

## FERC rejects DOE's proposed rule to help coal, nuclear plants

*Commission places resiliency issue with regional grid operators*

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in January rejected and terminated the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed rule to provide cost recovery assistance to coal and nuclear power plants in wholesale power markets and instead initiated a broader proceeding involving regional electric grid operators regarding grid resiliency.

The DOE's proposed rule called for certain Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators (RTO/ISO) to provide cost recovery assistance for power plants that have a 90-day fuel supply on site, which includes coal and nuclear plants.

Secretary of Energy Rick Perry submitted the proposed rule to FERC over concerns the expected retirement of coal and nuclear plants in the nation's wholesale power markets could put the U.S. power supply at risk and threaten grid resiliency. The rule sought to better compensate coal and nuclear resources for all the attributes they contribute to the grid, such as their ability to have on-site storage and provide baseload energy, amidst the growing integration of intermittent renewable energy resources.

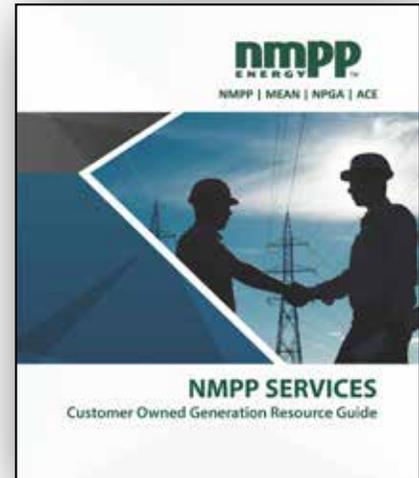
In its ruling, FERC stated the proposed rule did not demonstrate that the RTO/ISO tariffs are unjust

and unreasonable.

"While some commenters allege grid resiliency or reliability issues due to potential retirements of particular resources, we find that these assertions do not demonstrate the unjustness or unreasonableness of the existing RTO/ISO tariffs," FERC stated.

While terminating DOE's proposed rule, FERC stated grid resiliency is still a top priority and issued a directive to each RTO/ISO to provide responses within 60 days regarding how each entity assesses and mitigates threats to grid resiliency. FERC will use the information to evaluate whether additional action is currently needed.

"We recognize that the RTOs/ISOs are well-suited to understand the needs of their respective regions and initially assess how to address resiliency given their individual geographic needs," FERC stated. "Although (DOE's) proposed rule focuses on one possible aspect of grid resiliency – secure on-site fuel – we conclude that a proper evaluation of grid resiliency should not be limited to that single issue, and should instead encompass a broader consideration of resiliency issues, including wholesale electric market rules, planning and coordination, and NERC standards."



## NMPP updates guide on customer-owned electric generation

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool (NMPP) recently updated its Customer-Owned Generation Resource Guide which is distributed to all wholesale electric Service Schedule M, K and J participants of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska.

The booklet (formerly the Net Metering Booklet) is a valuable tool for communities as interest in customer-owned generation expands. NMPP's goal for the booklet is to assist municipalities in this evolving area, but it should not completely replace local legal review of interconnection applications and guidelines.

NMPP will provide additional copies of the booklet to communities upon request at a cost of \$75 per booklet to cover the cost of staff time and printing.

For electronic copies of any documents referenced in the booklet, email Mandy Hansen, member service coordinator, at [ahansen@nmppenergy.org](mailto:ahansen@nmppenergy.org).

# Timely topics on tap for Conference

## Board Development: Fiduciary Responsibility

Attorneys Michael Rogers (GilmoreBell), Jeff Wells (city manager, Fort Morgan, Colo.) and Chris Dibbern (general counsel, NMPP Energy) discuss the role of board members regarding fiduciary responsibilities. What exactly does it mean? What are the challenges? It can be difficult at times to balance fiduciary responsibilities with other local responsibilities. Hear insights from these experienced professionals!

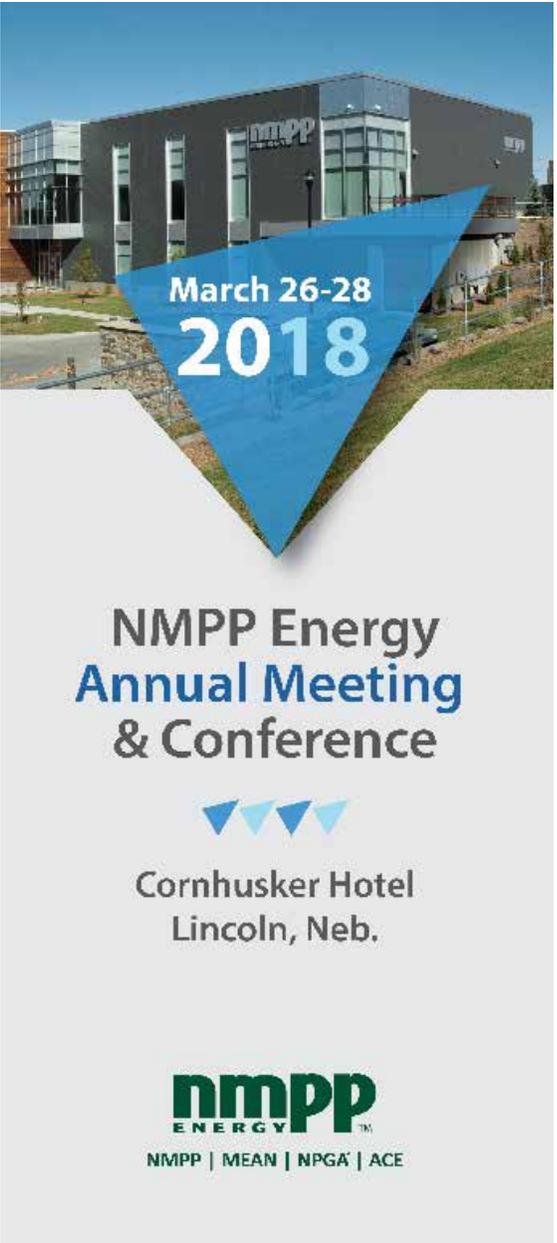
## Making the Business Case for Safety

We all know the importance of job safety. But when it comes time to fund new safety programs and initiatives, the case becomes more difficult. Rick Aguilar, director of job training and safety at Kansas Municipal Utilities, will present a “how-to” guide for utility operations and safety professionals in developing a business case for implementing safety programs/initiatives within the work place. Topics will include:

- Defining business value
- Identifying barriers to safety as a business value
- Seven steps to make a business case for safety programs/initiatives.

## Panel Discussion with State Representatives

What’s new in the energy industry — distributed generation? Legislative policies? Hear what’s trending from state representatives from Colorado, Iowa and Nebraska in this panel discussion of state issues.



March 26-28  
2018

**NMPP Energy  
Annual Meeting  
& Conference**

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**NMPPenergy.org**  
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# Help us recognize the great work you do...

Each year, the NMPP Energy organizations honor outstanding municipal projects and individuals by presenting awards at the NMPP Energy Annual Conference in March. It's an opportunity to recognize a few of the many positive works and dedicated people within the NMPP Energy community membership.

We need your help in shining a light on projects that benefit communities and on individuals who selflessly dedicate themselves for the benefit of others.

Consider nominating a municipal/community project and/or an individual for one of the awards to be presented at the NMPP Energy Annual Conference March 26-28 in Lincoln. A voluntary informal award selection committee of past award winners will select the winning nominations.

The three award categories are:

**Bob Arraj Innovative Service Award  
(NMPP member communities):**

Recognizes an individual who demonstrates dedicated service and/or uses innovative technological changes in the utility industry.

**Rudy Hultgren Dedicated Service Award  
(MEAN member communities):**

Awarded to an individual who displays commendable efforts in promoting public power and its ideals.

**Community Project of the Year  
(NMPP member communities):**

This award, which can be awarded to multiple communities, recognizes projects or programs that create a more cohesive community, whether it's a project created for the whole community or one that makes it easier for city staff to serve customers.

**Download Award Applications at [NMPPenergy.org](http://NMPPenergy.org)**

## Legislative Guidelines for 2018-19 available online

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool board of directors at their last quarterly meeting approved its legislative guidelines for 2018. The guidelines are available on the home page of the NMPP Energy website ([www.NMPPenergy.org](http://www.NMPPenergy.org)).

The guidelines serve as a statement of legislative policy accepted by the NMPP Board on behalf of the NMPP membership. The guidelines are used to inform legislative members, government

officials and other constituents on issues impacting the electric and natural gas industries.

The guidelines include sections on electric and natural gas issues as well as legislative policy and overall national energy strategy.



# Fort Morgan provides gigabit internet service to residents through partnership

The City of Fort Morgan, Colo., recently announced a partnership with Allo Communications to offer gigabit internet service to every home and business in the community by leasing an all-fiber optic network owned by the City.

“This will give the citizens and businesses in our community a choice and a very fast and dependable internet service,” said Fort Morgan Mayor Ron Shaver. “The economic development potential from this project is also something that could be very beneficial for the city’s business sector.”

Under an agreement approved by the City Council, Fort Morgan will fund and manage the construction of the all-fiber network that will pass by every home and business in the city. Allo will lease the network to provide ultra-fast internet and superior television and telephone services to subscribers.



Courtesy photo

**Fort Morgan Mayor Ron Shaver, right, announces a partnership with Allo Communications to provide gigabit internet service to the community.**

Allo’s network lease has a 20-year term and is renewable for two 10-year term extensions. After each term, the City has the option to purchase Allo’s investment.

Allo will design the network at no cost to the City, provide and manage the electronics providing light for the network, fund and manage the completion of the network with fiber drops from pedestals to individual homes and businesses, and pro-

vide installation services. Allo will be responsible for marketing and signing up subscribers and provide customer service including billing and payment processing.

“Allo was the best choice because they were willing to work with the city to develop an agreement that is a partnership, which fits in with the City’s long-term goals for the fiber network and also allows Allo to be successful,” Mayor Shaver said.

## Pender opens community center

An open house was held in January as the community unveiled its new \$7.1 million, 38,500-square-foot community center.

The multi-purpose facility, located on main street, will be used for group events, wedding receptions, meetings and recreational activities. It includes basketball and volleyball courts, an indoor batting cage, walking track and child development center. It will



Courtesy photo

**Pender’s community center will serve several purposes, including housing Village offices.**

also house the Village offices and a 24-hour Anytime Fitness franchise.

Local officials hope the facility adds to the community’s quality of life and is used by local and regional residents.

The facility was the result of a community survey which indicat-

ed residents wanted more fitness and wellness options. The new facility replaces the 100-year-old American Legion Hall. Fundraising began in 2013 and construction started in 2016. The bulk of the capital campaign pledges are expected to be paid by 2020.

Source: Sioux City Journal

# **nmpp** Meet ENERGY your staff...

**MANDY BONNEY-HEERMANN**

## **Retail Gas Services Coordinator**

**Joined NMPP Energy:** March 2003

### **What organization are you assigned to?**

ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy

### **How do you assist member communities in your position?**

My job is unique in that I assist not only ACE member communities as a whole, but also individual residents in each community. I look at this question a couple of different ways. As a retail natural gas salesperson/marketer, one of my jobs is to try to get the best price I can for natural gas customers—that means community office buildings as well as individual homes.

The majority of my job, however, is about education. Even after 20 years, the Choice Gas program still confuses people (especially since no two years are alike). It is exceedingly important to keep our community leaders up-to-date with the latest information about the program (the challenges, the changes and the victories). I work with our customer service team to ensure they know how to answer individual customer questions. I work with customers on a one-on-one basis in print and over the phone and at meetings. I also present to the ACE Board and other agencies overseeing and affected by the Choice Gas program.

### **What do you love about your job?**

The very best part of my job is helping people. When a customer leaves a phone call and they actually understand the program better than when we first started chatting, that is a victory.



## **Energy outlook: utility-scale natural gas generation to rise slightly**

The U.S. Energy Information Administration's Short-term energy outlook expects the share of U.S. total utility-scale electricity generation from natural gas to rise from 32 percent in 2017 to 33 percent in 2018 and to 34 percent in 2019, because of low natural gas prices.

Coal's forecast generation share falls from 30 percent in 2017 to slightly lower than 30 percent

in 2018 and 28 percent in 2019.

The nuclear share of generation was 20 percent in 2017 and is forecast to average 20 percent in 2018 and 19 percent in 2019.

Nonhydropower renewables provided almost 10 percent of electricity generation in 2017, and its 2018 share is expected to be similar before increasing to almost 11 percent in 2019. The generation share of hydropower

was more than 7 percent in 2017 and is forecast to be slightly lower than 7 percent in both 2018 and 2019.

Regarding natural gas pricing, the EIA forecasted spot prices at Henry Hub to average \$2.88 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) in 2018 and \$2.92/MMBtu in 2019, compared with the 2017 average of \$2.99/MMBtu.



## Lutz, Daily & Brain Consulting Engineers in 70th year of service

Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC (LDB) has continuously provided professional engineering services to municipal clients in Nebraska and other states for 70 years.

LDB's tools include top-notch staff and cutting edge 3D design software. LDB specializes in reports, studies and detailed design.

### Studies:

- Power supply
- Utility master plans
- Arc flash
- Condition assessments

### Detailed Design:

- Substations
- Transmission and distribution
- Electric interconnections

- Steam and dual fuel diesel electric generating stations

- Simple Cycle Combustion turbine and Combined cycle electric plants

- Telecommunications

LDB has designed numerous electric generating plants, substations and transmission and distribution systems for cities in Nebraska, including the 9.3 MW dual fuel engine generator addition at the Falls City Municipal Power Plant. Other clients in Nebraska include Fremont, Fairbury, Grand Island, Nebraska City and the University of Nebraska.

LDB is online at [www.ldbeng.com](http://www.ldbeng.com). Contact them at (913) 831-0833.



**Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC  
Consulting Engineers**

For a complete listing of NMPP Energy Champion Businesses, see page 7

## Employment Opportunities

### Town Administrator

The Town of **Holly**, Colo., is accepting applications with resume for the position of town administrator. The Town of Holly is a small statutory municipality located in southeast Colorado along Highway 50 near the Colorado/Kansas state line. The municipality owns, operates and provides electric, water, wastewater and garbage/landfill services to residents.

The town administrator performs highly responsible management, administrative and professional duties as the chief executive officer of the Town government. Employees of this class are expected to exercise a high degree of independence, initiative and professional expertise in the administration and day-to-day management of the Town in accordance with policy established by the board of trustees, town, state, and federal laws, regulations and guidelines. An important aspect of this position is the very high profile as the Town's chief executive officer and the overall responsibility for all Town departments. The individual filling this position serves at the pleasure of the board of trustees.

The position is full time perma-

nent and offers salary with benefits. Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in public administration, political science, business management or a closely related field, and two years of responsible administrative, municipal, public agency or private sector background. Master's degree in public administration preferred. These requirements are subject to change by the board of trustees on a case-by-case basis.

Current job description and application are available online at: [www.townofholly.com](http://www.townofholly.com) Interested applicants must submit application with resume (to include three work-related references). EOE. Position open until filled. Send information to: [clerk@townofholly.com](mailto:clerk@townofholly.com) or mail to Town of Holly, PO Box 458, Holly, CO 81047. Fax will not be accepted.

### Electric Line Worker

The City of **Curtis**, Neb., is taking applications for full-time electric line worker. Curtis operates electric systems in Curtis and Maywood and a six-mile long 12.5KV transmission line between the two towns. Must be able

to perform skilled line work of overhead and underground transmission and distribution systems. The position offers retirement, full family health insurance, sick leave, paid holidays, and vacation. Applications and resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Contact Doug Schultz at (308) 367-4122 or [curtis@curtis-ne.com](mailto:curtis@curtis-ne.com) for more information. Send resume to City of Curtis. PO Box 6, Curtis, NE 69025.

### City Treasurer/Deputy Clerk

The City of **Kimball**, a full-service City in Western Nebraska, seeks a full-time city treasurer/deputy clerk. The position provides highly responsible and complex financial support to the Mayor, City Administrator and City Council. Plan, direct, and oversee the functions and operations of the City Treasurer's Office. Coordinates and is responsible for accounting, budgets, auditing, payroll and purchasing services. In the absence of city clerk performs duties as required. Prefer a college degree and/or experience in a related area. Salary is commensurate

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**

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

### **Regulatory/Compliance**

Air Regulations Consulting (airregconsulting.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Power Plant Compliance (Powplant.com).....	Oketo, Kan.
NAQS Environmental Experts (naqs.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.

### **Utility/Community**

EnergySolutions, Inc. (Energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
Fairbanks Morse Engine (Fairbanksmorse.com).....	Beloit, Wis.
Hometown Connections, LLC (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
Hubbell Power Systems (Hubbellpowersystems.com).....	Bellevue, Neb.
Foundation for Educational Services (fes.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
JK Energy Consulting, LLC (JKenergyconsulting.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Kriz-Davis Co. (Krizdavis.com).....	Grand Island, Neb.
NovaTech (Novatechweb.com).....	Lenexa, Kan.
PDS, Inc. (PDSinc.biz).....	Omaha, Neb.
Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory (petl.com).....	Great Bend, Kan.
REM Electric, Inc. (Davidsoncompanies.com).....	Nebraska City, Neb.
RESCO (Rural Electric Supply Cooperative) (resco1.com).....	Ankeny, Iowa
Solomon Corporation (Solomoncorp.com).....	Solomon, Kan.
Stanley Consultants, Inc. (Stanleyconsultants.com).....	Muscatine, Iowa

### **Computer/Technology**

Proteus (Proteus.co).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Salt Creek Software, Inc. (Saltcreek.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.

### **Engineering**

EPSIM Corporation (epsim.us).....	Boulder, Colo.
Exponential Engineering Company (exponentialengineering.com).....	Fort Collins, Colo.
JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (jeo.com).....	Wahoo, Neb.
Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC (ldbeng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.
Olsson Associates (Olssonassociates.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Power Engineers (powereng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.

### **Insurance**

League Association of Risk Management (larmpool.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
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### **Legal**

Chapman and Cutler, LLP (chapman.com).....	Salt Lake City, Utah
Spiegel & McDiarmid (spiegelmcd.com).....	Washington, D.C.

### **Telecommunication**

Consortia Consulting (consortiaconsulting.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com).....	Centennial, Colo.



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## Employment Opportunities (cont.)

with experience. Submit cover letter, resume and salary history to: Mayor Keith Prunty, City of Kimball, 223 South Chestnut, Kimball, NE 69145. For additional information call City Administrator Dan Dean, 308-235-3639 or visit [www.kimballne.org/jobs](http://www.kimballne.org/jobs). Open until filled. EOE.

### Water Service Employee

The City of Fairbury, Neb., seeks applicants for a water service employee. The position will aid in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the City water and sewer systems, and perform other duties as necessary. The applicant must be mechanically inclined to conduct routine and special maintenance and have the ability to operate heavy machinery. Ability to read and

understand mechanical plans a must. Ability to utilize computers and technical tools required. Applicant must be able to respond to emergencies, and must be able to conduct weekend checks of the treatment plant and wells on rotating basis. Excellent communication skills are required. It is a condition of employment that the individual possess a current Nebraska water operator certificate, grade 4, or obtain such within six months of hire. Finalists must possess a valid driver's license with acceptable driving history. Post-Offer Employment Testing (POET), including but not limited, to drug screening, criminal background check and a Physical Capacity Profile will be required. Position will remain open until filled. Candidates must submit a resume and completed job application to

Collin Bielser, city administrator, P.O. Box 554, Fairbury, NE 68352. A job application form is available at City Hall or at [www.fairburyne.org](http://www.fairburyne.org). Please contact Water Superintendent Jeff Sweetser at (402) 729-3648 for additional information and a detailed job description. The City of Fairbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Feb. 13 .....MEAN Exec. Committee
- Feb. 15 ..... NPGA Board
- March 26 .....ACE Board
- March 27 ..... NMPP Board
- March 26-28 ..... NMPP Energy Annual Conference

**For descriptions of all employment opportunities go to [NMPPenergy.org](http://NMPPenergy.org).**

**To submit an ad:** NMPP members can advertise job openings for free in the Essent newsletter and on the NMPP energy website. E-mail your job opening to: [info@NMPPenergy.org](mailto:info@NMPPenergy.org).

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