

Communiqué

The **AMEA Communiqué** is a monthly publication of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority
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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.

PSC votes to not disapprove amended contract



AMEA has been exploring utility scale solar options up to 100 MW that would be economically viable. In order to purchase energy under the provisions of the current Power Supply Agreement (PSA) with Alabama Power Company (APCo), Fred Clark, AMEA President & CEO, contacted APCo to initiate the concept of energy only purchases from utility scale and PURPA projects.

Alan Williford, Chief Operating Officer, drafted an amendment to the PSA that would allow AMEA to purchase energy from up to 100 MW from a utility scale non-PURPA project and PURPA projects.

After the parties negotiated the final language, the AMEA Board of Directors approved the execution of Amendment No. 2 to the PSA at its Aug. 23 board meeting.

Williford, along with legal counsel, Stan Gregory, prepared the documentation required for filing contracts and amendments entered into with APCo to the Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC). Williford and Gregory, along with Peter Thompson, Senior Power Supply Engineer, worked with the PSC staff to answer questions including a data set request. Clark, Williford and Thompson met with PSC staff to answer questions regarding the amendment.

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, the PSC voted unanimously to not disapprove the amendment pursuant to state statute language.

Sylacauga and Foley solar research projects dedicated in September

AMEA, in partnership with the Sylacauga Utilities Board, the City of Foley and Riviera Utilities, dedicated new 50-KW solar research projects in those cities on Sept. 18 and 24, respectively.

The AMEA/Sylacauga Utilities Board Solar Research Project is located at 304 W. Highland Avenue in Sylacauga. The AMEA/City of Foley/Riviera Utilities Solar Research Project is located at E. 100 Section Avenue (Alabama Highway 59) in

Foley. The projects were completed in August.

In conjunction with the solar research initiative, AMEA has been exploring and researching best practices in community solar parks in partnership with AMEA's Member cities.

The AMEA Board of Directors approved a \$1 million investment to construct one solar research project in each Member city for a total of 11 projects.

Similar-size projects have also been dedicated in Dothan, Luverne, Opelika and Tuskegee.

The Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce, as well as the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, conducted ribbon cuttings during both days' activities.



AMEA/Sylacauga Utilities Board Solar Research Project Dedication, Sept. 18



AMEA/City of Foley/Riviera Utilities Solar Research Project Dedication, Sept. 24

(Photos by Robert Fouts)

Casey Ponder joins AMEA Board of Directors

Casey Ponder, Electric Superintendent, City of Piedmont, was recently elected to the AMEA Board of Directors. Ponder was elected by the AMEA Elections Committee on Aug. 16.

The AMEA Election Committee, comprised of 11 representatives of AMEA's Member cities, meets annually in August to elect, re-elect or replace directors whose terms expire at the end of the Annual Meeting, which is also in August.

Lee Young, who represented the City of Piedmont on the AMEA Board for nine years, retired at the August board meeting, where he was recognized with a special plaque.



Ponder



Celebrate Public Power Week in your community, Oct. 7-13

Public Power Week is Oct. 7-13. Join 2,000 utilities across the country in telling your customers about the benefits of public power. Public power utilities across the U.S. celebrate Public Power

Week the first full week of October every year to help customers and stakeholders understand how they can better engage with their community-owned utility and benefit from all of its offerings.

The American Public Power Association (APPA) has a host of sample resources and templates to help you spread the word in your community. You'll find these resources at <https://www.publicpower.org/event/public-power-week>.

AMEA encourages Members to share any photos or activities/events with us so that we can highlight them in the November issue of the *AMEA Communique*.

Register now for Webinars

An internet connection and a computer are all you need to educate your staff. Individual webinars are \$99 or sign up for a series at a discounted rate. Register today at www.PublicPower.org under Education & Events. Non-members can enter coupon code **AMEA** to view the webinars at no cost to your utility.

- Raising Awareness of Public Power Series
#StopScams: Alerting and Educating Customers
Oct. 2
- Accounting & Finance Series
A Financial Health Checkup **Oct. 9**
- Raising Awareness of Public Power Series
Driving Engagement in the New Social Media Landscape **Oct. 16**
- Raising Awareness of Public Power Series
Outage Communications:
Stepping Up Your Game **Oct. 30**



AMEA partners with GreatBlue Research on customer surveys

Survey calling began Oct. 1



AMEA has contracted with GreatBlue Research, a Hometown Connections' vendor/partner, to conduct customer satisfaction surveys on behalf of its Member cities in October, November and December 2018, said Lisa Miller, Manager of Communications and Marketing. Survey calling began Oct. 1 and should wrap-up by Dec. 31.

GreatBlue will conduct the 5-7 minute telephone surveys among 2,800 randomly selected residential and commercial/business customers of AMEA's 11 Members. Similar surveys were conducted in 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, Miller said.

The purpose of the survey is to measure customers' opinions and satisfaction with a variety of services and resources provided by AMEA's Member city utilities. Topics will include, but are not limited to, perceptions of the utility, interactions with customer service and field service personnel, billing and alternative energy resources.

"The survey will be vital in helping AMEA Member cities understand the concerns and priorities of its customers and guide them in making decisions that best reflect the goals and expectations of the communities they serve," Miller added.

To help prepare Members for possible inquiries from customers about the surveys, AMEA has provided Members with talking points so that they can communicate with their employees about the survey project.

"We encourage our Members to talk to their employees about the project and make sure they are aware of the survey timeline so that they might address possible customer inquiries and/or concerns," said Miller.

Once the survey project is completed, GreatBlue will present the findings to the AMEA Board of Directors. Also, AMEA Members will receive their individualized survey results.

For further information regarding the survey, please contact Miller at (800) 239-2632, Ext. 118, or lmiller@amea.com.

The AMEA Communique' is intended for internal use only.



FREE! 2018 WEBINAR SERIES

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

Webinar Dates and Subjects		\$	✓
1.	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	
2.	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

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