



President's Message

Farewell to Frank

—by Raj G. Rao

On April 13, 2008, IMPA said goodbye to an incredible mentor and friend. Frank Rudolph, retired Greendale utility manager and one of the founding fathers of IMPA, passed away at the age of 93.



Frank is the individual responsible for instilling the idea of “family” at IMPA. The second youngest of 10 children, Frank knew what family meant – working together to achieve goals that benefitted all involved.

Frank attended Purdue University, playing football while pursuing his education. He graduated in 1938 with a degree in engineering and immediately began his profession in the utility industry. His distinguished career in public power included 35 years of service to Greendale Utilities as the utility manager, during which time he became involved in the formation of IMPA. His vision for municipal utilities working together as a “family” to achieve mutually beneficial results led to the Agency’s development.

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IMPA lights the way to energy savings

IMPA is helping member communities spread the word about energy efficient lighting and encourage consumers to use electricity wisely.

The Agency purchased compact fluorescent light (CFL) comparators for each of its member communities. The comparators demonstrate the energy usage of a typical incandescent lightbulb, showcasing its usage against four compact fluorescent lightbulbs. When switched on, users can see that the 60-watt usage of the incandescent lightbulb is equal to the usage of all four CFLs combined.



In addition, the displays come with informational graphics explaining the benefits of using CFLs, the types of CFLs available as well as their appropriate uses, and suggested color temperatures to produce the desired light in your home or business.

Combined with IMPA’s efforts to educate consumers on the benefits of CFLs, the Agency is going one step further to actually put CFLs in consumers’ hands. The Agency is working with General Electric (GE) to develop and distribute manufacturer coupons for GE branded Energy Smart compact fluorescent lightbulbs. The coupons will be made available in all member communities and are valid for

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New product identifies failing equipment before outage occurs

Earlier this year, Greenfield Power & Light came across a new technology that was helping utilities find equipment problems on overhead lines before a power outage occurs. Given the opportunity to be proactive rather than reactive to issues on the system, GP&L took a chance and hasn't looked back.

The Exacter Outage-Avoidance System detects future failures in transformers, regulators, insulators, cutouts, lightning arrestors and more. When placed in a vehicle and driven through a service territory, the equipment listens for arcs from power lines that indicate potential failures in that location. An antenna tracks the noise, transmits its location and severity to a central server and the information is processed in a data base for the utility to analyze.

"There was really no way to detect problem areas on our system before we tried Exacter," Nelson Castrodale, Greenfield electric superintendent, said. "Equipment is tough to survey unless an outage occurs, but by the time that happens, it's too late."

Kerry Vincent, ISC general manager, rode along on Greenfield's test drive. Vincent said he was impressed by the equipment's accuracy considering the seemingly simple design. It took less than five minutes to connect the equipment to the vehicle.

"There are three basic connections for the Exacter in the vehicle – a receiver, global positioning system and an FM transmitter. The receiver picks up the arc, while the global positioning system records the location where the arc was heard. The FM transmitter is an optional device that indicates when problems are detected. It gives two short "beeps" when an inconsistency on the system is heard."

The Exacter records problem areas that may cause failures in the future, everything from a cracked insulator to a loose tie wire. Vincent said that utilities that hire contractors to set poles and run lines can even use the Exacter to ensure the job was done correctly.

Once a system drive is completed and the equipment is shut down, the Exacter transfers the data it collected over a secure network to a server. The server organizes the data by GPS coordinate as well as level of severity. Utilities receive a report detailing locations of trouble spots with a rating of their severity. The rating system, known as Group Maintenance-Merit System, assigns a value to each failure possibility so that the utility

can prioritize issues.

Greenfield Power & Light tested the Exacter for a month and quickly found problem locations.

"Were it not for the Exacter, we would not have known about the problems until there were outages," Castrodale said. "After driving our territory for a few weeks, we received a map of our entire system that told us where all the real problems were."

Once a problem area is detected by Exacter, the specific piece of equipment causing the issue must be identified using an antenna, parabolic dish or sniffer.

"While Exacter narrows down the location of a potential problem, you still must rely on other equipment to pinpoint the specific piece of equipment. It is not always obvious what the problem is in an area," Vincent said.

GP&L is ready to put Exacter to the real test and lease the equipment two months out of the year.


"If we drive the system once in the spring, we can locate winter weather damage and prepare for stormy season. By doing another drive in the fall, we can catch the damage done by storms in the spring and summer months," Castrodale said.

Geoffrey Bibo, vice president of Exacter, Inc., sees the benefit this technology can bring to utilities. "We look at the big picture. This is a powerful tool for preventive maintenance, giving utilities the ability to reduce outages and improve system reliability."

ISC is working with Exacter, Inc. to develop an agreement appropriate for IMPA's 51 member utilities. The proposal will then be offered to the Reengineering Committee, a group of engineering representatives from the Indiana municipal utilities, for further review and refinement.

Exacter, Inc. will offer discounts to IMPA members if they lease the product according to the agreement. The transactions will take place through IMPA, so that the ISC can continue to monitor the product's efficiency. Vincent said the benefits of leasing the product as an agency rather than individual utilities includes a discount for each month leased as well as reduced set-up fees for the reporting software.

"We want to do everything we can to minimize costs associated with this product," Vincent said. "While there is a cost associated with leasing the product each month it is used, the benefits will far outweigh the costs. If it keeps you from having an outage, it's money well spent."

For more information about ISC and services offered, contact Kerry Vincent at (317) 573-9955 or kerry@impa.com. 

IMPA Project Watch

Prairie State Energy Campus

While the construction site received quite a bit of rain in March, progress continues on the Prairie State Energy Campus. The engineering, procurement, and construction contractor, Bechtel Power Corp., has been performing activities to support the construction schedule for this project, including more earthwork and site grading, piling installation, and circulating water pipe installation. Equipment orders continue to be made and subcontracts put into place. Some of the boiler parts have started arriving at the site and the Prairie State Construction Management team expects to have their office trailers in place by the end of May.



Crews install the first circulating water pipe at the Prairie State Energy Campus.



Boiler structural steel is erected at Trimble County Unit 2.

Trimble County Unit 2

Trimble County Unit 2 construction continues to progress in spite of the large amount of rain the site received in March. The contractor is still erecting the top tier and trusses for the boiler structural steel. They are also working on the pulverizer installation and assembly of the condenser hotwells.

Progress continues on air quality control systems, as well. The baghouse steel and hoppers are already installed, and the flue gas desulfurization reactor vessel is being erected. ☺

Welcome to IMPA's newest staff members



James Welsh, Power System Coordinator/Trader. B. S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Florida.

Bev Matthews, Assistant Vice President of Rates and Billing. B. S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Previously employed as Assistant Vice President of Forecasting and Rates at Wisconsin Public Power Inc.



Larry Brown, Vice President of Resource Planning. B. S. in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University. Previously employed with ACES Power Marketing as Manager of Structuring. ☺

Thanks to IMPA's 2008 Annual Meeting Presenters

- **Fred Yebra, Austin Energy.** With more than 2,600 megawatts of generation demand, Austin Energy's portfolio includes nuclear, coal, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Fred Yebra presented IMPA with Austin's Demand-Side Management initiatives.
- **Ray Hayward, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency.** With global climate change making headlines, electric utilities nationwide are looking for clean alternatives to generate power. President Ray Hayward informed attendees of SMMPA's experience with wind-generated power.
- **Alan Fiorente, Bechtel Nuclear Power.** Alan Fiorente, manager of marketing and business development for Bechtel Nuclear Power, spoke on innovations for nuclear power. Bechtel serves nearly two-thirds of the nuclear power plants in the United States.
- **Mike DeAngelis, Sacramento Municipal Utility District.** At the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, consumers have the opportunity to buy energy from renewable resources. Mike DeAngelis presented SMUD's mission to be energy efficient.
- **Mark Crisson, American Public Power Association.** President and CEO of the American Public Power Association Mark Crisson kept attendees informed on national occurrences in the realm of public power. ☺



Alan Fiorente (center) discusses nuclear innovations with (from l-r) Mike Martin, Mike Jenner, Dotun Famakinwa and Tom Donoho.

Lighting the way

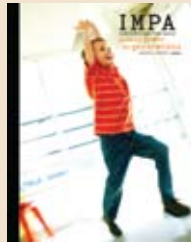
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\$1 off any GE Energy Smart product.

Keeping safety and education in mind, communities will also be given CFL recycling buckets for placement in their communities. The buckets are ready-to-ship containers, making it easy for member utilities to do their part in promoting energy efficiency and safety. Consumers simply drop in their used CFLs, and when full, the utility locks the lid and ships it back using the included address return label for recycling. ♻️

Annual Report now available!

Visit our website at www.impa.com to view an online version, or contact Niki Dick at 317-575-3371 or niki@impa.com to request copies of IMPA's 2007 Annual Report. ♻️



President's Message

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It was Frank's desire to do what was best for his community – for his customers – and his unwavering dedication to helping others that helped make IMPA a reality. In 1980, Greendale and a handful of other communities worked together to create a joint action agency serving the needs of municipally owned utilities throughout Indiana. Frank's involvement in IMPA's early days was crucial in making the Agency the success it is today. He served as IMPA's first board chairman, guiding the initial planning for an organization with assets now totaling \$1.2 billion.

Frank is survived by his wife, Helen, three children, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. His family vision lives on in his descendants and all whose lives he touched at IMPA. Sharp in mind and spirit, Frank Rudolph was and will continue to be an inspiration to many. ♻️

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