

April 2023

MRES® Today

A NEWSLETTER OF



**MISSOURI
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ENERGY SERVICES

MRES develops alternate operations site for added reliability

Providing reliable electric service to our members has always been the cornerstone of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), and an integral aspect of the way we meet our members' daily energy needs takes place in the operations center at MRES headquarters in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Five energy schedulers work at the operations desk 24/7 on a rotating basis, overseeing Missouri River's generation, energy-market and operations activities. They also track emissions, monitor wind, and provide 24-hour surveillance of MRES properties and off-site operations through live video feeds.

The operations center is also where schedulers perform other market activities for MRES member loads and resources in both the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Southwest Power Pool (SPP). These two regional transmission organizations (RTOs) operate the electric grid and are relied upon by members and customers within their respective footprints to generate and transmit the right

amount of electricity every minute of every day. Twenty-eight MRES members are in MISO, and 33 members are in SPP.

A primary responsibility of the energy-scheduling team is to remotely operate and manage MRES generating units. In the event of an energy emergency event when MISO or SPP call for added generation to provide grid stability, energy schedulers engage MRES generating resources from the operations center. They can also notify member municipal contacts and direct members with reserved capacity agreements to generate within a two-hour window.

MRES developed the alternate operations site for business continuity purposes, adding another measure of reliability to our operational goals. The alternate site was designed to look, feel and function in the exact same manner as the operations center at headquarters.

"We had an ongoing action plan in place where schedulers would work from home in the event of an emergency or the

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Peters moves to contractor status

Jeff Peters, who served as vice president of federal and distributed power programs for a number of years, changed status from an MRES employee to a contractor on Jan. 31, 2023.

Peters joined MRES in 1991 and has served the organization and its members in many different roles. In his role as vice president, his major responsibilities included representing members' interests with federal hydropower allocations and addressing distributed energy resource issues.

He was also responsible for directing the MRES strategic planning process, which will transition to Tim Blodgett throughout the year as Blodgett assumes more responsibility in his new role as vice president of member services and communications.

The move is a step toward retirement for Peters, who will continue to represent MRES as a contractor while working on WAPA issues.



Jeff Peters



MRES develops alternate operations site for added reliability *(continued)*



The alternate operations site (right) was set up in an identical fashion to the operations center at the MRES headquarters location (left) so that Missouri River's team of energy schedulers could seamlessly dock their laptops at either location and work in a mirrored environment.

headquarters operations center becomes unavailable for any reason," said Director of Operations Austin Hoekman. "The alternate operations site was a logical next step where we could operate seamlessly in an identical setup to what we have at our headquarters location."

Located in eastern Sioux Falls, the site is a little more than 5 miles away as the crow flies from MRES headquarters, making it unlikely a severe weather event could affect both locations. MRES also chose this location because it offers modern amenities such as secure entry, high-speed internet

and even six fully enclosed empty office spaces should they be needed for any reason.

After the computer and office hardware was in place last fall, the site went through an extensive testing period, verifying the equipment worked days, nights and weekends. Going forward, MRES plans to staff the alternate site for one or two 12-hour shifts each week to stay prepared and ensure that if the need arises, any transition of MRES operations activities to the alternate site will go smoothly.

Carlsrud to be inducted into National High School Hall of Fame

The North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) recently announced in a news release that former NDHSAA Assistant Director Dave Carlsrud of Valley City, North Dakota, will be inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame.

Founded in 1982, the National High School Hall of Fame honors high school athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and others. Carlsrud will be the 10th inductee from North Dakota and is one of 12 inductees being honored this year at a banquet on July 1 during the 104th National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Summer Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

Carlsrud had a profound impact on high school sports at the local, state and national levels for more than 50 years, including 22 years as assistant director (1988-2010) of the NDHSAA. A graduate of Moorhead State University in Moorhead, Minnesota, Carlsrud was a teacher and coach and worked in the sporting-goods industry for many years before joining the NDHSAA staff in 1988.

Carlsrud administered the sports of football, boys basketball, boys ice hockey, baseball and boys golf, and he also organized statewide rules clinics. He was responsible for assigning officials for postseason events in football, boys basketball, baseball and boys ice hockey. Carlsrud was also a football, basketball and wrestling official for 53 years until he retired at the age of 71 in 2017.

Nationally, Carlsrud had major contributions to NFHS rules-writing efforts in the sports of football and wrestling. He was a member of the NFHS Football Rules Committee for 22 years and served on the NFHS Football Editorial Committee and NFHS Football Game Officials Manual Committee. He also served two terms on the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee, including four years as chair, where he was instrumental in passing a rule that helped curb weight-cutting in the sport.

Carlsrud and his wife Sue live in Valley City, where he has served as mayor since 2016. Carlsrud joined the MRES Board of Directors in January 2020 and serves as fourth vice chair.



Dave Carlsrud



MRES members recognized for reliable electric service

Sixteen public power utilities that are members of MRES and one associate have earned national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2022. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (APPA), a trade group representing more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

APPA helps electric utilities track power outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. Once per year, APPA's Reliability Team compares this data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities. The following MRES members outperformed the electric industry's national average for reliability:



- Atlantic Municipal Utilities – Atlantic, Iowa
- Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities – Rock Rapids, Iowa
- ALP Utilities – Alexandria, Minnesota
- City of Barnesville – Barnesville, Minnesota
- City of Ortonville – Ortonville, Minnesota
- City of Staples – Staples, Minnesota
- Detroit Lakes Public Utilities – Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
- Hutchinson Utilities Commission – Hutchinson, Minnesota
- Marshall Municipal Utilities – Marshall, Minnesota
- Melrose Public Utilities – Melrose, Minnesota
- Moorhead Public Service – Moorhead, Minnesota

- Sauk Centre Public Utilities Commission – Sauk Centre, Minnesota
- Willmar Municipal Utilities – Willmar, Minnesota
- Worthington Public Utilities – Worthington, Minnesota
- Pierre Municipal Utilities – Pierre, South Dakota
- Watertown Municipal Utilities – Watertown, South Dakota

MRES Associate Olivia (Minnesota) Public Utilities also was recognized for achieving exceptional electric reliability. MRES provides distribution maintenance services to the City of Olivia, which includes system maintenance and outage response.

Electric reliability is measured using four different metrics. The 2022 results for these MRES member utilities were significantly better than those of other types of utilities in the region in every category. Nationwide, the average public power customer has their lights out for less than half the amount of time that customers of other types of utilities do.

“Customers place a high value on reliable electric service, and it’s also a top priority for MRES and every member,” said Tom Heller, MRES president and CEO. “Our members take great pride in receiving this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all their lineworkers and utility staff in each of these communities to ensure that they keep their local community powered.”

For more information, contact MRES Vice President of Member Services and Communications Joni Livingston at 605-338-4042 or info@mrenergy.com.

MRES enhances member generation program

Grid reliability was the top concern listed during Missouri River’s 2022 member survey. In response, MRES updated an important aspect of its power supply program — member generation.

As of fall 2022, Missouri River had reserved capacity agreements (RCAs) in place with 19 members for nearly 142 megawatts of member-owned generation through 2052. To encourage more participation in the program, the MRES Board recently approved a new RCA, which, among other things, substantially increases the rate it pays members to cover a larger portion of the costs.

In addition, MRES hosted a Member Generation Workshop in mid-March in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. More than 40 representatives from 27 member communities attended the two-day event, which featured presentations on permitting, construction, transmission, distribution, and financing and payment. Design engineers, vendors and MRES staff

members were also on hand to answer questions about equipment and project development.

“RCAs are a win-win deal for participating members and Missouri River, as they have proven to be economical, efficient ways to meet capacity needs and enhance reliability both locally and regionally,” said MRES Vice President of Power Supply and Operations Terry Wolf. “The intent of the workshop was not only to provide additional information and resources to members that might add future generation, but it was also so we could listen and respond to questions and concerns those same members might have about what participating in the program could mean for their utility and their community.”

For more information on Missouri River’s member generation programs, contact Wolf at 605-338-4042 or info@mrenergy.com.



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Member profile — Winner, South Dakota

Located in south-central South Dakota at the crossroads of state Highway 44 and U.S. Highway 18, Winner is the county seat for Tripp County. Interestingly, how it came to be the county seat is also how Winner got its name, because it was the “winner” in the struggle to establish a town along the railroad line when the Chicago North Western railroad company began moving west in 1909. According to the Winner school district’s website, Lamro was the first county seat. However, Lamro was a few miles away from the proposed railroad line, so a new town was organized and given the name Winner.

Winner has a long, proud history of farming and ranching, which still drive the local economy today. In fact, Tripp County is the largest cattle producer in South Dakota.

The Winner area is also a paradise for sportsmen and women. With open prairies and rolling hills stretching for miles, Winner is a dream destination for hunters seeking world-class hunting opportunities for pheasants, deer and turkeys. Fishing is also a big part of the outdoor scene, as Lake Francis Case and the Missouri River are a scenic 30-mile drive away.

The Winner community is full of must-see attractions, starting with the Winner Drive-In Theatre, which has been in operation since 1950 and is one of very few outdoor theaters left in South Dakota. The drive-in accommodates up to 375 cars, includes a section of outdoor stadium seats and has a playground for kids.

Another must-see attraction is Leahy Bowl, one of South Dakota’s most iconic baseball fields. Built into a hillside in 1948, spectators can park their cars and watch baseball games from a high vantage point. The ballpark is named after Notre Dame football coaching legend — and Winner High School standout — Frank Leahy.

Winner Municipal Utilities (WMU) was established in 1948 and will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year. WMU joined MRES in 1974 and currently provides electric, water and wastewater services to roughly 2,900 residents and over 300 businesses. Public Works Director Troy Kruger is the official representative to MRES, while Electric Superintendent Curtis Hawkinson is the alternate.

Leahy Bowl
Photo courtesy of the City of Winner

