



Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

July 2022

Professional Development

Invest in your supervisors today, create a strong workforce for tomorrow

Registration is open MESO's first regional training – Supervisor Short Course – hosted by the City of Fairview at meso.org.

The MESO Supervisor Short 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.

As a MESO member benefit, each member municipality who has paid their 2022-23 dues receives one complimentary course registration.

The program meets one day a week with six meeting dates beginning September 13 and includes

12 modules, two presented each training day.

Program Dates and Sessions

- September 13, 2022 – Character & Ethics / The Roles of the Supervisor
- September 20, 2022 – The Power of Respect for Others / Developing Responsible Workers
- September 27, 2022 – Establishing a Change Mentality / Dealing with Conflict
- October 4, 2022 – Communicating Effectively / Project Management
- October 11, 2022 – Understanding Emotional Intelligence / Being Assertive without Being a Bully

(see SUPERVISOR SHORT COURSE, page 9)

Job Training & Safety

MESO offering Underground Residential Distribution Training

The MESO Underground Residential Distribution (URD) Problem Solving 101 training will be July 26-27 in Kingfisher. Registration is open at meso.org.

The training is a two-day class designed to help Public Power professionals who work on URD System Faults.

Participants leave the training with improved skills in three areas: locating faulty cable using different methods, for example, radar and sonar equipment; testing isolated cable to ensure proper grounding; and, repairing damaged or faulty cable

The course schedule is Tuesday, July 26 – 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Registration begins at 8 a.m.) and Wednesday, July 27 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The registration fee for the training is \$199 per person (includes lunches and book).

The training will be held at 313 South 3rd Street, Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Attendees work closely with professionals from other communities in both field and classroom settings. Both journeymen and apprentice lineworkers will gain valuable information to help deal with situations that will come up in their city.

Participants must bring a hard hat, work gloves, long-sleeved shirt, safety glasses (eye protection), hand tools (lineman pliers, 10" adjustable wrench, screwdriver, and hammer), rubber gloves (with glove protectors), and utility uniform.

(see UNDERGROUND RESIDENTIAL, page 4)

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Professional Development

Wanted: Training Hosts

As MESO moves its extended-length professional development training into a regional format, we're looking for Training Hosts.

Training Hosts are member municipalities with a facility conducive to effective training.

"To be considered, the meeting room should be large enough to hold 30 people comfortably at round tables or at table pods," said Tom Rider, General Manager. "Additionally, there must be several restaurants within the area since participants will have lunch on their own."

A member municipality selected to host training receives two complimentary registrations to the event they host.

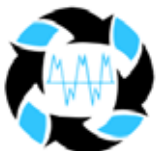
For more information about becoming a Training Host [click here](#) or go to meso.org.

Contact Tom Rider, General Manager, at tom@meso.org or Cheryl Adams, Assistant General Manager, at cheryl@meso.org if you are interested in hosting a training.

SAVE THE DATE!

2022 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo & Safety Training

September 21-22 • Edmond, OK



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From GRDA

GRDA and Wagoner Celebrate 75-year Public Power Partnership

A crowd of approximately 175 people was on hand at the Wagoner Civic Center on Wednesday, June 22, to help Wagoner and the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) celebrate the first 75 years of a longstanding, public power partnership.

GRDA has supplied wholesale electricity to Wagoner since city officials first “flipped the switch” in July 1947. That was just seven years after GRDA had completed the construction of Pensacola Dam. As Oklahoma’s first hydroelectric facility, the dam was capable at the time of producing all the electricity needed to serve several communities in Oklahoma. Ever since, GRDA has supplied wholesale electricity to Wagoner, which is then sold and distributed throughout the community by the Wagoner Public Works Authority (WPWA).

Over the last 75 years both Wagoner and GRDA have grown and developed but the relationship – built on the benefits of public power – has remained strong. One primary benefit is that municipally owned electric distribution systems, like Wagoner’s, are custom fit to meet local needs and are operated and maintained by men and women who call the community home. Also, the revenues generated by WPWA’s electric system stay home in Wagoner, where they can do the most good. Annually, WPWA returns \$500k to city coffers to help fund other city services.

During the ceremony to recognize the partnership, guests heard from Wagoner Mayor Albert Jones, GRDA CEO (and former Wagoner resident) Dan Sullivan, and Wagoner City Administrator/Public Works Director Dwayne Elam. Elam is also the current chairman of the GRDA Board of Directors. They also viewed a video, produced by GRDA, highlighting the partnership and featuring Jones, as well as former Wagoner mayors James Jennings and Kenneth Peters (current special projects director for the Wagoner Public Works Authority).

“We are pleased to have all of you here today to celebrate this important milestone and our partnership with GRDA,” said Elam, addressing the crowd. “It has been a very good partnership for several years and we look forward to many, many more years.”

During his address, Elam also thanked city employees for their efforts and the role they play in bringing public power benefits to Wagoner.



Wagoner Mayor Albert Jones; GRDA President/CEO Dan Sullivan; and, Dwayne Elam, Wagoner City Administrator (and GRDA Board Chairman and MESO Board Member)

In recognizing the history of the partnership and other past successes in Wagoner, Jones told the crowd that “if we can remember the people who came before us and stand on their shoulders, we can see a lot further down the road.”

In the video, he also highlighted the benefits of the partnership with GRDA, that go beyond just wholesale electricity.

“Anytime we need any support or help or engineering services GRDA is there,” said Jones, adding that the relationship also helps with economic development across Wagoner. “Being connected with GRDA helps us with our economic power rates in bringing business and also affordability to keep our rates low for our customers.”

In his address, Sullivan provided an update on current activities at GRDA, and told the crowd his organization works very hard to ensure that it produces and delivers power to customers like Wagoner in the most efficient and reliable manner possible.

“That is what these partnerships are all about, how GRDA can continue to serve communities like Wagoner and make sure the lights stay on and do it all in an affordable and reliable manner,” Sullivan said.

From the American Public Power Association

APPA Analysis Examines Regulated, Deregulated State Power Price Trends

By Paul Ciampoli

Increases in retail electric prices from 1997 to 2021 were about half a cent more in states with deregulated electric markets than in regulated states, though regulated states had a slightly higher percentage increase in prices, according to an American Public Power Association (APPA) analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration.

APPA’s analysis also found that rates increased significantly in all states from 2020 to 2021, largely attributable to a rise in natural gas prices. Average total rates increased by six-tenths of a cent, or 5.7%.

Also, average rates in regulated states increased by 5.3% (from 9.5 cents to 10 cents), compared to a 6.7% increase in deregulated states (from 12 cents to 12.8 cents).

Since 2012, residential rates in deregulated states have increased by 2.5 cents, compared to a 1.4 cent increase in regulated states.

The report reviews data on electric rates in 16 states plus the District of Columbia — those with "retail choice" in place — compared to states that have traditional rate regulation.

The data show that after 24 years of deregulation, the original promise of reduced prices has not materialized, APPA said.

The full report is available [here](#).

From the American Public Power Association: [EIA Forecasts ‘Significant’ Increases In Wholesale Power Prices This Summer](#).

Underground Distribution

(continued from page 1)

Tom Dougherty, MESO Director of Job Training and Safety, and Rusty Brown, Retired Line Foreman (Duncan) and MESO Safety Trainer are the instructors for the course.

GRDA and OMPA are sponsors of the training.

For more information about the training, contact Dougherty at tomd@meso.org. Registration questions may be directed to Deborah Miner-Gonzales, MESO Director of Administration and Finance at deborah@meso.org.

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See "Associates" @ meso.org

SAVE THE DATE!

MESO Decision Makers Conference

November 2-3 • Midwest City, OK

From the American Public Power Association

EIA Forecasts ‘Significant’ Increases In Wholesale Power Prices This Summer

By Peter Maloney

Wholesale electric prices will rise significantly this summer over last summer’s prices, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in its latest Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO).

The Northeast and New York will be hardest hit with expectations of \$153 per megawatt hour (MWh) in ISO New England and \$121/MWh in New York ISO, up from \$50/MWh and \$46/MWh last summer, respectively.

The EIA also expects wholesale electric prices to be over \$100/MWh in the Northwest and MidAtlantic regions with the Northwest reaching \$108/MWh and prices in the PJM Interconnection hitting \$101/MWh, compared with \$91/MWh and \$45/MWh last summer, respectively.

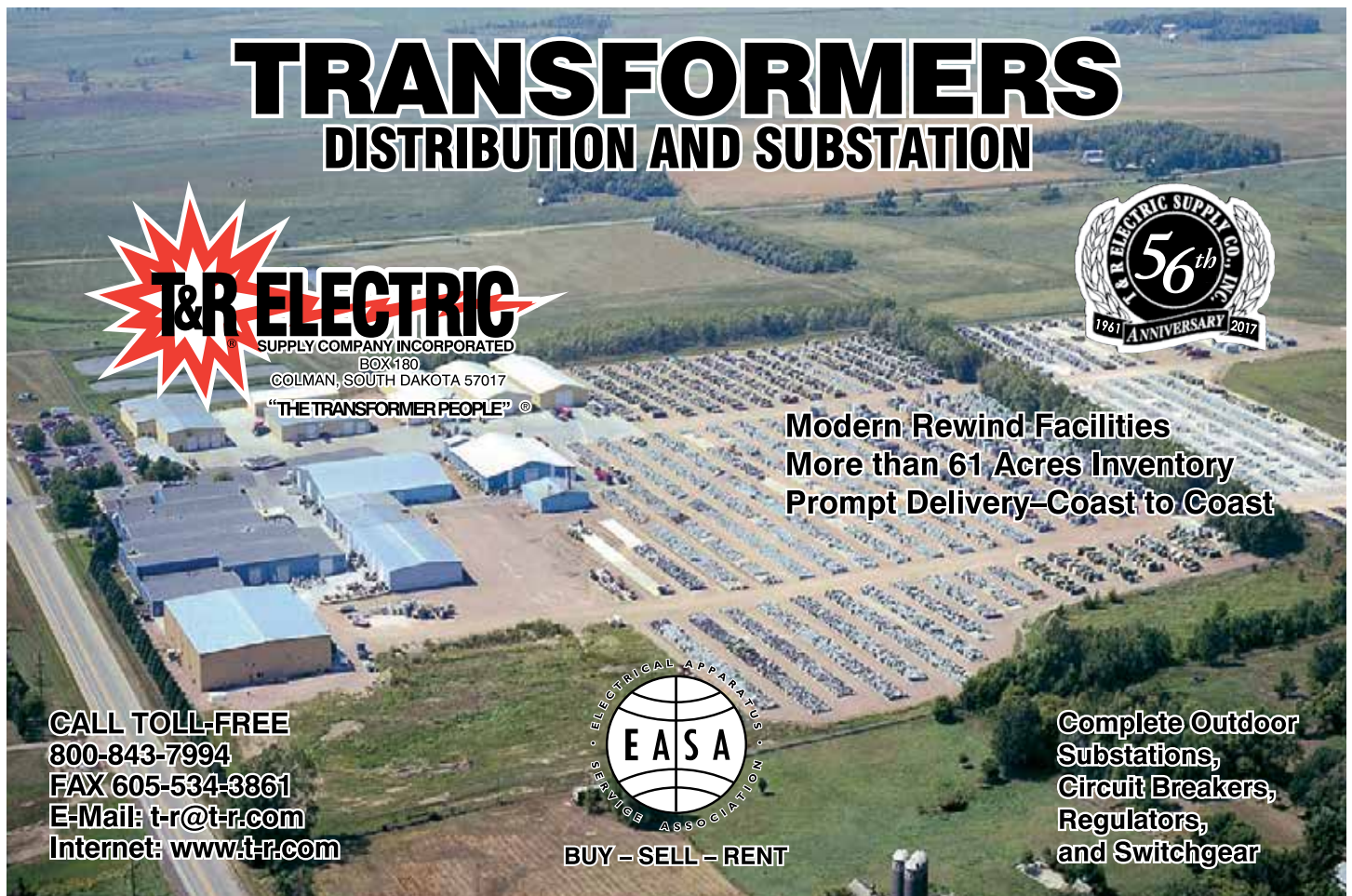
The [STEO forecasts](#) wholesale prices for one price hub in each of the 11 market regions in the continental United States. The wholesale price data in the STEO

reflect the monthly average electricity price in a region during on-peak hours between June and August.


While a variety of factors determine wholesale electricity prices, the cost of fuel for fossil-fuel generators, particularly natural gas, is an important driver in rising electric prices, the EIA said.

Natural gas-fired generation is often the most expensive source of dispatchable marginal generation, and the gas price at the Henry Hub averaged \$8.14 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) in May 2022, compared with \$2.91/MMBtu in May 2021, the EIA noted. “We expect the price of natural gas delivered to electric generators to average \$8.81/MMBtu this summer, up from \$3.93/MMBtu last summer,” the STEO noted.


In the past generators could substitute coal fired generation when the cost of gas-fired generation rose, (see EIA FORECASTS, page 9)




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MESO holds Basic Lineman School

Photos by Shelby Hale, daughter of OMPA's Anthony Hale

Public Power Professionals who attended the MESO Basic Lineman School:

Altus: Richard Carney*, Jesse Harris, Morgan Rogers*, Shane Vermillion

Anadarko: Elvin Sapp

Blackwell: Ryan Jefferson, Jayten Johns, Austin Short

Cushing: Seth Campbell, Joe Hargrove, Gavin Weatherly

Duncan: Bradley Guajardo, Bryan White

Kingfisher: Luke Guthrie*, Joseph Maschino, Justin Mosley, Travis Phillips, Gye Roedel

Marlow: Josh Shepherd

Miami: Sagey Hicks, Justin Parker, Micah Roberson

Pawnee: Thomas Brumley

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Stroud: Chance McLendon, Matthew Taylor

Wagoner: Matt Brown, Tanner Epperson, Colton Risley

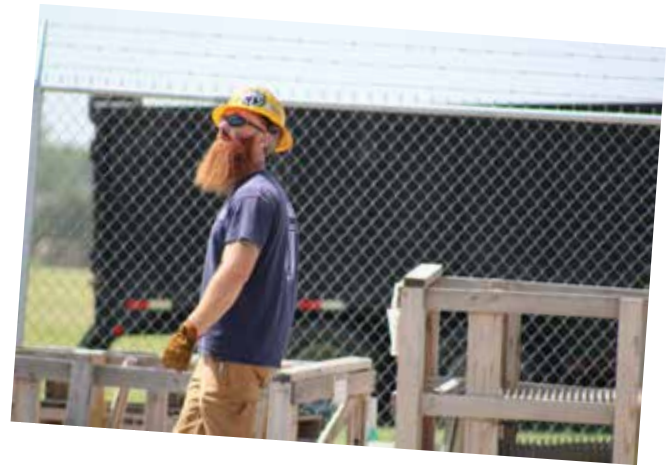
OMPA: Austin Anderson, Chris Christensen, Anthony Hale*, Andrews Knutz, Ryan Ray, Cody Windsor, Tyler Wolf

Tahlequah: Braxus Ford, Jesse Morrison, Rick Patrick*, James Webster

Granite: Devyn Sanders, Creed Willis

*Served as an instructor along with Tom Dougherty, MESO Director of Job Training and Safety, and Rusty Brown, MESO Safety Trainer.





From the American Public Power Association

APPA Seeks Nominations for Three Openings on RP3 Review Panel

The American Public Power Association (APPA) is accepting nominations now through Tuesday, July 5, 2022 for an open position on the [Reliable Public Power Provider \(RP3\) Program Review Panel](#).

APPA's RP3 program is based on industry-recognized leading practices in four important disciplines:

- Reliability
- Safety
- Workforce Development
- System Improvement

A RP3 designation is a sign of a utility's dedication to operating an efficient, safe, and reliable distribution system. Being recognized by the RP3 program demonstrates to community leaders, governing board members, suppliers, and service providers a utility's commitment to its employees, customers, and community. Currently 275 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities hold a RP3 designation.

Each member of the Panel can serve for up to three consecutive two-year terms (for a total of six years), and is expected to attend three meetings per year, one in the spring and two in the fall. The appointed member's first term will begin immediately and expire after two years in 2024 (at the Business

meeting of that year). Please find the position requirements below:

- Small System Representative – APPA member with less than 5,000 customers. General understanding of reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement is required.
- Joint Action Agency/State Association Representative – APPA member from a Joint Action Agency or State Association with a general understanding of reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement is required.
- System Improvement Representative – APPA member with expertise in the system improvement and maintenance aspect of utility operations is required.

More information on the RP3 program is available on the [RP3 website](#). To nominate someone, please click here to download the nomination form:

- [Nomination form \(Word version\)](#)
- [Nomination form \(PDF version\)](#)

The completed nomination form and any supplementary materials should be emailed to RP3@PublicPower.org. If you have questions, contact RP3 Staff at RP3@PublicPower.org or 202-467-2931.

Upcoming MESO Events:

Underground Residential Distribution Problem Solving 101

July 26 – 27 • Kingisher, OK

Supervisor Short Course

September 13 – October 25 • Fariview, OK

2022 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo & Safety Training

September 21 – 22 • Edmond, OK

MESO Suppliers Show

November 1 – 2 • Midwest City, OK

MESO Decision Makers Conference

November 2 – 3 • Midwest City, OK

EIA Forecasts

(continued from page 5)

but in recent months, coal plants have responded less than in the past as an alternative source of generation, most likely as a result of continued [coal capacity retirements](#), constraints in fuel delivery to coal plants, and lower-than-average [stock piles](#) at coal plants, the STEO said.

The EIA forecasts that the share of U.S. generation from coal-fired power plants will decline from 25% last summer to 23% this summer, and natural gas's share will remain relatively constant at 40%.

Other factors could also push wholesale electricity prices higher this summer, the EIA said, including the extended drought in the western United States.

The EIA forecasts a slight increase in [hydroelectric generation in California](#) this summer compared with last summer, but the forecast remains relatively low.

Less hydropower output this summer will likely lead California to generate more electricity from natural gas and to import electricity from neighboring states, the EIA said.

The STEO expects wholesale power prices in the California ISO to reach \$98/MWh compared with \$67/MWh last summer. Prices in the Southwest will be slightly lower, \$97/MWh versus \$82/MWh last summer, according to the STEO.

The Midcontinent ISO and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) will also reach the \$90 mark with MISO hitting \$92/MWh versus \$45/MWh last summer, and ERCOT hitting \$90/MWh versus \$54/MWh last summer, according to STEO forecasts.

The STEO puts Southwest Power Pool (SPP) prices at \$82/MWh compared with \$45/MWh last summer.

The STEO sees wholesale prices in the Southeast (SERC) hitting \$76/MWh versus \$45/MWh last summer, and in Florida (FRCC) the STEO forecasts prices \$66/MWh compared with \$41/MWh last summer.

At the residential level, the STEO forecasts prices will average 14.6 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) between June and August, up 4.8 percent from last summer. Commercial prices will average 12 cents/kWh, a 4.7 percent increase, and industrial prices are expected to average 7.7 cents/kWh, 3.2 percent increase, according to the STEO.

Meanwhile, renewable generation sources are expected to contribute a growing share of electricity production, the STEO said. "We expect renewable energy will provide 22 percent of U.S. generation in 2022 and 24 percent in 2023, up from a share of 20 percent last year," the report said.

The rise in renewable generation is coming from rising levels of new renewable capacity. Solar capacity additions in the electric power sector total 20 gigawatts (GW) for 2022 and 22 GW for 2023, the STEO reported, noting that solar photovoltaic installation delays from 2022 to 2023 account for about 1 GW of the expected installed solar capacity. The STEO also forecasts that small-scale solar systems – less than 1 GW – will grow to 39 GW by year-end 2022 and to 46 GW in 2023.

The STEO estimates that U.S. wind capacity additions will total 11 GW in 2022 and 5 GW in 2023.

Supervisor Short Course

(continued from page 1)

- October 25, 2022 – Performance Management / Delegating

Registration is limited to 30 people and closes on September 2, 2022.

The cost of the program is \$550 per person for MESO members and \$850 for non-members. Click here for complete program details: [MESO Supervisor Short Course – Fairview 2022](#).

Tom Rider, MESO General Manager, will present the course.

Questions about the Supervisor Short Course can be directed to Rider 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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