



OKLAHOMA PUBLIC POWER

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

June 2013

Kaufmann Joins MESO Staff

Jeff Kaufmann joined the MESO staff as Director of Communications effective June 10. In his role, Jeff will be responsible for MESO's corporate communications with our members. This will include newsletters, information pieces, developing a member-focused, interactive website, and establishing the association's social media outlets on Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, Jeff will present on-site training for members which participate in the Communications and Public Relations training program.

Jeff brings twenty years of experience to MESO, having held a variety of communications roles in

his career. Kaufmann spent eight years with OGE Energy Corporation, the parent company of OG&E and Enogex, as a senior communications specialist. In this role, he developed internal and external communication programs for employees and customers. He was recognized for his engagement programs for new employees and developed detailed communication pieces to inform and assist employees through corporate change.

Most recently, Jeff served as the Director, Programs and Outreach for the Oklahoma Bioscience Association, a position (see KAUFMANN, page 2)



Jeff Kaufmann

Nominations Sought for MESO Awards

Nominations are being sought for MESO's three awards that will be presented during the MESO luncheon, September 18, 2013 in Tulsa. The luncheon will be held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Municipal League's annual conference.

Each year, MESO presents three awards to individuals and organizations that reflect the best of public power in Oklahoma. Following are descriptions for each award and how to submit a nomination.

Marvin Hicks – Al Middleton Meritorious Service Award

Awarded to an individual employee from a MESO mem-

ber city/town/utility who has 25 years of employment as a good employee and is/has been very active in their community.

To be considered for the award, the individual or the person nominating the individual should provide a letter stating why the individual should be considered for the award. The letter should include details about the individual's work history and active involvement in the community.

Clarence Fulkerson Electric System Achievement Award

Awarded to a MESO member (city/town/utility/joint action agency) that has distinguished itself during the year for its exemplary

system enhancement, improvement, reliability or other innovative efforts to improve municipal power in Oklahoma.

Nomination letter should include specifics about what the (see AWARDS, page 5)

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OSHA Rule Broadens Exemption for Digger Derricks

By Jeannine Anderson, APPA

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued a final rule that broadens the current exemption for digger derricks used in the electric utility industry.

This final rule "provides a complete exemption from having to follow the requirements of Subpart

CC of the Cranes and Derricks in Construction standard," OSHA said. The digger derricks exemption is part of the Cranes and Derricks final standard that was issued on Aug. 9, 2010.

The exemption also has been expanded to include telecommunications work, in addition to electric utility work.

Digger derricks are used to drill holes for utility poles and are commonly used to place poles inside holes and to attach transformers and other items to the poles.

More information is available on OSHA's website and in the final rule, published in the Federal Register.

Kaufmann

(continued from page 1)

tion he held until the association merged with another organization. Past experiences include being a management consultant and public affairs consultant. Additionally, he has served as the public information officer and a program manager for the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office.

"I'm very excited to have Jeff join our staff," Tom Rider, general manager, stated. "He has a wealth of talents that will benefit our association and members immediately. Additionally, his varied background in both the electric industry and safety will provide unique value to our member-focused programs and the direction MESO takes towards our future."

MESO MEMBER UTILITIES

Altus*	GRDA*	Pond Creek*
Anadarko	Hominy*	Poplar Bluff, Mo
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Bentonville, Ark*	Kaw City	Prescott, Ark*
Blackwell*	Kingfisher*	Purcell*
Braman	Laverne	Pryor*
Broken Bow	Lexington*	Ryan
Burlington	Lindsay*	Sallisaw*
Byng	Mangum*	Siloam Springs, Ark*
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Claremore*	Mannford*	South Coffeyville
Coffeyville, Kansas	Marlow*	Spiro*
Collinsville*	Miami*	Stillwater*
Comanche*	Monett, Mo*	Stilwell*
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Cordell*	Newkirk*	Tahlequah*
Cushing*	Okeene*	Tecumseh*
Duncan*	Olustee	Tonkawa*
Edmond*	OMPA*	Wagoner*
Eldorado	Orlando	Walters*
Fairview*	Paragould, Ark	Watonga*
Fort Supply	Paris, Ark	Waurika*
Frederick*	Pawhuska*	Waynoka*
Geary*	Pawnee*	Wetumka
Goltry*	Perry*	Wynnewood
Granite*	Ponca City*	Yale*

*Job Training & Safety Participants

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Stillwater, Edmond Recognized for 2012 Outstanding Performance

Stillwater Electric and Edmond Electric were both recently recognized for their outstanding performance during the 2012 calendar year.

Stillwater Electric Utility was recognized for outstanding distribution reliability during 2012. During the period, Stillwater had the highest reliability level of service recorded by public power systems in Oklahoma with power being available 99.9878 percent of the time. By having local ownership of the electric system and crews located within two miles of most customers, customers have a very short wait before crews are actively solving power issues.

Edmond Electric was recognized in the category of 'cities over 10,000 population' for its impressive safety record in 2012. During the period, Edmond Electric had the lowest incident rate for cities in their category. While putting in 94,730 working hours in 2012, Edmond only experienced four hours of lost work time.

Congratulations to both Stillwater Electric Utility and Edmond Electric for their 2012 accomplishments.



Edmond Electric



Stillwater Electric

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GRDA Begins Workforce Management Plan Development

The Grand River Dam Authority workforce stretches across multiple locations and completes thousands of different tasks each week. It is diverse in its knowledge, its skills sets and its background. It is comprised of centuries' worth of experience and is on the job 24/365. Its primary goal is to fulfill a very broad GRDA mission that rests on three key pillars: electricity, economic development and ecosystems management.

With all that in mind, it is easy to see why a comprehensive workforce management plan is a must for an agency like GRDA. However, when you add in the fact that 50 percent of that workforce is eligible to retire sometime within the next five years, the need for that management plan grows greater.

These facts are what prompted the GRDA Board of Directors to move forward with the development of that comprehensive management plan. At its February meeting, the board approved a contract with The AOE Group to develop that plan, complete with the tools that will provide long-term support.

"The primary goal of this project is to bring about changes in the workplace to improve working conditions and help all of us reach our goals," GRDA Chief Executive Officer/Director of Investments Dan Sullivan told employees in his announcement about the plan.

Of course, those goals include GRDA continuing its reputation as a low-cost electric supplier, economic engine and good steward of the natural resources under its control. From that standpoint, the workforce management plan is important not only to GRDA internally, but to its customers and stakeholders all across Oklahoma.



Just as an investment in equipment upgrades can keep operations running smoothly for years to come, this investment in the workforce, which amounts to roughly \$500 per employee, is also intended to benefit the GRDA of tomorrow by helping to retain the knowledge from yesterday's workforce. While GRDA's current turnover rate stands at 2.7 percent (roughly five times lower than the Oklahoma state agency average) the looming wave of retirements will give the succession planning and recruitment components of the plan even greater value.

"We want [GRDA] to have a reputation as a best place to work in Oklahoma," said The AOE Group's Brian Edwards, "and this will really help to recruit and attract new talent to replace those who are leaving."

Development of the plan will continue through the summer of 2013.



GRDA Workforce Management Meeting

Marketplace Fairness Act Passes U.S. Senate

by Ginny Wilson, OML

U.S. Senate Bill 743, also known as the Marketplace Fairness Act, passed out of the U.S. Senate on May 6 with a vote of 69-27. Both Oklahoma U.S. Senators Coburn & Inhofe voted against the bill. Thanks to all of you who made contact with the Oklahoma delegation to encourage their support.

This legislation allows state and local governments to require online retailers to collect sales taxes. It does not create any new tax or increase any

existing tax; it simply provides for the enforcement of state and local governments' authority and levels the playing field between Main Street and online retailers.

Oklahoma is unique in that we are the only state where municipalities do not receive ad valorem tax for general operations. Consequently, this makes our cities and towns overly dependent on local sales tax to fund all operations, including police, fire, libraries, parks, streets, drinking and wastewater needs and a myriad of other services.

Global Warming Caused by CFCs, Not Carbon Dioxide, Study Says

By Robert Varela, APPA

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are the key driver in global warming since the 1970s and not carbon dioxide emissions, according to new research from the University of Waterloo in Canada that was published in the International Journal of Modern Physics B. "Conventional thinking says that the emission of human-made non-CFC gases such as carbon dioxide has mainly contributed to global warming. But we have observed data going back to the Industrial Revolution that convincingly shows that conventional understanding is wrong," said Qing-Bin Lu, a professor of physics and astronomy, biology and chemistry at the Ontario college. "In fact, the data shows that CFCs conspiring with cosmic rays caused both the polar ozone hole and global warming."

The university said the findings are based on in-depth statistical analyses of observed data from 1850 up to the present time, Professor Lu's cosmic-ray-driven electron-reaction (CRE) theory of ozone depletion and his previous research into Antarctic ozone depletion and global surface temperatures.

"Most conventional theories expect that global temperatures will continue to increase as CO2 levels continue to rise, as they have done since 1850," Professor Lu said. "What's striking is that since 2002, global temperatures have actually declined — matching a decline in CFCs in the atmosphere. My calculations of CFC greenhouse effect show that there was global warming by about 0.6 degrees C from 1950 to 2002, but the earth has actually cooled since 2002. The cooling trend is set to continue for the next 50-70 years as the amount of CFCs in the atmosphere continues to decline."

Awards *(continued from page 1)*

system has done during the past year, or specified time frame, that meets the criteria of the award as described above. Pictures should be included if appropriate.

Ray Duffy Personal Service Award

Awarded to an individual in recognition of his/her efforts supporting/promoting public power.

Nomination letter should describe the individual's active efforts in supporting and/or promoting public power. The letter should include enough detail as to assist the selection committee in fully understanding the individual's efforts.

Award nominations are due by July 15. Nominations should be sent to Tom Rider at tom@meso.org or mailed to Tom Rider, MESO, 308 NE 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717. Questions should be directed to Tom at the email address above, or (405) 528-7564, ext 2.




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Construction on Charles D. Lamb Energy Center to Start Early Next Year

The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA) will begin construction of a new gas-fired power plant in January of 2014. The Charles D. Lamb Energy Center will be constructed on a site comprised of 160-acres in Kay County, Oklahoma. The site is approximately six miles north of Ponca City and seven miles east of Blackwell, on the north side of State Highway 11.



The plant will utilize approximately 35 to 40 acres, with the remainder of the property continuing as the farming application that currently exists. The size of the site will allow OMPA to add additional units, if needed, in the future.

The plant will have a generating capability of 103 megawatts and will be used primarily for peaking power. Peaking power is power that is produced due to the high demand for electricity during the summer months. The plant will be a quick-start plant and will have very little noise, due to the sound minimizing barrier around the turbine.

This site was chosen due to the location of an existing natural gas pipeline and a recently built 345,000-volt transmission line. The gas line will allow for fuel supply to reach the plant, while the high voltage transmission line will allow the power to immediately be delivered into the statewide transmission grid. Water for the plant will be supplied by the Ponca City Utility Authority. The plant will be operated by the OMPA Power Production Department.

A public meeting regarding the plant was held at Pioneer Technology Center in Ponca City on May 14. OMPA officials provided a presentation on the plant and addressed questions from city officials and the public.

The Charles D. Lamb Energy Center will serve as a resource for OMPA's 39 member cities. The OMPA Board voted to name the facility the Charles D. Lamb Energy Center after their Board Chairman. Since 2001, Charles Lamb has served as OMPA Board Chair and is the longest tenured elected official to serve as chair.

Construction of the Charles D. Lamb Energy Center is expected to be complete by spring of 2015.



This rendering of the Charles D. Lamb Energy Center that will be built in Kay County, Oklahoma shows the 103-megawatt simple-cycle combustion turbine-generator in the center, the administration building on the right and the substation on the left.

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Greater Use of Natural Gas and Renewables Will Potentially Impact Grid Reliability, APPA Tells House Panel

By Robert Varela, APPA

The switch from coal to natural gas and greater use of intermittent renewables will impact utility operations and could affect electric reliability, APPA told the House Energy and Power Subcommittee May 9. "Given these trends, it is important that Congress continues to examine the short- and long-term implications of federal policies that promote more use of natural gas and intermittent renewables as fuels for electric generation on electricity prices and grid reliability."

"The shift from coal to natural gas for electric generation creates several challenges that must be addressed, including potential price volatility for utilities and their customers, inadequate pipeline capacity and storage, lack of flexibility in pipeline rate schedules to accommodate the needs of electric generation, and misalignment of, and lack of intra-day flexibility within, the gas and electric days," APPA said in a statement for the record of the subcommittee's May 9 hearing on grid reliability challenges. There will be long-term implications from the greater use of natural gas for electric generation, APPA said. "Prices may be low today, but can easily rise in the years to come due to a variety of factors including potential new or existing regulations on hydraulic fracturing, increased utility and industrial demand, exports, and increasing use

in the transportation sector."

In addition, "it is not clear yet whether there will be sufficient infrastructure or storage to accommodate the greater use of natural gas by electric utilities," APPA said. "While the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is examining how to promote greater coordination between the electricity and natural gas industries, no one knows whether all the changes needed for fuel switching on this scale can be accomplished in the time needed to comply with EPA regulations." Greater use of natural gas also poses market-related challenges, such as misalignment of gas and electric days and a lack of flexibility in scheduling, APPA said.

Generation from variable energy resources such as wind and solar poses unique operational challenges, APPA told the panel. "There are strong disagreements about who should pay for the construction of transmission lines that bring renewable power into the grid and issues surrounding the siting of such lines," the association added.

The subcommittee should evaluate all federal policies designed to promote renewables, given the competitiveness of some renewables, APPA said. "APPA members, in incorporating renewable generation into their resource portfolios, need the ability to evaluate specific renewable projects against one another and against

distributed generation and energy efficiency/demand response measures," the association said. "Subsidies given to certain types of renewable generation can skew individual utility integrated resource planning processes and, on a macro level, our nation's overall resource choices, leading to sub-optimally efficient resource outcomes."

Whitfield backs new pipelines, reform of subsidies for renewables

Given the changes in the generation fuel mix, "it is important that we think through what must be done to ensure that the lights stay on and that electric bills are affordable in the years ahead," Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield said. New natural gas pipelines as well as storage facilities need to be constructed, but "we don't have a lot of time to build them given the reliability challenges we face today and we have already witnessed this scenario in areas like New England."

Federal and state policies promoting wind and solar power "could easily backfire if we don't address the difficulties of integrating these intermittent sources into the electric grid," Whitfield said. Noting that the production tax credit for wind was extended last year "much to the disappointment of many of us," he said "the long-term subsidization of certain generation sources, such as wind, can impair reliability and drive up electricity prices."

City-Owned Utilities Make SEPA 'Top 10' List for Solar Watts Per Customer

By Jeannine Anderson, APPA

Public power utilities figured prominently in the Solar Electric Power Association's (SEPA) annual "top 10" lists of utilities that added solar power to their systems in 2012.

The city of St. Mary's, Ohio, led the top 10 list for the number of solar watts per customer, with 563 watts. Other municipal utilities in the top 10 were Bryan Municipal Utilities in Ohio (276 solar watts per customer), the Imperial Irrigation District in California (190 watts), the city of Napoleon, Ohio (180 watts) and Vineland Municipal Electric Utility in New Jersey (162 watts).

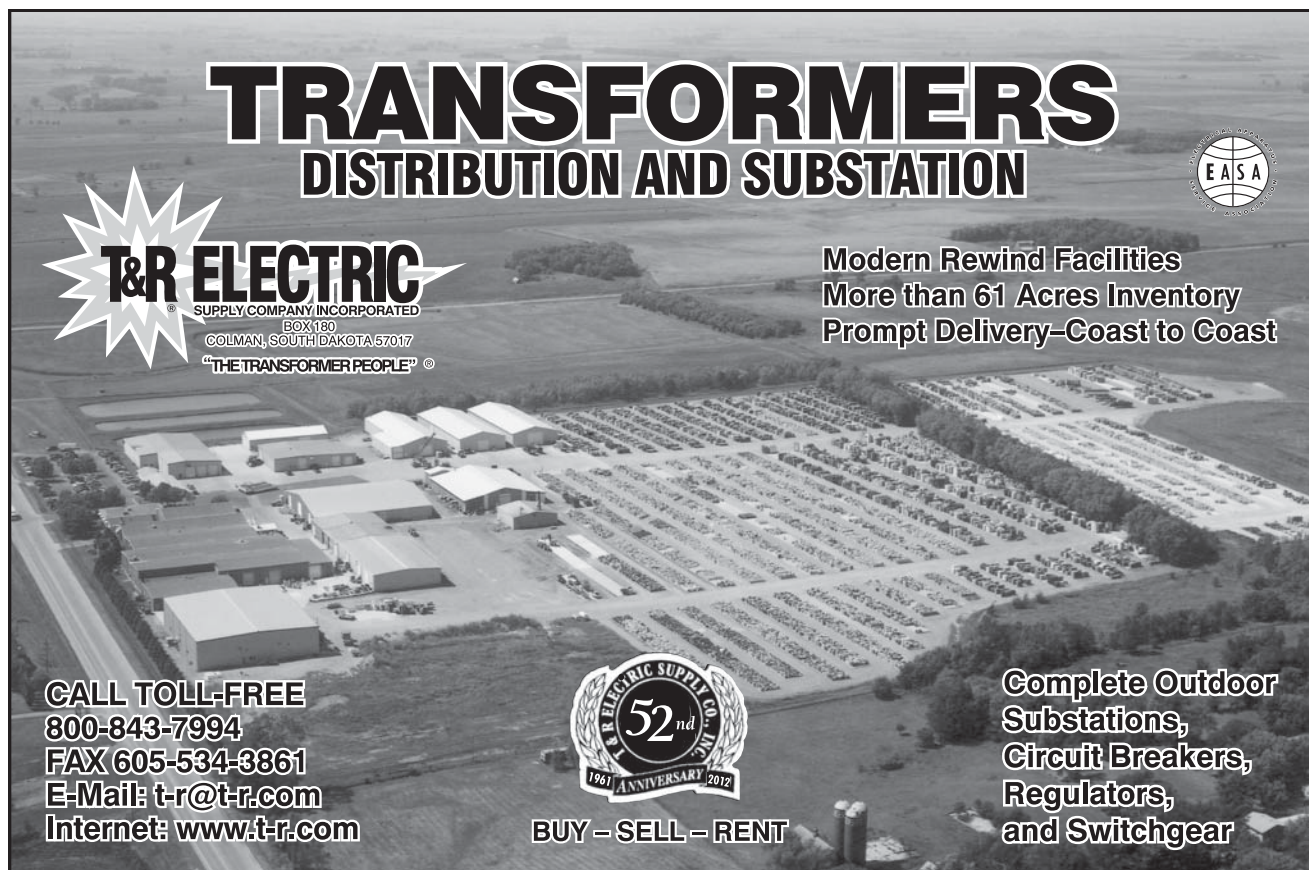
"It is my opinion that the city of St. Mary's should have a diverse energy portfolio embracing various technologies," said the city's mayor, Patrick McGowan. "I feel that Green Energy solutions, including solar power, offer our citizens clean and economical energy," he said.

The others in the top 10 for solar watts per customer added in 2012 were: Kauai Island Utility

Cooperative in Hawaii (282 watts per customer), Hawaiian Electric Co. in Hawaii (220 watts), Chickasaw Electric Cooperative in Tennessee (217), Maui Electric Co. in Hawaii (198), and Tucson Electric Power Co. in Arizona (182).

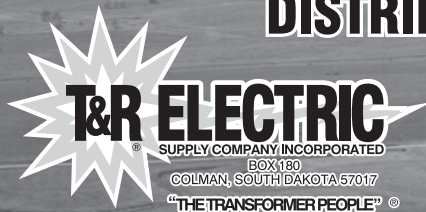

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District in California was on SEPA's list of the top 10 U.S. electric utilities that added the most new solar power to their systems in 2012. Investor-owned Pacific Gas & Electric Co. was No. 1 on that list, with 805 MW of solar power added last year. SMUD was No. 9, with 66 MW of solar power added to its grid last year.

"Utility companies across the nation are embracing clean energy solutions and showing their commitment to a more diverse energy portfolio improving the environment," said SEPA President and CEO Julia Hamm. "We are impressed with the sheer number of new utilities that have moved into the Top 10 lists, particularly those who have never been ranked in the past and are now adopting solar as part of their energy mix."



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Supervisor Course Begins July 9

MESO's highly respected Supervisor Course begins Tuesday, July 9 and will be held in the MESO training room.

This year long, comprehensive program focuses on developing current and future supervisors who want to be more effective in their roles. Taught by MESO's general manager, Tom Rider, participants meet one day each month to have an in-depth discussion on supervisor responsibilities. Additionally, participants have outside reading and exercises to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the discussion topic for the next class.

Below are the course specifics including meeting dates, book list and class topics.

PROGRAM MEETING DATES – 2013 – 2014 – MESO TRAINING ROOM

July 9, 2013	January 14, 2014
August 13, 2013	February 11, 2014
September 10, 2013	March 11, 2014
October 8, 2013	April 8, 2014
November 12, 2013	May 13, 2014
December 10, 2013	June 10, 2014

BOOK LIST

Character is Destiny
Making Ethical Decisions
The On-Purpose Person
StrengthsFinder 2.0
The Sixteen Personality Types
How to Win Friends and Influence People
Who Moved My Cheese?
Fish! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results
QBQ: The Question Behind the Question
No: The Only Negotiating System You Need for Work and Home
The One Minute Manager Meets the Monkey
Why employees don't do what they're suppose to do . . . and what to do about it
Extraordinary Supervisors

CLASS TOPICS

Introduction to Supervision	Developing a Change Mentality
Character	High Impact Morale & Motivation
Ethics	Personal Accountability
Personality & Communication Skills	Negotiating for Success
Individual Strengths & Gifts	Delegating for Personal Development
Getting People to Take Action	Bringing it all Together; Final Exam

Cost for the program is \$900.00 per person. Participants are billed quarterly for their participation. All books and class material remain with the participant. To register for the class, go to MESO's website, www.meso.org or call, 1-800-636-6376, ext 1, or (405) 528-7564, ext 1 and talk with Deborah.

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