



Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce

Municipal leaders gather for MESO Decision Makers Conference

The MESO Decision Makers Conference was attended by leaders from municipalities and utilities from across the state.

“We were pleased to have leaders from various levels within their organizations who wanted to learn and grow their skills,” said Tom Rider, MESO General Manager. “The immediate feedback was positive, so we believe we delivered value to our attendees.”

The two-day event focused on enhancing skills and knowledge essential for today’s municipal leaders and

decision-makers or to simply help them move to the next level.

The event featured various speakers covering topics including reducing errors, the legislative process, human resources challenges, and improving your memory.

The Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group (OMAG) sponsored a dinner event for attendees.

(see CONFERENCE PHOTOS, page 7)

Phil Johnston inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for Oklahoma City and Town Officials

After a career spanning five decades, Ponca City’s Phil Johnston was recently inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials.

Johnston, who recently retired, served as a MESO Board member since 2010. Throughout his career, he demonstrated a commitment to providing safe, reliable public power.

“I have truly enjoyed working with Phil on the MESO Board of Directors for many years,” said Mike Doublehead, TPWA General Manager. “I’m indebted to him for his generosity of time and knowledge. In addition to our professional relationship, I’m honored to call him a good friend. I wish him all the best in retirement and look forward to playing golf with him soon.”

During his 27 years of service with Ponca City Energy, he focused on both system improvements and staff development. Under his guidance, Ponca City Energy instituted a proactive vegetation management program to limit the impact of tree growth during storms. He led the City’s efforts to become the first Oklahoma municipality to convert to automated metering for both electric and water systems, and enhanced service and reliability through dedicated maintenance programs and substation and distribution system improvements.

In 2021, MESO presented Johnston with the Pruett-Lamb Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented to individuals committed to public power and the success of public power communities in Oklahoma. He also is on the Oklahoma Municipal League’s Honor Roll of Service for 25 years of honorable service to municipal government.



(see PHIL JOHNSTON, page 4)

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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.

(see SUPERVISOR COURSE, page 3)

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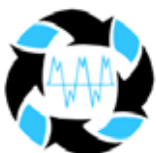
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Ponca City's Aaron Michaud joins MESO Board of Directors

Aaron Michaud recently joined the MESO Board of Directors.

A long-time advocate for Public Power and safety, Michaud brings more than 20 years of municipal electrical service experience to the MESO board. He currently is the Electrical Superintendent for Ponca City Energy.

He is a member of the MESO Job Training & Oversight Committee that oversees the apprentice program and various safety-related training events. He also has been involved in planning for the MESO Public Power Conference and the MESO Lineworkers Rodeo.

Michaud replaces Phil Johnston who recently retired from Ponca City Energy.

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Aaron Michaud, Ponca City

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Congratulations Pam Polk

Pam Polk, City Manager of Collinsville, was selected as the Women in Municipal Government (WiMG) 2022 Woman of the Year at the Oklahoma Municipal League Annual Conference.

Under her leadership, the City of Collinsville continues to grow and offer vital services to the citizens and visitors to the community.

The Oklahoma's Women in Municipal Government group established the Woman of the Year award to recognize outstanding women who have made significant contributions to their community through their role in municipal government.

Earlier this year, Polk was awarded MESO'S 2022 Champion for Public Power Award for her service as a leader in her profession and an advocate for the Public Power Community.

She has served Public Power communities throughout her career as a City Clerk and as City Manager. She is a vocal advocate for the value of Public Power. A former MESO Board member, she represents Public Power, and all municipalities, on the Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group Board of Directors and the City Management Association of Oklahoma Board of Directors.



Supervisor Course

(continued from page 2)

The Stillwater Course 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.

From the American Public Power Association

Household Energy Prices Expected to Increase Sharply This Winter: EIA

By Peter Maloney

Household energy prices will increase broadly this winter on expectations of higher retail energy prices and a slightly colder winter, according to the latest short-term forecast from the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Retail heating oil prices will be 19 percent higher than last winter, reflecting price pressures in the distillate fuel oil market: low inventories, low imports, and limited refining capacity, the EIA said in its Winter Fuels Outlook, which is part of its [Short-Term Energy Outlook](#) (STEO). Natural gas prices are expected to be 21 percent higher than last winter, but propane prices are forecast to fall by 2 percent this winter, according to the EIA. The [Winter Fuels Outlook](#) reflects consumption across all residential energy uses, not just home heating.

Changes in wholesale heating oil and propane prices pass through to retail prices much more quickly than changes in wholesale natural gas or electricity prices, the EIA said.

With almost 90 percent of U.S. homes heated primarily by natural gas or electricity and with higher expected wholesale prices for natural gas this winter, the EIA forecasts higher retail prices for both natural gas and electricity this winter.

The EIA is forecasting Henry Hub natural gas spot price to average about \$7.40 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) in the fourth quarter and then fall below \$6.00/MMBtu in 2023 as gas production rises.

Natural gas consumption, on the other hand, will average 87.9 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2022, up 3.9 Bcf/d from 2021, reflecting more consumption across almost all sectors, the EIA said. The agency sees natural gas consumption falling by 2.6 Bcf/d in the 2023 because of lower consumption in the electric power and industrial sectors.

The EIA also forecasts a rise in electricity sales of 2.7 percent in 2022, mostly as a result of higher economic activity but also because of slightly
(see HOUSEHOLD ENERGY PRICES, page 7)

Phil Johnston

(continued from page 1)

He served on the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority Competitive Utilities Program Committee as both a member and the chairman and was president in 1990 of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Johnston began his career as Operations Engineer to the Director of Operations at Kay Electric Cooperative in 1972. He was the engineer when the Kaw Lake building project was completed and a large portion of the system in that area was rebuilt. His efforts led to system improvements with the implementation of the MilSoft distribution analyzing software and digital mapping of the Kay Electric Cooperative system.

Phil and his wife Sharon are proud parents of three sons, grandparents to eight grandchildren and great-grandparents to six great-grandchildren.

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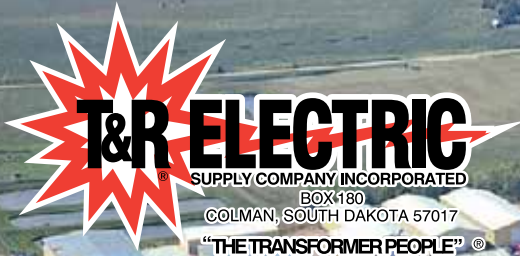


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From the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority

Board hears demand response and smart meters presentation

At its October meeting, the OMPA Board of Directors listened to a presentation from Lighthouse Energy Consulting on a study done to assess the potential savings and costs of various demand side management (DSM) programs that OMPA and its member cities could implement.

The study was conducted by Lighthouse, along with Anchor Blue and The Energy Authority.

OMPA is researching potential DSM programs as a way to reduce capacity needs, increase load flexibility, reduce the costs of serving load and meet the expectations of its member cities' end use customers for control of their energy usage.

Based on the goals of OMPA and the findings of the results, a list was narrowed to four potential programs to be analyzed as to their costs and benefits. The potential programs were: utility demand voltage reduction, smart thermostat demand response, residential time-of-use pricing and smart thermostat energy efficiency.

The study results showed varying degrees of both capacity savings and energy savings for OMPA and its member utilities, depending on the programs. Overall, it showed a financial benefit. The study assumed incentives would be provided by the utilities to customers who want smart thermostats and factored costs and savings over a 20-year period.



What is . . .

Demand response programs

Demand response programs are incentive-based programs that encourage electric power customers to temporarily reduce their demand for power at certain times in exchange for a reduction in their electricity bills. Some demand response programs allow electric power system operators to directly reduce load, while in others, customers retain control. Customer-controlled reductions in demand may involve actions such as curtailing load, operating onsite generation, or shifting electricity use to another time period. Demand response programs are one type of demand-side management, which also covers broad, less immediate programs such as the promotion of energy-efficient equipment in residential and commercial sectors.

Demand voltage reduction programs

Demand voltage reduction is the intentional operation of the transmission and distribution system to provide customer voltages in the lower end of the acceptable range, with the goal of achieving energy and demand reductions for customers.

Time-of-Use rates

Time-of-use metering is a method of measuring and charging a utility customer's energy consumption based on when the energy is used. Utility companies charge more during the time of day when electricity use is higher.

Register for upcoming MESO Events

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](#)

PHOTOS FROM THE DECISION MAKERS CONFERENCE



Household Energy Prices

(continued from page 4)

hotter summer weather than last year. The agency sees electricity sales falling by 0.9 percent in 2023.

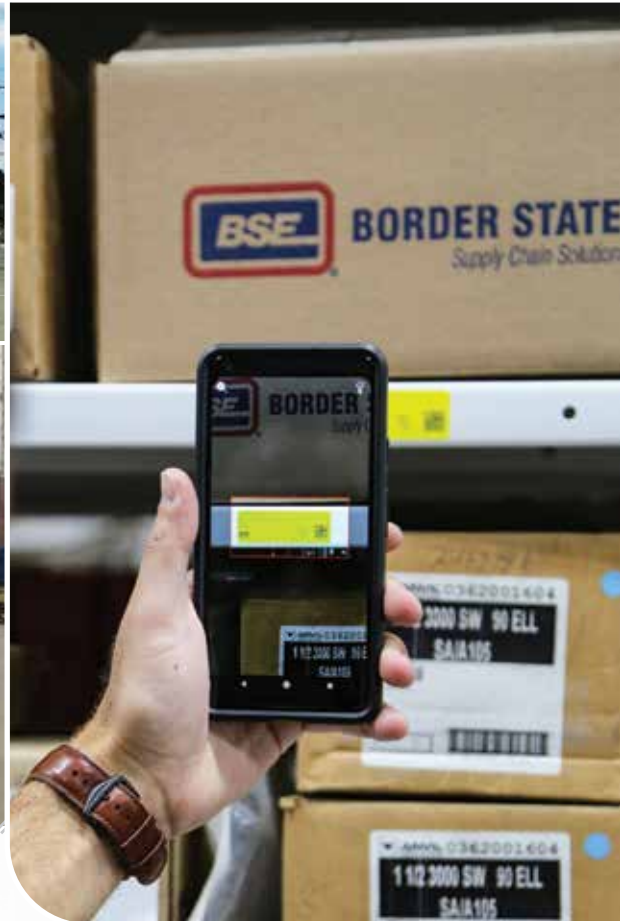
Meanwhile, wholesale electricity prices will be about 20 to 60 percent higher on average this winter with the largest increases likely in New England because of possible natural gas pipeline constraints, reduced fuel inventories for power generation, and uncertainty regarding liquefied natural gas shipments given the tight global supply conditions, the EIA said.

On the residential side, the EIA expects electricity will average 14.9 cents per kilowatt hour in 2022, up 8 percent from 2021, reflecting the expected increase in wholesale power prices driven by higher natural gas prices.

Natural gas will fuel 38 percent of electricity generation in 2022, up from 37 percent in 2021, but will fall to 36 percent in 2023, the EIA forecasts.

Electric generation fired by coal is expected to continue to fall, from 23 percent last year to 20 percent in 2022 and 19 percent in 2023 because of the expected retirement of some coal-fired capacity, the EIA forecasts.

Renewable generation sources, meanwhile, continue to gain ground, providing 22 percent of generation in 2022 and 24 percent in 2023, up from 20 percent in 2021, the EIA said.



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