

OKLAHOMA PUBLIC POWER

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February 2013

Crisson to Open Public Power Conference

Mark Crisson, has been president and CEO of the American Public Power Association (APPA) since January 2008, will be the opening speaking for the 2013 Public Power Conference, April 22, 2013 at the Reed Conference Center, Midwest City.

Prior to joining APPA, Crisson spent almost 30 years at Tacoma, Wash., Public Utilities—serving as Tacoma Power Superintendent and, beginning in 1993, CEO/Director of Utilities. In 1997, Tacoma Power spearheaded *Click! Network*, which has become the nation's largest municipally owned telecommunications system.

Crisson served six years as an APPA elected Board member and four years as an officer. In 2003, while with Tacoma Public Utilities. Crisson chaired the APPA Board of Directors. In 2005, he received APPA's Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award for exceptional dedication and leadership in public power. During Crisson's tenure on the Board, APPA developed a wide range of initiatives that served public power well during the 2001-2002 western energy crisis and subsequent development of federal wholesale power supply policy. Crisson also served on the U.S. Secretary of Energy's

A Case for Solar and Wind Energy

How viable are both solar energy and wind energy as future generation sources for the electric industry? According to a study by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, if you use updated wind and solar power characteristics like cost and actual output to reflect real world conditions, wind and solar are more competitive than natural gas over the next twenty years. This according to a blog article published by Colin Meehan for the Environmental Defense Fund. The study was published in December, 2012.

These findings, while meriting more study, provide an interesting picture of what future electric generation could look like. Today, most people assume that future

electric generation would come from two sources with natural gas fired generation being predominate followed by wind generation. Adding solar generation to the mix provides not only an additional source of renewal generation, but does so at a very competitive cost.

With alternative generation sources available, the dependence on natural gas for generation could be reduced. This is important on at least two fronts. Currently the cost for natural gas is depressed because of its abundance and limited use. Those involved with the current and future electric generation know that today's low costs won't last. It's

(see SOLAR, page 5)



Electricity Advisory Board. He is a past chair of the Large Public Power Council, and has earned numerous awards for his involvement in the Tacoma community, including the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Municipal League of Tacoma-Pierce County in 2002.

Mark will be attending the entire conference. Attendees are encouraged to meet Mark and get to know more about APPA and it's programs for municipal systems.

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in Review

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FERC Conditionally Accepts SPP Day Two Energy Market

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) conditionally accepted the Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) proposal to implement an "integrated marketplace," including day-ahead and real-time energy and operating reserve markets with locational marginal pricing. SPP plans to launch the new markets on March 1, 2014.

As conditionally approved by FERC's Oct. 18 order, SPP's proposal would establish a dayahead market obligation and virtual bidding and a market-based congestion-management program that allocates auction revenue rights and uses transmission con-

gestion rights. The market-based congestion-management program will "recognize the historical rights of firm transmission customers," FERC staff said. SPP also plans to consolidate the 16 balancing authority areas in its footprint into one, which it will operate.

The commission's order "calls for SPP to step back after it has one year of experience running its new market so that we can all assess what has worked well and identify where further changes may be needed," Commissioner John Norris said.

(Reprinted from APPA Public Power Daily)



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*Job Training & Safety Participants

Sunday, April 21, 2013 Time

			-
Noon	Two-Person Golf Scramble	Trophies, prizes awarded	John Conrad Golf Course, Midwest City
00:9	Hospitality Suite	Snacks, refreshments	1st floor, Sheraton Hotel
6:00-8:00	Dinner	Hamburger, hotdog, bratwurst cookout	Yafa Plaza at the Conference Center
Monday,	Monday, April 22, 2013		
Time	Customer Service	Lineworkers	Superintendents
8:30-9:30		Opening Session Mark Crisson, APPA President	
9:45-10:45	In-House Bill Collections	Wire Sagging/Construction Standards	Renewable Energy: Solar, Wind, Geo
11:15-12:15	Crisis Communication: When It's Not Business as Usual!"	Basic Applications of Overhead and Underground Fault Circuit Indicators	Are Requests for Solar & Wind Interconnections Keeping You Awake at
12:15-1:15		Lunch with exhibitors	
1:15-2:15	Recognizing Counterfeit Money	Mutual Aid Assistance Roundtable Discussion	Using Methane Gas for Electric Generation Chris Davis, Montauk Energy
2:30-3:30	Prepaid Metering	General Overview of the Single Phase Overhead Recloser	Rate Setting
4:00-5:00	GRDA Group Meeting	0.0	OMPA Group Meeting
00:9	Hospitality Suite	Snacks, refreshments	1st floor, Sheraton Hotel
6:30	Dinner	Steak cookout	Yafa Plaza at the Conference Center
6:30	Live Music	Damon Jackson Band	Yafa Plaza at the Conference Center
Tuesday,	Tuesday, April 23, 2013		
8:30-9:30	Hey, Why Did My Power Go Out?	Getting and Kee Panel Di	Getting and Keeping Lineworkers Panel Discussion
9:45-10:45	Roundtable Discussion	Oklahoma Lineworkers' Rode	Oklahoma Lineworkers' Rodeo/APPA Lineworkers' Rodeo
11:15-12:00		Closing Session J.B. Smith, national humorist & speaker	
12:00-1:00		Lunch, end of conference	

Public Power Conference Schedule

APPA Washington Report More of the Same

by Robert Varela Editor, *Public Power Weekly*

Given the outcome of the November elections—Republicans retained control of the House, Democrats retained a majority in the Senate and Obama reelected president—it's pretty easy to make a big picture prediction about what to expect out of Washington in the coming year: more of the same. But there will be changes and ongoing challenges to deal with.

Congress has new faces and some familiar faces in new roles, such as Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., replacing Jeff Bingaman as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. If your utility has a new member of Congress, now is the time to get to know him or her if you don't already.

While Congress is unlikely to pass a comprehensive energy bill or a lot of legislation, period, law-makers' agenda includes big ticket items that could have significant effects on public power: budget fights/tax reform and cyber security.

In the "fiscal cliff" run-up, proposals were placed on the table to limit tax deductions and exclusions, including the tax exemption for municipal bonds. The fiscal cliff agreement postpones deep discretionary spending cuts, but those cuts still are set to take effect on March 1. A stop-gap spending bill for fiscal year 2013 expires on March 27. And, finally,

there will be continued pressure to at least consider broad-based tax reform in 2013.

Cyber security legislation has been in the works in both houses of Congress for some time now, but has stalled over differing approaches. While differences remain over whether to grant broad regulatory authority to a federal agency (such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or Department of Homeland Security) or focus on sharing information, the pressure on Congress to act continues to build.

Some narrower bills of interest to public power also have a chance of passage. These include legislation to promote small hydro by easing regulatory burdens and a coal ash bill. The House Energy and Commerce Committee already has approved H.R. 267, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, which would facilitate the development of small hydro power projects. Congress last year came close to reaching agreement on coal ash legislation, giving it a good chance to move this year.

Environmental regulations will continue to be a concern, but less so than last year because the Environmental Protection Agency issued two major final regulations, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) and Mercury and Toxic Substances rule (MATS). A federal appeals court recently vacated CSAPR and sent it back to EPA to rework, which is likely to take some time. MATS is on appeal.

Proposals by Energy Secretary Steven Chu to make drastic changes to the federal power marketing administrations may depend on whether Chu leaves the post and, if so, whether his successor actively moves to implement Chu's plans. Given the stakes, APPA will continue to work the issue.

The big issues for public power at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission look to be unchanged: efforts to reform the wholesale electricity markets, in particular the capacity markets, and reliability/cyber security.

APPA will continue to deal with a variety of other issues, such as captive rail and implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act. And it's more than a safe bet that new issues will crop up unexpectedly, such as last year when Secretary Chu without warning proposed to remake the federal power marketing administrations.

To say that it looks like more of the same in the coming year is to say that it looks like another busy year for APPA staff.



UPCOMING TRAINING

JT&S Training – Period 2, 2013 Period 2 runs February 18 – March 31

DEQ training - for municipalities participating in the JT&S program, begins April 1 and runs through June 30. Municipalities that don't participate in the JT&S program may send people to one of the scheduled sites for \$25.00 per person. This fee covers the class and completion of the required DEQ renewal form.

GRDA & OMPA Assist Marlow

GRDA provided assistance to the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA) member community Marlow this week by setting up a 138kV to 13.8kV mobile substation for the community to use temporarily. The mobile sub kept the lights on during the scheduled maintenance on Marlow's substation. GRDA's Metering, Relay and Substation personnel installed the equipment and two employees remained onsite for the duration of the maintenance to insure the mobile sub continued to operate properly.

OMPA Starts New Power Plant

At its December 13, 2012 meeting, the OMPA Board of Directors gave the official authorization for OMPA staff to proceed with the construction of the Charles D. Lamb Energy Center, including the purchase of property. As part of this authorization, the Board also gave the conditional award to Siemens Energy Inc. to supply the 103 megawatt simple-cycle combustion turbine-generator for the project.

The plant will be constructed on a site comprised of 160 acres located in Kay County, Oklahoma. It is approximately seven miles north of Ponca City and east of Blackwell. Both Ponca City and Blackwell are served by OMPA. This site was selected because it is in close proximity to electric transmission lines and a natural gas pipeline.

Construction is currently estimated to begin in January of 2014, with an estimated completion date of April 15, 2015.

Solar (continued from page 1)

one of the reasons that those who generate electricity are reluctant to immediately convert coal-fired generation to natural gas units.

Second, as the price of gasoline continues to rise, currently around \$3.35 in the Oklahoma City area, natural gas powered vehicles, and the cost to convert vehicles to natural gas is becoming more realistic. Governor Mary Fallin is leading a national initiative among states to encourage future fleet purchases to focus on natural gas powered vehicles.

With the demand on natural gas set to improve in the near future, alternative sources of generation are going to become very important, especially as our industry continues to look for viable ways to provide reasonably prices electricity to our customers. One approach Oklahoma needs to consider and evaluate is the viability of solar generation, especially if you can collocate solar generation in existing wind generation fields.

The term, "our future looks bright," may take on a whole new meaning.

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Wiew change as the one constant in your life.

Expect it; welcome it. 99

Denis Waitley, business author

Near Term Continues to Favor Natural Gas, APPA Says in Report on New Generation

By Jeannine Anderson, APPA

Natural gas is likely to continue to be the dominant fuel source in the next decade or so, APPA says in a report on new generating capacity. Renewable forms of energy "will not constitute a large share of overall capacity until at least the next decade," said the report, A Look at America's New Generating Capacity: 2013 Update.

This is APPA's seventh annual report on new generating capacity, focusing on the fuel type and location of the new capacity. This year, it has new sections on plant can-

66 Your mind is for creating ideas, not for holding onto them. 99

David Allen, author of personal and organizational books



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hfunston@solomoncorp.com www.solomoncorp.com cellations, capacity additions over the last five years, and planned retirements, said APPA Research Analyst Paul Zummo, who wrote the report.

From 2008 through 2012, more than 110,000 megawatts of capacity were added, according to the report. However, more than twice that amount -- 215,826 megawatts -- were canceled during those five years.

More than 391,000 megawatts of new capacity are under some degree of development, the report said. Nearly 40 percent (34,000 MW) of the 85,000 MW of capacity under construction or permitted are natural gas-fired plants.

The share of coal-fired capacity continues to diminish, and coal now represents less than 4 percent (14,000 MW) of all potential

new capacity in the United States, Zummo wrote. "Five primary fuel sources account for approximately 92 percent of potential new capacity: natural gas, wind, solar, hydro, and nuclear."

Approximately 20 gigawatts, or 20,000 MW of generating capacitv. are added to the U.S. electric grid each year, the report said. "The fuel mix for this capacity has shifted over time, but the general trend has been toward wind and natural gas. Though environmental pressures have reduced the amount of coal-fired capacity being planned, it also remains an important fuel source for all capacity in this country. In light of the fact that a large amount of planned capacity is never built, the fuel mix of capacity in the United States will change, but do so gradually."

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Legislative Week in Review

As you may have noted our legislators introduced over 2,500 bills in this the first year of the 54th legislative session of the State of Oklahoma. MESO has only 34 bills on its legislative watch list which is the fewest in some time. Not much happened in the first week of the session as the Senate Energy Committee failed to meet and the House committees took up few bills. We are closely watching Senator Wyrick's bill that would affect the tenure of GRDA board members. At this time the bill does not have a House author nor does it appear to have significant backing. We are also tracking several bills that GRDA needs in areas related to commercial activities on its lakes.

The bill that could have the most impact would be SB 555 which would amend Oklahoma's renewable energy goals. Currently, the State has a goal of 15% renewable energy by 2015. SB 555 and a similar House bill would take the goal to 20% by 2020. The amounts and dates are subject to change. MESO is concerned with the process as MESO members currently have a rather significant amount of renewable

energy when our hydropower is included in calculations, but recent years have given us very little rainfall and only a skimpy amount of hydropower production so we must be sure that the calculation methods take the variations of wind and rain into consideration. Fortunately, for now, the State is not placing any penalties on failures to create renewable energy.

Representative Gus Blackwell who represents the Panhandle counties has a bill that will strengthen State ability to finance transmission lines.

Two bills deal with underground damage prevention rules. We welcome provisions to insure that contractors do not damage our lines and that excavators have to take precautions to insure safety, but we are unsure of how much control the Corporation Commission should have in this regard. The rub is that federal funds come to the State to help in damage prevention oversight, and Oklahoma lags in its effectiveness. So we are giving our input on how to insure better compliance without surrendering our control of (see REVIEW, page 9)

Understanding Oklahoma's 54th Legislature

By Wayne Greene, Tulsa World

As we enter into the legislative season, we wanted to provide you with helpful information on the makeup of this year's Legislative. The below article by Wayne Green, appeared in the Tulsa World, February 3, 2013.

The first regular session of Oklahoma's 54th Legislature starts Monday and must end no later than 5 p.m. May 31. The second regular session of the 54th Legislature will be held in 2014. Each legislative session is a two year period, based on the election cycle for House members. This could allow some bills from the 2013 session to carry over to the 2014 session.

Of the 101 member of the Oklahoma House, there are 85 men and 16 women. Sixty-one of the men and 11 of the women are Republicans. There are 45 men and three women in the Oklahoma Senate. Thirty-five of the men and one of the women are Republicans.

There are four members of the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus, two each in the House and Senate. All four are Democrats. There are 22 current Oklahoma lawmakers who are listed as members of the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators on the group's website. Eighteen are in the House (10 Republicans and eight Democrats) and

four are in the Senate (two Republicans and two Democrats). Speaker of the House T.W. Shannon is of mixed racial heritage - black and American Indian. He is part of the national American Indian caucus, but not the black caucus.

With 72 Republicans and 29 Democrats in the Oklahoma House, Republicans have had majority control of the House since 2004. State House members serve two-year terms.

On the Senate side, there are 36 Republicans and 12 Democrats in the Oklahoma Senate. Here, Republicans have had majority control of the Senate since 2008. Senators serve four-year terms.

The state Constitution limits lawmakers to 12 years total service in the House and Senate.

Seven members of the House and four members of the Senate will reach their term limits at the end of the 2013-14 legislative session.

The state budget year starts on July 1. The state Equalization Board has determined that the amount available for budgeting in fiscal year 2014 is \$7 billion, a \$214.6 million increase from the current budget year.

You can reach your legislator's office at the state Capitol toll-free. House: (800) 522-8502 Senate: (800) 865-6490

Structure Down Due to Storm

A series of storms pushed through Oklahoma Tuesday, January 29 and high winds took a Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) structure down near Afton. While GRDA System Operations personnel worked to reroute power deliveries around the damaged line, members of GRDA's North End and Bucket Line Crews, Vegetation Management and Excavation crews mobilized and moved to the scene.

Dealing with winds, rain and a suddenly-muddy landscape, the crews installed a new structure Tuesday evening. Due to these challenging conditions, makeshift "skids" were brought in to assist in getting the heavy equipment to the damaged area. Reprinted from GRDA's Flyer newsletter, February 1, 2013.

Review (continued from page 8)

our operations.

SB 709 by Senator Sparks requires all utilities to have and file specific generation emissions reduction plans. We don't see much reason for a State plan while we work to meet EPA and court mandated standards.

Many bills were introduced as "shell" bills meaning they were place holders until the author determined the language he wanted to introduce. Over three dozen bills related to water resources are on our watch list in addition to energy bills. With the competing interests for water resources, we intend to insure that resources used for hydropower production are not diminished.

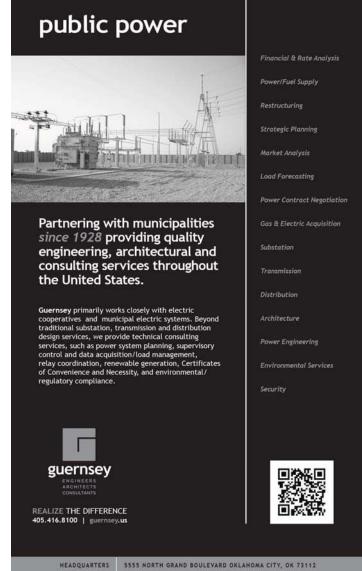
Please let us know if you have a question on any bill, and we will be happy to do research on that matter. We will, of course, be in touch at any point where we need grass roots help in contacting legislators.

Meanwhile, at the federal level, a new congress is engrossed in legislative actions distant from energy considerations. However, we expect energy to be on the table by late spring.



Director of Communications

MESO is seeking a creative self-starter for the position of Director of Communications. Ideal candidate will be experienced in writing industrybased newsletter articles as well as identifying and collecting articles from other sources of timely interest to membership. Able to develop and present effective instructor-led training sessions in the areas of customer service, communications, and public relations. Experienced in the effective use of electronic media and social media opportunities. Position requires extensive travel to member municipalities, primarily within Oklahoma. For the full Job Description, go to www.meso.org and look under "Announcements." Salary commensurate with experience with a range of \$40,000. to \$50,000. Applications will be accepted until March 15, 2013. Email cover letter, resume and samples of accredited published articles to tom@meso.org.



GRDA's Tonnece Substation Online

By Justin Alberty

A recent system upgrade near the Oklahoma-Arkansas border will is providing a reliability boost to the eastern part of the Grand River Dam Authority's energy delivery system.

Late in 2012, GRDA wrapped up work on the Tonnece Substation, a 345 kilovolt facility located northwest of the GRDA municipal customer community of Siloam Springs.

The Tonnece Substation is an 8-acre site, located along the 345kV line running from the GRDA Coal Fired Complex to the Flint Creek Plant near Gentry, Arkansas. The substation's presence in that part of the system gives GRDA a loop feed in an area that once depended on a radial line extending roughly 45 miles from GRDA's Robert S. Kerr Dam to loads in the Siloam Springs area. The January 2007 ice storms in that part of the state put a lot of strain on the line. Today, the Tonnece Substation exists in part to relieve that strain.

"The primary purpose of this substation was to provide an additional source for the electric grid at this end of the state," said Bud Averill, GRDA's proj-



ect engineer for the Tonnece Substation.

Averill said the substation will also be tied to a Siloam Springs' city substation, located approximately seven miles away, and a loop feed for the city itself. At a price tag of approximately \$8 million (transform-

(see GRDA, page 11)



Methane Plant Due By June 2013 Continuing Public Power Push for Clean Energy

The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority will begin purchasing power from American Environmental Landfill (AEL) by spring of 2013 from a methane combustion plant near Sand Springs. AEL will spend about \$4 million for what is essentially a single cycle gasfired generation unit of 3,200 kw. Although that price is a little high for a single cycle combustion unit, the fuel is nearly free. The fuel will come from methane from the landfill here that serves Tulsa and the surrounding area. Household organic garbage breaks down in the landfill and releases methane. AEL captures and cleans the methane for combustion. Previously, the gas was flared adding to the air quality problems of the

AEL will own the project and sell all of the energy produced to OMPA under an agreement. The plant will run continuously to provide enough energy for about 2,500 homes. Since the energy to run the plant has little cost, the price for the power provided makes the AEL plant a low-cost operation for OMPA.

GRDA (continued from page 10)

ers were more than half the cost of the total project) the new sub will also benefit the Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative and its customers in that part of the state.

At the very heart of the substation is a massive 345/161/13.2 kV transformer. Weighing in at 380,000 pounds, it was manufactured in China, shipped to Houston, Texas, and delivered to the Port of Catoosa via barge. Because of its weight and size while

on the road (taking up two lanes of traffic), the transformer had to travel north, south, east and west – more than once and not necessarily in that order – to be delivered to the Tonnece site. The journey from the port to the final destination took several days.

As stated earlier, construction work on the site was completed late in 2012. Today, the substation is operational and serving GRDA's customers.

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