



OKLAHOMA PUBLIC POWER

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

April 2014

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Register online at www.meso.org until April 18

MESO will present a one-day session designed for elected officials to hear from public power leaders on a wide variety of pressing issues facing municipalities today.

The 2014 MESO Elected Officials Conference will be held April 28 in Norman in conjunction with the 2014 MESO Public Power Conference – Oklahoma’s premier gathering of public power leaders from across the state and a wide variety of industry exhibitors.

"In most cases, municipal elec-

tric services have the largest impact on our budgets and affect the greatest number of citizens in our communities," said Chuck Hall, former Mayor of Perry and conference panelist. "Certainly we can chose to be a mediocre provider and just get by. I prefer a strategic approach through education and planning. The Elected Officials Conference focuses on just that."

Attendees will hear from public power experts covering four major areas:

- "Municipal Electric Operations

101" will describe the big picture about public power today including workforce planning and the current regulatory climate,

- "The Business of Utility Management" will focus on financial planning and repairs and maintenance,
- "Marketing Your System to Your Customers," will address how to promote the value of your system and the impact on economic development, and

(see LEADERS, page 6)

Nearly 50 Exhibitors/Sponsors to Attend 2014 MESO Public Power Conference

In addition to three distinct learning tracks for participants, the 2014 MESO Public Power Conference will welcome nearly 50 exhibitors/sponsors.

"Conference participants regularly tell us how they value the time with exhibitors and sponsors during the conference," said Tom Rider, MESO

General Manager. "A few minutes together equates to many minutes of phone conversation throughout the year."

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ergy measurement solutions for utilities.

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"The Public Power Conference is a great opportunity for users and decision-makers to meet with their suppliers in one location." Rider added. "This time together allows for specific questions as well as the opportunity to gain new insights into products and

services that could benefit a municipal electric system."

There are several specific time slots in the conference program for participants to visit sponsors and exhibitors, or they can schedule time to meet as needed.

(see EXHIBITORS, page 11)



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Phil Johnston Doesn't Want His Team to Work Faster

Editor's Note: As part of MESO's monthly newsletter, we introduce you to our board members in a Q&A format. In this issue, we meet Phil Johnston. In addition to serving on the MESO Board, he is the General Manager of Electric Utilities for the Ponca City Utilities Authority.



of new meters on the system in the past decade. This means we have very little room for mistakes.

How did you get your start in the electric utility industry?

After earning my degree in agricultural engineer-

ing from OSU, I was hired by Kay Electric Co-op out of Blackwell. Interestingly, a lot of Coops were hiring agricultural engineering graduates because of our background working in a rural setting.

After growing up in Cushing, going to school in Stillwater, getting my first job in Blackwell, and now working in Ponca City – I've always been close to home.

What is your biggest accomplishment?

I'm proud of my role in life as a husband and father. My wife Sharon and I raised three sons. We are the proud grandparents of nine, and we have two great grandchildren. I believe we successfully integrated three young men in to society.

(see JOHNSTON, page 7)

What do you see as the biggest issue or challenge your utility is facing today?

We have clear thinking leadership from our mayor, city council and city manager who help us do things strategically and very well. Our biggest challenge is running an electric utility with little growth

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APPA Adopts Resolutions on Distributed Generation, Mutual Aid, Physical Security and Other Issues

March 12, 2014

By Robert Varela, Editorial Director

APPA's Legislative & Resolutions Committee approved nine policy resolutions yesterday at the association's annual Legislative Rally, including resolutions dealing with distributed generation policies, physical security standards and mutual aid. Other resolutions address reform of regional transmission organization capacity markets, patent troll legislation, sequestration of direct payment bond credit payments, Army Corps of Engineers' hydro practices, small modular reactors, and protecting utilities from liability for cyber attacks.

Distributed generation, particularly solar, provides opportunities and challenges for utilities and

their customers, including additional revenue and customer equity challenges, APPA Resolution 14-02 said. Distributed generation can play an important role in public power's renewable energy portfolio, but all distributed generation customers need to pay their fair share of the costs of keeping the grid operating safely and reliably, APPA said. Policies for compensating distributed generation customers also must reflect the utility's costs and benefits, the resolution said.

With regard to physical security, APPA resolved to continue to work internally as well as externally (with agencies and entities across all levels of government) to en-

hance collaboration, with a goal of protecting critical infrastructure by forging strong partnerships, educating its member utilities, and supporting legislation and administration efforts to enhance information-sharing.

The mutual aid resolution emphasizes the importance of having a mutual aid plan developed, implemented and maintained by public power systems as represented by APPA's Mutual Aid Working Group. The resolution calls for APPA to continue to work with its members, the Mutual Aid Working Group, other utility associations and federal agencies to improve communication and

(see APPA, page 4)



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GRDA, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas Sign Agreement for Combined Cycle Unit

Tulsa – One of the most important contract signings in Grand River Dam Authority history has moved the utility one step closer to a new era in electricity production for customers across Oklahoma.

On Friday afternoon, GRDA Chief Executive Officer/Director of Investments Dan Sullivan signed a contract with Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas for the purchase of a combined cycle natural gas generation unit. That unit (GRDA Unit 3), will not only have the capability to produce 495 megawatts (MW) of electricity but it also has the potential to be the most efficient of its kind in the United States. Unit 3 will be located at the Grand River Energy Center (formerly GRDA Coal Fired Complex), east of Chouteau, Oklahoma.

Sullivan signed the agreement, along with Mr. Yoshihiro Shiraiwa, President of Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas (MHPSA), during a special ceremony at the GRDA Engineering and Technology Center in Tulsa.

“This is an historic agreement for both GRDA and Mitsubishi,” said Sullivan. “This unit will be the first of its kind in the western hemisphere. It is state-of-the-art technology, and as a combined cycle unit, it will operate very efficiently while providing low-cost, reliable electricity for GRDA customers for decades to come.”

A combined cycle unit produces electricity in two ways: Natural gas is first used to fuel a combustion turbine-generator and then heat from that process will be recaptured and used to produce steam to turn



Mr. Yoshihiro Shiraiwa, president of Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas (MHPSA, left) and Grand River Dam Authority Chief Executive Officer/Director of Investments Dan Sullivan.

another steam turbine-generator. This process allows the unit to achieve the high efficiency, while also allowing for lower fuel consumption and lower emissions. GRDA anticipates the new Unit 3 to be operational by March 2017.

“Part of the GRDA Board’s strategy is to reduce our reliance on coal,” said Sullivan. “We can achieve some of that with this new facility. By burning natural gas from right here in Oklahoma, we will have a diversified generation portfolio that will continue to keep costs low for our customers.”

APPA (continued from page 3)

resolve obstacles during preparation for and recovery from disasters.

The nine resolutions are as follows:

- Resolution 14-01: In Support of Legislation to Protect Against "Patent Trolls" (Patent Assertion Entities or "PAEs")
- Resolution 14-02: In Support of Distributed Generation Policies that Allow for Local Decision-making and Equitable Rates Among Customers
- Resolution 14-03: In Opposition to Sequestration of Direct Payment Bond Payments
- Resolution 14-04: In Support of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)
- Resolution 14-05: In Support of Improving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hydropower Practices

- Resolution 14-06: In Support of Strengthening Public Power's Mutual Aid Networks
- Resolution 14-07: In Support of Reforming the Centralized Capacity Markets Operated by Regional Transmission Organizations
- Resolution 14-08: In Support of Appropriate Liability Protection for Electric Utilities Related to Cyber Attacks
- Resolution 14-09: In Support of Critical Infrastructure Physical Security

The approved resolutions are posted on APPA's website.

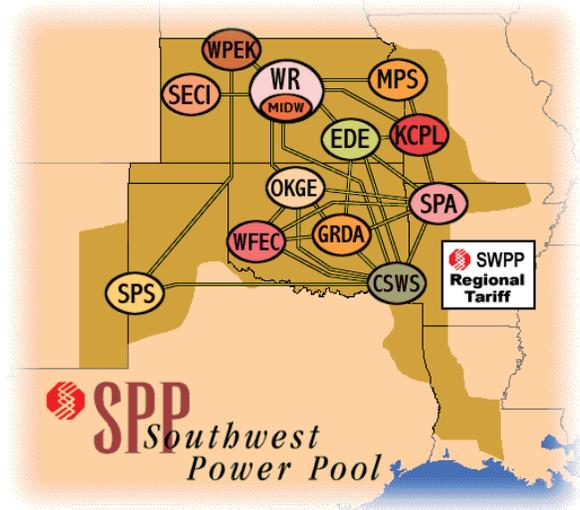
The resolutions will serve as interim policy for the association until approved by APPA members at APPA's National Conference, June 13-18, in Denver, Colo.

Southwest Power Pool's New Integrated Marketplace

On March 1, 2014 at 12:05 am, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) launched the Integrated Marketplace. The Integrated Marketplace replaces SPP's Energy Imbalance Service Market, which had been in operation since 2007.

This impacts not only the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA), but all Oklahoma electric providers. The Integrated Marketplace is a major change from the real-time market that OMPA previously operated in and is expected to realize up to \$100 million in annual net benefits to the SPP region. During its first two days of operation, the Integrated Marketplace saw about 30,000 megawatts of power being exchanged at any time.

In this new market, SPP becomes the central balancing authority, administering day-ahead energy and operating reserve products across the entire SPP footprint. The Integrated Marketplace improves grid reliability by determining which generating units should run the next day for maximum cost-effectiveness, and improves the regional balancing of supply and demand. It also facilitates further integration of renewable resources in SPP's market. In addition, the new marketplace includes products for transmission congestion hedging.



OMPA staff prepared for more than two years for this transition, training and testing its market systems. Along the way, OMPA staff put in many hours of both online and on-site training at various venues across the SPP footprint.

"This commitment to the training effort allowed for the Integrated Marketplace launch in our opinion to

(see MARKETPLACE, page 10)

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TradeWind Energy and GRDA to Deliver Low-cost Renewable Wind Energy to Oklahoma Residents

The Mustang Run and Breckinridge projects in rural Oklahoma will boost the economy while providing low-cost Energy to Oklahomans

TradeWind Energy, Inc., one of the largest independent wind and solar project development companies in the U.S., has entered into long-term renewable energy purchase agreements with the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) to deliver low-cost wind energy from two Oklahoma wind projects.



Together the 136 MW Mustang Run project in Osage County and the 98 MW Breckinridge project near Enid will produce enough low-cost energy to supply about 65,000 Oklahoma homes. The projects will pay approximately \$50 million to TradeWind's landowner partners and generate in excess of \$30 million in total ad valorem property taxes, over the next 20 years. The projects will create approximately 20 full-time jobs once they are both operational and will require 300 construction jobs to build.

With Mustang Run and Breckinridge, TradeWind will have developed or begun construction on six wind projects in Oklahoma since 2011. The projects represent just under 1 GW of capacity, \$1.6 billion in capital investment and well over \$200 million in aggregate landowner payments.

"Oklahoma has an outstanding natural resource in wind, but what sets it apart for development is the

state's commitment to encouraging wind energy in a way that creates jobs and spurs investment in local communities," said Sanjay Bhasin, TradeWind's senior vice president for business development.

TradeWind has been collaborating with state and local agencies, landowners and community members in the communities surrounding the two projects. In December, TradeWind partnered with the Shidler School District in Osage County to provide two new school buses for students after company officials learned that the rural school district was experiencing transportation troubles. In response, Shidler's School Superintendent John (see GRDA, page 7)

Leaders

(continued from page 1)

- "Planning for Your Grandchildren" will lay out the need for successful long-term planning and balancing revenue sources for growth needs.

"A major benefit of these conferences is the chance to hear from experienced public power policy makers on a range of issues, ask any questions and develop some network contacts to help with this special municipal utility business," said Edmond Mayor Charles Lamb, who also is a panelist for the conference.

For more information about the 2014 MESO Elected Officials Conference contact Tom Rider at (405) 528-7564 or tom@meso.org. Register online for the conference at www.meso.org.

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Johnston *(continued from page 2)*

Do you like the Sooners or Cowboys? If someone else, why?

I am a die-hard Aggie. But you have to be tough to be an Aggie, those guys can break heart in a minute.

What keeps you awake at night?

Not much, I realized a long time ago to move "worry time" into work time and to roll with the punches.

What do you think the benefits are of public power?

I think there is great value in self determination by having control at the local level. From my experience, public power communities are in a better position to add new services to benefit customers. For example, in Ponca City, we have an excellent library, great police department and fewer potholes all in part due to the revenues generate by our public power system.

Is there one thing that you tell every member of your team?

I stress the overall concept of team – one man or crew cannot put a system back together after an ice storm. It takes crews in the field and folks inside the office ordering materials and supplies and answering the phones.

My team will never hear me say, "work faster." I expect them to be workmanlike and busy while focusing on safety.

GRDA *(continued from page 6)*

Herzig commented, "I guess Santa's sleigh is big and yellow in Osage County this year."

"We take pride in being an integral part of the community on every project we develop, and we are looking forward to doing the same on these projects," Bhasin said.

GRDA's goal is to have a well-balanced and diversified generation portfolio, said GRDA CEO and Director of Investments, Dan Sullivan.

"The addition of these wind projects will help bring the diversity we need," Sullivan said. "The fuel options we will have in the future will continue to serve our customers well with reliability and affordability. We look forward to our partnership with TradeWind in this very important step toward our future."

The Mustang Run wind project will be developed on 16,000 acres in Osage County, ten miles west of Pawhuska, Oklahoma. The 20-year power purchase agreement between TradeWind Energy and GRDA for 136 MW was approved by the GRDA board of directors. An estimated 150 people will be employed during the construction phase with the fully operational project requiring up to ten full-time workers.

The Breckinridge wind project will be developed on approximately 10,000 acres in Garfield County just north of the town of Breckinridge. The 20-year power purchase agreement with GRDA for 98 MW was approved by the GRDA board.

Each project is expected to contribute up to \$2 million annually in direct payments to the respective local communities via property taxes and rent payments to landowners who will host the turbine easements over the 20-year contract terms.

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A Shift in Substation Security

By Randy Nason, PE, CPP, Vice President – Manager,
Security Consulting Group for Guernsey

The recent discussions surrounding the April 2013 incident at the PG&E Metcalf substation has revived the historical concerns surrounding critical infrastructure protection. The takeaway from this event is not that electric substations are vulnerable to high powered rifle attack but rather that this known vulnerability has been exploited in what is reported to be a well planned effort by a determined group of individuals.



Industry practitioners are well aware of the vulnerabilities inherent in distributed infrastructure systems. A considerable amount of redundancy is usually designed into these largely serial systems. This allows a range of options in the event of the loss of certain key components including reliance on stored reserves or alternate

routing, depending on the system type and configuration. However, in many instances, outages still occur.

The electric infrastructure is especially vulnerable in that it does not benefit from the overburden that provides some degree of protection for system such as water and natural gas. Electric substations, except in the largest metropolitan areas, are constructed above ground. Oftentimes, the largest substations and switching facilities are in outlying areas making them a large, visible, and somewhat remote target.

Considerable effort has been expended in the past decade in securing electric substations. Some of this effort has been driven by regulatory requirements; however, a primary driver has been preventing copper theft and general vandalism. The security approach has tended to follow the fixed facility model of detecting unauthorized access at a defined perimeter, assessing the cause of the alarm, and then initiating an appropriate response: in other words, protecting against a threat that is assumed to penetrate the perimeter boundary in order to accomplish its goal. This legacy approach was entirely justified since there was no significant body of data to challenge these threat assumptions.

However, the invalidating data was generated at Metcalf. It could well be that this incident changes

the way we approach substation security just like the 1995 Murrah Federal Building bombing escalated the security profile at U. S. federal facilities and 9/11 generated the term homeland security. Let me recommend the following activities.

1. **Critical Facility Identification:** The NERC CIP standards provide a methodology for identifying critical assets, primarily from a cyber perspective. This approach should be broadened to include physical assets that would significantly impact the stability and reliable operation of the bulk electric system (BES). Individual utilities should also recognize that a substation need not meet that standard to be a target. Metcalf is a case in point as the damages are reported at \$15.4 million and yet no significant outages occurred.
2. **Design Model:** New substation security designs need to take into account offsite threats. This will require protective measures to deny line of sight to critical, long-lead time items. It will also require the assessment function to address threats outside the substation perimeter. Current advanced video analytic software may be crucial to this requirement.
3. **Contingency Planning:** Utility contingency planning should be escalated to consider complete loss of large components, not just damage. For many organizations, this will require longer range recovery planning due to component lead times.
4. **Coordination with Law Enforcement:** Utilities also need to recognize that in the event of an incident like that at Metcalf, recovery efforts will take place in the midst of a federal crime scene. This may delay and subsequently limit access to the substation, thus extending the recovery timeline.

A comprehensive program to address this threat has many pieces; hardening the target is simply the starting point.

You can contact Nason at 405.416.8213 or randy.nason@guernsey.us.

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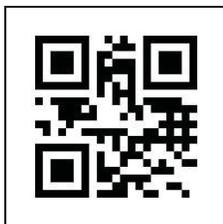
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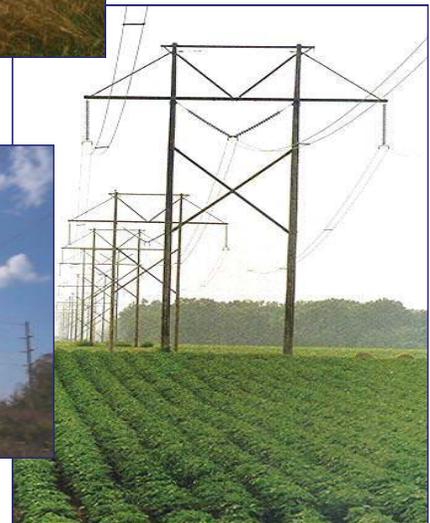
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Honoring Our Public Servants **Connecting Citizens with Their Government May 4-10, 2014**

Celebrated the first week of May since 1985, Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.

The theme for PSRW 2014 is Proud to Serve. We encourage government employees and leaders alike to take the opportunity to communicate the benefits and value of the work they do. To help spread the word, like us on Facebook and join the conversation on Twitter: #PSRW and #Proud2ServeUSA.

PSRW is organized annually by the Public Employees Roundtable (PER) and its member organizations. PER will kick off PSRW 2014 with its second annual Public Service 5K run/walk in Washington, D.C. Other feature events in Washington include a public town hall meeting with Cabinet secretaries, a Washington Nationals baseball game and a congressional breakfast to announce the finalists of the Samuel J. Hey-

man Service to America Medals.

Throughout the country, mayors, governors, agency leaders, communities and public service organizations participate in PSRW by issuing proclamations; hosting award ceremonies and special tribute events; and delivering messages about the value of public service.

Public servants deserve our thanks throughout the year and we invite you to continue honoring them for the work they do each and every day. Ideas range from sending messages of thanks to holding appreciation events to highlighting employee accomplishments on your website or newsletter. For additional suggestions, please download our How to Celebrate PSRW Guide.

For more than 30 years, the Public Employees Roundtable (PER) has served as a non-partisan coalition of good government organizations representing civil servants and retirees from all levels and throughout the country.

Marketplace

(continued from page 5)

have been a success," said David W. Osburn, OMPA General Manager.

SPP became the first Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) to design, build, and deliver a day-ahead market on time and on budget. RTOs are mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure, and competitive wholesale prices of electricity. About 60 percent of the U.S. electric power supply is managed by RTOs. As a North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Regional Entity, SPP also oversees compliance enforcement and reliability standards development.

Founded in 1941, SPP is a group of 76 members in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas that serve more than 15 million customers. Membership is comprised of investor-owned utilities, municipal systems, generation and transmission cooperatives, state authorities, wholesale generators, power marketers, and independent transmission companies. SPP's footprint includes 48,930 miles of transmission lines and 370,000 square miles of service territory.



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