

Communiqué

The **AMEA Communiqué** is a monthly publication of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, 80 TechnaCenter Dr., Suite 200, Montgomery, AL 36117.

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(334) 262•1126

(334) 262•2267 (Fax)

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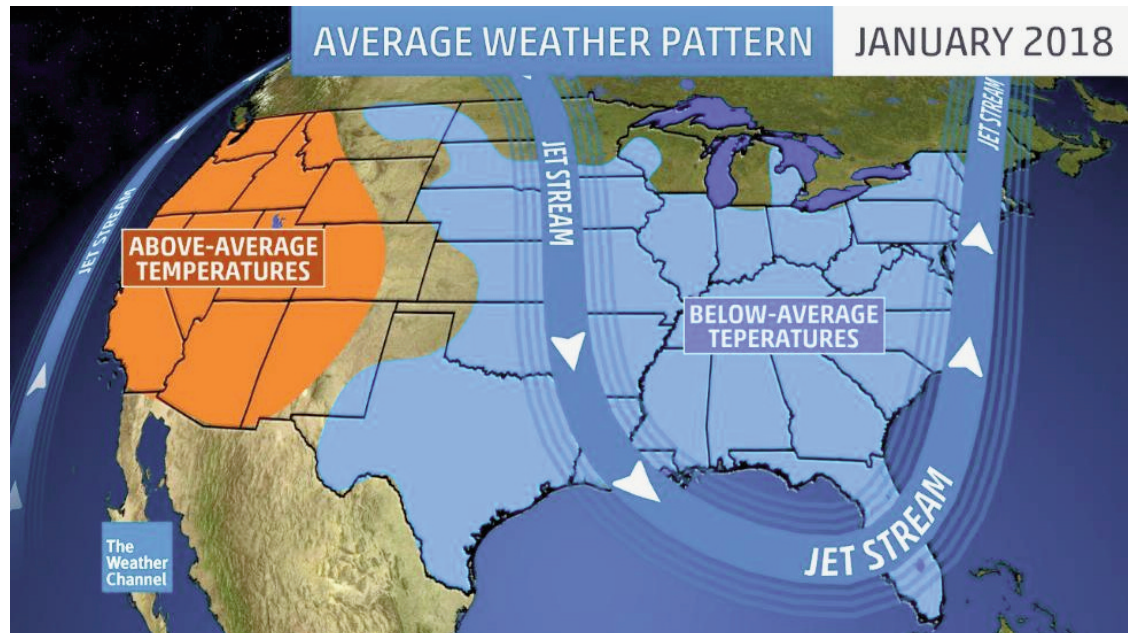
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Lisa M. Miller

Editor

MISSION STATEMENT

AMEA's mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve. We strive to offer services that our Members need and can adapt to provide the best value for their communities and customers.



AMEA hits all-time peak demand in January

With Alabama experiencing one of the coldest winters in the state's history, people were using more electricity than usual, leading to higher power bills in January.

AMEA experienced an all-time peak of 835 MW in January. The energy usage in January was the second highest of any winter month in AMEA's history (the first was in January 2014).

January 2018 had the coldest temperatures of any year going back to 1985 with the exception of January 2014 with the Polar Vortex. Temperatures averaged 5 degrees lower than normal for the entire month. While the Polar Vortex itself lasted only a few days, the cold weather experienced in January 2018 was consecutive hours of extreme cold temperatures for an extended period of time.

Across the AMEA footprint in January, significant cold temperatures impacted even the southern-most AMEA Members.

FERC approves AMEA PURPA waiver request in February

On February 15, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a letter in regards to AMEA's joint petition, on behalf of AMEA and its 11 participating member municipal cities, for partial waiver of certain Commission regulations pertaining to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA).

The letter noted that a notice of AMEA's petition was published in the Federal Register, with interventions and protests due on or before January 2, 2018. No protests were filed. In conclusion, the letter states, "The Joint Petition's requested waiver is hereby granted."

You still have time to register for 2018 AMEA Power Supply Conference

Mark your calendar for the 2018 AMEA Power Supply Conference, slated for April 19 and 20, at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort in Point Clear, AL. Conference registration is FREE and open to all AMEA Members. The conference will begin on Thursday, April 19 at 1 p.m. and conclude at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 20. Attire for the conference is business casual.

On Thursday, April 19, please join us for the President's Awards Reception and Dinner, where we will recognize Stan Gregory, Partner, Bradley Arant, with the 2018 President's Award. The reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

For those arriving on Wednesday, April 18, an AMEA Board Appreciation Dinner will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

Online conference registration is now available. Please go to AMEA's web site, www.amea.com, and scroll to the bottom of the home page to 2018 AMEA Power Supply Conference. **Conference registration deadline is Monday, April 9.**

For your convenience, the hotel is holding a block of rooms for the nights of Wednesday, April 18 and Thursday, April 19. To reserve a room at a special rate of \$140 plus tax per night, please call (800) 544-9933 or (251) 928-9201 and mention Alabama Municipal Electric Authority. **The room block deadline is Monday, March 19.**

To make your room reservation online, click on this link: **[Book your group rate for AMEA](#)**

For more information about the 2018 conference, please contact Lisa Miller, Manager of Communications and Marketing, (800) 239-2632, Ext. 118, lmiller@amea.com, or Samantha Alexander, Executive Assistant, Ext. 115, samantha@amea.com.



Stan Gregory,
2018 AMEA President's Award
recipient

AMEA to sponsor Cost of Service and Retail Rate Design Workshop

AMEA will host a Pre-Conference Workshop on the *Fundamentals of Cost of Service and Retail Rate Design* on Wednesday, April 18 from 1 until 5 p.m. The workshop will be held in conjunction with the 2018 AMEA Power Supply Conference, which is April 19 and 20 at the Marriott Grand Hotel in Point Clear. Lunch will be provided prior to the workshop, starting at 12 p.m. Registration for the workshop is free and open to all AMEA Members.

The workshop is intended for city/utility staff and city council/board members who want to learn more about the process used to develop rates and charges for utility service. During the workshop, there will be discussion on rate design trends and options for distributed energy resources (i.e., solar), said Mark Ennis, AMEA Manager of Compliance and Distribution Services.

If you are interested in attending the workshop, please contact Ennis, (334) 387-3511 or mennis@amea.com.

AMEA hosts third Economic Development Roundtable in February

The 2018 AMEA Economic Development Roundtable for Member city economic developers, their staffs and boards was held Thursday, Feb. 22 at the AMEA headquarters in Montgomery. The event provides local economic developers with additional resources to assist them in their community/economic development efforts.

Speakers and topics included: Lee Lawson, Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance, *Hatch Fairhope*; Betty McIntosh, Cushman & Wakefield, *Economic Development Challenges Facing Our State, Region and Country*; Chuck Branch, NextSite, *Retail Trends & Recruiting in 2018*; and Fred Clark, AMEA President & CEO, *Overview of AMEA's Power Supply Initiatives*. **(See related photos on Page 4)**

The AMEA Communique' is intended for internal use only.



Join the AMEA social conversation!

AMEA is now on various social channels to help keep you informed of events and news happening with us.

Feel free to join, follow or link any of the AMEA social channels. We are current on the following:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
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2018 AMEA Economic Development Roundtable



(Clockwise): Chuck Branch, Managing Partner, NextSite, talks to attendees about *Retail Trends & Recruiting in 2018*; attendees Kimberly Carter of the Chambers County Development Authority, and Alex Patrick and Lori Huguley of the City of Opelika Economic Development, enjoy some time with speaker Betty McIntosh (L), Senior Managing Director, Cushman & Wakefield; and, Tanner Jones of Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance (BCEDA), Lucas Gockel and Lorie Denton of the Calhoun County Economic Development Council, Al Cook, AMEA's Economic Development Marketing Consultant, Alex Doleac of BCEDA, and Tom DeBell, General Manager of Riviera Utilities, and a member of the AMEA Board of Directors, visit with each other during one of the meeting breaks.



FREE! 2018 WEBINAR SERIES

Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA)
is partnering with **Hi-Line Engineering** to provide the following
2018 Webinar Series FREE to our AMEA Member Organizations.

Webinar Dates and Subjects		\$	✓
1.	March 13 – Sizing Three-Phase Transformers - Transformers are one of the most significant costs to be considered when serving new customers, and this is especially true for three-phase services. Unlike single-phase transformers which are generally shared by two or more services, three-phase transformers are typically dedicated to one consumer. Sizing three-phase transformers is based on three methods – panel rating, comparable facility, and diversity of the loads.	Free	
2.	April 10 – Transformer Banking - A designer's goal should be to provide the most efficient, economical and reliable power to the consumer. To achieve this goal, a designer must consider the numerous configurations to combine two or three distribution transformers to supply power to a service, and the advantages and disadvantages of each configuration.	Free	
3.	May 8 – Trends in Fuse Savings - The goal of "fuse saving" is to avoid expensive fuse replacement and to avoid lengthy consumer outages. Fuse saving schemes are not practical for all distribution lines. The distribution system must be evaluated to determine the sections of line where implementation of a fuse saving scheme will be beneficial, and to determine the coordination for a fuse saving scheme.	Free	
4.	June 19 – Application and Use of Fault Indicators - Locating faults on underground distribution systems is often frustrating and challenging. Installation of fault indicators can provide a means to quickly locate the source of the outage, thereby drastically reducing the outage time. The challenges to using fault indicators include when and where to install fault indicators to be most beneficial and cost effective. In addition, fault indicators need to be selected based on the continuous current and available fault current.	Free	
5.	July 10 – Understanding and Mitigating Uplift - Uplift is a common problem in the electric utility industry. Understanding the causes for uplift is the beginning of solving and preventing uplift on the distribution system. Recognizing instances where uplift typically occurs will lead to design practices that eliminate the problem before construction. Understanding the causes of uplift, will help designers re-design existing structures to correct existing problems.	Free	
6.	August 14 – Understanding Construction Specifications - The purpose of construction specifications, whether RUS specifications or individual utility specifications, is to create a uniform construction criteria for the electric distribution system. Engineers, designers, superintendents, and linemen need a working knowledge of the utility specifications to ensure the power lines are designed and built to be safe, reliable and efficient. The discussion of construction specifications will include materials, design parameters, maximum line angles, and design guides.	Free	
7.	September 11 – Design and Framing of Riser Poles - The design of a riser pole must consider the underground cable attachment to the pole, the placement of arresters to reduce lead lengths, different types of terminators, and switches. The webinar will discuss different framing methods for riser poles that meet NESC requirements as well as operational goals. Common errors in framing risers will be presented and analyzed.	Free	
8.	October 9 – Professional Ethics for Utility Personnel - Ethics is not always black and white or good and evil. Often simple situations such as going to lunch with someone can be considered a breach of ethics. Using realistic examples, the presentation will discuss possible pitfalls when working with vendors, government officials, consumers, etc. and offer methods to avoid such situations.	Free	
9.	November 13 – Primer on Current Demand Side Management Practices - Demand side management is employed with various goals and methods which can include sustainability, improving load factor, reducing generation requirements, reduction in transmission congestion, and reducing wholesale power costs. This webinar will address the tools used in the industry to manage the system demand. The advances in communication such as RF mesh radio systems and smart thermostats have increased the number and types of tools available for deployment.	Free	

Please check all or the individual webinars you are interested in, complete the information below, and email to: jennifer@amea.com - 334-387-3502 - 80 TechnaCenter Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117

Company Name _____ Company Contact _____
Mailing Address _____ Contact Email _____
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Webinars conducted by: 
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Lisa M. Miller, AMEA + 334.387.3501 + www.hometownconnections.com