

MRES TODAY

August 2023

A NEWSLETTER OF



MRES REBRANDS SCHOOL PROGRAM, KICKS OFF 11TH YEAR

For the past decade, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) has offered the Bright Energy Solutions[®] Power Team school program as a way for its member utilities to engage with their customers on several levels — local schools, teachers, students and student families. The program will continue for the upcoming school year, but it has been rebranded with a new name and a new logo.



Now called the MRES Smart Energy Squad, the turnkey school program is the perfect opportunity for members to help educate local students about the importance of energy efficiency, sources of electricity and renewable energy in a fun and interactive way. Designed for fifth-grade students, the program offers digital tools, content customization, student kits, and kit production and delivery. In addition to these updated materials, online teacher, parent and student portals are available that can be co-branded with member utility logos and the MRES logo.

Here are some key benefits of the Smart Energy Squad program:

- The curriculum is already prepared and includes forms of energy, as well as how utilities deliver power to homes and businesses, conserving energy at home and measuring energy consumption.
- Charts are included that show teachers how the curriculum meets state standards in math, science and language arts.
- The student kit — branded with the member utility's logo — includes activities for students to complete at home with their families. It also contains two ENERGY STAR[®] LED bulbs, two LED night lights, a digital thermometer, a quick start guide, a reminder sticker and a magnet pack.
- Students can win prizes by entering energy-efficiency photo and video contests.
- At the end of the school year, final program reports will be sent to member utilities to evaluate the success of the school program.

The cost of the program has decreased from \$40 per student to \$32 per student, which hopefully will encourage more participation and engagement between members and the communities and school districts they serve.



PROGRAM FEES:

- MRES pays for 50% of the program
- The cost per student is about \$32, which means it only costs the utility \$16 per student
- Students and teachers do not pay for any of the materials and activities

For more information or to enroll in the program, contact MRES Member Services Representative Jody Peck at **605-338-4042** or info@mrenergy.com.

PUBLIC POWER WEEK — OCT. 1-7



Every year, public power utilities across the U.S. celebrate Public Power Week the first week of October to highlight the unique attributes and benefits of not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. The idea behind Public Power Week is to promote an understanding and appreciation of public power communities and the benefits the local municipal electric utility provides to those communities.

During Public Power Week, utilities find special ways to engage with their customers, including community service projects, safety demonstrations, parades, barbecues and other festivities.

The key messages of Public Power Week are that public power utilities:

- Provide excellent and responsive customer service in their communities
- Care about local jobs and supporting the local economy
- Are uniquely accountable to their communities due to local governance (typically utility boards or city councils) and not distant shareholders
- Focus on the specific needs of their communities

To help municipal utilities connect with the communities they serve, the American Public Power Association has an entire web page that has resources specifically designed for this year's celebration. The page has videos, social media packages, coloring sheets for kids and much more.

To download these resources or learn more about Public Power Week, please go to:

www.publicpower.org/event/public-power-week

ORANGE CITY DEDICATES NEW PARK

Orange City, Iowa, recently celebrated its new state-of-the-art recreational facility for people of all ages and abilities. The MRES member community held a grand opening and ribbon cutting on July 20.

According to a news release posted on Orange City's website, Puddle Jumper Park marks a significant milestone in the community's commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment. Designed with accessibility in mind, children with a wide range of abilities will be challenged to develop their movement skills in the playground.

For example, the park features an accessible zipline, splash

pad with ground-level spray features and a zero-entry merry-go-round. Underneath it all is a safety surface specifically designed to accommodate individuals with mobility challenges, including wheelchairs.

The new park's location, right off the existing Puddle Jumper Trail, makes it easily accessible to residents and visitors alike. As an added bonus, the park seamlessly blends into the existing trail network and will supplement the growth of the city's new housing developments.

A significant portion of funding for the park was from a power supply refund MRES provided to members in 2020.

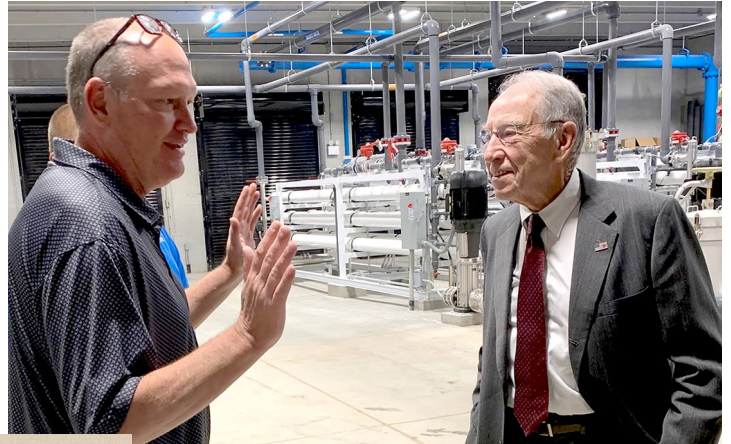


*Photos courtesy of
City of Orange City*

MRES DELEGATIONS CONTINUE MEETING WITH FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

Recently, policymakers and utility staff from MRES member communities were able to meet with two members of the U.S. Congress to discuss the challenges facing MRES members, associates and the energy industry.

In Minnesota, a meeting was held in Delano on July 31 with Rep. Tom Emmer (R-6th District), who is currently the House Majority Whip. Delano is an associate of MRES. Items discussed during the meeting included energy issues facing MRES members and the industry, including resource adequacy, cybersecurity, grid security and municipal tax issues.



Sanborn City Administrator Jim Zeutenhorst (left) speaks with Sen. Chuck Grassley during a tour of Sanborn's new water treatment plant.



From left: MRES and WMMPA Board Member Rob Wolfington (Benson, Minnesota), Delano City Council Member Mike Mathisen, Rep. Tom Emmer, MRES Vice President of Government Relations Deb Birgen, Willmar Municipal Utilities General Manager John Harren, and MRES President and CEO Matt Schull.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) was in Sanborn Aug. 3 to meet with municipal utility representatives from Atlantic, Denison, Orange City, Paullina, Primghar, Rock Rapids, Sanborn and Sioux Center.

These meetings were in addition to several meetings held this past July during the annual American Public Power Association's Policy Makers Council meeting in Washington, D.C.

MRES COMPLIANT WITH NERC STANDARD

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) recently notified MRES that the organization is compliant with the MOD-032 standard. This standard provides an accurate and up-to-date representation of a utility's electric system so that regional transmission organizations (RTOs) can create models of a utility's footprint that could be used in various studies.

To comply with the MOD-032 standard, MRES completed an extensive self-certification process, using a workbook as a guide to gather evidence that the organization fulfilled the required tasks. The process is made even more complex because MRES has members in two RTOs — 28 members in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator and 33 members in the Southwest Power Pool — which essentially doubles the amount of work involved.



MRES LEGAL SEMINAR — OCT. 6

City attorneys are invited to attend the MRES® Legal Seminar, which will be held Oct. 6 at Missouri River's headquarters in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The theme for this year's seminar is "Maintaining a Reliable and Secure Energy Future."



The seminar schedule includes the following topics:

- Clean Air Act permitting and compliance
- FERC updates, including rate impacts on transmission cost allocation and other hot topics
- The impact of ChatGPT on the electric industry
- State and federal regulatory updates

MRES is applying for 5.0 hours of continuing legal education (CLE) credits in Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota. MRES is also requesting 5.0 hours of CLE through the National Association of Legal Assistants. MRES will certify attendance for professional engineers upon request.

The seminar fee is \$200 for lawyers and \$75 for non-lawyers, and the deadline to register is Sept. 22.

To register for the event, go to mrenergy.com/events. For more information, contact Paralegal Tasha Altmann at info@mrenergy.com or 605-338-4042.

Any organization that's associated with electrical generation, transmission and interconnection of the bulk power system in the United States, Canada and part of Mexico is subject to NERC standards. What's more, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) authorizes NERC to monitor these standards for compliance to ensure the reliability, integrity and security of critical infrastructure associated with the electric utility industry.

NERC has standards in place that cover many business functions, such as facility planning, emergency preparedness, voltage and balancing, and interconnectivity. The standards include elements for communication, personnel, training, and cybersecurity and physical security in the electric utility industry.

EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST
25-26

POTATO DAYS
Barnesville, Minnesota
potatodays.com

SEPT
6-7

MUNICIPAL POWER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
MRES Office
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
mrenergy.com/events

SEPT
15-16

TRI CITY BBQ FEST
Denison, Iowa
tricitybbq.com

SEPT
15-16

ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL
Hutchinson, Minnesota
explorehutchinson.com

SEPT
15-16

KING TURKEY DAY
Worthington, Minnesota
kingturkeyday.org

SEPT
22-23

COCA-COLA DAYS
Atlantic, Iowa
atlanticiowa.com

SEPT
23-24

BARN FESTIVAL
Remsen, Iowa
remsenbarnfestival.org

SEPT
27-28

MRES® TECHNOLOGY DAYS
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
mrenergy.com/events

SEPT
30

APPLEFEST
Woodbine, Iowa
woodbineia.com/applefest

To have your event listed, send the event's date, name, location and contact information to info@mrenergy.com. To be considered for print, information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to the event. Visit mrenergy.com/events to see a full listing of calendar events for MRES and its members.

MISSOURI RIVER RESERVOIR INFLOWS DECLINING DUE TO DRY, WARM CONDITIONS

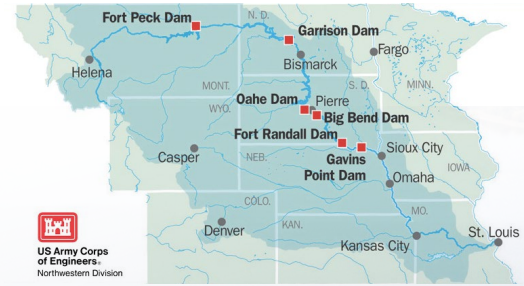
In its monthly update on the Missouri River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) said July runoff in the upper Missouri River basin above Sioux City, Iowa, was 99% of average. More specifically, runoff was near or above average in all reaches except the Fort Peck area, which was 68% of average.

“Soil moisture conditions deteriorated in Montana, North Dakota and northern South Dakota over the last month and improved across southern South Dakota and into the lower basin,” said John Remus, chief of the USACE’s Missouri River Basin Water Management Division.

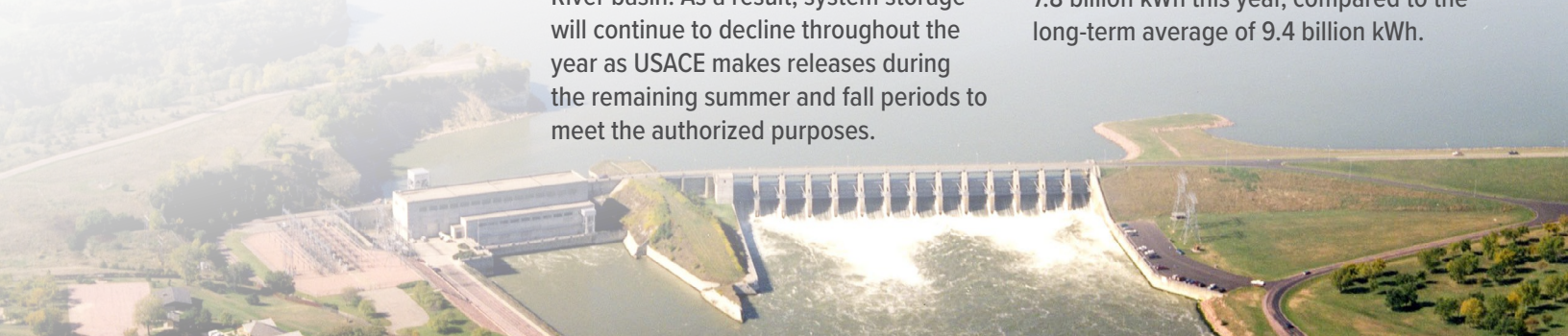
Precipitation was below normal over most of the upper Missouri River basin in July except for small areas in Wyoming and southern South Dakota. The lower basin saw a mix of above- and below-normal precipitation.

System storage peaked on July 22 at 56.6 million-acre-feet (MAF). System storage on Aug. 1 was 56.3 MAF, which is 0.2 MAF above the base of the Annual Flood Control and Multiple Use Zone.

After peaking in late July, reservoir inflows have been declining due to the warmer and drier conditions in the upper Missouri River basin. As a result, system storage will continue to decline throughout the year as USACE makes releases during the remaining summer and fall periods to meet the authorized purposes.



The six mainstem power plants generated 877 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity in July. Typical energy generation for July is 956 million kWh. The power plants are expected to generate 7.8 billion kWh this year, compared to the long-term average of 9.4 billion kWh.

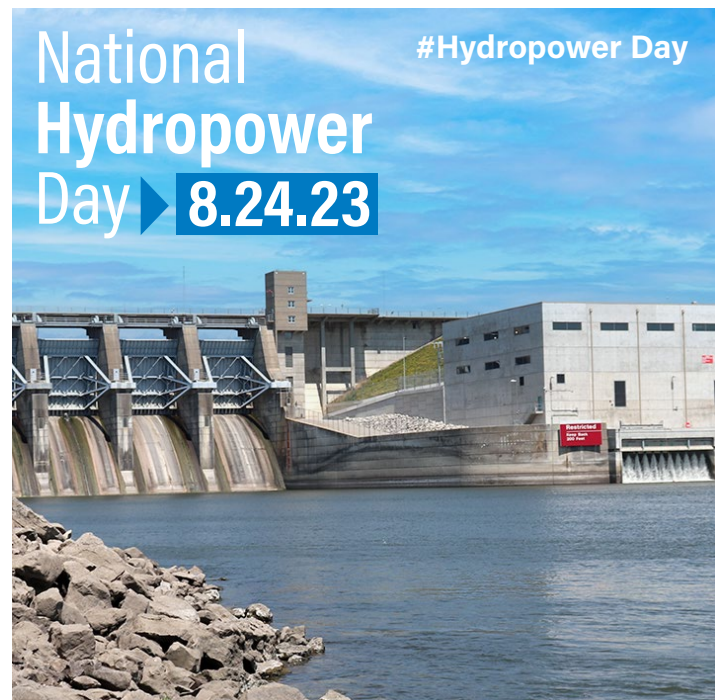


CELEBRATE NATIONAL HYDROPOWER DAY!

On Aug. 24, utilities across the nation will celebrate National Hydropower Day and its contributions to the energy industry over the last 135 years. Hydropower is the second largest renewable energy source in the U.S., but many people aren’t aware of the value hydropower provides as a climate solution, the role it plays in strengthening the health of our rivers, its ability to integrate other renewables into the grid, or how many jobs its operations and supply chain provide.

MRES was originally formed to help municipal utilities obtain an allocation of hydropower generated from the dams on the Missouri River. Today, all but two of our MRES members have allocations of hydroelectricity from the Western Area Power Administration. These MRES members, on average, receive about 40% of their electricity from this clean, renewable resource.

Missouri River’s Red Rock Hydroelectric Project is located at the existing Red Rock Dam on the Des Moines River near Pella, Iowa. MRES began construction of RRHP in 2014, and the project began commercial operation in Spring 2021. It is financed and owned by the Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMPMA).



MEMBER PROFILE - PELLA, IOWA



In 1847, a group of immigrants from the Netherlands set sail for the United States on four ships to escape religious persecution. After a long journey, they eventually settled in south-central Iowa on the divide between the Des Moines and Skunk rivers. These Dutch immigrants named their new home Pella in honor of the ancient city of Pella, which is in present-day Jordan. While not mentioned in the Bible, the city earned a spot in church history when it became a refuge for Christians fleeing Jerusalem when the Jewish rebellion against Rome started in the first century.

Today, Pella still radiates an authentic Dutch atmosphere and does not shy away from its Dutch heritage. Dutch-inspired architecture, cuisine, windmills and gardens are everywhere you look, and the Pella high school sports teams are called ... you guessed it, the Dutch.



In the same vein, Pella hosts its annual Tulip Time celebration during the first weekend of May. For three days the town comes alive with thousands of tulips. Dutch food is served, Dutch attire is worn by residents and the town welcomes thousands of visitors eager to



celebrate its Dutch heritage. Two celebratory parades each day, a Dutch Market, street vendors and a historical village highlight the events of the busy weekend.

Major companies with headquarters within the community are Pella Windows, Vermeer and Pella Regional Health. Central College is a private, four-year liberal arts college that also calls Pella home, and it currently has a total undergraduate enrollment of more than 1,150 students.

The City of Pella established its municipal electric utility in 1909 and joined MRES in 2011. Today, the City of Pella provides the town's 10,000 residents with electric, water and wastewater services. Electric Director Nate Spurgeon serves as the official representative to MRES, while City Administrator Mike Nardini is the alternate.