

Board approves contract for energy efficiency program

By Marc Gerken—president/CEO

The AMP-Ohio board of trustees last week approved a contract with Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) to develop an energy efficiency program for AMP-Ohio member communities. The program would be a part of our overall power supply strategy that includes reliable, cost-predictable generation assets, with the increased development of renewable resources. VEIC is a recognized leader with extensive experience in energy efficiency program analysis, design and implementation. The company currently has clients in 25 states and several countries, and experience working with municipal electric systems and rural electric cooperatives. This phase of the program would involve the design of a program “menu” based on VEIC’s experience and AMP-Ohio’s goals of cost control, risk mitigation and member equity, meaning fairness in the way the program is funded and the ability of all member communities to participate, regardless of size. At the end of this phase, we can determine which programs make sense to pursue, what the potential megawatt/megawatt hour impact is, what the project cost/benefit will be, and will have a basic program design and implementation strategy that would allow us to issue a request-for-proposals to contractors. Results of this phase will be presented to the board in February

Smithland hydraulic model begins calibration

By Phil Meier—assistant vice president-hydro development

The Smithland hydraulic model study, built by Alden Labs in Holden, Mass., is ready to begin calibration. During this process, velocity measurements and elevations are calibrated to approximate actual river conditions. The model shown below is on a 1:120 foot scale. After the model study is calibrated, the Army Corps of Engineers will perform baseline testing, using model barges to verify that the Smithland model is a good representation of what actually is occurring at the Smithland Locks & Dam. After baseline testing is complete, a model of the Smithland powerhouse will be built and inserted into the model to determine the hydraulic impacts of the hydro plant.

Additional models, which are being built by Northwest Hydraulic Labs in Vancouver, are under construction and will soon go through the same process.



This model of the Smithland Locks & Dam will be used to test the effect that building a hydroelectric plant at the real locks & dam will have on river conditions and shipping.

SPOTLIGHT

Passings

By Curtis Todt—senior staff writer

Former Amherst Mayor John Higgins died last Tuesday after a brief illness. He was 71. Higgins served his community for more than 20 years, first as a council member, then council president and then two terms as mayor—from 1996 to 2004—before losing a bid for a third term. Higgins had been active with the OMEA, including attending some of the annual Mayors’ Receptions, during his tenure in office. Born in Amherst, he grew up in nearby Lorain, but moved back to Amherst in the 1970s. A graduate of the University of Dayton, he spent 38 years at U.S. Steel’s Lorain Works before retiring in 1989. Higgins is survived by his wife, Marilyn; a son and daughter; his brother and sister; and four grandchildren.

Norm Evans, a 31-year employee (1960-1991) of the Hamilton Department of Electric, died Nov. 7 at the age of 80. He had worked as a customer service representative for the city’s municipal electric system. Survivors include numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren and his former son-in-law, Hamilton Mayor Don Ryan. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mavis, and daughter, Deborah.



CALENDAR

Dec. 5— Safety subcommittee meeting

12:30 p.m., AMP-Ohio, Columbus

Dec. 6— Safety subcommittee meeting

8:30 a.m., AMP-Ohio, Columbus

Want to join Update’s growing e-mail list?

The list of people receiving *Update* by e-mail continues to grow. These responses are very much appreciated because they allow us to save money on postage and distribute the newsletter more rapidly. If you would like to receive *Update* by e-mail, contact Jan Ritchie at jritchie@amp-ohio.org.



On Peak (16 Hour) prices into Cinergy for week ending Nov. 16

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
\$48.75	\$46.75	\$46.00	\$60.00	\$68.50

Week ending Nov. 9

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
\$60.00	\$64.50	\$67.25	\$57.50	\$58.00

Cinergy 2008 5x16 price as of November 16
\$66.25

Cinergy 2008 5x16 price as of November 9
\$66.50

2008 Legislative Day moved forward

By Jolene Thompson—OMEA executive director

We encourage OMEA members to mark Jan. 15 on their calendars for the OMEA Legislative Day and Mayors' Reception (The original date was Jan. 29). The earlier date is timed to fall in the Ohio House of Representatives hearing process on SB 221 and allow more time between the Mayors' Reception and the late February APPA Rally trip to Washington. The Mayors' Reception will take place from 5-7 p.m. Strong member attendance will be critical based on the electric debate and issues we expect to surface in the House process. This will also provide a great opportunity for members to talk to their state lawmakers about the AMP-Ohio generating projects. Details on the Legislative Reception are being firmed up, but we anticipate a 2- or 3-5 p.m. briefing session. Registration materials will be sent out by the end of November. Please contact me, Michael Beirne or Nancy Marshall with questions at 614/337-6222.

Locate trouble before the outage

By Jennifer Flockerzie—GIS & forestry coordinator

Have you ever wished you could predict the future and have the ability to prevent outages on your electric system before they occur? AMP-Ohio's new Exacter® program may be able to help you do just that. Exacter is an outage avoidance system that provides early warning of failing transformers, regulators, insulators, cutouts, lightning arrestors, and more. Using advanced sensor-array technology combined with GPS data mapping, potential problems are located and problem severity is assigned for maintenance prioritization and outage avoidance. Exacter allows users to provide preventive maintenance by finding and identifying potential problems prior to catastrophic failures. Maintenance can be done before the equipment fails, reducing costs, and improving customer service.

Exacter also provides other benefits, including allowing users to follow up with third-party repairs using the Exacter program to ensure equipment repairs are performed correctly before authorizing final payment to contractors. CADI/CAIFI/SAIDI/SAIFI reliability numbers can improve by using this proactive system to pinpoint maintenance needs and prioritize it with existing budgeted resources to reduce outages, maintaining excellent public relations with customers. Exacter is easy to use, works in any vehicle, can be moved from vehicle to vehicle, and requires no maintenance or training.

AMP-Ohio has teamed with Exacter to provide members with the service at a **65 percent** discount off of normal rates. The cost for one week is \$800, \$1,550 for two weeks, \$2,100 for three weeks, and

\$2,400 for four weeks. The cost for one day of field pinpointing is \$800 plus a pre-approved travel allowance. To schedule this service, please contact me at either 614/337-2222 or jflockerzie@amp-ohio.org. If you have further questions, please call either Mike Kopp at AMP-Ohio, 614/337-6222, Kyle White at Brownstown Electric Supply Co., 317/498-2228, or Geoffrey Bibo at Exacter Inc., 614/880-9320.

Natural gas prices react to start of heating season

By Craig Kleinhenz—power supply planning engineer

December natural gas prices closed last week up \$0.12 per decatherm at \$7.84/dth. The national weekly storage report released last Thursday showed the first withdrawal of the season, causing natural gas prices to climb slightly over the previous week's close. Even with the first withdrawal of the season, storage levels are still well above the five-year average, leading to 2008 Cinergy Hub on-peak power prices dropping \$0.25 per megawatt hour to close yesterday at \$66.25/MWh.

CLASSIFIEDS

Carey seeks experienced lineworker

Carey Municipal Light & Power is currently seeking an experienced, qualified person for a lineworker position. Must be able to install, operate and maintain all classes of overhead and underground distribution lines and substations. Must possess, or obtain, an Ohio commercial driver's license within six months of hire date. Because this position requires a CDL, it is subject to drug and alcohol testing. Must have a high school diploma and have completed an approved apprenticeship or training program, and be willing to locate within reasonable response distance of the village for system call outs. Position is frequently exposed to inclement weather, heights and energized electrical equipment. For more information, call 419/396-6130 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Resumes will be accepted, but a completed application is required and can be obtained from: Carey Municipal Light & Power, Attn: Greg Orians, Dist. Supt., 127 North Vance Street, Carey, OH 43316.

Coldwater seeks lineworker

The Coldwater Board of Public Utilities is seeking a motivated individual to join its electric utility operation. Duties will include utility service work at 600V and below, substation maintenance, metering, and automation/control support. Experience in the electric utility field and/or as a licensed or journeyman electrician is a plus. Valid Michigan driver's license is required. Anyone interested should send a resume to: Attn: Sue Rubley, Coldwater Board of Public Utilities, One Grand St., Coldwater, MI 49036 or by e-mail to srubley@muni.cbpu.com. Employment applications can also be obtained at the Henry L. Brown Municipal Building at One Grand Street in Coldwater.

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