

# LIVELines

Volume 66, Issue 8 | August 2015

2 Executive Director's Corner

3 Coming Events

4 Safety Corner

6 Member News and Tidbits

7 Classifieds

## Excavation Competent Person Training Successful

**Training Attendance Totaled 101 - Representing 18 Member Utilities**

This past month wrapped up MEUW's 2015 Excavation Competent Person Training. One of the many hazards employees encounter on a regular basis, are those posed by excavations. As with any hazard, a well-trained employee is the best defense against injuries on the job. MEUW was pleased to offer an 8-Hour Excavation Competent Person class held at four locations throughout Wisconsin. A total of 101 participants were in attendance representing 18 member utilities along with some cities and counties.

The class was instructed by Tim Palet, owner of SESCO LLC, who is well known by MEUW members for his 22+ years of training and expertise in excavation, confined space and fall protection. The class was designed to provide attendees with the requisite knowledge needed to ensure safe work practices during an excavation. Ultimately, the decision of who is a "competent person" rests with the employer to determine who is able to safely run an excavation site based on their knowledge and experience.



Several years ago, MEUW hosted the same class at two locations in the state. As a testament to how much the safety programs have grown and developed over the years, the number of locations that the training was held at doubled this year and so did the number of participants. This is also a great example of the importance members are placing on the commitment to safety in the workplace. MEUW sends a special thanks to Kaukauna Utilities, Sun Prairie Utilities, Black River Falls Utilities and Chippewa County for hosting these classes.



## MEUW Executive Director's Corner

By Zak Bloom, MEUW Executive Director

On August 3, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final rules to regulate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from new, modified and reconstructed, and existing power plants. The EPA Clean Power Plan has been an area of focus for MEUW since the rule was first introduced in September 2013 and the draft rules were issued in June 2014. This has been a top priority for MEUW's advocacy efforts.

Our work on the Clean Power Plan sought to educate key stakeholders on three main concerns: no credit for early action, an unrealistic interim compliance goal that could lead to price and reliability issues, and no credit for out-of-state renewables. It will take time to better understand the final rule, but here is what we know today:

1. The final rule increases total emissions reductions to 32 percent, compared to a total reduction of 30 percent in the draft rule. Wisconsin's 2012 baseline emissions rate was increased from 1,827 to 1,996 lbs.CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh-net, due to state agency and utility concerns that the original baseline was not representative of normal emissions due to cheap natural gas prices in 2012.
2. The final rule provides additional time for compliance with the interim deadline. The draft rule would have required Wisconsin to meet 87 percent of the emissions reduction by the year 2020. The final rule requires Wisconsin to meet 60 percent of the emissions reduction by 2024, 79 percent by 2027 and 92 percent by 2029. Total emissions reduction of 39 percent must be achieved by 2030. Click [here](#) for Wisconsin's interim and final goals.
3. The final rule also includes a reliability safety valve and will require states to prove that they have considered reliability in their state implementation plan. A state may seek a revision to their plan in the event of an unforeseen and significant reliability challenge arises.
4. The final rule includes three building blocks. Energy efficiency, the proposed fourth building block, was dropped from the rule. States may still count energy efficiency programs in their state implementation plans.

EPA is requiring interim state implementation plans by Sept. 6, 2016 and final plans by Sept. 6, 2018. At this point, it is unclear whether Wisconsin will develop a state implementation plan because Governor Walker has directed Attorney General Schimel to join a lawsuit to fight the final rule.

Clearly our advocacy work on the Clean Power Plan is just beginning. We will provide timely updates on the final rule as more information becomes available.



**ZIELIES**

*See us for all your  
vegetation management needs*

**zielies.com**      **1-877-550-7689**

**POWERFUL.  
PRODUCTIVE.  
PROVEN.**



For more information on Terex Utilities or Terex Services North America, Call 1.800.982.8975 or in Wisconsin call 262-547-8500 or visit [www.terex.com/utilities](http://www.terex.com/utilities)

 **TEREX**®

**WORKS FOR YOU.™**

©2015 Terex Corporation. Terex is a registered trademark of Terex Corporation in the US and many other countries.

## Coming Events

September 11	MEUW Board of Directors Meeting, Stevens Point	October 13-14	<b>Save the Date!</b> MEUW JT&S Substation Workshop, Kaukauna
September 23	<a href="#">MEUW Accounting &amp; Customer Service Seminar</a> , Wisconsin Dells	November 10-11	<b>Save the Date!</b> MEUW JT&S Lineman's Seminar, Wisconsin Dells
October 4-10	<b>Save the Date!</b> Public Power Week		
October 7	<b>Save the Date!</b> MEUW Management Training Program Session C, Wisconsin Dells		<i>Mark Your Calendars! Visit the <a href="#">MEUW website</a> for a full list of events scheduled through summer 2016.</i>

## MEUW Accounting & Customer Service Seminar

Register to attend this year's Accounting and Customer Service Seminar! This seminar will update utility personnel on regulatory and legislative issues that impact their utility and provide best practices to improve their operations. The MEUW Accounting and Customer Service Committee has put together an excellent program that will focus on improving collections through the use of State Debt Collection and Online Utility Exchange.

We are pleased to have representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue present a complete review of the State Debt Collection Initiative, and a representative from Online Utility Exchange to present their product that has proven effective in reducing and eliminating bad debt.

A representative from the Public Service Commission (PSC) will provide attendees with an update on a variety of topics including medical extensions, information that can be required on applications for service, procedures for adding and dropping parties on accounts, transferring a past-due balance to a tenant's new account and mobile home parks.

Boardman & Clark will provide a complete review of the provisions in place for Act 274 and the new tax roll procedures for 2015. This will be a very timely presentation to ensure members are able to accommodate the lien process and list reporting requirements. This process has been simplified significantly since we first provided guidance in early 2015.



• Directional Drilling  
• Trenching & Plowing  
• Fiber Splicing

**BUILDING TOMORROW'S UTILITIES TODAY.**

1.866.370.2243 • email: [info@jrundergroundllc.com](mailto:info@jrundergroundllc.com)  
916 Blake Street • P.O. Box 82 • Blanchardville, WI 53516  
[www.jrundergroundllc.com](http://www.jrundergroundllc.com)

Finally, we are fortunate to have our friends at Baker Tilly on hand to provide an update on changes to the PSC's annual report system and best practices when presenting financial information to your utility commission.

Accounting, customer service and utility billing staff will benefit greatly from this seminar. Please join us and 100 of your colleagues at this year's seminar! [Click here](#) to download registration materials available on the MEUW website; due Sept. 14, 2015.

**FULL-SERVICE CONSULTANTS**

- Communications, IT, and Smart Grid Automation
- Economics, Rates, and Business Planning
- Electrical Engineering
- Planning and Design
- Procurement, Contracts, and Deployment

**PSE Power System Engineering, Inc.**

[www.powersystem.org](http://www.powersystem.org) 866-825-8895

**boardman & clark llp**

LAW FIRM

**MUNICIPAL UTILITY COUNSEL**

Energy • Telecommunications • Water & Wastewater  
Land Use • Environmental • Employee Benefits  
Labor & Employment • Green Strategies

Madison WI • (608) 257-9521 • [www.boardmanclark.com](http://www.boardmanclark.com)



## MEUW Safety Corner

By Chris Schlechta, MEUW Director of Safety Services

Early in the morning of Monday, June 13 a large storm complex moved through the state causing sporadic wind damage throughout southern Wisconsin. As the storm progressed into central Wisconsin it further developed into a large bow-shaped complex packing damaging straight-line winds. The National Weather Service identified rotation in the segment of the storm over Columbus, which triggered a tornado warning for southern Dodge County. Ultimately, the rotation failed to materialize a tornado, however, it left the city with some significant damage as the sun rose Monday morning.

As the light of day revealed the extensive damage throughout the city, Columbus Water & Light reached out to MEUW with a request for mutual aid. Over the next three days, crews from 15 MEUW member communities and six MEUW staff were onsite assisting in the restoration efforts. In some respects, a tornado may have been easier to deal with by containing the damage to a general path; in Columbus the damage was located throughout the city, the densely populated center of the city being impacted the most. Further slowing the restoration efforts was the sheer number of large diameter, mature trees that came down blocking roads.

Several roads remained inaccessible well into Tuesday as crews worked to clear primary and secondary wires intertwined in the downed trees. Columbus Public Works crews were assisted by several neighboring public works departments and county highway crews to continue cutting up the trees. One monster-sized tree, precariously perched on a home and adjoining trees, required a substantially sized construction crane to move it.

One or more crews for mutual aid assistance were provided by Sun Prairie, Waunakee, Waupun, Lake Mills, Oconomowoc, Cedarburg, Stoughton, Prairie du Sac, Reedsburg, Hustisford, Hartford, Black Earth, Wisconsin Dells, Jefferson and Juneau.

“Steve, Lonnie, Chris and Andrew all provided excellent help that CWL needed during this ordeal. I appreciate the support, guidance and leadership that your staff provided to CWL during this disaster. I can’t tell you what it meant to have 16 different crews here from the MEUW family to help us rebuild,” said Eric Anthon, superintendent of Columbus Water & Light.



The mutual aid program is a shining example of the strength that MEUW members provide to each other as a part of a member-driven association. Patrick Vander Sanden, city administrator, commented “the Columbia County emergency management director mentioned several times that had we not had this extra assistance, the time needed to restore power to the city would have taken so much longer.” One of the greatest challenges during the initial response to a disaster is getting enough adequate situational

...continued on page 5

# MEUW Safety Corner *continued...*

awareness to determine your needs for resources. In nearly all large-scale incidents that is simply not available for what could be hours into the onset of the incident. Columbus, as well as several other members that have found themselves in this same situation, made the right call by activating the mutual aid process early and requesting resources through MEUW. Getting those first few mutual aid crews and MEUW staff enroute will help establish your operational cadence early, and greatly contribute to a faster, and more orderly restoration.

## APPA Academy Webinar Series

An internet connection and a computer are all you need to educate your entire staff for just \$89. Register today at [APPAAcademy.org](http://APPAAcademy.org). Non-APPA members enter coupon code **MEUW** to receive the member rate.

- Accounting and Finance Webinar Series: Sustainability Accounting and Reporting **Aug. 11**
- Public Utility Governance Webinar Series: Strategic Planning for Utility Boards and City Councils **Aug. 12**
- Key Accounts Webinar Series: Part 2: The Art of Influence and Translating it Into Support for Key Accounts **Aug. 20**
- Cybersecurity Webinar Series: Introduction to Utility Cybersecurity Challenges **Aug. 27**

  Where Power and Knowledge Meet.

60 years of  
**UTILITY KNOW-HOW**

We've got the electrical, safety and MRO products you need to get the job done.

 **BORDER STATES**  
Supply Chain Solutions™

262.347.2199 | [borderstates.com](http://borderstates.com)  
N29W23606 Woodgate Court E | Pewaukee WI

**RELAX.**  
YOU CALLED ENERGIS.

920.632.7929 | [info@energisinc.com](mailto:info@energisinc.com)  
[energisinc.com](http://energisinc.com)

  ISO 9001  2014 Wisconsin Corporate Safety Award  
Wisconsin Safety Council

  
**LUMBER & POLE CO.**  
SINCE 1909

**Sarah Dunlavy**  
Cell: 715-492-0188  
[sarah.dunlavy@bpole.com](mailto:sarah.dunlavy@bpole.com)

**Local manufacturing in Barron, WI**

- Transmission and Distribution
- Red Pine, SYP, Doug Fir, and WRC
- Treated stock available

Check out new features on our web site!

- Truckload calculator:

<http://www.bpole.com/resources/truck-load-calculator>

  
Excellence in Electrical Distribution Design since 1981

[forstereng@forstereng.com](mailto:forstereng@forstereng.com) (608) 835-9009 350 North Burr Oak Ave.  
[www.forstereng.com](http://www.forstereng.com) Oregon, WI 97138

- Electrical Engineering Consulting and Planning
- Electrical System Computer Modeling
- Electrical System Coordination and Sectionalizing
- Distributed Generation
- Field Inspections and Inventories
- Electrical System Documentation - Mapping
- Electrical Substation Design
- Insulated Power Cable Analysis
- Power Line Design and Staking
- Stray Voltage and Other Field Testing



"THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE"®

# T&R ELECTRIC

SUPPLY COMPANY INCORPORATED

**WE BUY,  
SELL, RENT  
AND DELIVER**

**DENNIS VAN DAM**

PO BOX 180, COLMAN, SD 57017  
(605) 534-3555 • FAX (605) 534-3861  
DIAL DIRECT FREE 800-843-7994  
dennis@trelectric.com • http://www.t-r.com



## YOUR WISCONSIN TRAILER SOURCE



- Pole trailers
- Cable reel trailers
- Multi reel trailers
- Cargo trailers
- Combo trailers
- Custom trailers
- CR Reels
- Light bars

**Contact Tim Kenfield @ 920-915-4725, [tkenfield@schuttindustries.com](mailto:tkenfield@schuttindustries.com)  
185 Industrial Ave. Clintonville, WI 54929, [www.schuttindustries.com](http://www.schuttindustries.com)  
BEHIND YOU ALL THE WAY!**



**RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING**

*"Clearing The Way To Reliable Energy"*

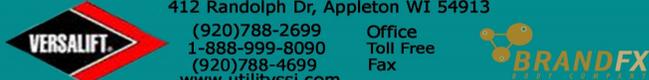
(715) 428-2121      [makovsky@centurytel.net](mailto:makovsky@centurytel.net)

"Utility Sales & Service, reaching farther than the Competition"



## UTILITY SALES & SERVICE

412 Randolph Dr, Appleton WI 54913  
(920)788-2699      Office  
1-888-999-8090      Toll Free  
(920)788-4699      Fax  
[www.utilityssi.com](http://www.utilityssi.com)




Experience that matters



**Jodi Dobson**      Accountants and Advisors  
[jodi.dobson@bakertilly.com](mailto:jodi.dobson@bakertilly.com)

**Tom Unke**      **Connect with us: [bakertilly.com](http://bakertilly.com)**  
[thomas.unke@bakertilly.com](mailto:thomas.unke@bakertilly.com)      **800 362 7301**

Baker Tilly refers to Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, an independently owned and managed member of Baker Tilly International. © 2015 Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP



**Powerful  
solutions for  
your energy  
needs.**

Solutions for your substation and T&D projects that are:

- Innovative
- Technically sound
- Cost effective
- Operable

For experience you can trust, contact:  
**Dave Krause, P.E.** - [dkrause@krausepowerengineering.com](mailto:dkrause@krausepowerengineering.com)  
Phone: 715-577-1369      Fax: 715-861-3916  
[www.krausepowerengineering.com](http://www.krausepowerengineering.com)

**Your ad could be here!**

Email [info@meuw.org](mailto:info@meuw.org) for details.

**Your ad could be here!**

Email [info@meuw.org](mailto:info@meuw.org) for details.