



Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

October 2022

Oklahoma Public Power responds to Hurricane Ian

Crews from GRDA, Edmond Electric, and Skiatook Electric worked in Florida to help restore power for those who lost power due to Hurricane Ian. We join the people in Florida by saying, "thank you, job well done."

Record number of Public Power Lineworkers compete at MESO Rodeo

The MESO Annual Lineworkers Rodeo is a tradition like none other where Public Power Lineworkers gather in the spirit of friendly competition to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

The City of Edmond and Edmond Electric hosted the 2022 event that provided an environment where both journeyman and apprentices gathered in a safe environment gaining valuable experience and learning from one another. The families of many of the competitors were on hand for the event.

"Our annual rodeo takes a lot of volunteers and we appreciate our friends in Edmond for hosting, the team that planned and coordinated the event, the men who built the rodeo grounds, and all of our

competitors, judges, volunteers, and sponsors," said Tom Dougherty, MESO Director of Job Training and Safety. "And we love to see the families out supporting the competitors."

The 2022 event included 60 competitors – a record number – from 10 Public Power Utilities, 34 judges, and 14 volunteers.

Planning is already underway for the 2023 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo to be held in Bentonville, AR.

Join us in congratulating all the competitors and winners in our 2022 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo! It was a job well done by all. The winners are:

(see LINEWORKERS RODEO, page 3)

Register today for the MESO Decision Makers Conference

The MESO Decision Makers Conference is a two-day event focusing on enhancing skills and knowledge essential for today's municipal leaders and decision-makers

The event will be held November 2 & 3, 2022 at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Oklahoma. Registration is open at www.meso.org.

"Attendees will learn from best practice experts in the areas of error reduction, worker recruitment and retention, the need for municipal engagement in the legislative process, and self-improvement," said MESO General Manger Tom Rider. "Or more

simply put these skills and knowledge can help lead municipal leaders to the next level.

The MESO Decision Makers Conference is for anyone who is in a leadership position or decision-making role for any municipality.

Conference sessions and speakers are:

- Error Reduction: Why We Get Things Wrong
- Speaker: LTC Dave Young (retired), Kansas Deputy Homeland Security Advisor

(see DECISION MAKERS CONFERENCE, page 2)

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Decision Makers Conference

(continued from page 1)

- Legislative Learning Lab • Speaker: Joe Dorman, Chief Executive Officer, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
- Catch and Retain • Speaker: Christy Driskel, IMPA-HR SCP, HR Director, City of Stillwater
- Jedi-Judging: How to Be the Smartest Person In The Room • Speaker: James “Dee” Graves, Attorney-at-law
- Accountability: Who’s Doing Who’s Job? • Speaker: Tom Rider, General Manager, Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma
- Electrifying Your Memory • Speaker: Paul Mellor

The conference registration fee is \$199 for MESO members and \$399 for non-members. The deadline to register is October 21, 2022. The registration fee includes all session materials, meals, and session attendance.

The Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Center (5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, OK) is the designated conference hotel. Call 888-236-2427 for room reservations and provide the event name.

Any questions about the MESO Decision Makers Conference may be directed to Rider at tom@meso.org. All registration inquiries should be directed to Deborah Miner-Gonzales at (405) 528-7564 ext. 1 or deborah@meso.org.

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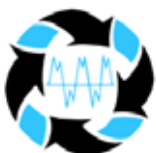
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All municipal employees are invited to the MESO Supplier Show

The Suppliers Show brings together municipal utility and public works professionals with industry service and supply providers who sell to Oklahoma Cities and Towns.

Participants will have the opportunity to both review the latest products and services to enhance and improve municipal operations and attend short, informational sessions put on by select show sponsors.

November 1, 2022 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reed

Conference Center 5800 Will Rogers Road Midwest City, Oklahoma

Share your email with us and we'll provide you with a list of registered Suppliers on October 25th so you can finalize your plans. If you have a specific Supplier you'd like to meet with in a neutral setting, share their name and contact information with us. We'll invite them to the show.

This show is free and open to all municipal professionals. Registration is required for lunch – [Click here to register.](#)

Record number

(continued from page 1)

Hurtman Rescue – Journeyman

- 1st – Tomas Alvarez / Ponca City Energy
- 2nd – Chris Crain / Ponca City Energy
- 3rd – Dustin Layugan / City of Bentonville

Speed Climb – Journeyman

- 1st – Tomas Alvarez / Ponca City Energy
- 2nd – Dustin Layugan / City of Bentonville
- 3rd – Chris Crain / Ponca City Energy

Veteran Event

- 1st – David Bates / City of Stillwater
- 2nd – Wes Bennett / Edmond Electric
- 3rd – Keith King / City of Bentonville

Obstacle Course – Apprentice

- 1st - Isaac Boswell / City of Skiatook
- 2nd – Tristan Stefani / Edmond Electric
- 3rd – Christian Smitski / Edmond Electric

Hurtman Rescue – Apprentice

- 1st – Case Mutz / City of Stillwater
- 2nd – Dakota Jones / City of Stillwater
- 3rd – Tristan Stefani / Edmond Electric

Speed Climb – Apprentice

- 1st – Dakota Jones / City of Stillwater
- 2nd – Isaac Boswell / City of Skiatook
- 3rd – Garrett Moss / City of Skiatook

Team Event #1 – Mystery (Journeyman)

- 1st – City of Bentonville / Shawn Buttry, Daniel Fox, and David Tate
- 2nd – City of Stillwater / Jake Marshall, Dakota Plum, and Brandon Davis
- 3rd – City of Bentonville / John Colf, Joey Dirks, and Zach Sone

Team Event #2 – 12kV Insulator Change A/C (Journeyman)

- 1st – City of Stillwater / Jake Marshall, Dakota Plum, and Brandon Davis
- 2nd – City of Bentonville / Sergio Jacobo, Dustin Layugan, and John Ragsdale
- 3rd – City of Bentonville / Shawn Buttry, Daniel Fox, and David Tate

Mutual Aid Event

- 1st – Gye Roedel / City of Kingfisher, Joey Dirks / City of Bentonville, and Tomas Alvarez / Ponca City Energy
- 2nd – Austin Johnson / City of Skiatook, Andrew Knutz / OMPA, and Wyatt Williams / City of Stillwater
- 3rd – Tristan Stefani / City of Edmond, Tyler Wolf / OMPA, and Dustin Kincaid / City of Stillwater

Apprentice Written Test

- 1st – Dakota Jones / City of Stillwater
- 2nd – Tristan Stefani / Edmond Electric
- 3rd – Austin Anderson / OMPA

Supervisor Course to be held in Stillwater and Tahlequah

MESO's Supervisor Short Course will be presented in Stillwater and Tahlequah beginning in January 2023, members who have paid their 2022-2023 Dues will receive one complimentary registration.

The course is for anyone hoping to develop leadership and supervisor skills to address workplace challenges. The program's 12 discussion courses focus on – Management, Workforce Development, Communication and Performance Success.

The 12 sessions are:

- Character & Ethics
- The Roles of a Supervisor
- The Power of Respect for Others
- Developing Responsible Workers
- Establishing a Change Mentality
- Dealing with Conflict
- Communicating Effectively
- Project Management
- Understanding Emotional Intelligence
- Being Assertive without Being a Bully
- Performance Management
- Delegating

Participants who complete all 12 sessions will be recognized with a certificate acknowledging their effort and commitment.

The course in Tahlequah will be held at the Indian Capital Technology Center beginning January 10, 2023. Click here [MESO Supervisor Short Course 2023 – Tahlequah](#) to learn more,

The Stillwater kicks off on January 12, 2023, and will be held at the Stillwater Community Center, click here [MESO Supervisor Short Course 2023 – Stillwater](#) to learn more.

Tom Rider, MESO General Manager, will present the course, any questions about the course or sessions may be directed to him at tom@meso.org.

For questions regarding billing or registration, contact Deborah Miner-Gonzales, at 405-528-7564, ext. 1, or deborah@meso.org.

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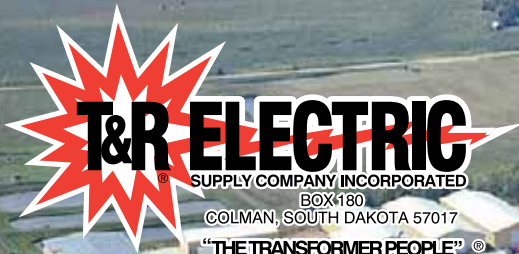
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Photos from the 2022 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo





From the American Public Power Association

Federal Energy Regulators Propose Incentives for Voluntary Cybersecurity Investments

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Sept. 22 issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) to establish rules providing incentive-based rate treatment for utilities making certain voluntary cybersecurity investments.

In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Congress directed FERC to revise its regulations to establish incentive-based rate treatments by encouraging utilities to invest in advanced cybersecurity technology and participate in cybersecurity threat information sharing programs.

Under the NOPR, cybersecurity expenditures would be eligible for an incentive including both expenses and capital investments associated with advanced cybersecurity technology and participation in a cybersecurity threat information sharing program.

Also, eligible cybersecurity expenditures would be voluntary and have to materially improve the utility's cybersecurity posture. FERC proposes to establish a pre-qualified list of cybersecurity expenditures

that are eligible for incentives that would be publicly maintained on FERC's website.

The incentives would take two forms: a return on equity adder of 200 basis points, or deferred cost recovery that would enable the utility to defer expenses and include the unamortized portion in its rate base.

Approved incentives, with certain exceptions, would remain in effect for up to five years from the date on which the investments enter service or expenses are incurred.

At the same time, FERC terminated its earlier cybersecurity incentives [NOPR](#) (Docket No. RM21-3), which the American Public Power Association had [opposed](#).

Comments on the NOPR are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Reply comments are due 45 days after publication in the Federal Register.

The NOPR is available [here](#).

From the American Public Power Association

U.S. Energy Storage Market Set New Record In Second Quarter 2022

The U.S. energy storage market set a new record in the second quarter of 2022, with grid-scale installations totaling 2,608 megawatt hours (MWh), the highest installed capacity for any second quarter on record, according to a new report released Sept. 14.

According to Wood Mackenzie and the American Clean Power Association's (ACP) latest U.S. Energy Storage Monitor [report](#), grid-scale storage was boosted by a series of deployments in Texas, with the state contributing 60% of installed capacity this quarter. However, challenges to the sector remain due to delays.

"Despite impressive growth, the U.S. grid-scale energy storage pipeline continues to face rolling delays into 2023 and beyond. More than 1.1 gigawatts (GW) of projects originally scheduled to come online in Q2 were delayed or cancelled, although 61% of this capacity, 709 megawatts (MW), is still scheduled to come online in Q3 and Q4 of 2022," said Vanessa Witte, senior analyst with Wood Mackenzie's energy storage team.

"Supply chain issues, transportation delays and interconnection queue challenges were the main

drivers behind delays in the commercial operations date for many projects," Witte added.

The U.S. Congress passed a solar investment tax credit (ITC) extension and standalone storage ITC as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

The new law will support all segments of the energy storage industry, increasing deployment of solar-plus-storage systems while also incentivizing standalone facilities, Wood Mackenzie and ACP said. As a result, Wood Mackenzie forecasts 59.2 GW of energy storage capacity to be added through 2026.

Residential storage also had its strongest quarter to date with 375 MWh installed in Q2, beating the previous quarterly record of 334.1 MWh in Q1 2022.

Demand is rising in the residential segment with over 150 MW of residential storage installed for the first time, but ongoing supply shortfalls and rising prices have suppressed deployment. New solar installers continue to add storage to their product offerings, despite ongoing procurement issues.

Community, commercial and industrial (CCI) storage continues to lag behind other market segments, with only 59.4 MWh of CCI storage installations seen this quarter, making it the lowest quarter recorded for MWh capacity since 2019.

From the American Public Power Association

APPA's Joy Ditto Details How Public Power Will Benefit From Inflation Reduction Act

Joy Ditto, President and CEO of the American Public Power Association (APPA), recently detailed how public power utilities are poised to benefit from the recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

President Biden on Aug. 16 [signed into law](#) the IRA, which will extend and expand various energy tax incentives and give public power utilities direct access to such credits through a refundable direct payment tax credit.

"We've been working on this for over twenty years," said Ditto on a recent episode of White House Chronicle, which is hosted by Llewellyn King.

Since the 1992 Energy Policy Act, "we've been looking at this idea of parity or comparability in the tax code for publicly-owned utilities, for other not-for-profit utilities like rural co-ops so that we can really be unleashed in the marketplace as we continue to drive toward a cleaner energy future," she said.

The mechanism in the IRA, a refundable direct pay credit, "allows us to take advantage of these tax credits that have been available to our for-profit brethren for many years both in the form of an investment tax credit and a production tax credit."

In the short term, "we first have to get

implementation through Treasury, through the Internal Revenue Service," she noted.

"We will need to work" with the Treasury Department "to make sure that this is implemented correctly." She said that there is already good precedent in current tax rules and regulations for many of the elements it will take for implementation.

Ditto noted, for example, while state and local entities do not file annual income tax returns, Treasury does already have a mechanism in place for them to claim a refund of federal gasoline excise taxes, from which they are exempt. "We're hopeful that IRS and Treasury" will use some of those precedents to implement this, she said.

The congressional Joint Committee on Taxation valued these tax credits at \$22 billion a year, so "this means billions of dollars in incentives for us going forward," she said.

Noting that she has spoken with several APPA members in recent weeks, Ditto said that "they are excited, ready to move on some of these projects that maybe they've been holding off on." In the longer term, "You're going to see a variety of projects come online in the public power side."

Register for upcoming MESO Events

Decision Makers Conference

November 2-3, 2022

Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, Oklahoma

[Click here to learn more](#)

Supervisor Short Course – Tahlequah

Sessions begin January 10, 2023

Indian Capital Technology Center, Tahlequah, OK

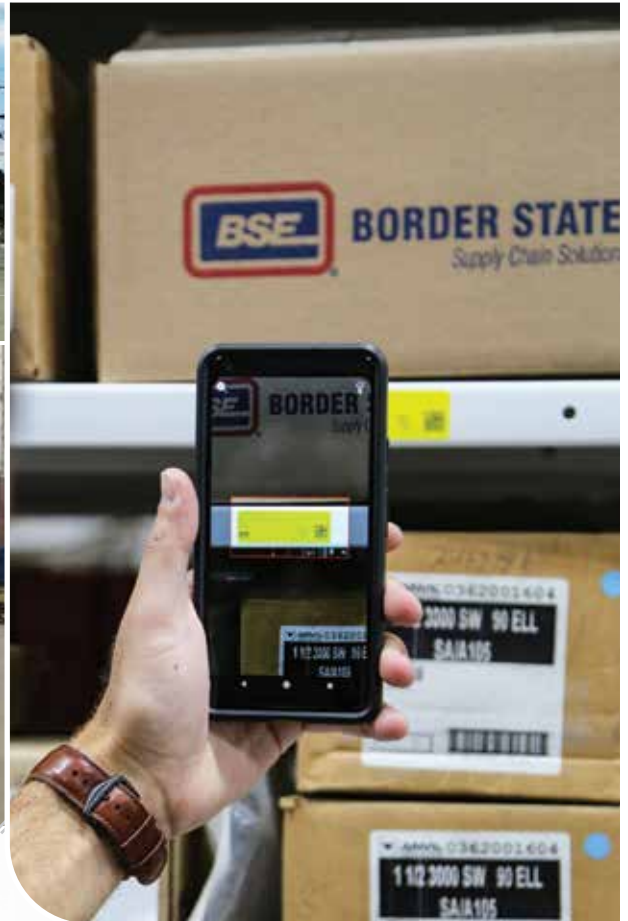
[Click here to learn more](#)

Supervisor Short Course – Stillwater

Sessions begin January 12, 2023

Stillwater Community Center, Stillwater, OK

[Click here to learn more](#)



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