

# MEAN’s commercial LED lighting program ends successful year

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska’s Commercial LED Lighting Program continued its successful effort during fiscal year 2018-19 of upgrading to more efficient lighting.

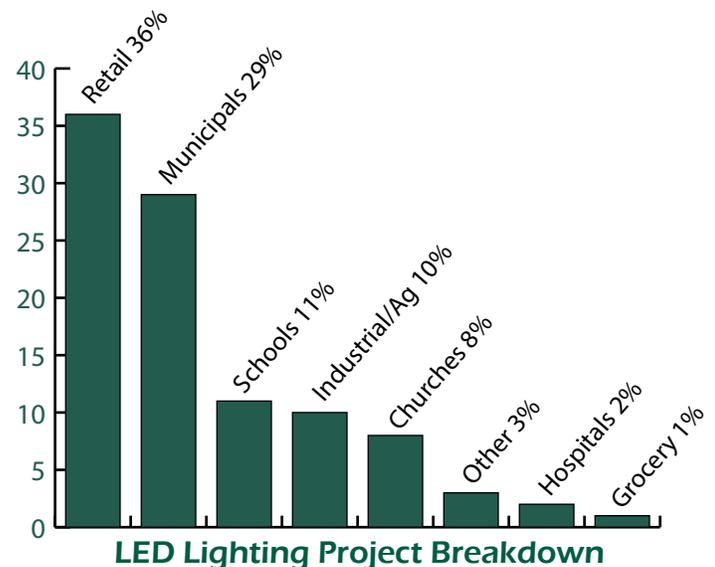
The program provides a cash incentive to commercial businesses of MEAN long-term power participants to replace less-efficient lighting with higher-efficient LED lighting. The program year runs from April 1-March 31 of each year.

The MEAN Board and Management Committee approved continuing the program for fiscal year 2019-20. Along with the Commercial LED Lighting Program, the MEAN Board and Management Committee approved three new energy efficient programs at the retail level for 2019-20. More information on the new programs will be shared in the July Essent newsletter.



## Commercial LED Lighting Program Totals for 2018-19

- Total projects:** 92
- Total incentives paid:** \$93,060
- Fixtures retrofitted:** 12,650
- Total energy savings estimated:** 1,900 Megawatt-hours annually (1.9 million Kilowatt-hours)
- Peak demand savings estimated:** 325 kilowatts
- Approx. total cost per kilowatt savings:** \$290
- Participating MEAN communities:** 27 (39 since program restarted in 2017)



# NMPP member utilities honored for safety

Five NMPP members were among 113 utilities nationwide that earned the American Public Power Association's Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2018.

NMPP member honored included:

- **City of Fort Morgan**, Colo., Light and Power
- **City of Gillette**, Wyo., Electrical Services
- **Nebraska City Utilities**
- **Nebraska Public Power**

## District

- **Waverly** (Iowa) Utilities

The awards were presented in April at APPA's annual Engineering and Operations Technical Conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Safety programs are paramount to the well-being of employees that work for electric utilities," said Keith Cutshall, chair of the APPA Safety Committee and



safety director at Clarksville Department of Electricity in Tennessee. "The utilities receiving this award have proven that safety is of the utmost importance in the operation of their companies."

Three hundred twenty-five utilities entered the annual Safety Awards, which is the highest number of entrants in the history of the program.

Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2018. The incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2018, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

# APPA announces awards for reliability

Several NMPP member utilities were among utilities that earned the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service.

The awards were presented at the APPA Engineering and Operations Technical Conference in Colorado in April.

The RP3 designation lasts for three years and recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement.

Overall, 275 of the more than 2,000 public power utilities nationwide hold the RP3 designation. This is the 14th year that RP3 recognition has been offered.

NMPP member utilities earning the RP3 designation are:

## Diamond Level

- **Lincoln Electric System** (2018)
- **Nebraska Public Power District** (2017)
- **Waverly** (Iowa) Utilities (2018)

## Platinum Level

- **Hastings** (Neb.) Utilities (2017)
- **Indianola Municipal Utilities** (Iowa) (2017)



**Reliable Public Power Provider**

## Gold Level

- **City of Fort Morgan**, Colo. (2017)
- **City of Grand Island**, Neb. (2017)

# MEAN Board approves power contract with Glenwood Springs

*New 10-year contract fulfills City's renewable energy goal*

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors and Management Committee at their joint quarterly meeting May 23 approved the extension of a wholesale power contract to the City of Glenwood Springs, Colo., which will allow the City to attain its 100 percent renewable energy goal.

The 10-year contract, which will begin June 1, replaces a 10-year contract that was set to expire in 2022. Through the contract, the City will secure enough electric generation production from renewable resources to meet the City's annual electric usage.

Glenwood Springs' energy portfolio mix includes renewable energy from MEAN's renewable energy resources as well as its federal hydro allocation from the Western Area Power Administration.

Last year, MEAN expanded its renewable energy portfolio by signing a power purchase agreement for the output of the new Kimball, Neb., Wind Facility, which has a nameplate capacity of 30 megawatts. Along with the Kimball facility, MEAN's wind resource pool includes energy from five other wind facilities in Nebraska and South Dakota.

Glenwood Springs is the second community served wholesale electricity by MEAN that has attained its 100 percent renewable energy goal. MEAN worked with the City of Aspen, Colo., to fulfill its goal in 2015.

## MEAN NOTES

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska held its quarterly Board and Management Committee meeting in May. These are a few of the topics discussed and actions taken at the meeting.

### **\$10 million credit to participants approved**

The MEAN Board and Management Committee approved a \$10 million credit that will be allocated among its eligible wholesale electric participants. The credit is the result of MEAN's positive financial results for the 2018-19 fiscal year that ended March 31. Overall, MEAN had a preliminary positive net revenue of \$14.8 million prior to the credit.

The credit will be allocated to all current long-term (Schedule M) and limited-term (Schedule K) participants and will be issued to each participant in June in a lump sum payment.

The MEAN Board and Management Committee annually evaluate MEAN's preliminary fiscal year finances and make adjustments in accordance with MEAN's financial policies and guidelines.

### **Governance restructure initiative moves forward**

The Board heard an update and moved forward with its ongoing governance restructure initiative to streamline and modernize MEAN's governance.

# TEA, MEAN announce new partnership

The Energy Authority (TEA) and the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) recently announced their new partnership, which started on April 1, 2019. TEA is providing MEAN with Portfolio Management, RTO Market Management & Trading, Bilateral Energy Trading, and Advanced Analytical services. TEA's public power ownership and shared values make the partnership a great fit for the communities MEAN serves.

As the country's only public wholesale power supplier operating in three separate markets, MEAN encounters many challenges in an already complex, ever-changing industry. TEA's breadth of knowledge helps MEAN navigate these complexities in an efficient and cost-effective manner for their member communities.

"We take our mission to provide cost-effective energy to our Member communities very seriously," said Bob Poehling, President/CEO of MEAN. "Partnering with TEA allows us to achieve economies of scale that we could not achieve on our own. TEA understands the energy market, joint action agencies, and our region, making them a tremendous fit with MEAN."

"TEA is well-versed in the practice of helping their clients grow and evolve with the energy markets. We seek to serve utilities with whom we will be true strate-

See 'PARTNERSHIP' on page 5



## ACE supports community cleanup efforts

Community-owned ACE is facilitating community clean-up events in many ACE member communities in Nebraska throughout the spring and summer.

The clean-up efforts continue ACE's long history of supporting local Nebraska communities through providing competitively-priced natural gas and distributing funds to the community through its revenue return program. The ACE Community Cleanup Program is one more way ACE helps support local communities and groups.

ACE provides cleanup equipment for each community event along with a financial donation to volunteer groups for their efforts in keeping their community clean.

ACE is the only community-owned, not-for-profit natural gas supplier in the Nebraska Choice Gas Program. ACE holds to the



Courtesy photos

**ACE community cleanup events included the Village of Cairo, Neb. (top) and the City of Arapahoe, Neb., (bottom). ACE provides cleanup equipment and a financial donation to volunteer groups in supporting clean communities.**

same philosophy that led to its creation in 1998: providing competition, local representation and keeping more money in Nebraska. As a not-for-profit supplier, ACE has returned more than \$2.3 million to its Nebraska member communities for their local use.

# Amendments to bills clear way for passage

Two energy bills that deserve a “thumbs up” after revisions in the Nebraska Unicameral are LB 155 and LB 462.

Once a bill is introduced Committee amendments generally are key to passage to gain consensus.

These two bills are ideal examples of having good amendments adopted to gain approval and passage.

LB 155 would allow landowners to contest the use of eminent domain by renewable energy developers. The bill, introduced by Sen. Tom Brewer, originally would have prohibited a private entity from using eminent domain to “provide access to build transmission lines or other infrastructure related to a privately developed wind energy project.” The bill was amended on general file to define the public use aspect of eminent domain as a rebuttable presump-

tion. This means that eminent domain may be challenged in court by a landowner who is impacted yet the presumption is that it is in the public’s interest. The bill passed on a vote of 44-0.

## Changes made to One-Call Notification System

LB 462, a bill introduced by Sen. Curt Friesen, pertains to changes made to the One-Call Notification System Act.

Amendments added at the Committee level allows the system’s board of directors to review locator training materials and propose best practices. The board would assess the system’s enforcement programs and actions. A report will be made for the governor and Legislature by Dec. 1, 2021. Lastly, LB462 would have the state attorney general give a report annually to the Legislature, state fire marshal, and board of directors which describes and details the number of complaints filed and prosecuted each year under the act.

### Legislative Notes



By Chris Dibbern

# ACE wraps up Choice Gas selection period

ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy, completed another year of providing competitively priced natural gas in the Nebraska Choice Gas selection period, which ran April 12-25.

The overall campaign was highly competitive with six natural gas suppliers competing for customers. Overall, gas rates during the selection period were slightly higher than in 2018 across the Central and Western regions.

ACE’s preliminary selection results were shared during the ACE Board meeting held in May. Overall, ACE’s retained an 18 percent market share with more than 16,500 total customers.

Community-owned ACE was formed with the primary goal of ensuring competition for the benefit of customers. ACE’s revenue return program has provided more than \$2.3 million to Nebraska ACE member communities.

# TEA, MEAN announce partnership

## Continued from page 3

gic partners, and that certainly is the case with MEAN,” explained Joanie Teofilo, President/CEO of TEA. “We look forward to partnering with an already great organization.”

The Energy Authority, Inc. is the strategic partner of choice for public power. Through the customized application of portfolio

management, ISO/RTO trading, bilateral power trading, power supply management, and natural gas trading services, TEA is currently collaborating with over 50 public power utilities nationwide to help them optimize the value of their generation and load portfolio in wholesale energy markets in a manner that is consistent with each utility’s unique risk

tolerances. Established in 1997, TEA is headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. TEA’s West Region Office, located in Bellevue, Washington, provides a full range of power and portfolio management services for public power utilities located in the Bonneville Power Authority balancing area as well as in the state of California. To learn more, visit [www.teainc.org](http://www.teainc.org).

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHAMPION BUSINESS



### JEO Consulting Group provides range of services to municipalities

JEO Consulting Group, Inc. is a full-service firm, offering engineering, architecture, surveying, and planning to clients throughout the Midwest. Since JEO's beginnings in 1937, the company has grown to 10 offices across Nebraska and Iowa, with 200+ employees providing innovative and cost-effective solutions for both the public and private sectors.

JEO's electrical team specializes in municipal, utility, and industrial systems. Our services include electrical rate studies, load-flow analysis, generation and power plants, sub-transmission,

[www.jeo.com](http://www.jeo.com)

distribution, substation, and utility/commercial facilities.

JEO's staff includes professional engineers, architects, planners, surveyors, project managers, construction inspectors, economic developers, and finance experts that have the proven experience to guide clients through all phases of a project. By meeting project deadlines, staying within budget, and maximizing returns for clients, JEO consistently exceeds clients' expectations.



For more information, visit the JEO's web site at [www.jeo.com](http://www.jeo.com) or call Dave Peterson, Senior Electrical Engineer, at (402) 371-6416.

For a complete listing of NMPP Energy Champion Businesses, see page 11

## Employment Opportunities

### Journeyman Lineman/Foreman

The Village of Morrill, Neb., (pop. 921) is accepting applications for the position of full-time electric journeyman line worker and foreman with a pay range of \$25.00-\$35.00 per hour DOQ. This individual will perform skilled line work in the operation, construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric distribution and transmission systems. The foreman aspect of this position will oversee the daily activities of, street and alley, water, sewer, electrical, parks and golf department employees and plan for future projects. Applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. A complete job description for this position and an application is available at [www.villageofmorrill.com](http://www.villageofmorrill.com) or at the Village Office located at 118 S Center Avenue, Morrill, NE. This position includes an excellent benefit package including health insurance, retirement, vacation, sick leave and paid holidays.

### Director of Environmental Services, Sanitation Department

The City of Gering, Neb., has a working management position responsible for operation and maintenance of solid waste collection services, baling facility, and landfill operations. Preferred qualifications include five years of Heavy Equipment Operation

### To submit an ad

NMPP members can advertise job openings for free in the *Essent* newsletter and on the NMPP Energy Web site. E-mail Kevin Wickham at [kwickham@nmppenergy.org](mailto:kwickham@nmppenergy.org).

and Maintenance; five years' experience with the management of solid waste collection; baling facility and landfill experience. Salary commensurate dependent upon qualifications and experience. Application and job description can be picked up at the City of Gering Administration building or at [www.gering.org](http://www.gering.org). Return application in a sealed envelope marked "Director of Environmental Services Applicant" to Tammy Cooley, Director of Human Resources at City of Gering, P.O. Box 687, Gering, NE 69341. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

### Director of Utilities

The Town of Lyons, Colo., is accepting applications for a Director of Utilities. Salary: \$70,767-\$97,705 DOQ (full-time exempt). Lyons is a community of approximately 2000 people located between Boulder and Rocky Mountain National Park. The Utility Director provides management and supervision to the Utility Department, which includes Town water, wastewater and electric enterprises, as well as storm water and GIS operations, and coordinates all long-range

infrastructure needs and Capital Improvement Planning. Please visit <http://www.townoflyons.com/Jobs.aspx> to complete an online application and upload a resume, cover letter and any other documents. For questions please contact Ben Rodman in Human Resources: [Brodman@townoflyons.com](mailto:Brodman@townoflyons.com) or (303) 823-6622 ext. 22. Town Hall, 432 5th Avenue, Lyons CO.

### Utility Worker

The City of Holdrege, Neb., is currently accepting applications for a water department utility worker. Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States and hold a current CDL or be able to obtain one within six months of hire. Qualifications include, but are not limited to, knowledge of water service construction and familiarity with the operations of a municipal water distribution system and wastewater treatment plant. Candidates for this position will be willing to work in a variety of weather conditions and have a propensity for getting along well with co-workers. The successful applicant will, with provided training, obtain a Grade 4 Water License and a Grade 1 Waste Water License in the first year of employment. This position includes a 40-hour work week with the possibility of overtime on nights or weekends and a beginning salary of \$14.52 to \$19.81 per hour depending on experience. Benefits include paid vacation, sick leave and holidays as

See 'EMPLOYMENT' on page 8

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## Support NMPP member communities through the Champions Business Program

Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP Energy's effort to provide products and services to members. Consider these businesses when your utility or municipality has a business need. If your business is interested in becoming an NMPP Energy Champion, call Andrew Ross at (800) 234-2595.



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## Champions Business Directory of Services

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### **Financial**

|                                                                                |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Ameritas Investment Corp.</b> (Ameritas.com).....                           | Omaha, Neb.    |
| <b>D.A. Davidson &amp; Co.</b> (dadavidson.com/ficm).....                      | Omaha, Neb.    |
| <b>First National Bank</b> (Firstnational.com).....                            | Omaha, Neb.    |
| <b>UNICO Group, Inc. and Midlands Financial Benefits</b> (unicogroup.com)..... | Lincoln, Neb.  |
| <b>Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union</b> (ne-fcu.org).....                  | Columbus, Neb. |
| <b>RBC Capital Markets</b> (rbc.com).....                                      | Denver, Colo.  |

### **Regulatory/Compliance**

|                                                   |               |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Power Plant Compliance</b> (Powplant.com)..... | Oketo, Kan.   |
| <b>NAOS Environmental Experts</b> (naqs.com)..... | Lincoln, Neb. |

### **Utility/Community**

|                                                                    |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Dogwood Energy</b> .....                                        | Columbia, Md.    |
| <b>EnergySolutions, Inc.</b> (energysolutions-inc.com).....        | Omaha, Neb.      |
| <b>Hometown Connections, Inc.</b> (Hometownconnections.com).....   | Lakewood, Colo.  |
| <b>Foundation for Educational Services</b> (fes.org).....          | Lincoln, Neb.    |
| <b>GenPro Energy Solutions</b> (Genproenergy.com).....             | Piedmont, S.D.   |
| <b>JK Energy Consulting, LLC</b> (JKenergyconsulting.com).....     | Lincoln, Neb.    |
| <b>Border States</b> (borderstates.com).....                       | Fargo, N.D.      |
| <b>NovaTech</b> (Novatechweb.com).....                             | Lenexa, Kan.     |
| <b>PDS, Inc.</b> (PDSinc.biz).....                                 | Omaha, Neb.      |
| <b>Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory</b> (petl.com).....     | Great Bend, Kan. |
| <b>RESCO (Rural Electric Supply Cooperative)</b> (resco1.com)..... | Ankeny, Iowa     |
| <b>Sol Systems</b> (solsystems.com).....                           | Washington, D.C. |
| <b>Solomon Corporation</b> (Solomoncorp.com).....                  | Solomon, Kan.    |

### **Computer/Technology**

|                                                       |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Proteus</b> (Proteus.co).....                      | Lincoln, Neb. |
| <b>Salt Creek Software, Inc.</b> (Saltcreek.com)..... | Lincoln, Neb. |

### **Engineering**

|                                                                          |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>EPSIM Corporation</b> (epsim.us).....                                 | Boulder, Colo.      |
| <b>Exponential Engineering Company</b> (exponentialengineering.com)..... | Fort Collins, Colo. |
| <b>JEO Consulting Group, Inc.</b> (jeo.com).....                         | Wahoo, Neb.         |
| <b>Lutz, Daily &amp; Brain, LLC</b> (ldbeng.com).....                    | Overland Park, Kan. |
| <b>Olsson</b> (Olsson.com).....                                          | Lincoln, Neb.       |
| <b>Power Engineers</b> (powereng.com).....                               | Overland Park, Kan. |

### **Insurance**

|                                                                  |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>League Association of Risk Management</b> (larmpool.org)..... | Lincoln, Neb. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|

### **Legal**

|                                                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Chapman and Cutler, LLP</b> (chapman.com).....    | Salt Lake City, Utah |
| <b>Spiegel &amp; McDiarmid</b> (spiegelmcd.com)..... | Washington, D.C.     |

### **Telecommunication**

|                                                                      |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Community Broadband Action Network</b> (broadbandaction.com)..... | Indianola, Iowa   |
| <b>River Oaks Communications Corp.</b> (rivoaks.com).....            | Centennial, Colo. |



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## Employment (cont.)

well as health insurance, life insurance and a retirement plan. Applications are available at the City Offices, 502 East Avenue in Holdrege and will be taken until the position is filled. You may request an application by phone at (308) 995-8681 or e-mail [djensen@cityofholdrege.org](mailto:djensen@cityofholdrege.org). The City of Holdrege is an EOE.

### Electrical Lineman Apprentice/Journeyman

The City of **Neligh**, Neb., is accepting applications for the electrical department. The job is a full-time position and includes but is not limited to working with high voltage electricity, operating bucket trucks and

digger derricks, trencher, dump truck, loader and backhoe. Must have a Class B CDL or be willing to obtain within three months. The City will require on-call rotation and the physical ability to work for extended periods in all types of weather conditions. Applicants must be willing to learn the operation of the electrical generation units and apparatus. Knowledge of electric generation would be beneficial. The City also requires the applicant to be willing to work in other departments if necessary. Wages are dependent upon qualifications and prior experience. The City has an excellent benefit package with health and life insurance, retirement, vacation, sick and personal leave and paid holidays. The successful applicant must pass

a pre-employment drug test. Position open until filled. Applications may be picked up at the City office at 202 Main Street or sent electronically by emailing [dana@neligh.org](mailto:dana@neligh.org). With questions call the City office at (402) 887-4066. The City of Neligh is an EOE.

### Utility Asset O&M Specialist

**NMPP Energy** is seeking a new team member to lead the testing of member generation units and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, develop a member asset management program, and assist with delivery of other utility services to members. Full details at [www.nmppenergy.org/careers/openings](http://www.nmppenergy.org/careers/openings).

**Complete job descriptions are posted at [www.nmppenergy.org](http://www.nmppenergy.org)**

Essent is published as a service to NMPP Energy members. The subscription rate for nonmembers is \$50 per year. Copyright 2019, Nebraska Municipal Power Pool.  
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Publisher: Robert L. Poehling, Executive Director, NMPP Energy  
Editor: Kevin Wickham, Communications Specialist