



**2019 NMPP Energy
Annual Meeting
& Conference**



Innovative Service Award
Curtis Mitchell of Fountain,
Colo., receives NMPP’s Bob
Arraj Innovative Service
Awardpage 2

ACE Projects of the Year
ACE presented three
communities with awards
for their use of ACE revenue
return program funds pages
8-9

As communities begin to rebuild and recover from the recent devastating floods across Nebraska, the staff of the organizations of NMPP Energy are thinking of all those impacted. We often refer to the phrase “Working Together Works” to describe the philosophy of NMPP Energy’s entities. The phrase has never been more appropriate as communities and their residents work together through this challenging time.



Nebraska Flood
by the numbers

Estimated Statewide Impact Totals

\$553,100,736 - Public

\$89,040,740 - Private

104 City Emergency Declarations

81 County Emergency Declarations

5 Tribal Area Declarations

2019 Bob Arraj Innovative Service Award

NMPP Energy presented the Bob Arraj Innovative Service Award at the NMPP Energy Annual Conference in Lincoln in March. The award is presented to an official or employee of a NMPP member utility system who has excelled in the area of service and/or used innovative technological changes in the utility industry. The recipient received \$350 to donate to a local community project.

Curtis Mitchell General Manager Fountain, Colo.

Curtis Mitchell's creative thinking and relationship building skill has helped Fountain Utilities become a leader in the industry.

His achievements include:

- Playing a key role in forming a partnership with the Fort Carson Military Base and Colorado Springs Utilities to support building a hydro plant at the Pueblo Reservoir. The Fountain community expects to benefit from this renewable energy project for many years.

- Managing a community-wide smart-meter project. The project required leadership and strong communication skills during many community-wide meetings and open houses as well as meeting with individual parties. By embracing technology, the utility was able to provide optimal service to customers.

Currently, Mitchell is supporting an evaluation of electric transmission alternatives that includes potential regional partnerships with the goal of benefitting utility customers along with supporting regional solutions. Under his leadership, the utility is also completing a conversion



NMPP Energy photo

City of Fountain, Colo., General Manager Curtis Mitchell, right, is presented with the Bob Arraj Innovative Service Award from NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling.

with customer information system and meter data management and asset management, along with exploring broadband opportunities.



About the Award

Bob Arraj was a former city administrator and utilities superintendent of **Kimball, Neb.** Arraj's years of knowledge, innovative insight and expertise in the energy field allowed NMPP members to benefit from numerous innovative energy and service projects.

2019 Project of the Year Award

Each year NMPP Energy recognizes projects from member communities that create a more cohesive community, whether it's a project created for the entire community or one that makes it easier for city staff and employees to serve their customers. The award winners received \$200 to be used for a community project of their choice.

City of Superior, Neb.

Community Solar Array Project

The City worked with its wholesale electric supplier to pursue a one-megawatt solar facility, which was completed in 2018.

The City purchases the output of the solar facility at a locked-in price for 25 years. After five years, the City will have the option to purchase the property and own the facility. The City, through the Community Energy Alliance, received a \$185,000 grant through the Environmental Trust to cover the cost to install a transmission line to accommodate the project.

The facility is built over a closed landfill, saving the City money from mowing and maintaining the area, while generating local renewable electricity for its residents. Since the City-owned landfill property has limited development opportunity, the City coordinated with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to gain approval to protect the landfill cap and build over the landfill.

Over its 25-year lifespan, the array is expected to offset carbon dioxide emissions by 53,948,000 pounds and provide enough annual electricity to power electric vehicles 4.5 million miles.



NMPP Energy photo

City of Superior, Neb., Council President Chris Peterson (right) accepts the City's Project of the Year award from NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling.

NMPP elects officers, directors for 2019-20

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool elected officers for its board of directors for fiscal year 2019-20 at its annual meeting March 27 in Lincoln, Neb.

Those re-elected to one-year terms as officers of the board of directors beginning April 1 were:

- Darrel Wenzel, chief executive officer, **Waverly (Iowa) Utilities**, president;
- Jeff Wells, city manager, **Fort Morgan, Colo.**, vice president;
- Jim Hawks, city administrator, **North Platte, Neb.**, secretary/treasurer.

Those elected to the 16-member NMPP board to represent their population category were:

20,000-plus population: Tim Luchinger, **Grand Island, Neb.**

More than 5,000-less than 20,000: Darrel Wenzel, **Waverly (Iowa) Utilities**

5,000 or less: Chris Anderson, **Central City, Neb.**, Bill Hinton, **Kimball, Neb.**, Randy Woldt, **Wisner, Neb.**

The 16-member board meets quarterly to conduct and manage the business affairs of NMPP. The three officers also will serve on NMPP Energy's Joint Operating Committee, which includes members from the four NMPP Energy entities.

2019 Project of the Year Award

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City of Fort Morgan, Colo.

Fiber Optic Installation Project

The City completed installation of the backbone phase of its fiber optic network within city limits in 2017 which included underground installation of fiber optic cable that connected the city's electric substations and formed loops throughout the city.

In 2018, the City continued the fiber network buildout with the goal to make available gigabit internet service to every home and business in the community. City of Fort Morgan Light and Power staff worked with Bauer Underground Inc. to install the fiber optic infrastructure. Light and Power staff prepared 615 poles and set 22 new poles ahead of the fiber construction crews. Approximately 57 miles of new fiber optic network was installed (approx. 27 miles aerial and 30 miles underground).

The City funded and managed the construction of the all-fiber network and then negotiated an agreement with ALLO Communications for their



NMPP Energy photo

Fort Morgan, Colo., City Manager Jeff Wells (right) accepts the City's Project of the Year award from NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling.

lease of the network. The public-private partnership is a first in Colorado for Nebraska-based ALLO and serves as a model for other small cities on achieving gigabit service.

NMPP Board approves Champions

The NMPP Board of Directors approved four businesses for the NMPP Champions program at the board's annual meeting in March.

NMPP Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP's effort to provide products and services to the NMPP membership. The new Champions include:

Dogwood Energy LLC

Dogwood Energy is a co-owner of the Dogwood Energy Facility, a gas-fired combined cycle

electric generating plant. Co-owners include municipal and governmental electric load serving entities in the Southwest Power pool.

Community Broadband Action Network

Community Broadband Action Network provides online resources, conferences and connections to community leaders and broadband industry stakeholders seeking to improve local broadband access and choices. (www.broadbandaction.com)

See 'CHAMPIONS' on page 7

2019 Project of the Year Award

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City of Gering, Neb.

Oregon Trail Ballpark Project

The City completed its Oregon Trail Ballpark in 2018 in time to host the inaugural season of the Western Nebraska Pioneers, a college baseball team competing during the Summer in the Expedition Wood Bat League.

The ballpark helped the Pioneers lead the league in attendance with more than 30,800 people attending games during the season. The overall goal of the project was to improve the youth athletic facilities for local residents and families and to increase opportunities for attracting tournaments and events with economic impact spread throughout Gering and the region.

The project serves as an asset to enhance Gering's quality of life and demonstrates the collaboration of the municipality, the community and the Expedition League.



NMPP Energy photo

Gering, Neb., City Clerk Tammy Cooley accepts the City's Project of the Year award from NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling.

Thanks to sponsors of the 2019 Annual Conference!

Their support of the NMPP Energy organizations and member communities is appreciated.

Platinum+

Constellation Energy

Platinum

Chapman and Cutler LLP

First National Bank

N Solar/A Mesner/GenPro/Sol Systems Initiative

NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC

The Energy Authority

Gold

Central National Bank

CR Energy Concepts

Dogwood Energy

Exponential Engineering Company

Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union

Olsson

PFM

RVW, Inc.

Wells Fargo

Silver

Altec Industries

BKD CPA's and Advisors

BP Energy Company

Core & Main, LP

DA Davidson & Co.

Duncan & Allen

EPSIM Corporation

Great Plains Power

gWorks

JEO Consulting Group

JK Energy Consulting, LLC

Kidwell, Inc.

MCG Energy Solutions, LLC

Midland GIS Solutions LLC

Moehn Electrical Sales Company

NovaTech

PDS, Inc.

Piper Jaffray & Co.

Proteus

RESCO

Salt Creek Software

Shermco Industries

SOCS Website Solutions & FES

Services

Southeast Community College

Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP

UAV Recon

UNICO Group, Inc.

nmpp ENERGY ANNUAL Conference

Recap in pictures...



NMPP Energy photos

(Above) Keynote speaker U.S. Navy Commander (Ret.) Kirk Lippold talks about “Leadership and Accountability When it Matters”. (Above middle) Mike Clark of Red Cloud, Neb., reviews the Conference agenda. (Top left) Members Council caucus to elect representatives by population category to serve on the NMPP Board. (Middle left) Nebraska Public Power District’s Dave Rich talks about energy storage during the state issues panel discussion. (Bottom left) PowerManager Software share information as a Conference sponsor.

Colorado Legislature expected to pass CO2 reduction bill

The Colorado Legislature is currently considering a greenhouse reduction bill (HB19-1261), coined the CO2 Reduction Plan.

The bill requires a statewide reduction of CO2 emissions of 50 percent by 2030 and 80 percent reduction by 2050 from 2005 levels. The bill, at the time of this writing, passed the Senate State Affairs

Legislative Notes



By Chris Dibbern

Committee on a 3-2 party line vote after several hours of testimony and is on the Senate floor.

As drafted it was intended to focus only on investor-owned utilities. HB 19-1261 was amended on the floor to also allow municipal utilities to file voluntary 80 percent reduction plans. Technical amendments were made to the bill by municipalities and other parties. The bill has already passed the Colorado House and is expected to become a law.

The Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU) will continue to work to amend this measure to improve the language on utility resource planning.

Colorado PUC updating rules

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is updating most of its Rules Regulating

Electric Utilities (Code of Colorado Regulations (CCR) 723-3).

Many interested parties, including regulated utilities and industry and environmental groups, have weighed in on various rules being rewritten. To kick off the rulemaking process, the PUC hosted a miscellaneous proceeding (17M-0694E) in 2017 to gather comments and host workshops on potential revisions and the scope of revisions to the rules. Many interested parties including business groups, electric utilities, solar developers and environmental organizations, participated in the process.

This particular rulemaking (known affectionately as the “Mother of All Rulemakings”) covers six areas of the Commission’s Electric Utility Rules:

1. Electric Resource Planning (ERP Rules) at 4 CCR 723-3-3600, et seq.;
2. Renewable Energy Standard Rules (RES Rules) at 4 CCR 723-3-3650, et seq.;
3. Net Metering Rules presently in 4 CCR 723-3-3664;
4. Community Solar Gardens (CSG Rules) presently in 4 CCR 723-3-3665;
5. Utility purchases from Qualifying Facilities (QF Rules) presently at 4 CCR 723-3-3900, et seq.; and
6. Interconnections Standards and Procedures presently in 4 CCR 723-3-3667.

Champions

Continued from page 4

GenPro Energy Solutions

GenPro Energy Solutions is an energy organization with a global depth of experience in solar and energy efficiency technologies. GenPro partners with businesses, municipalities, utilities and state and national governments on projects that range from energy efficient lighting systems to development of utility-grade solar energy farms. (www.genproenergy.com)

Sol Systems

Sol Systems is a commercial and utility-scale solar development and finance firm that serves municipalities, corporations, utilities, schools and universities. (www.solsystems.com)

* * *

Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP Energy’s effort to provide products and services to members.

For information on becoming an NMPP Energy Champion business, contact Amanda Hansen at (800) 234-2595 or email Ahan-sen@nmppenergy.org. A full listing of NMPP’s Champion businesses is listed on page 11.

ACE

PUBLIC ALLIANCE
FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY

Projects of the Year

ACE (Public Alliance for Community Energy) presented Project of the Year awards to three of its member communities at the NMPP Energy Annual Conference March 27 in Lincoln, Neb. This is the first year of presenting awards.

Through its revenue return program, ACE returns funds to its 73 Nebraska member communities. These funds are used by each community for various community betterment projects. Earlier this year, the ACE Board approved returning \$300,000 to its Nebraska member communities. Since forming in 1998, ACE has returned more than \$2.3 million to its Nebraska member communities.

Communities submitted project nominations and winners were determined through voting on ACE's Facebook page. The awards were presented in three community population categories: Under 700, 700-1,300 and more than 1,300. The following projects were awarded a plaque and \$200 to be used toward future community betterment projects:

City of Long Pine, Neb. Population less than 700

Palace Floor Project

The City used its ACE funds to partially pay for the installation of new tile in the entry way and new flooring in the bleacher area to the historic Palace, which was built in 1914.

Over the years the facility has served as a gym, community hall and gathering place for local residents.

The City has worked closely with the Long Pine Foundation to modernize the building in various ways, keeping this facility operational for the benefit of the community.



Courtesy photo

**Long Pine's Palace now has new flooring
partially funded by ACE funds.**



NMPP Energy photo

Franklin Mayor Margaret Siel accepts the City's ACE Project of the Year award from NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling.

City of Franklin, Neb.
Population 700-1,300

Trash Receptacles Project

The City recently used ACE funds to purchase four customized community trash receptacles that are placed throughout the community, including two downtown and two in the community park.

They not only are an attractive feature, but they help keep the community clean.

The City of Franklin has received more than \$30,000 dollars in ACE funds since joining.



Courtesy photo

City of Ravenna, Neb.
Population above 1,300

Community Splash Pad Project

The City added a new splash pad last summer with its ACE funds. The pad became an immediate attraction with local families and adds to the entertainment value of VFW Park. Since joining ACE, the City of Ravenna has received nearly \$20,000 from ACE's revenue return program.



Courtesy photo



NMPP Energy photo

Ravenna City Clerk/Treasurer Kellie Crowell accepts the City's ACE Project of the Year award from NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHAMPION BUSINESS



Salt Creek Software: Decades of experience in assisting municipalities

Salt Creek Software, Inc. specializes in the development and support of load management, accounting, and customer information software applications. These applications are designed to meet the needs of municipalities and municipal utilities. Salt Creek Software, formed in 1997, is an experienced company located in Lincoln, Neb. All their employees have vast expertise in developing and supporting customized municipal and utility related software.

Salt Creek has enjoyed a partnership with NMPP Energy for many years since the development

www.saltcreek.com



of PowerManager®, a software suite of municipal accounting and customer information applications. These applications are being used throughout the nation.

One of Salt Creek's specialties is their friendly, personalized customer support. Every year some of their employees attend the Pow-

erManager® Users Group (PMUG) Annual Conference and PowerManager® refresher classes to listen to users' needs, give presentations and provide training updates.

Salt Creek Software is keeping pace with technology by updating their development tools and incorporating these advances into their software products.

Whether they are developing new products, providing customer support or making customized modifications to meet the needs of a specific user, Salt Creek Software is there when you need them.

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

Employment Opportunities

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 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. 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

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.

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 or (303) 823-6622 ext. 22. Town Hall, 432 5th Avenue, Lyons CO.

City Treasurer/Finance Director

City of **Gering**, Neb., is accepting applications for a city treasurer/finance director. Full service city including electric utility, city owned convention center and golf course. Graduated from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in accounting, finance, or business, or a closely related field; master's degree or CPA, CMA, CGFM certification preferred. Two years' experience of progressively responsible employment working with fund-accounting required. Prepares monthly and annual financial statements, arranges for annual audit, including preparing audit schedules, prepares the City's budget document, and has a strong emphasis on accounting software/computerized accounting knowledge, and developing

financial plan's directly manages five utility billing and accounting staff members. Ability to carry out council policies and strategies and work with department heads and staff. A full job description and application can be obtained at the City of Gering Administration Offices or on the City of Gering website: www.gering.org. Return resume and references in a sealed envelope marked "City Treasure/Finance Director applicant" to Tammy Cooley, Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 687, Gering, NE 69341 by May 10, 2019. EOE

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

See 'EMPLOYMENT' on page 12

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.



Champions Business Directory of Services

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

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

Utility/Community

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

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 (Olsson.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

Community Broadband Action Network (broadbandaction.com).....	Indianola, Iowa
River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com).....	Centennial, Colo.



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NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Employment (cont.)

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 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. The City of Holdrege is an EOE.

Electrical Engineer

The City of **Hastings**, Neb., is seeking applicants for an electrical engineer. Individual will perform a variety of professional engineering work associated with electric power plants, electric substations, electric transmissions and distribution networks, SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition), communication systems, and Pollution Control Facility. Minimum qualifications: A Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from an accredited college or university and possession of, or ability

to obtain and maintain, a valid driver's license. Preferred: Two years of increasingly responsible experience in the electrical engineering industry; registration as a Professional Engineer in the State of Nebraska. Salary range: \$81,702 - \$112,409 plus excellent benefit package. Hours: Full-time, salaried position
Deadline to apply: Open until filled. How to Apply: Submit a City of Hastings application and resume. Application available at www.cityofhastings.org/ElecEng18 and in Human Resources, 1228 N. Denver Ave, Hastings, NE 68901. A full job description is available online. Contact Kim Woolery at kwoolery@cityofhastings.org or (402) 461-2313 with questions.

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. 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.

Complete job descriptions are posted at www.nmppenergy.org

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Send comments to: Essent, Attn: Editor, 8377 Glynoaks Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516 or e-mail: kwickham@nmppenergy.org;

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