

Communiqué

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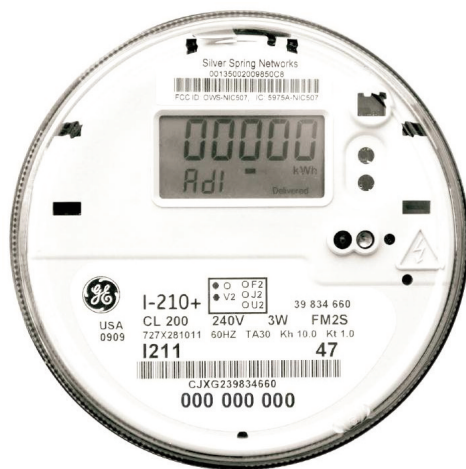
Lisa M. Miller

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 plans additional dollars for Smart Grid Initiative; \$20 million available to Member cities



AMEA is planning to add an additional \$3.24 million to the already \$16.75 million Smart Grid Initiative, which was approved last year, said Fred Clark, AMEA President & CEO. This brings the total amount of allocated funds by AMEA to the Smart Grid Initiative to approximately \$20 million. The AMEA Board of Directors approved a resolution expanding the Smart Grid Initiative at its Oct. 18 meeting.

In August 2016, the AMEA Board of Directors approved a resolution to invest \$10 million-plus in a Smart Grid Initiative for the joint action agency's 11 Member utilities, starting in FY 2016-17. The resolution granted the approval of funds to be used for the purchase, installation and commissioning of Automated Meter Information (AMI) systems; the purchase, installation and commissioning of smart meters; further deployment of resource management and load management systems or programs; and electric utility system improvements such as capacitor bank installations on the distribution system, upgrading substation electrical equipment, upgrading of distribution circuits or construction of a new substation.

"This initiative serves to enhance the efficiency of the electrical distribution systems for the betterment of AMEA's 11 Members," said Clark.

Clark added that the AMEA Smart Grid Initiative investment will be made in FY 2018-19 with the funds being made available in March 2019.



AMEA-Sylacauga Plant

AMEA-Sylacauga Plant maintains “Excellent” rating following assessment

American Insurance Group (AIG), the insurance provider for the AMEA-Sylacauga Plant property and equipment, recently conducted an annual risk assessment at the plant.

The assessment included the plant operational and maintenance procedures/practices and activities; compliance with GE Service Bulletins; and the results from testing, oil analysis and borescope as well as interviews with the operating personnel to assess their experience, qualifications and the work culture of the plant, said Tim Foster, Manager of Operations.

Alex Jones, AIG’s Technical Services Manager, who performed the assessment said he was impressed with the use of the electronic LogBook, which is used to document plant events, operational conditions, equipment status, startup and shutdown sequence, and offline and online operations logs. Foster said Jones expressed positive feedback on the cleanliness of the plant areas and equipment. Jones stated that the plant is rated as “Excellent” from the previous risk assessment and that his recommendation will be to maintain the “Excellent” rating, Foster added.

According to Foster, Jones said that he has worked at AIG for 2 1/2 years and that the AMEA-Sylacauga Plant is the first “Excellent” rating that he has seen. The AMEA-Sylacauga Plant, which came online in 2004, is owned collectively by AMEA’s 11 Members.



AMEA to break ground on Alexander City and LaFayette Solar Research Projects in December

Construction on 50-KW solar projects in Alexander City and LaFayette will begin in early December. The Alexander City project is located at 1635 Dadeville Road in Alexander City, while the LaFayette project is located at 105 Court Way NE in LaFayette. Each project will include 160 solar panels. The Alex City and LaFayette projects will be the seventh and eighth AMEA Member city solar projects.

Arthur Bishop, Project Engineer, said other details of the projects, including gravel, fencing, electrical connections and signage, will take place throughout December and January. Once those details are completed, dedications and chamber ribbon cuttings will be coordinated with city/utility leadership.

AMEA continues to promote APPA #CommunityPowered Campaign; Members encouraged to participate

AMEA continues to promote on its web site and through its social media platforms the American Public Power Association's (APPA) #CommunityPowered Awareness Campaign, which was launched October 1 to raise awareness of public power.

The #CommunityPowered Campaign is intended to help you raise awareness of public power among your customers and in your community, so they understand that they are served by public power, and what that means for customers, businesses, and for the community as a whole.



APPA has developed a campaign strategy, tools, and resources that you can use to push out the campaign in your respective communities. The campaign has information and resources for both residential and business customers in your community, to help them learn about public power and to share their pride and support of their local public power utility.

AMEA and Copperwing are developing a content block for the homepage of the AMEA web site to promote the campaign. We will also have posts to our social media platforms about the campaign on a regular basis. More information about AMEA's efforts will be forthcoming.

Campaign resources and tools are available at www.WeAreCommunityPowered.com.

GreatBlue Research survey calling continues in AMEA cities until December 31

GreatBlue Research, a Hometown Connections' vendor/partner, continues to call on residential and commercial customers of AMEA Members as part of a customer satisfaction survey project, which began October 1, said Lisa Miller, Manager of Communications and Marketing. Survey calling is expected to be completed by December 31.

GreatBlue is conducting 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.

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Survey

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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.

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.

Still time to apply for the 2019 AMEA Scholarship Program

Students in AMEA Member cities still have time to apply for the 2019 Scholarship Program. **Application deadline is Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.**

AMEA and its Members will make available 44, \$2,500 scholarships (4 scholarships per Member city). To be eligible for an AMEA scholarship, a student's parent and/or legal guardian must receive electric service from an AMEA Member utility, and the student must attend a four-year college/university, community college, and/or vocational/trade school within the state of Alabama.

Applications are available from school counselors in AMEA Member cities, or students can go to the AMEA web site, www.amea.com, Scholarship, to download an application.

For more information, students can contact their school counselor, or Pamela Poole, AMEA Scholarship Program Coordinator, (800) 239- 2632, Ext. 110, or pam@amea.com.

The AMEA Communique' is intended for internal use only.

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.

- Community Outreach: Get Out to Get Known **Dec. 4**
- Raising Awareness of Public Power Series Workplace Harassment Prevention in the Field **Dec. 5**
- Electric Utility 101 Series (5 webinars): Exploring Electric Utility Regulations and Business Models **Feb. 22**

Recorded webinars are also available for purchase. Visit www.PublicPower.org under Shop.



2019 WEBINAR SCHEDULE



Start Planning for 2019.

Hi-Line Engineering is excited to offer the following webinars geared toward keeping you up-to-date on industry issues and standards.

Below are the **1.5 hour webinars** for 2019. Each webinar will consist of one hour of instruction and a thirty minute question and answer session. **All webinars will begin at 10:00am Central Time.** Most presentations will be in Power Point format with handouts in pdf format, although more extensive materials may be available for some of the sessions.

February 12 – Impact of New Communication Equipment on Joint Use Clearances

The use of fiber optic lines in the supply space, and the desire of telecommunication to install 5G antennas in the supply space present challenges to electric utilities. This webinar addresses the NESC requirements as they relate to safe clearances for communication workers and supply utility workers. In addition, the webinar addresses methods to use for sharing space on the pole with telecommunication companies.

March 5 – Changes in Arc Flash Calculations

IEEE Standard 1584 was updated in late 2018. Significant changes were made that could change the PPE used by electric utilities. These changes include elimination of the 2 second rule, elimination of the exception for transformers below 125 kVA, and elimination of the 85% rule. Further, the calculation now includes more shape factors for arcs that are considered to be enclosed in switchgear or similar enclosures. The new calculations are more accurate, but present challenges for electric utilities. This webinar addresses the changes and the new calculation methods.

April 16 – Underground Distribution Design

Designing underground distribution differs from designing overhead distribution in terms of resiliency of the system. This webinar addresses common underground design criteria such as methods for design in underground subdivisions and commercial developments, routing of cable systems, use of conduit, burial depth, and common errors in design. Single contingency outage and overcurrent protection scheme will be addressed along with limiting factors of system components.

May 14 – Specifying and Placing Lightning Arresters

Lightning can cause 20% of the outages on overhead power lines. The webinar discusses the type of arresters currently on the market for distribution lines. In addition, the presentation discusses the common basic impulse insulation level (BIL) with emphasis on a new method to prevent flashovers referred to as critical impulse flashover voltage (CFO). The combine BIL of equipment are not additive as once thought. The CFO technique for overvoltage protection will be discussed with explanations for adequately protecting overhead lines based on ground flash density, shielding, and earth resistivity.

June 18 – Resource Planning for Distributed Energy Resources

Distributed Energy Resources (DER) are changing the landscape for distribution engineers in terms of planning and designing of their systems. This webinar addresses the positive and negative impacts to the grid from DER. In addition, how to plan for future system growth and resiliency with DER added to the system will be discussed.

July 16 – Single Phase Metering

This webinar addresses the fundamentals of single phase metering including meter bases and connectivity of the single phase meters. However, AMI metering has changed the landscape on single phase metering. So, the presentation will address new data being collected, new controls at the meter, and alarms. Specifically, what do the alarms mean and how to address alarms such as high voltage, hot socket, and low voltage. Further, the use of demand reads, ping of the meters, and load side voltage tests will be addressed.

August 13 – Three Phase Metering

Metering of three phase services is complex and often represents a larger percentage of utility income compared to single phase loads. Meter Forms 8/9 and 15/16 will be addressed including methods for sizing current transformers and potential transformers. Common wiring methods and common errors will also be discussed.

September 10 – Battery Energy Storage Systems

Utility scale batteries are beginning to make an impact on distribution systems to the point that some utilities are providing assistance to consumers who install batteries behind the meter. This webinar provides a fundamental understanding of battery energy storage systems. Further, the webinar discusses the application of battery storage both on the utility system as well as on the consumer side of the metering.

October 8 – Wood Poles – Standards and Design

Wood poles have been used in the electric utility industry since its inception. There are standards for wood poles (ANSI 05.1), and the NESC provides loading and strength requirements of poles. This webinar addresses limitations set forth in the standards, NESC loading requirements such as ice, wind, joint-use attachments, vertical loads and the need for strength reduction factors for wood poles.

November 12 – Application of Voltage Regulators

Voltage regulators are needed on all distribution systems and serve an important role in maintaining quality service to customers. This webinar will address the fundamentals of how voltage regulators operate. In addition, the presentation will cover application of the voltage regulators including placement, how to coordinate cascading regulators, and the use of line drop compensation.