



AMEA *Communiqué*

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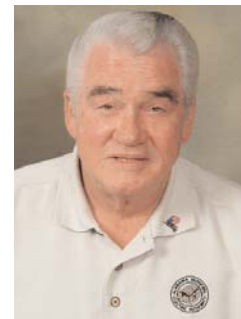
Editor

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 grieves loss of Board Chairman Wayne Duke

The public power industry lost a longtime friend and supporter on Thursday, Dec. 25, when Wayne Duke of Sylacauga, AMEA's Chairman of the Board, died at his home. Funeral services for Duke were held Sunday, Dec. 28, at Radney-Smith Funeral Home in Sylacauga, with burial at Marble City Cemetery, also in Sylacauga.



Duke

Duke began his tenure on the AMEA Board in Aug. 1992. He served as Chairman of the Board from 2006 until the present. Duke was also a member of the Sylacauga Utilities Board, B.B. Comer Memorial Library Foundation, and Superior Bank Board of Directors. He was a member and deacon of Sylacauga Church of Christ.

Duke is survived by his wife of 45 years, Connie Sue Duke of Sylacauga; nephew Wayne Wood of Sylacauga; daughter Cindy Makemson and husband, Jeff, of Duncanville; daughter Pam Morris and husband, Steve, of Murfreesboro, TN; daughter Kathy Desgain and husband, Brian, of Peachtree City, GA.; daughter Gina Hunt and husband, Chad, also of Peachtree City; sisters Dot Wood of Trussville, Nancy Damiani of Birmingham and Loretta Hayden of Equality; grandchildren: Phillip, Alex, Brett, Kelcie, Lauren, Graeme, Miles and Camryn; several nieces, nephews, and special friends.

"We are saddened by the passing of Wayne Duke," said Fred Clark, AMEA's President & CEO. "As a board member, Mr. Duke's focus was always our Members and their customers. He leaves a lasting legacy here at AMEA."

2009 AMEA Power Supply Conference set for April

Mark your calendar for AMEA's 2009 Power Supply Conference April 15-17 at the Marriott Auburn-Opelika Grand National Hotel and Conference Center in Opelika.

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Conference

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AMEA President & CEO Fred Clark said some of the topics covered during the conference will include:

- ✓ AMEA overview
- ✓ Power supply overview
- ✓ Issues impacting fuel costs
- ✓ Climate change legislation
- ✓ Energy-efficiency initiatives
- ✓ State legislative update

Further details about the conference will be highlighted in future *AMEA Communique*' newsletters, as well as mailed to all AMEA Members this month, he said.

TVA faces hearing, lawsuits over coal ash spill

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is facing a Senate hearing and lawsuits in the wake of a coal fly ash spill after the Dec. 22 failure of a retention pond wall at its Kingston coal-fired plant in Roane County, TN.

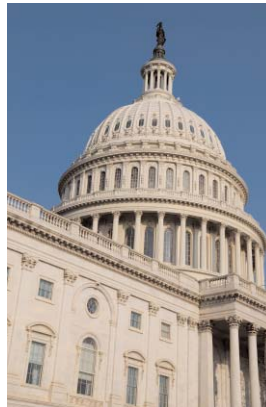
The full Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold an oversight hearing on the spill on Jan. 8. TVA President and CEO Tom Kilgore is slated to testify, followed by Stephen A. Smith, executive director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, an environmental group, and William Rose, director of emergency management services, Roane County.

Source: APPA *Public Power Daily*

APPA: Stimulus plan should boost clean energy

Ending limits on issuance of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) tops a list of seven programs the American Public Power Association (APPA) is recommending be included in an economic stimulus bill to enhance economic recovery and boost jobs. The seven programs "not only comprise funding for clean energy generation

programs and energy efficiency, but also for operation and maintenance at federal hydro power facilities and funding for additional deployment of broadband infrastructure," APPA President and CEO Mark Crisson said in a Dec. 23 letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.



The CREBs program should be available to all eligible projects, APPA said, although an additional volume cap of \$4 billion in CREBs for 2009 would create immediate and widespread interest by public power utilities and rural electric cooperatives in the renewable

generation projects eligible for the tax credit bond incentive. The economic stimulus package also should include \$25 million for renewable energy production incentive program (REPI), which would fund all of the projects that applied for the program in fiscal 2008, the association said.

Another priority for the stimulus bill should be \$426 million for the Bureau of Reclamation and \$7 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their overall infrastructure improvement, including operation and maintenance of these hydro power assets, APPA said. A maintenance backlog exists on many of the federal hydroelectric facilities, APPA said. Other programs recommended by APPA include:

Pensions. Enactment of a pension relief bill (H.R. 7327) was a great first step, and APPA would support any additional legislation to help organizations with their unfunded pension obligations in this poor market.

Municipal bond market. Municipal entities have "experienced great difficulty in recent months issuing bonds for key infrastructure projects as well as for short-term debt to

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finance day-to-day expenses.” Enactment of any of several bills introduced in 2008 and application of current economic relief programs to municipal bonds “would help public power utilities continue to provide essential services during these difficult economic times,” APPA said.

Energy efficiency. APPA supports funding for a wide array of energy efficiency programs, Crisson said.

Carbon capture and storage. The stimulus package should include additional funding for existing Department of Energy programs, like the clean coal power initiative, APPA said.

Broadband. Congress should pass the Community Broadband Act as soon as possible to eliminate barriers to entry for municipalities, APPA said. A \$5 billion investment in broadband infrastructure—with funds provided comparably to for-profit and not-for-profit entities—would provide “a necessary step toward righting the economy.”

Railroad infrastructure. Any financial support for the railroads should be directed to areas that foster competition and should be coupled with “much needed reform in processes at the Surface Transportation Board and a repeal of their antitrust exemptions.”

Transmission and private use. The nature of transmission makes it difficult to calculate “private use” of transmission lines for tax code purposes, APPA noted. The private use restrictions should be eliminated for transmission projects in order to encourage more investment by public power utilities, APPA said.

Source: *APPA Public Power Daily*

Incoming Obama administration continues to move on a fast track

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has scheduled confirmation hearings on President-elect Barack Obama’s choices to lead the Energy and Interior departments before the president-elect is sworn in. The committee will hold a hearing on Jan. 13 to consider the nomination of Dr. Steven Chu to be secretary of energy and one on Jan. 15 to consider the nomination of Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., to be secretary of the interior.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has not scheduled hearings yet on Obama’s choices of Lisa Jackson to head the Environmental Protection Agency and Nancy Sutley to chair the White House Council on Environmental Quality, but committee Chair Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said she is “looking forward to moving ahead with the confirmation process as quickly as possible.”

Former EPA Administrator Carol Browner won’t have to wait for Senate approval to begin work at her newly created position of presidential assistant on energy and climate change. Her post does not require Senate confirmation.

Source: *APPA Public Power Daily*

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