



OKLAHOMA PUBLIC POWER

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

March 2014

EPA Recognizes Edmond as Green Power Community

Becomes first Oklahoma community to achieve this designation

The City of Edmond has been designated as a Green Power Community by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a result of using more than 96 million kilowatt hours of green power — or approximately 11 percent of the community’s total electric usage.

“Investments in renewable generation made by OMPA, Edmond’s joint action partner for wholesale energy, have allowed Edmond to take advantage of these green resources,” said Mayor Charles Lamb. “Edmond is honored to be recognized for our



community efforts to be green.”

Edmond becomes the first Oklahoma community to achieve this EPA designation. There are 48 additional Green Power Communities across the country.

Green power is electricity that is generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal,

eligible biogas, biomass, and low-impact hydro. Purchases of green power help accelerate the development of new renewable energy capacity nationwide and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector.

“Purchasing green power helps our community become more sustainable, while sending a message to others across the U.S. that supporting clean sources of electricity is a sound business decision,” said Phil Jones, Sustainability Planner for the City of Edmond.

“The City of Edmond’s offices
(see EDMOND, page 12)

Leaders Explain Why You Should Attend MESO Public Power Conference

Registration deadline is March 21, 2014

As the March 21 registration deadline nears for the 2014 MESO Public Power Conference scheduled for April 27-29 in Norman, leaders from across the state explain why you should attend.

“The Public Power Conference is a great opportunity for people who share the same interest in Oklahoma’s municipal electric utility industry to network, learn from experienced speakers, and share their own ideas of what’s impor-

tant in our ever changing environment.” – *Dean Sherrick, Edmond Electric & MESO Board of Directors, President*



“The public power conference is time to get away from the daily grind and meet new people and learn new things. I’m able to gain knowledge and experience from other cities and speakers. And it is

a good time to see vendors you already work with but mostly talk to on the phone, or to meet

new vendors with products that can make your life easier.” – *Bill Bruce, Pawhuska Electric*
(see CONFERENCE, page 8)

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Mike Doublehead Claims To Be Taller Than He Is

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 Mike Doublehead. In addition to serving on the MESO Board, he is the General Manager for the Tahlequah Public Works Authority.

Q. What keeps you awake at night?

A. Customers with kids who have a difficult time paying their bills.

Q. What is the biggest mistake you ever made and what did you learn from it?

A. I had an assignment early in my career from the vice president of the company. My direct boss told me not to worry about doing

it, so I didn't do it. When it came to crunch time, my direct boss wouldn't own up to anything. So from then on, I did what I was assigned. You can't count on others to cover for you if it's a job you're supposed to do. Focus on what you can control and do your best at it.



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

A. Yes, as Henry Ford says, "It's

not the employer who pays the wages. Employers only handle the money. It's the customer who pays the wages"

Q. What do you see as the biggest issues facing public power today?

A. EPA Regulations, unfunded mandates, and a huge misunderstanding (see DOUBLEHEAD, page 10)

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Sue Kelly Named APPA President and CEO

APPA's Board of Directors has appointed Sue Kelly as the organization's new president and CEO to succeed Mark Crisson effective April 1.

Kelly has served with APPA since 2004 and is currently the association's general counsel and senior vice president for policy analysis. She has extensive experience as an attorney dealing with federal regulation, particularly before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and is generally regarded as one of the top practitioners in that arena.

"Sue Kelly is an exceptional leader with a demonstrated commitment to public power. Her extensive industry knowledge, strong interpersonal skills and record of achievement have earned her the respect of APPA's membership, her industry colleagues and federal regulators," said APPA

Board Chair Gary Stauffer. "The board of directors looks forward to working with Sue and has every confidence that she will successfully lead APPA and its members through the challenges that lie ahead," he concluded.

"I am honored by the trust the board has placed in me and to have this opportunity to lead an organization that is so vital to the interests of public power," said Kelly. "I am also excited at the prospect of leading such a top-notch team of professionals here at APPA. As president and CEO, I will be committed to building on our recent achievements and to taking steps to further strengthen the public power business model," she said.

Kelly will head a trade association serving the nation's 2,000 public power utilities. APPA member utilities serve more than 47

million people, representing approximately 15 percent of all power customers in the United States. They are locally owned and controlled and operate on a not-for-profit basis.

Kelly's work experience prior to joining APPA included stints with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and two Washington law firms, Miller, Balis and O'Neil, P.C., and Crowell and Moring. She earned a B.A. from the University of Missouri and J.D. from The George Washington University Law School.



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OMPA Holds Groundbreaking of Charles D. Lamb Center

"Today represents a significant milestone in its (Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's (OMPA's)) 32 year history," said Charles Lamb, OMPA Board of Directors Chair, during the groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of the 103-megawatt natural gas plant named after him.

Approximately 100 people including OMPA Board Members, member city elected officials and staff, along with OMPA staff and contractors, attended the ceremony. Also in attendance were former OMPA General Managers Roland Dawson and Cindy Holman.

David Osburn, OMPA General Manager, welcomed everyone to the groundbreaking and gave an overview of the process involved with the construction of the plant starting with the power supply study that was completed in January 2012.

"This will be OMPA's first greenfield power plant project in which OMPA is not a partner, but the sole owner and operator," stated Osburn.

Construction has an estimated completion date of April 2015. Peter Kelley, Vice President, Fossil Power Technologies for Sargent & Lundy, who is the project engineer for the plant, said at the groundbreaking ceremony, "A lot of groundwork makes the project go smoothly."

In his comments at the ceremony, Phil Berthelot, TIC (The Industrial Company) Vice President for Business Development, who was chosen as the general contractor for the project, stated how TIC had become "the newest OMPA partner. Construction of the project is going to be a team effort."

Also at the groundbreaking ceremony was Greg Snyder, Vice President & Region Executive for Siemens Energy Inc. Siemens was awarded the contract to provide the SGT6-2000E simple-cycle combustion turbine-generator for the plant, which Snyder mentioned was being manufactured in Charlotte, North Carolina. "It's a great local project and we are excited to be part of it," Snyder said. The turbine, which is fired with natural gas, will have an installed capacity of 103 megawatts.

The plant will be used primarily for peaking power produced due to the high demand for electricity during the warm summer months. The plant will be a



OMPA General Manager David L. Osburn and OMPA Board Chair Charles D. Lamb (Left to Right).

quick-start plant and will have very little noise, due to the sound minimizing barrier around the turbine.

The site, located in northern Kay County, was chosen due to the location of an existing Southern Star Gas natural gas pipeline and a recently built OG&E 345,000-volt transmission line.

Phillip Rullman, Vice President and Chief Communications Services Officer for Southern Star Gas, who attended the groundbreaking, discussed how his company will be providing "safe, efficient and reliable gas" for the plant "to meet future growth strategies."

The gas line allows for fuel supply to reach the plant, while the high voltage transmission line will allow the power to immediately be delivered into the state-wide transmission grid. Water for the plant will be supplied by the Ponca City Utility Authority, who have already constructed the water line to the site. The plant will be operated by the OMPA Power Production Department in Ponca City.

Register today at www.meso.org for the

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Is Marijuana Legal?

By Deborah Miner
LGTC Program Administrator

Have you heard that marijuana is now legal for recreational use in the state of Colorado? Well that may be so in Colorado but it's still illegal in Oklahoma and all employers and supervisors should be prepared for any questions with regard to employees that might be "vacationing" in the Centennial State.

In recent months Oklahoma Municipal Utility Service Authority (OMUSA), in conjunction with Local Government Testing Consortium (LGTC) & St. Anthony North Toxicology has made a concerted effort to prepare Supervisors, Safety Directors, Human Resource Directors and Designated Employee Representatives (DERs) to deal with possible on-the-job substance abuse by presenting a session titled

Crucial Training: Recognizing Substance and Alcohol Abuse at the Worksite. The session is designed to equip the attendees with the tools needed to identify worksite drug & alcohol abuse, accurately and impartially document observations, and successfully intervene to guide the employee through the drug/alcohol testing process. The session includes visual aids, real-world scenarios, scripted approaches, and group interaction designed to encourage and prepare supervisors to deal with reasonable suspicion. This four hour session has been presented twice thus far, once at the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma (MESO) Training Facility in Oklahoma City and again at Watonga City Hall. It was well received in both venues as the



following evaluation comments reflect:

"All information was very helpful and the instructor was outstanding!"

"The practice scenarios were beneficial, it forced me to consider many different scenarios that are possible. All info was very useful, it made me realize how much I didn't know."

(see MARIJUANA, page 6)

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GRDA Holds Customer Meetings

The Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) recently held its annual customer meetings at their Ecosystems and Education Center in Langley.

Approximately 50 attendees, representing GRDA municipal and electric cooperative customers were on hand Thursday, February 13 to hear presentations from GRDA Chief Executive Officer Dan Sullivan, as well as several other members of the GRDA management team.

Sullivan presented information about GRDA's future generation plan, as well as information about the Authority's economic development efforts in the past year. He told the group that GRDA wanted to be a partner in helping municipal customers attracts business and industry in the future and was working on some options to be that kind of resource in the year ahead.

He also touched on GRDA's efforts in the Grand and Hudson lakes area. The economic impact of 2013 fishing tournaments is estimated at \$10 to \$15

million. Part of that success is due to GRDA's partnerships with other entities in helping to make the Wolf Creek Park (tournament fishing facility) a reality. That site hosted to the Bassmaster Classic in February 2013.

Other presenters included GRDA Chief Operating Officer Tim Brown who gave customers an overview of coming changes to the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) market. GRDA is a member of the SPP (a regional transmission organization) and on March 1, it will join other SPP members in a new integrated marketplace. SPP will assume the role of the balancing authority for members (something GRDA had done in the past) and will support interconnection frequencies in real time. Brown discussed this change and other things GRDA can expect from the new marketplace.

(see GRDA, page 7)



Marijuana

(continued from page 5)

"Learned what the process needs to be as far as how we should handle each situation."

"Very thorough."

"This course showed how to follow DOT specs on drug testing"

Because most employers have a substance abuse section in their personnel policy and some employers require that their supervisors obtain periodic training, we felt it was imperative to design a training to meet the needs of our members and drug & alcohol testing clients. This traveling session promises to meet those requirements and should be very beneficial to all that attend."

The next session is scheduled for May 15th in Tahlequah. Registration is \$45 per person and if five or more from the same organization register, there is a \$5 per person discount for that entity. Registration information can be found at www.meso.org or questions can be directed to me at 405-529-7564, Ext. 1 or deborah@meso.org.

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GRDA

(continued from page 6)

GRDA Assistant General Manager of Thermal and Hydro Generation Charles Barney provided an in-depth presentation on the new combined cycle gas unit to be constructed adjacent to the existing GRDA Coal Fired Complex east of Chouteau. Barney also mentioned GRDA plans to rename the site "Grand River Energy Center" to better describe the broadened mission.

GRDA Assistant General Manager of Engineering, System Operations and Reliability Mike Herron presented information on current and planned construction projects related to the energy delivery system.

Projects fall into one of four groups, said Herron, including those required by SPP, those related to the Integrated Transmission System (ITS, between GRDA and KAMO Power), necessary system upgrades as determined by GRDA and projects required by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation. Current projects cover a wide range, from breaker replacements and feeder rebuilds to large substation relocation projects, like one currently underway at the Salina Pumped Storage Project.

In GRDA's closing presentation, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Dougherty presented customers with the Authority's 10-year financial forecast. The presentation covered a wide range of issues including forecasted sales, capital addition requirements, operating and maintenance expenses and other areas that can impact the bottom line.

While providing this type of information to customers on an annual basis is important, interaction with participants – during Q&A sessions – also proved valuable once again and helped to make the 2014 meetings a success.



GRDA Assistant General Manager of Engineering, System Operations and Reliability Mike Herron gives customers an update on current and planned construction projects across GRDA's energy delivery system. Herron's presentation was one of several given during GRDA's recent round of customer meetings.

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FERC, NERC to Consider Need for Mandatory Standards to Protect Against Physical Attacks

By Robert Varela
Editorial Director
February 18, 2014

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Acting Chairman Cheryl LaFleur has directed commission staff to work with the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) to evaluate whether mandatory standards are needed to protect against physical attacks on electric infrastructure, she told a number of senators on Feb. 11. She recommended that Congress enhance the confidentiality of sensitive security information on cyber and physical threats by enacting an exemption from the Freedom of Information Act.

Congress also should consider designating a federal agency (not necessarily FERC) with clear and direct authority to require actions in the event of—or before—an emergency involving a physical or cyber threat to the bulk power system, LaFleur said in identical letters to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; Select Committee on Intelligence Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.; Energy and Natural Re-

sources Subcommittee on Energy Chairman Al Franken, D-Minn.; and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who recently moved from heading the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to chairing the Finance Committee. In a Feb. 7 letter, the senators had asked FERC and NERC to determine whether additional physical security standards for critical substations are needed.

LaFleur detailed actions taken by FERC and other agencies in the wake of the April 2013 attack on Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s Metcalf substation. "To date, our efforts have focused on strongly encouraging utilities to make improvements to their physical security, by explaining why and where they should be made," she said. "This approach has resulted in improvements being implemented more confidentially and more quickly than a mandatory regulation could have accomplished under our existing authority."

Conference

(continued from page 1)

"I attend to meet new people or organizations and to get fresh ideas of how to do things. We always hear about new programs or new techniques. I find great value in the networking and training, especially as I introduce new members of my staff." – *Cindy Neumayer, City of Blackwell*

"MESO's Public Power Conference is a great opportunity to network with peers from other cities. I like seeing and hearing how others do things. Sometimes they are doing things better than us and other times worse, but we always walk away learning something that will help us grow our system." – *Rusty Brown, Duncan Power*

"I attend the conference because it provides us a chance to meet, discuss, or brainstorm with other municipal electric systems. I think it's important to make sure we learn how others are handling problems, dealing with issues or to advise others how we might have handled or are handling similar issues. And we walk away with personal level relationships that make it easier for us to call others and ask for advice if needed." – *Patty Witchey, Town of Laverne*

"I have always found the Public Power Conference to have very helpful classes with informed presenters. I am able to take information learned during the conference and apply to the day to day workings of my men and our system. Also, by attending the conference you get to know your fellow public power providers on a personal level. Those relationships can prove to be invaluable!" – *Blakely Smith Jr, Sallisaw Electric*

The theme for the 2014 conference is "HOMETOWN POWER" and will highlight the contributions public power makes to the communities they serve. Register online today at www.meso.org in a matter of minutes.

Anyone interested in the conference can contact Tom Rider at (405) 528-7564 or tom@meso.org or Palma Lough at (405) 359-2514 or plough@ompa.com with any program, event or sponsorship questions. Registration and payment questions should be directed to Deborah Miner at (405) 528-7564 ext 1 or deborah@meso.org.

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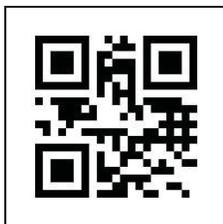
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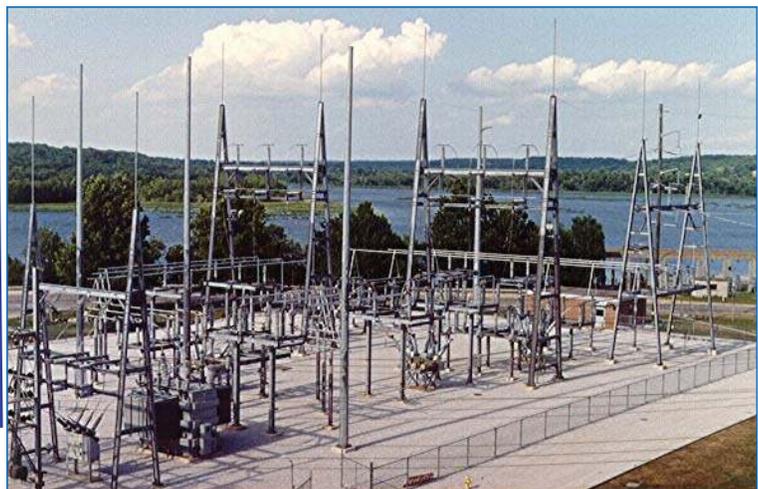
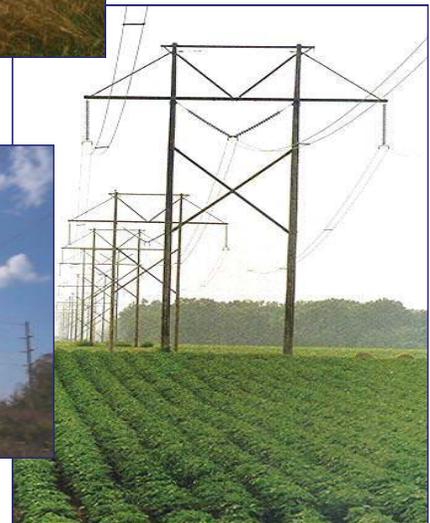
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Oklahoma Public Power Leaders Heading to Washington

A group of Oklahoma public power leaders will travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2014 American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Rally.

“Oklahoma public power advocates will have an opportunity to meet with members of Oklahoma delegation and their staffs to discuss the impact that federal legislative and regulatory action can have,” said Tom Rider, MESO’s General Manager.

Charles Lamb, Mayor of Edmond, Dan Sullivan, GRDA Chief Executive Officer/Director of Investments, Dave Osburn, OMPA General Manager, Rider and others will all be in D.C. for the annual APPA event.

“There are a multitude of legislative and regulatory issues coming from the federal government with potential to impact our members,” Rider added. “The APPA provides an invaluable service to us daily to help in our efforts to protect the interest of public power cities in Oklahoma.”

Federal policy issues to be discussed at the Rally include, among others:

- Maintaining tax-exempt financing for state and local governments, including public power utilities, in ongoing federal budget and tax reform negotiations.
- Protecting the Power Marketing Administrations’ core mission of marketing clean, renewable and affordable federal hydropower to the public.
- The impacts of the plethora of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations on the ability of public power to maintain a diverse portfolio of fuel options to ensure reliable and affordable energy.
- Increasing transparency and oversight of the wholesale electricity markets, and in particular the mandatory capacity markets in eastern regional transmission organization markets.
- Addressing cyber-security by ensuring that any legislation is built on the current NERC /FERC framework, recognizing the current cybersecurity efforts that are underway, and enhancing communication between the federal government and the electric utility industry.

Doublehead *(continued from page 1)*

standing about what public power is and the value it brings to a community.

Q. What do you think the benefits of public power are?

A. The decisions are made locally by people who live here, work here and raise their families here. Our decisions are not driven by the next quarterly profit goals but by people in our community. We think long term in public power and work to do what is best for our community.

Q. Customers may not always understand the municipal electric utility business, if you could teach them one thing, what would that be?

A. That we are a cost of service provider, dedicated to providing a high level of service. We are not driven by profit, but rather by a desire to help in our community.

Q. Will you tell us a little about your family, kids, pets?

A. I’ve been married to Donna for 29 years. How she puts up with me is still a mystery to me. We have three children, Brad, who works at OMAG, is married

to Darilyn. Chad, whose girlfriend is Savanna, works for the Cherokee Nation’s golf business. Our daughter, Tracy, is a student at Northeastern State University. And I have a wonderful granddaughter, Presleigh Kay who is one year old.

Q. Tell us one thing about yourself that most people don't know?

A. I was born in Chicago Illinois and I’m actually taller than I look. My daughter’s boyfriend told me I was intimidating so I try to dress shorter so I don’t intimidate people.



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Austin Energy Seeks Proposals for Community Solar Project

Austin Energy in Texas has issued a request for proposals to contract with a solar company to develop a local community solar project so residents will be able to purchase solar energy without installing panels on their homes.

The RFP seeks up to 4 megawatts of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic panels installed on a 26-acre site owned by Austin Energy that includes an existing distribution substation. The deadline to submit proposals is April 29.

Austin Energy said it plans to enter into a long-term agreement with the selected developer to purchase all of the electricity produced by the solar project. The project would be operational by the second quarter of 2015 and would feed all of its solar power

into the electric grid.

While details of a subscription-based community solar program are still to be determined, residential customers will see the first program offerings, the utility said. The amount of solar power purchased would offset the same amount of conventional electricity used by the home on a customer's bill.

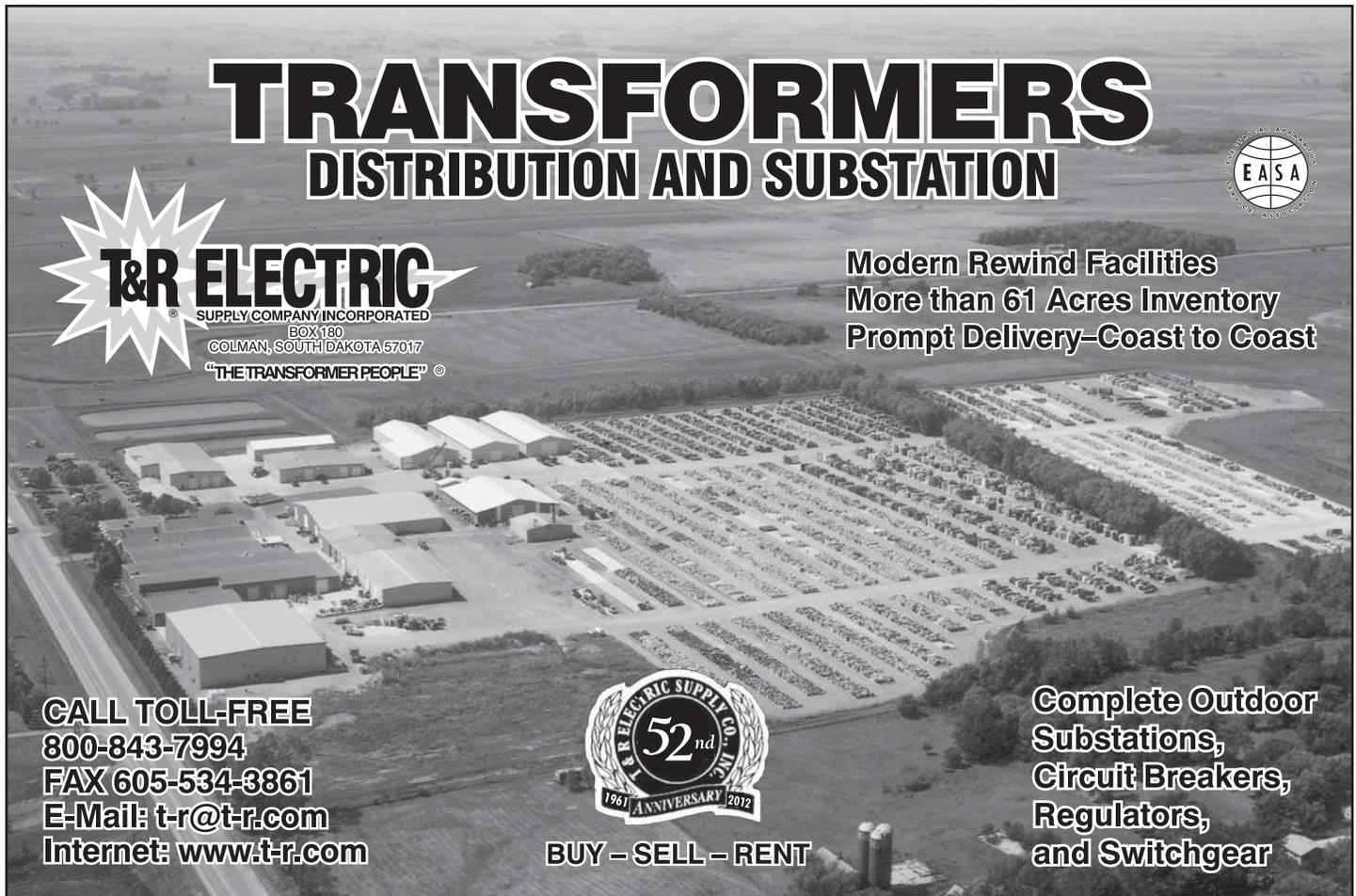
"This allows all residential customers to enjoy the benefits of solar energy regardless if they live in an apartment, a high-rise condominium or a house that is covered with shade," says Debbie Kimberly, vice president of customer energy solutions. "This allows all residents to contribute to a cleaner, greener and healthier community while helping to grow

the clean energy economy in the Austin area."

The project is a response to a recent Austin City Council resolution requesting that 100 megawatts of the 200-MW solar goal that Austin Energy has been asked to achieve by 2020 be derived from local solar resources.

Austin Energy has about 50 MW of local solar, including solar units at homes, businesses, non-profit organizations, public buildings and the utility's Webberville solar project.

"Promoting local solar creates green collar jobs that diversify our economy and helps position Austin to be a leader in attracting clean energy industries," Kimberly said.



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Construction for APPA Lineworkers Rodeo Complete

The competition area for the 2014 APPA Lineworkers to be held in April in Edmond is ready to host the event.

Recognizing two needs – a competition area and continued training – MESO along with the City of Edmond hosted training to complete construction.

Crews from public power cities across the state were involved in the construction/training project which included placing approximately 150 poles at the site. Joining Edmond Electric crews for the construction were representatives from Stillwater, Ponca City, Tahlequah, Duncan, and GRDA.

According to the APPA, "the Rodeo is the ultimate venue for public power lineworkers to dem-

onstrate their skill and knowledge. Journeyman and apprentice lineworkers can compete for professional recognition, attend training courses and practice essential skills in a safe environment."

The national rodeo event is expected to draw more than 55 three man teams and 70 apprentices from around the nation to compete in nine different events showcasing their lineworking talents.

Edmond Electric is the host for the annual event. MESO, OMPA and GRDA are 2014 Rodeo Partners.

For more information about the rodeo, contact Tom Rider at (405) 528-7564 or tom@meso.org or Dean Sherrick at (405) 216-7660 or dean.sherrick@edmondok.com.



Edmond

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currently use 73% wind energy, while UCO has been at 100% wind energy for years. That percentage also doesn't reflect the amount of geothermal energy that the City has used towards newer facilities, including the new Mitch Park YMCA and future Public Safety Center," Jones added.

According to the EPA, the Edmond Community's green power

purchase of more than 96 million kWh is equivalent to avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of more than 14,000 passenger vehicles per year, or the CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of more than 10,000 average American homes annually.

"For most municipalities, electricity use is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions," said Blaine Collison, Director of EPA's Green Power

Partnership. "By using green power, the local government, residents, schools and businesses of Edmond, Oklahoma are reducing their environmental impacts and helping to grow the market for cleaner, renewable resources. We are excited to welcome Edmond as the first EPA Green Power Community in Oklahoma and applaud the community's efforts."