

## **Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce**

A publication of the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance

October 2020

## **OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series Continues, Videos Available**

The Oklahoma Municipal Alliance webinar series focusing on issues critical to the success of any municipal utility is underway. Registration remains open for upcoming sessions, and videos are available for those already presented.

All sessions are in one of the four categories:

- 1. Municipal Financial Stability and Growth
- 2. Water and Wastewater Issues
- 3. Electric Growth and Sustainability
- 4. Emergency Planning for Utilities

Anyone who wants to attend, must register for each session of interest individually. A valid email address must be provided to complete registration. After registration is complete, confirmation emails will be sent for every session registered for. Register for any session at <a href="https://www.okmainc.com">www.okmainc.com</a>.

To view already presented sessions click here: <u>Link</u> to OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series (Fall 2020) videos.

Register for upcoming sessions by clicking on the webinar title:

October 20 – Rate Design Considerations for Your Community's Future

**Speaker:** Mark Beauchamp, Utility Financial Solutions **Category:** Electric Growth and Sustainability **SESSION DESCRIPTION:** With ever-increasing customer demands for rooftop solar, electric vehicles and charging stations, public power systems must act now. This session provides insight and strategies that benefit customers and the utility with proven methods to address obstacles to rate structure changes.

(see 9 O'CLOCK LEARNING SERIES, page7)

## **Public Power's Loss is Clinton's Gain**

One of the strongest and longest serving voices for public power has taken on a new role with a non-electric city. Robert Johnston has left the City of Frederick and becomes the City Manager for Clinton later this month.

Robert's municipal career began in Clinton so it seems fitting that his career may end there also. In between, though, Robert has served the public power communities of Tonkawa and Frederick for many years. He served on the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's (OMPA) Board of Directors for sixteen years, the last two as Chairman. Additionally, Robert is the recipient of American Public Power

Association's "7 Hats" award and is a past Board member/president of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma (OMA's predecessor).

"While my ongoing service in a public power community has been disrupted, my strong commitment to public power continues." Johnston said.

While it's a sad day when a strong voice for public power moves on, we are grateful that Robert will continue his service in Oklahoma and know that the citizens of Clinton will benefit from his leadership.

Dave Andren, city manager of Mangum, has been appointed to fill Robert's seat on the OMPA Board.

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## Oklahoma City's Scissortail Park Earns Awards

The Oklahoma Municipal Alliance proudly congratulates the City of Oklahoma City and its Scissortail Park for well-deserved recognition both national and regional organizations.

The park recently earned awards from the American Public Works Association (APWA) and Engineering News-Record (ENR) Texas & Louisiana.

The APWA name the park as a winner in the Structures Category of its 2020 Public Works Projects of the Year for excellence in management and administration, in recognition of the cooperation required between the government, contractors and consultants.

ENR, a regional industry publication, recognized the park as one of its 2020 Best Projects.

The 40-acre upper section of Scissortail park opened a year ago. Development of the 30-acre lower section is scheduled to begin later this year.

Go to <a href="https://www.okc.gov/maps3">www.scissortailpark.org</a> to learn more about Scissortail Park.

The City of Perry has approximately 2,400 water meters of varying sizes and brands that are surplus and are available to any interested city.

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# DOE Awards \$12 Million to APPA, NRECA for Cybersecurity Solutions

From the American Public Power Association
By Peter Maloney

The Department of Energy has announced \$12 million in cooperative agreements with the American Public Power Association (APPA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to develop and deploy solutions to cyber and cyberphysical threats.

The cooperative agreement funding, which comes through the DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER), allocates \$6 million to each organization.

APPA will work alongside CESER's Cybersecurity for Energy Delivery Systems division, which carries out CESER's research and development function, and the National Energy Technology Laboratory, which will develop and demonstrate the final cyber and cyberphysical solutions that are slated to be deployed to utilities by 2023.

"Grid security is a journey, not a destination," said APPA President and CEO Joy Ditto. "This funding from DOE-CESER will provide us with critical resources to continue to navigate this journey. Developing and enhancing tools to assist public power and co-ops in protecting critical infrastructure will ultimately benefit the entire industry."

Solutions developed and deployed under this cooperative agreement will help provide utilities with hardware, firmware and/or software to protect the key operational technology components that enable the safe control of the physical systems that deliver electric power.

According to a <u>press release from CESER</u>, "The solutions will detect and respond to adversarial activity through community-led information sharing; use artificial intelligence to reduce false positives in threat detection; provide advanced analytics for pinpointing when and where a system was compromised;

(see DOE AWARDS, page 5)

# U.S. Wind Sector Installs More Than 2,500 MW of Capacity in Q2 2020

September 14, 2020 By Taelor Bentley

The U.S. wind industry installed over 2,500 megawatts of new wind power capacity in the second quarter of 2020, bringing total American capacity to nearly 110,000 MW, the American Wind Energy Association recently said in a new report.

AWEA's <u>report</u> reveals that despite the significant challenges faced during the pandemic, many U.S. wind developers managed to complete their projects during the three-month period.

Fourteen new wind projects totaling 2,546 MW began operating across nine states during the second quarter. Texas led the country with 810 MW of new wind projects installed. Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, and Nebraska followed. Missouri passed 1,000 MW in total capacity in the second quarter, making it the 20th state to reach the gigawatt milestone. There are now 109,919 MW of operating wind power capacity in the U.S.

Wind power development and construction activity remained strong during the pandemic. This is partially due to additional flexibility from the U.S. Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) concerning tax credit qualification. Construction activity reached a new record in the second quarter, having built 25,318 MW across the country. Another 18,310 MW are in advanced development. The combined 43,628 MW represents a four percent year-over-year increase from the second quarter of 2019.

Offshore wind has also made substantial advances during the second quarter.

The first wind project in federal waters, the 12 MW Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project, completed installation of its two turbines in June. The project is currently undergoing testing and will be operational later this year.

Meanwhile, New England investor-owned utilities Eversource Energy and United Illuminating signed contracts for the 804-MW Park City Wind offshore project during the second quarter. As a result of this activity, offshore wind now represents 21 percent of the wind power pipeline at 9,112 MW.

New wind projects installed in the second quarter were already nearing the end of the years-long

(see WIND SECTOR, page 4)

## **OMPA's Melie Vincent Joins SPP Committee**

OMPA's Director of Operations, Melie Vincent, was recently selected for the Southwest Power Pool's Strategic Planning Committee. Her four-year term on the committee is set to begin in January of 2021.

The committee provides recommendations to the Board of Directors for SPP, which is a regional transmission organization mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power, transmission infrastructure and wholesale electricity prices.



Vincent joined OMPA in 2016 after an extensive background in the power industry.

She began her career as an economic analyst at Big Rivers Electric Corporation, before becoming the market settlements analyst for ACES Power Marketing, assisting in the development of settlement processes. She then served as the power supply manager for Brazos Electric Cooperative, assuming responsibility for real-time to long-term generation portfolio deployment. Before coming to OMPA, Vincent joined strategy and business development at Midcontinent Independent System Operation.

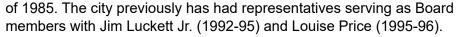
## Mangum's Dave Andren Joins OMPA Board

Dave Andren, City Manager of Mangum, was approved to join the OMPA Board of Directors at its most recently monthly meeting in September.

Andren has been the city manager at Mangum since 2018. Before that, he was assistant city manager in the City of Crescent and spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force.

He fills a Board seat vacated by Frederick's Robert Johnston. The term will last until the Annual Meeting in 2023, at which point Andren could be re-elected.

Mangum was one of the original 26 OMPA members, as it began receiving power in July





((continued from page 3)

development process and had the materials and components on hand to complete construction before the COVID-19 pandemic began to create supply chain disruptions for the broader American wind industry, AWEA reported.

New federal IRS guidance provides one additional year of safe harbor tax flexibility for near-term projects.



## OMA Affiliate/ Associate **Members**

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## Gov. Stitt Proclaims "Pensacola Dam Day" in Oklahoma

Since 1940 the Grand River Dam Authority's Pensacola Dam has spanned the Grand River Valley, held back the waters that create Grand Lake and produced renewable hydroelectric power for Oklahomans. And now, it is being honored with its own special day.

In late September, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt issued a proclamation recognizing Sunday, October 4 as "Pensacola Dam Day" in the state. The proclamation highlights the important role the dam has played in Oklahoma since its completion as well as the efforts of those individuals who helped bring the dam from a vision to reality 80 years ago.

Initial construction on the dam began early in 1938 with excavation work. Just before the year ended, a round-the-clock, continuous pour of concrete, which would last 20 months, was underway. By early October 1940, all major construction work was completed and Grand Lake was nearly full.

The dam's 51 arches stretch out for more than a mile between the communities of Langley and Disney, which both sprung up in the area during the construction. Pensacola Dam's iconic multi-arch

design and art deco features were key reasons why it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

The dam is Oklahoma's first hydroelectric facility and continues to play an important role in GRDA's diverse electric generation portfolio today. GRDA generates and supplies electricity to municipal, industrial and electric cooperative customers in Oklahoma as well as off-system customers across a four-state region. Pensacola Dam is one of three GRDA hydroelectric facilities on the Grand River. Robert S. Kerr Dam (Lake Hudson) and the Salina Pumped Storage Project were both completed in the 1960s.

Since it first filled 80 years ago, Grand Lake has spurred economic development and quality of life in Northeast Oklahoma and the surrounding region. The lake serves as the foundation for a thriving recreation and tourism industry, supporting a broad tax base. With 46,500 surface acres of water and highly-develop shoreline areas, it remains the most popular water destination in Oklahoma.



Pensacola Dam present



Pensacola Construction in 1940

## **DOE Awards**

(continued from page 3)

increase system resilience, and employ autonomous defense at remote endpoints."

"Our goal here is to utilize our unique capability as a national convener of public power utilities, working with our members and other organizations, to help develop, demonstrate, and deploy cybersecurity solutions," Alex Hofmann, APPA's vice president of technical and operations services, said.

CESER was <u>established</u> in February 2018 with \$96 million in funding aimed at bolstering the DOE's cybersecurity and energy security efforts.

This cooperative agreement, which is focused on defense of operational technology, is separate from, but builds on, a cooperative agreement APPA entered into with the DOE in 2016 to develop a culture of cybersecurity within public power. That partnership, called Cybersecurity for Energy Delivery Systems, or CEDS, resulted in several public power-specific resources, including the Public Power Cybersecurity Scorecard, the Public Power Cybersecurity Roadmap and the Public Power Incidence Response Playbook.

Utilities can find additional information and resources on the CEDS program on our website.

## OMA Planning for 2021 Public Power Conference and Webinar Series

With less than three months left in calendar year 2020, the OMA team is planning for 2021 programs and events.

"Looking forward to next year, we are planning to hold our annual conference in person again and introduce some new programs," said OMA General Manager, Tom Rider.

The Public Power Conference (PPC) will be April 25 – 27, 2021 in Norman. Joy Ditto, President & CEO of the American Public Power Association, is scheduled to be the conference's keynote speaker. She will address "the State of Public Power."

Sponsorship information for the PPC is expected to be available mid-November, and attendee registration packets will available after the first of the year.

In addition to the PPC and in-person training events through the Job Training and Safety Program and our Professional Development sessions, OMA is planning a series of online webinar events.

"2020 has taught us how to effectively use an

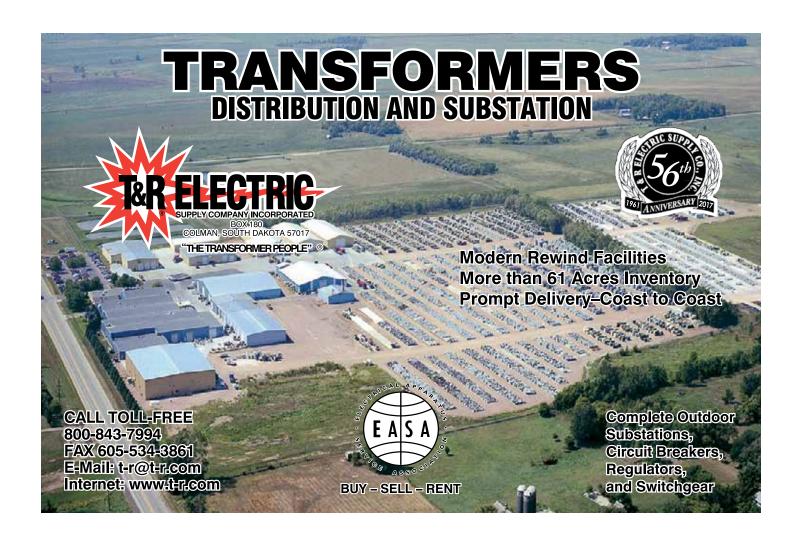
online webinar format to connect with our members," Rider said. "We intend to use this tool with the intended benefit of reaching more members while allowing them to participate from where they are."

Rider is planning to present Supervisor Boot Camp. This program features weekly sessions beginning January 5 through March 30. The sessions are expected to be between 30 to 60 minutes.

Jeff Kaufmann, OMA Director of Communications and Professional Development, is preparing monthly stand-alone sessions in a program titled the OMA Learning Series (Municipal Utility Customer Service Billing Professionals).

Kelly Danner, OMA Director of Business Development, is organizing the third new online webinar program that will focus on the operations of public works departments. The series will be every other Thursday and will cover wide variety of topics.

Details for the three new programs are expected to be announced mid-November.



## 9 o'clock Learning Series

(continued from page 1

October 21 – <u>Financial Stability 101: Assessing Your Financial Health</u>

Speaker: Dawn Lund, Utility Financial Solutions Category: Municipal Financial Stability and Growth SESSION DESCRIPTION: A utility's overall financial health can ensure its ability to provide reliable service to customers now and into the future. Assess your utility's financial health against industry guidelines and key financial targets and learn how to put a plan in place to reach recommended targets.

October 28 – What's the SHAPE of your water and wastewater systems and what funding Opportunities does OWRB provide to help a variety of project types

Speaker: Joe Freeman, Oklahoma Water Resources

Board

**Category:** Water and Wastewater Issues **SESSION DESCRIPTION:** Learn about the loan and grant programs available through the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to help fund your system's project needs.

November 3 – Water Treatment: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Lessons learned along the way

Speakers: Brian Marshall PE and Season Crabtree

PE, Guernsey

Category: Water and Wastewater Issues SESSION DESCRIPTION: Two water utilities working together with a "clear purpose" on a short timeline. This session addresses the everything from surrounding community complaints to unprecedented rains on a residual drying project to how to keep decision-makers and the public informed (or the good, bad, ugly and lessons learned).

November 10 – Pump Station Operations: Common Issues and Low/No Cost Operation Adjustments

**Speakers:** Wick Warden PE and Clay Hearndon PE,

Freese & Nichols

Category: Water and Wastewater Issues SESSION DESCRIPTION: Reducing costs of water and wastewater pump stations can be achieved by applying best practices in both design and operation. This session will present some low-cost modifications and operational changes at pump station installation to increase reliability and maintainability.

# OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series (Fall 2020)

## **Sponsors**

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## Gas-fired Generation Hit a Record on July 27, EIA Says

From the American Public Power Association By Paul Ciampoli September 3, 2020

Natural gas-fired generation in the lower 48 states hit an all-time high of 316 gigawatts (GW) on July 27, according to data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

The EIA noted that the record coincided with a record level of natural gas consumed by generating plants, so-called gas burn, set on the same day as reported by S&P Global Platts.

Platts estimates put gas burn at 47.2 billion cubic feet (Bcf). The previous record, 45.4 Bcf, was set on Aug. 6, 2019. In addition to beating the previous record, gas-burn exceeded 45.4 Bcf per day on seven days in July 2020 and one day in August.

The record level of gas-fired generation is the result of a combination of factors, namely, high demand in response to searing summer temperatures, relatively low natural gas prices, the start-up of new gas-fired capacity and increased natural gas consumption in the power sector, EIA said.

The use of natural gas for power generation has been rising for years. Earlier this month, the <u>EIA noted</u> that gas-fired generation in the lower 48 states increased nearly 55,000 gigawatt hours (GWh), or 9%, in the first half of 2020 compared with the first half of 2019 despite a 5% decline in total electricity generation as a result of COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

The increased use of gas-fired generation is fueled by persistently low gas prices. The EIA noted that natural gas prices at the benchmark Henry Hub in Louisiana averaged \$1.73 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) for gas delivered on July 27. And, from June 1 to July 30, Henry Hub prices averaged \$1.64/MMBtu, 30% lower than the prices during the same period in 2019. Adjusted for inflation, the average price is the lowest for that period since at least 1993, the EIA said, citing data from Natural Gas Intelligence.

Of the electricity generated on July 27 in the lower 48 states, natural gas held the largest share at 45%, followed by coal with a 24% share, nuclear power had a 17% share, renewable energy a 12% share, and other sources a 3% share, the EIA noted.

Low gas prices are also prompting utilities and developers to convert coal-fired plants to burn gas. A total of 121 coal plants were repurposed to burn other types of fuels between 2011 and 2019. Most of those plants, 103, were converted to burn natural gas or replaced by a gasfired plant.

Natural gas is also the leading fuel for new fossil fuel generation. Between January 2019 and May 2020, the United States added 13.8 GW of gas-fired capacity and retired 5.4 GW for a net gain of 8.4 GW, making gas-fired generation second only to the 12.6 GW of onshore wind power built in the same period, according to EIA's <a href="Pereliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory">Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory</a>.

Most of the new gas-fired capacity is in the form of combined-cycle plants that use the latest technology to achieve high efficiency ratings, the EIA said, adding that the retired gas plants were less efficient steam plants or combustion turbines.



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Environmental Services
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Privatization
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Public-Private Partnerships
Thermo-Economics
Utility Analysis and Optimization



## **APPA Cybersecurity Partnership with DOE** Yields Significant Resources for Members

From the American Public Power Association
By Paul Ciampoli

A partnership that the American Public Power Association entered with the Department of Energy (DOE) in 2016 has resulted in a wide range of resources that help public power utilities develop a culture of cybersecurity.

"Now more than ever, it is vital that the public power community stays on top of the latest cybersecurity threats and is able to effectively respond to those threats," said Nathan Mitchell, Senior Director of Cyber and Physical Security Services at APPA.

"APPA successfully leveraged our partnership with the DOE over the last four years to deliver a wide range of resources to our members in order to help them successfully meet the ever-changing cybersecurity threat landscape," he said. The agreement terminates at the end of this month.

"The end of our agreement with DOE is not the end of the cybersecurity journey, it is only the beginning," Mitchell said, noting that all of the guidance documents that have been developed as a result of the agreement are still available for download from APPA's website at: <a href="https://www.publicpower.org/topic/cybersecurity-and-physical-security">https://www.publicpower.org/topic/cybersecurity-and-physical-security.</a>

"APPA encourages its members to continue to use these resources to further enhance their cybersecurity programs," he said.

Tools available to APPA members as a result of the agreement (Award No. DE-OE0000811) include:

## **Public Power Cybersecurity Scorecard**

The <u>Public Power Cybersecurity Scorecard</u> is a customized platform that allows public power utilities to evaluate their cybersecurity program, plan improvements, and benchmark their security posture across peer utilities. There are currently 338 participating utilities in the program.

Free access to the Cybersecurity Scorecard will end as of Sept. 30. While the Cybersecurity Scorecard program will remain open to members to use, APPA is transitioning to a commercial, paid for service offering.

## **Public Power Cybersecurity Roadmap**

The <u>Public Power Cybersecurity Roadmap</u>, which builds on the Cybersecurity Scorecard, is a strategic plan designed to help public power utilities develop

a stronger, sustainable state of security that is continually monitored and improved upon.

Developed with input from public power utilities' security, information technology, operational technology, and leadership experts, the roadmap breaks down how a public power utility can develop and implement an action plan to improve its cybersecurity practices into four manageable stages.

### The Public Power Incidence Response Playbook

The <u>playbook</u> offers public power utilities with step-by-step guidance and critical considerations in preparing for a cyber incident and developing a response plan that enables staff to take swift, effective action.

The playbook helps public power utilities think through the actions needed in the event of a cyber incident, clarifies the right people to engage in response to cyber incidents of different severity, and offers advice and templates to coordinate messaging about the incident.

## Cybersecurity Training at the Cybersecurity Virtual Summit

To expand member outreach, APPA has started hosting an annual <u>Cybersecurity Summit</u>, now in its third year.

The summit, which welcomed over 150 attendees in its first year and over 200 in its second year, offers training and networking opportunities to attendees. The summits continue to be held annually.

The next summit is scheduled for Nov. 16-17. Additional details are available here.

#### Other resources

Other resources flowing from the agreement for member utilities include a Weekly Situation Report prepared by APPA staff and a Regional Shared Cybersecurity Services Model.

To receive the Weekly Situation Report, subscribe to the Security List Serv at: https://www.publicpower.org/subscribe/lsoft-manual.

Additional information about the Regional Shared Cybersecurity Services Model is available <a href="here">here</a>.

#### What is Next?

APPA will continue to work with DOE and is in the process of signing a new cooperative agreement to help public power utilities defend their OT cyber assets.



## CORONAVIRUS vs. COLD vs. FLU vs. ALLERGIES

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19*	COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
Fever	Common (100F or higher)	Rare	High (100-102F, can last 3-4 days)	No
Headache	Sometimes	Rare	Intense	Sometimes
General aches, pains	Sometimes	Slight	Common (often severe)	No
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Slight	Common (often severe)	Sometimes
Extreme exhaustion	Sometimes (progresses slowly)	Never	Common (starts early)	No
Stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Rare	Common	Common	No
Cough	Common	Mild to moderate	Common (can become severe)	Sometimes
Shortness of breath	In more serious infections	Rare	Rare	Common
Runny nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Diarrhea	Sometimes	No	Sometimes**	No

\* Information is still evolving \*\* Sometimes for children







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## What We Can Do Today to Limit the Spread of the COVID-19 Virus:

- Clean and disinfect regularly
- Be diligent of surroundings and to increase hand washing and personal hygiene techniques
- Adopt a "no hand-shake" policy
- Practice "social distancing" by keeping a 6-foot space between individuals when interacting
- Use telephone calls, video conferencing and/or email will replace "face-to-face" meetings
- Restrict workplaces to essential staff and service providers only
- Self-isolate anyone who has been in proximity to anyone suspected or confirmed having the virus for 14 days.

#### **COVID-19 Resources:**

- Centers for Disease Control
- · Oklahoma State Department of Health

- American Public Power Association COVID-19
   Update Page
- Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management
- · Gov. Stitt's Website
- American Gas Association COVID-19 Update Page
- American Water Works Association COVID-19 Resources Page
- <u>Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety</u>
   <u>Administration Home Page</u>
- <u>US Department of Labor OSHA COVID-19</u>
   <u>Update Page</u>
- FEMA Coronavirus Rumor Control
- National Governors Association COVID-19 Update Page
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
   Administration COVID-19 Update Page



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