

# MRES TODAY

March 2025

A NEWSLETTER OF  MISSOURI  
RIVER  
ENERGY SERVICES

## TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS CHANGE THE COURSE OF ENERGY POLICY

On Jan. 22, 2025, the American Public Power Association (APPA) provided an overview of recent energy-related executive actions taken by President Trump since his inauguration on Jan. 20. These actions aim to reshape the nation's energy policies and infrastructure.

### UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY

This executive order (EO) mandates that all federal agencies assess existing regulations, guidance documents, policies, and other actions to identify any that may impede domestic energy resources. The order rescinds several EOs from the previous administration concerning climate change, permitting, and other energy and environmental matters.

Notably, the EO pauses the disbursement of funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Essentially, this means that all IRA and IIJA funding has been paused for at least 90 days, until all the grant disbursements are reviewed. This includes, but is not limited to, funds for electric vehicle charging stations made available through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program and the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program, as well as the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program.

The order also directs the Department of Energy to resume reviews of proposed liquefied natural gas export projects and directs all agencies to adhere to only the relevant legislated requirements for environmental considerations. It also directs the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to consider eliminating the "social cost of carbon" calculation from any federal permitting or regulatory decision. In other words, the order kicks off the EPA's review of the prior administration's greenhouse gas emission rules and other rules impacting the power sector.

Meanwhile, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), under newly appointed Chairman Mark Christie, is unlikely to determine that any of its existing electricity policies are burdensome to domestic energy resources. It is possible that FERC could identify potential revisions and streamlining to its hydropower licensing or pipeline certification rules in order to boost domestic energy production, per APPA.

Subsequent to this EO, newly confirmed Secretary of Energy Chris Wright issued his first Secretarial Order on Feb. 5. It directs the Department of Energy to take immediate action to unleash American energy by supporting efforts to move forward on all generation, regardless of whether it is "green" or not; prioritizing technology development in nuclear and other energy resources; considering exporting liquefied natural gas, strengthening grid reliability and security; and streamline energy permitting.

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from cover)

## DECLARING A NATIONAL ENERGY EMERGENCY

This EO declares a national energy emergency, citing the nation's inadequate dispatchable energy supply and infrastructure as threats to national security and economic well-being.

The order emphasizes the need for a reliable and affordable energy supply to support various sectors, including manufacturing, transportation and defense. It also grants federal agencies emergency authority to expedite the identification, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, and generation of domestic energy resources. Additionally, the order highlights vulnerabilities in energy infrastructure, particularly in the Northeast and West Coast regions, and calls for prompt action to address these issues.

These executive actions reflect the administration's focus on bolstering domestic energy production and infrastructure, with an emphasis on fossil fuels and national security considerations.



## ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL AGENCIES

This EO extends White House administrative control over independent regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission and FERC. It requires independent agencies to submit "major regulatory actions" to the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the White House. This would impose OIRA review and approval requirements on these proposed regulatory actions. Such review, to this point, has been limited to actions of cabinet-

level executive branch departments (and their respective components and agencies), such as the Departments of Justice, Commerce, Agriculture, Homeland Security, Energy and Transportation.

With this extension of authority, it could provide the Administration with the ability to exert more direct control over independent agencies. However, in recent comments to the press, FERC Chairman Mark Christie noted it is typical to align independent agencies with the Administration regarding major initiatives.

*Note: As of this writing (March 19, 2025) the details in this article are accurate and up-to-date.*

## JOIN US FOR OUR 60TH ANNUAL MEETING

Together,  
**EMPOWERING**  
POSSIBILITIES

### REGISTER TODAY!

To register, scan the QR code below or go to [www.mrenergy.com](http://www.mrenergy.com), under the EVENTS tab, or call the MRES office at 605-338-4042.

**Registration deadline is Friday, April 25.**

### ROOM RESERVATIONS

Please make your room reservations directly with the Sheraton Sioux Falls by calling 605-331-0100. Make sure to request the MRES block room rate of \$148 plus taxes.

Book online: <https://bit.ly/BookYourRoomAM25>

**Room reservation deadline is Thursday, April 10.**



### Scan to Register!

Questions, please call  
**605-338-4042** or email  
[info@mrenergy.com](mailto:info@mrenergy.com).

**May 7-8, 2025**

**Sioux Falls Convention Center**

### DETAILS

Visit [www.mrenergy.com/events](http://www.mrenergy.com/events) closer to event for a full agenda.

### New this year!

### PRECONFERENCE MRES ESSENTIALS

### OPENING KEYNOTE

Dennis Pidherny, Managing Director, Public Finance, Fitch Ratings

### PREFERENCE POWER UPDATE

Col. Newbauer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Jim Horan, Mid-West Electric Consumers Association

### POLICY AWARDS

### CHAIR'S REPORT AND BUSINESS MEETING

### FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Samantha "Sam" McDonald, Kanner & Associates

### CLOSING KEYNOTE

Dan Meers, Former KC Chiefs Mascot, Motivational Speaker, Author

### RECEPTION & CASINO NIGHT!



# POWERING THE PLAINS: THE HISTORY OF HYDROPOWER DAMS IN THE UPPER MIDWEST — CANYON FERRY

We're excited to launch a new series highlighting the eight hydropower dams along the Missouri River, showcasing their history, impact and contribution to renewable energy and to MRES. First up is Canyon Ferry Dam, a key structure in Montana that has played a pivotal role in the region's water management and power generation for nearly 70 years. Stay tuned as we explore the stories behind these incredible feats of engineering!

## CANYON FERRY DAM HISTORY

Canyon Ferry Dam is a key structure on the Missouri River in Montana, located about 20 miles east of Helena in the valley where the Big Belt Mountains and Spokane Hills merge. The current concrete dam, completed in 1954 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, replaced an earlier rock-filled timber-crib dam that was built in 1896.



The original dam formed a reservoir called Lake Sewell, and the Montana Power Company built a 7,500-kilowatt power plant adjacent to the old dam. Both the old Canyon Ferry Dam and power plant were dismantled prior to the completion of the new dam and power plant, with the remnants and Lake Sewell eventually becoming inundated by the new reservoir.

The original dam was built primarily for irrigation but proved inadequate for broader regional needs. Severe flooding along the Missouri River in the early 20th century highlighted the need for improved flood control measures. The new dam's construction was kicked off as part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Project, which was authorized by the Flood Control Act in 1944, and it was designed to promote flood control, irrigation, recreation and hydropower production.

Canyon Ferry was constructed to provide regulation of runoff for low-cost power and to permit increased irrigation diversions in the upper Missouri River Basin. With a total

capacity of 2,051,000 acre-feet, Canyon Ferry Reservoir makes possible the irrigation of 155,600 acres of land and supplements irrigation of 82,000 acres in the surrounding region.

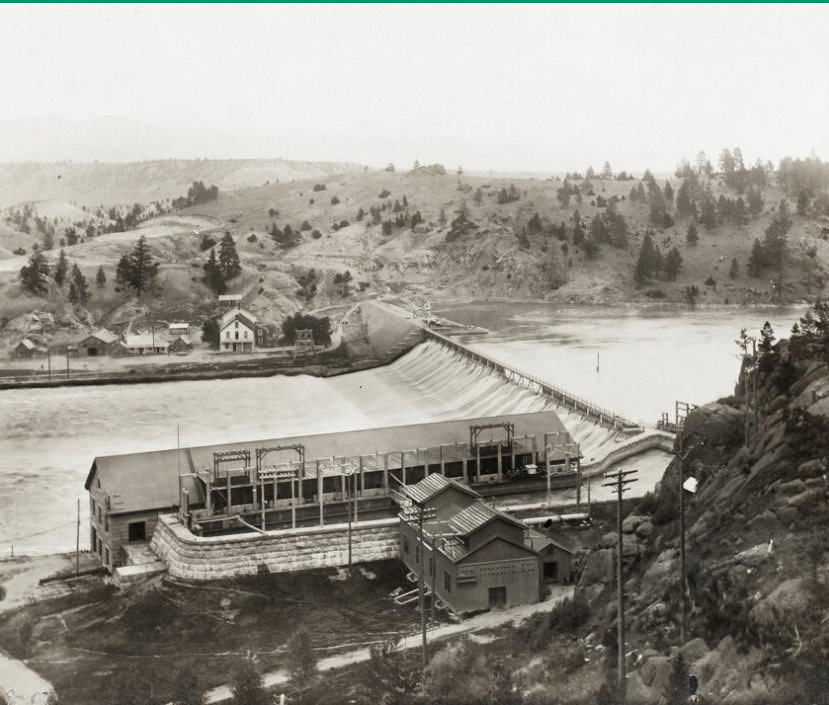
## KEY FEATURES AND HYDROPOWER PRODUCTION

Standing 225 feet high and stretching 1,000 feet across, the dam impounds the Missouri River to create Canyon Ferry Lake, Montana's third-largest body of water. This expansive reservoir holds nearly 2 million acre-feet of water and provides essential services for recreation, irrigation and wildlife habitat.

Canyon Ferry Power Plant is part of the Eastern Division of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and houses three 16.5-megawatt (MW) Francis turbine generators that are capable of producing 50 MWs of clean, renewable energy. Unit 1 began operation in December 1953, and Units 2 and 3 in March 1954.

Today, the energy produced by Canyon Ferry helps meet the power needs of communities across Montana and contributes to the regional power grid. It also remains a vital part of Montana's water management and renewable energy infrastructure, symbolizing the Upper Midwest's enduring connection to the mighty Missouri River.





## CANYON FERRY DAM HISTORICAL AND INTERESTING FACTS

- The original dam submerged the historic mining village of Canton, which had prospered during Montana's gold rush. When the current dam was built, even more of the valley was flooded. St. Joseph Catholic Church, which was originally part of the Canton settlement, was relocated 2.5 miles east to avoid submersion and is now listed on the National Register of Historical Places.
- Three campsites used by the Lewis and Clark Expedition were also flooded by the dam.
- During the construction of the new dam, work crews faced bitterly cold winters and had to manage the logistical challenges of moving massive amounts of concrete and other construction material to the remote site.
- Canyon Ferry Lake has become a popular destination for fishing, boating and camping, drawing thousands of outdoor enthusiasts to its shores and the surrounding region each year.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**MARCH  
27**

### STEAM EXPO

Alexandria, Minnesota  
[alexschools.org/community/steam-expo](http://alexschools.org/community/steam-expo)

**MAY  
1-3**

### TULIP TIME

Pella, Iowa  
[visitpella.com/tulip\\_time](http://visitpella.com/tulip_time)

**MAY  
3**

### SHOUXPERMAN TRIATHALON

Sioux Center, Iowa  
[siouxperman.com](http://siouxperman.com)

**MAY  
7-8**

### MRES ANNUAL MEETING

Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
[mrenergy.com/events](http://mrenergy.com/events)

**MAY  
15-17**

### TULIP FESTIVAL

Orange City, Iowa  
[octulipfestival.com](http://octulipfestival.com)

**MAY  
15-17**

### FESTIVAL OF BIRDS

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota  
[visitdetroitlakes.com/event/festival-of-birds-in-detroit-lakes-minnesota/](http://visitdetroitlakes.com/event/festival-of-birds-in-detroit-lakes-minnesota/)

To have your event listed, send the event's date, name, location and contact information to [info@mrenergy.com](mailto:info@mrenergy.com).

Visit [mrenergy.com/events](http://mrenergy.com/events) to see a full listing of calendar events for MRES and its members.



MRES Events



### HOW SAFE IS YOUR MOBILE DEVICE? *By KnowBe4*

Most of us have a smartphone, but how many of us really think about the security threats faced by these mobile devices?

Mobile devices are vulnerable to many different types of threats. Scammers are increasing their attacks on mobile devices and targeting your phone using malicious applications. Using these methods, they can steal personal and business information without you having any idea what's going on.

Even if you've downloaded a security or antivirus application, securing your smartphone goes beyond these services. Improving your mobile security practices is your best defense against the privacy and security issues associated with your mobile device.

Always remember these best practices to minimize the risk of exploits to your mobile devices:



- 1. Ensure your phone's operating system is always up to date.** Operating systems are often updated in order to fix security flaws. Many malicious threats are caused by security flaws that remain unfixed due to an out-of-date operating system.
- 2. Watch out for malicious apps in your app store.** Official app stores regularly remove applications containing malware, but sometimes these dangerous apps slip past and can be downloaded by unsuspecting users. Do your research, read reviews and pay attention to the number of downloads an app has. Never download applications from sources other than official app stores.
- 3. Ensure applications are not asking for access to things on your phone that are irrelevant to their function.** Applications usually ask for a list of permissions to files, folders, other applications and data before they're downloaded. Don't blindly approve these permissions. If the permission requests seem unnecessary, look for an alternative application in your app store.
- 4. Use strong passwords and avoid weak password protection.** Many people still don't use a password to lock their phone. If your device is lost or stolen, thieves will have easy access to all of the information stored on your phone.
- 5. Be careful with public WiFi.** Scammers use technology that lets them see what you're doing. Avoid logging in to your online services or performing any sensitive transactions (such as banking) over public WiFi.



## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



Did you know Missouri River Energy Services wasn't always our name? Before 1998, we were known as Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency. The name change helped to better reflect that we weren't just selling power; we were providing our members with services in addition to selling electricity.

For six decades, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) has been proud to deliver reliable, affordable and environmentally sensitive electricity to the communities we serve. What started in 1965 has grown into the MRES you know today — evolving, innovating and adapting to meet the needs of a changing energy landscape.

**HERE'S TO THE NEXT 60 YEARS OF POWERING POSSIBILITIES!**

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## BES SUCCESS STORY

### STAPLES-MOTLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES LARGE REBATE AND ONGOING ENERGY SAVINGS

The Staples-Motley School District recently completed a renovation of the middle/high school in Staples, Minnesota, that will provide students and teachers with better lighting and a more comfortable environment while saving the school district energy and money. This follows a similar renovation that was completed at the elementary school last year.

The renovation consisted of lighting upgrades throughout the entire school and new air conditioning equipment, fans and an air-exchange system that will introduce fresh outside air to the building in a highly efficient manner.

Through the Bright Energy Solutions (BES) program, the school received a rebate of over \$40,000 from the City of Staples Utilities for its huge strides in energy efficiency, which will result in lower monthly electrical costs for the school district going forward. Energy efficiency projects such as these also help the utility keep costs down for all citizens by reducing the electrical demand for the city as a whole.

***“I’m enthusiastic about the value of the energy savings over the course of time resulting from the project.”***

Shane Tappe, School Superintendent



*Celebrating the Staples-Motley School District’s BES energy efficiency rebate are, left to right: L-R: Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen, Staples-Motley School Superintendent Shane Tappe, Staples Public Works Director Scott Grabe and MRES Energy Services Field Representative Joe Peters.*

“I’m enthusiastic about the value of the energy savings over the course of time resulting from the project,” said School Superintendent Shane Tappe. “I am also very appreciative of the assistance and work that the City of Staples and Missouri River Energy Services put in to make this rebate happen. It helped make the equipment upgrades more affordable for the school district and helped make this project a reality.”

Visit [brightenergysolutions.com](http://brightenergysolutions.com) or contact your local utility for more information about BES incentives.