

Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin

From: Tim Heinrich
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 11:44 AM
To: MEUW Office
Cc: Michael Czaprynko
Subject: Out-of-State Mutual Aid
Attachments: Out-of-State Mutual Aid Billing Policy Template.docx

MEUW Members:

Each time Wisconsin municipal utilities respond to an out-of-state mutual aid request, we learn something new. After dozens of our lineworkers agreed to help a Florida municipal recover from Hurricane Ian last fall, the requesting utility asked for reimbursement policies that hadn't been asked for during prior out-of-state mutual aid events. Likewise, many responding utilities asked what rate should be charged for lineworker wages to provide consistency among the MEUW membership.

As a trade association, MEUW does not have the authority to mandate the actions or policies of individual member utilities. While we understand the desire for consistency, each utility is responsible to set its own policies related to out-of-state mutual aid.

The MEUW Board of Directors recently approved a standard policy template for member utilities to use. **The policy template is available here.** Your utility may wish to implement such a policy; it is completely optional. The decision will not impact your utility's ability to provide resources for future out-of-state mutual aid events, however, it should help to streamline the reimbursement process after such events. MEUW does not plan to track whether or not utilities adopt the policy, and there's no need to provide us a copy if you do.

One element of the policy mentions a "standardized wage set by MEUW for out-of-state mutual aid events." This wage will be determined annually based on the maximum wage paid to a Journeyman Lineworker by any MEUW member utility, according to the most recent Wage & Benefits Survey. The amount is \$53.43 based on 2023 surveying.

I'd like to thank members of the Safety and Education Committee and the entire MEUW [Board of Directors](#) for their efforts in evaluating the best approach to aid MEUW members on this topic. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me directly or contact Director of Safety Services and Operations Mike Czaprynko at (608) 478-2530.

Thanks,
Tim

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