



Save the Date!

PMEA 2022 Annual Conference – September 7 – 9, 2022 @ Penn State, State College

Highlights of the PMEA Annual Conference

The year's conference was jam packed with opportunities to learn and network. Sessions focused on a range of topics and eighteen associate members (companies) exhibited sharing information on their products and/or services.

PMEA President Jeffrey Stonehill, Chambersburg, kicked off the conference during the opening reception on Wednesday. He welcomed all and thanked Jolene Thompson and AMP for their generous sponsorship of the reception.

Thursday's sessions kicked off with an overview of Penn State University's energy production and consumption. Dr. Sitzabee, VP of Facilities Management and Planning & Chief Facilities Officer, noted that "Every Year, Penn State's University Park campus uses the same amount of heating and electrical energy as a Pennsylvania city of 30,000 homes".



Jolene Thompson, President & CEO of AMP, shared updates and highlighted the ongoing partnership between the two organizations. Thompson stated that PMEA members are participating in the following AMP projects: AFEC; Blue Creek Wind; Landfill Gas; Solar Phase II; and Behind the Meter – RICE Peaking.



Franc Arbide of NextEra's NextCity Networks discussed Smart Cities and how communities across the country are incorporating aspects of Smart Cities including Smart Parking; Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI); Smart Lighting; and Security.

Erin Shealy and Matt Smith of GDS Associates presented on battery storage options. Paul Beckhusen, AMP, and Robert Tugwell of PowerSecure followed with a presentation of the AMP Behind the Meter Peaking Project.

Marie Holland and Marissa Price of GMS Funding Solutions, together with Sam Wiser of Salzmans Hughes, offered information on ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding.

OVERVIEW OF ELIGIBLE USES

- ❖ **Revenue Loss**
 - Funds allocated to this use must be used to provide government service (direct provision of services to citizens)
 - Broad range of use including maintenance of infrastructure, building new infrastructure with cash, public safety services.
 - See Census Classification Manual Expenditure Functions
 - Funds cannot be used for the following
 - Principal or interest payments on existing debt
 - Replenishing or creating reserve funds
 - Paying settlements or judgments
 - Extraordinary payments to pension obligations
- ❖ **Responding to the Public Health Emergency and its Negative Economic Impacts**
 - Additional flexibility for projects located in Qualified Census Tracts
- ❖ **Broadband, Water, and Sewer Projects**
 - Water/sewer projects must be eligible under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- ❖ **Grants to subrecipients such as authorities, small businesses, nonprofits, etc.**
- ❖ **Social Services**

Following lunch, PMEA President Stonehill moderated a discussion with PMEA Board members Bob Thompson, Ephrata, and Mike DeFinis, Hatfield. Thompson and DeFinis are retiring from their roles as municipal managers in 2022. The panel shared stories and experiences from their time in local government. They also talked about the uniqueness of being a public power community in Pennsylvania.



Afternoon sessions for managers and elected officials focused on succession planning and engaging with the media. Sessions for electric superintendents and other electric personnel centered on training opportunities with Northwest Lineman College and AMP as well as roundtable with Norm Baron and John Lykens of Utility Engineers.

PLEASE NOTE: All PowerPoint presentations from the conference are available for a limited time on the PMEA website. Go to www.papublicpower.org and click on the About tab at the top and scroll to Events. Each of the labeled buttons is a PowerPoint.

PMEA Presents First Public Power Service Award



Bob Thompson, Ephrata, presenting award to Dave Woglom

The first ever James J. Havrilla Public Power Service award was presented at the annual conference to Dave Woglom. Joining PMEA President Jeffrey Stonehill for the presentation was Norm Baron, Utility Engineers, and Emily Havrilla.

Named after James J. Havrilla, the award is given to an individual who, throughout their career, has consistently demonstrated a commitment to public power. James Havrilla was a professional engineer who engaged with many, if not all, of PMEA's member municipalities over the course of his career. His 25-year affiliation with PMEA first began in 1993.

Dave Woglom was not able to attend the conference but offered remarks read by Jeffrey Stonehill. "It is with great sadness that I had to cancel my attendance at this year's conference. It will be my first missed PMEA Conference in more than 25 years... I have worked in the public sector arena for more than 40 years and it is rare that someone recognizes your work and wants to honor you by saying thank you. In PMEA's case, I was the Executive Director for approximately 11 years and while Quakertown's Borough Manager, I was also the President for more than 5 years. During this time, there has been nothing that I have enjoyed more than my time working in public power; as you all know, it is the most amazing and challenging public service that any municipality can provide... I sincerely thank you, and I am honored and humbled by your recognition of my work."

Annual Business Meeting Notes

The PMEA Annual Business meeting was held on Friday morning during the Annual Conference. Members heard reports from our partner providers. Joe Uliana, JM Uliana & Associates, who represents PMEA on legislative issues in Harrisburg shared highlights of the legislative session and possibilities for the election year ahead. Norm Baron of Utility Engineers provided attendees with the results of the rate survey and various emerging and technical issues.

Sam Wiser, Salzmann Hughes, discussed Act 50 – the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act – and the implications for municipalities. He walked members through the new law and a model ordinance developed by Salzmann Hughes for PMEA member municipalities. **All Act 50 information has been subsequently emailed to members.*

Under the PMEA update, Andy Krauss of Lansdale, and member of the PMEA board, reviewed some of the efforts to establish training for line crew in 2022. PMEA President Stonehill shared introductory information about the potential relationship with AMP-Transmission (AMP's spinoff for meeting current and future transmission needs).

Public Power Week is October 3 - 9



Celebrate Public Power Week! Resources and templates available on the APPA website:

<https://www.publicpower.org/event/public-power-week#event-1>

If your community is holding events, contests, or doing social media and outreach during Public Power Week, please share pictures, posts, and articles with PMEA. Send your submissions to bosak@papublicpower.org.

PMEA Submits Statement on PJM/ MOPR

AMP (American Municipal Power) and PMEA offered brief written comments to both the PA House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees recently in response to informational hearings on the PJM/ MOPR (Minimum Offer Price Rule). The joint AMP and PMEA statement noted that “MOPR was a limited mechanism to protect against the possibility that a net buyer of capacity could exercise buyer-side market power and drive capacity prices below an administratively determined floor. An important part of the compromise was that self-supply resources – resources used to supply customers of municipal, cooperative and vertically-integrated utilities – were guaranteed to clear the auction... Without guaranteed clearing, public power entities would face the risk that investor-owned utilities do not; namely paying twice for capacity: once to develop a generating resource and a second time to purchase replacement capacity if the generating resource fails to clear because of MOPR”.

The joint comments added that “all parties engaged in discussions on MOPR may have different perspectives but are ultimately trying to achieve the same end goal – competitive markets... Additional complexities within this market could hinder both investment opportunities and technological advancements which could, in turn, negatively impact Pennsylvania’s electricity market.”

We Want to Hear From You

Please share with us your exciting projects and photos for future newsletters. Your submissions should be sent to bosak@papublicpower.org at any time and we will use them in upcoming editions.



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