoors, where a variety of conventional and not-so conventional equipment is placed in the hands of workshop participants.

This training will assist workers whose job assignments may require pole climbing, assisting journeymen and operating mechanical equipment. While this course covers basic materials and is designed for Apprentice Linemen, professionals at any skill level or knowledge will benefit by participating.

The cost is \$199 per person, which includes lunches and instruction manual. Registration deadline is June 12.

Instructors include MESO Director of Job Training and Safety Tom Dougherty, OMPA Line Crew Superintendent Anthony Hale and retired Duncan Line Foreman Rusty Brown.

Registration information is available at www.meso.org. For more information, contact Tom Dougherty at tomd@meso.org.

MESO Affiliate/ Associate Members

A2V Partners, LLC
Allgeier Martin & Associates, Inc.
Anixter, Inc.
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Automated Energy
Caselle
CLEAResult
Clifford Power Systems
Deloney
DewEze Mfg.
EHV Solutions
Electric Power Systems International
Elgin B Robertson, Inc.
Equipment Technology Inc.
ESC Engineering, Inc.
Finley Engineering Company, Inc.
Fred Oberlender & Associates
Garver, LLC
GRDA
Green Equipment Company
GridLiance GP, LLC
Guernsey
Hawrylak and Associates
INER-TITE CORP
Irby
J.L. Matthews
JELCO
Jones Power Products
K.D. Johnson Inc.
Kriz Davis Company
M.W. Bevins Company
Marathon Electric Company
Milbank Manufacturing
Milwaukee Tool
Nighthawk/Energy Reps
Oklahoma One-Call System
OMAG
OMPA
Osmose, Inc
Pelco Products, Inc
Power Solutions
Repcom
Rope Works
Second Sight Systems
Solomon Corporation
T & R Electric Supply Company, Inc
Techline
Telensa LTD
Timber Oklahoma LLC
Toth & Associates, Inc.
Ultimate Tool and Safety
Universal Field Services, Inc.
Utilismart Corporation
Utility Sales Agents of North Texas
Utility Sales Agents of OK
Utility Technology
WESCO Distribution
Westar Energy

Coffeyville Light & Power Receives Electric Operations and Reliability Award

MESO announces that Coffeyville Municipal Light & Power, the city's electric department, is recognized for First Place in the association's annual Electric Operations and Reliability Competition.

The utility was recognized in the category for cities over 10,000 population and cited for achieving the highest reported level of service reliability for cities within MESO's four-state member region. The southeastern Kansas municipal utility had Average System Availability Index of 99.9989 percent in 2018.

The Department was also recognized for having a perfect safety record for 2018. Coffeyville Light & Power experienced no reportable incidents with no lost or reduced duty time over 74,500 work hours.

Coffeyville L&P employees meet the requirements of their work with professionalism and safety due to employer efforts. These efforts include four years of rigorous field experience and testing for each line worker before he achieves journey lineworker status.

General Manager Tom Rider presented the award to the Coffeyville Light & Power.

In presenting the award, Rider said that MESO values the continued participation of the various utilities in the region in the annual reliability competition.

"The current operational standards and employee training standards at Coffeyville Light & Power are superior," Rider said.

More Than 100 Lawmakers Tout Value of Tax-exempt Municipal Bonds

From the American Public Power Association

May 14, 2019

By Paul Ciampoli

Any proposal to eliminate or reduce the value of tax exemption on municipal bonds would raise borrowing costs for state and local governments, lower infrastructure investment and stall or threaten job creation, more than 100 House members said in a May 13 letter to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., and Ranking Member Kevin Brady, R-Texas.

House Municipal Finance Caucus Chairman Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md., and Steve Stivers, R-Ohio, were joined by 109 House members in the letter that was sent to Neal and Brady.

"Nearly two-thirds of core infrastructure investments in the United States are financed with municipal bonds," the letter noted. "In 2018 alone, more than \$325 billion in municipal bonds were issued to finance the projects that touch the daily lives of every American citizen and business."

The House members said that a combination of local control and local responsibility makes municipal bonds an effective tool and an expression of fiscal federalism. The letter points out that voters throughout the U.S. overwhelmingly support tax-exempt municipal bonds.

"The federal tax exemption reduces the cost of issuing municipal bonds, making important community infrastructure cheaper for taxpayers and freeing up resources for other needs," the House members went on to say. "Should this tax exemption be preserved, it is estimated that municipal bonds will finance another \$3 trillion in new infrastructure investments by 2028."

The Ways and Means Committee should "carefully consider the impact of any changes to the tax status of municipal bonds."

The American Public Power Association's members in late February approved several new policy resolutions including one that highlighted the Association's push for certain improvements to tax exempt financing.

(see MUNICIPAL BONDS, page 9)

MESO Presents Why We Ground / Hot Stick Training

MESO combined two important training topics - "Why We Ground" and "Hot Stick Training" into a two-day training session recently hosted by Edmond Electric.

Hermon Hardy a recognized leader and trainer for Hubbell Power Systems with nearly 30 years of line experience was the trainer for the two-day session.

Here are a few photos from the event:



Register today for
**Basic
Lineman School**
at

www.meso.org

June 18-20, 2019
Fairview, Oklahoma

Metering Basics
registration is open at

www.meso.org

July 17, 2019
Edmond, Oklahoma

Report Sees Municipalization Benefits for San Francisco

From the American Public Power Association
May 14, 2019
By Peter Maloney

In a preliminary study released on Monday, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission found that public ownership of the city's electric grid has "the potential for significant long-term benefits relative to investment costs and risks."

In the report, the authors said their initial analysis suggests public ownership could result in "likely net cost savings over the long term as well as rate stability and affordability, and possibly even rate reductions for customers."

The report also found that reaching the city's goal of 100% greenhouse gas-free electricity supplies by 2030, as well as other critical city goals on affordable housing, are much more likely without Pacific Gas & Electric ownership of San Francisco's electric distribution assets.

The authors emphasized the report is only preliminary and further study is needed before rendering a final recommendation.

The report was requested by San Francisco Mayor London Breed in January in response to PG&E's bankruptcy filing in the wake of the wildfires that have ravaged northern California.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is not a regulatory agency but a department of the City and County of San Francisco that provides retail drinking water and wastewater services to San Francisco and wholesale water to three Bay Area counties, hydroelectric and solar power to Hetch Hetchy electricity customers, and power to the residents and businesses of San Francisco through its CleanPowerSF program.

The San Francisco PUC owns the Hetch Hetchy Project, a reservoir, dam and series of hydroelectric plants with 385 MW of capacity that powers all the city's services, including electric buses and municipal offices. Hetch Hetchy provides 17% of San Francisco's electrical needs, but the city still uses PG&E power lines to distribute energy in the city from Hetch Hetchy and for its CleanPowerSF program.

(see SAN FRANCISCO, page 9)

Government Warns About Use of Chinese-built Drones in U.S.

From the American Public Power Association
May 21, 2019
By Paul Ciampoli

CNN noted that approximately 80 percent of drones used in the U.S. and Canada come from China-based drone manufacturer, DJI.

The alert said that the U.S. government "has strong concerns about any technology product that takes American data into the territory of an authoritarian state that permits its intelligence services to have unfettered access to that data or otherwise abuses that access," CNN reported.

"Drones can serve as a cost-saving beneficial tool for businesses by augmenting safety and security, improving operational efficiency, and increasing situational awareness," said Brian Harrell, Assistant Director for Infrastructure Security at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

"However, the technology can also pose inherent risks such as data theft, corruption by malware, and network breaches if information protection practices are not put in place. As we have seen, technology advances are driving the cyber-physical security convergence conversation," he said.

"Certain foreign manufactured drones, particularly those made in China, can potentially increase risks due to the potential for data to be shared with unintended audiences such as nation-state adversaries," Harrell said. "As with all connected devices, protecting sensitive information or intellectual property should be a top priority for critical infrastructure organizations."

The CISA Alert to Industry "highlights the potential threat, but also outlines actionable mitigation measures to reduce risk," Harrell noted.

"Given the U.S. energy sector's increased use of drones, it is vital that the energy industry, and public power utilities in particular, follow the government's guidance when it comes to this potential threat," said Sam Rozenberg, Engineering Services Security Director at the American Public Power Association.

Additional information about drones and critical infrastructure is available on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's website.

San Francisco

(continued from page 8)

Together, Hetch Hetchy power and CleanPowerSF provide about 80% of San Francisco's electricity needs. However, CleanPowerSF customers pay nearly \$200 million per year for PG&E distribution service.

Even prior to its recent bankruptcy filing, the rising costs that PG&E charges for its distribution services prompted San Francisco to begin exploring independence from the utility.

Past attempts at municipalization – as long ago as the 1930s and as recently as 2001 and 2002 – have failed. But in June, 72% of San Francisco voters approved Proposition A, which grants SFPUC bonding authority for electric infrastructure. Prior to passage, the San Francisco PUC's bonding authority was limited to wastewater and water operations and for repair and replacement of existing facilities.

In January, several members of the city's Board of Supervisors suggested that the city could acquire the electric distribution system needed to serve its populace from PG&E. The cost would be high, they conceded, but it could be borne through the Public Utilities Commission's new bonding authority.

The recently released report laid out three options for the city: limited independence, targeted investment for more independence, and full independence by acquiring PG&E assets.

The city's reliance on PG&E service could also jeopardize its affordable housing and school renovation project, the report said.

The targeted investment option could also jeopardize the gains of the city's CleanPowerSF program because of reliance on PG&E service, the report found.

Under the full independence option, the city could expand the scope of its Hetch Hetchy project and incorporate its CleanPowerSF program into that project. Full independence would give the city more control over its energy choices and position it to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The report noted that full independence would require the city to undertake further analysis to determine whether or not the acquisition is feasible and would benefit taxpayers and electric customers over the long term.

The authors of the report said that, based on their preliminary findings, the city "should and will continue to analyze and study the implications of obtaining full power independence by purchasing PG&E's electric assets serving San Francisco."

In the next phase of the analysis, the city will be examining the impact of acquiring PG&E distribution assets on workforce, environmental justice, affordability, safety and reliability, neighborhood revitalization and community engagement.

The report is available for download [here](#).

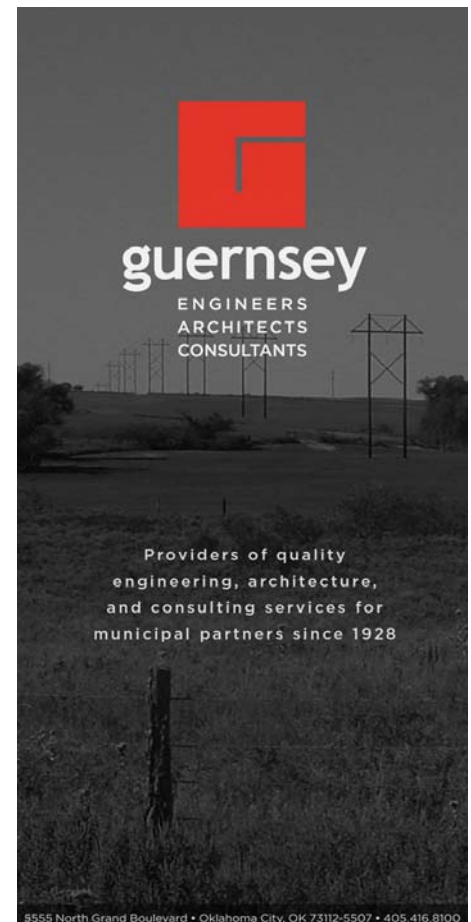
Municipal Bonds

(continued from page 6)

In the resolution, the Association urged Congress to improve tax-exempt municipal bonds. Among other things, the Association would like to see the reinstatement of tax-exempt advance refunding bonds.

More recently, in March the Association submitted a statement for the record to the House Ways and Means Committee as a follow up to a hearing on infrastructure in which the Association urged lawmakers to consider modernizing the tax treatment of municipal bonds.

Editor's Note: As of this writing, the only member of the Oklahoma delegation in the United States House of Representatives to sign the letter of support for tax-exempt municipal bond is Representative Tom Cole. Feel free to thank him and/or tell your representative that you would appreciate their support on this issue.



Rider Revamping "The Supervisor Course"

To meet the demands of today's busy municipal professionals, General Manager Tom Rider is revamping and improving what has been known as "The Supervisor Course" into "The Supervisor Short Course."

"For the past ten years, the Supervisor Course has been a great resource to help established and new supervisors develop and improve their skill set," Rider noted. "With ever changing work demands, the course needs to evolve to better fit the schedules of busy municipal professionals."

The Supervisor Short Course begins August 20 and will cover topics experienced, new, and soon-to-be supervisors need to know and understand to succeed as supervisors. It will consist of six days of education with a total of 12 sessions (2 sessions or topics per day).

The Supervisor Short Course offers flexibility. Participants can complete the course at their own pace. With each session being independent of the others, a participant can complete the sessions based on their work schedule. To successfully complete the course, a participant will be required to complete all 12 sessions.

Currently scheduled sessions and dates:

Day 1 – August 20

1. Character & Ethics
2. The Roles of a Supervisor

Day 2 – September 10

1. Respect for Others
2. Developing Responsible Workers

Day 3 – September 24

1. Establishing a Change Mentality
2. Conflict Management

Day 4 – October 8

1. Communicating Effectively
2. Project Management

Day 5 – October 24

1. Speaking before Groups
2. Effective Business Writing

Day 6 – November 12

1. Performance Management
2. Delegating

Registration information will be available soon. Questions may be directed to Rider at tom@meso.org.



TRANSFORMERS

DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION



T&R ELECTRIC
SUPPLY COMPANY, INCORPORATED
BOX 180
COLMAN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57017
"THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE" ©



Modern Rewind Facilities
More than 61 Acres Inventory
Prompt Delivery—Coast to Coast



BUY – SELL – RENT

Complete Outdoor Substations, Circuit Breakers, Regulators, and Switchgear

CALL TOLL-FREE
800-843-7994
FAX 605-534-3861
E-Mail: t-r@t-r.com
Internet: www.t-r.com



ALLGEIER, MARTIN and ASSOCIATES, INC.
Consulting Engineers

Substations • Transmission • Distribution • Protection
Design & Construction Management • Plans • Studies • Assessments
SCADA & Communication Systems • Structural Services • CAD Mapping/GIS
Relaying & Control • Joint Use/Make-Ready • Contract Preparation
Civil Engineering • Survey

www.amce.com

WIRED

to DELIVER

As 100% employee-owned American companies, **we are wired to deliver solutions, value and a customer-first mindset.** Together, we are committed to your success.



■ Combined locations

Delivering quality products and valued-added services.



Utility



Industrial



Construction

Locations Serving MESO Members

Ardmore OK

(580) 226-2280

Dodge City KS

(620) 408-9179

Wichita KS

(316) 945-1313

Wichita Falls TX

(940) 766-3075

www.borderstates.com



A 100% Employee-owned, American Company
60-152 (2017-07)
©2017 Border States Industries, Inc.



BORDER STATES
Supply Chain Solutions™