MEAG Power's Board Government Affairs Committee Members* and MEAG Power staff and guests** recently went to Washington, D.C. The group met with both Georgia senators and staff members from all of Georgia's congressional districts as well as staff members of the Senate Republican Counsel and House Energy & Commerce Committee. Paul Warfel, MEAG Power's Director of Government and Corporate Affairs, tells us a little bit about their trip.

**current**: What was the objective of the trip?

Warfel: The purpose of the trip to the Capitol was to reinforce communication of MEAG Power's most important priorities. We asked the Georgia delegation to engage in the discussions pertaining to such topics as production tax credits, net metering and cybersecurity.

**current**: What was your impression of the mood in Washington toward energy?

Warfel: In the majority of Georgia's congressional offices, we sensed concern regarding current energy trends. Concern for the effects of CO2 regulation on Georgians, and a growing awareness of the issue of cybersecurity, seemed to be popular topics. However, any unease was coupled with a sense of optimism in light of the stay placed by the Supreme Court on EPA's Clean Power Plan and the progress being achieved at Plant Vogtle, which will provide Georgians with an emissions-free source of power at a stable cost for many decades.

**current**: How do you think you fared with the congressional members you saw?

Warfel: We continue to receive positive feedback on MEAG Power's legislative priorities. Visits to each House member's office and meetings with Senators Isakson and Perdue were well-received. They are always very appreciative to see MEAG Power leadership and elected officials from “back home.”

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Plant Hatch Unit #1 The refueling outage of this unit was completed on March 5th in the shortest time ever, a record 25 days, 20 hours.

MEAG Power/Power Supply The organization has completed another multi-month fixed price sales contract and will sell 100 MW on a monthly basis, June to October, to Florida Power & Light.

MEAG Power/Gas Units Due to the low cost of natural gas, the Wansley Combined Cycle Facility has been operating as baseload generation.

MEAG Power/Telecommunications Project As of year-end 2015, the debt related to this project has been completely paid off.

Georgia The state experienced a record increase in total trade for the sixth consecutive calendar year, maintaining its national ranking as the 11th largest exporting state and seventh largest importing state in the country.

Atlanta U.S. News and World Report magazine ranked Atlanta #61 on its list of Best Places to Live in the country. Also, the city has been designated a TechHire City by the White House, which means it is committed to creating pathways to better, well-paying tech jobs to meet employer demand.

NERC The North American Electric Reliability Corporation is cautioning state electricity and environmental regulators to consider the reliability elements impacted by the development of state plans for Clean Power Plan compliance, if and when these plans are made mandatory. NERC highlights several areas that must be considered prior to the implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency’s rule, including reserve margins and the timing of new generation resources and transmission projects.

EPA/Clean Water Act The president has vetoed the congressional legislation passed by the House and Senate to stop the Waters of the United States rule. The Senate did not have enough votes to override the veto. The rule, however, is not presently in effect, as a federal court has issued a stay.

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* Mayor Keith Brady; Mayor Larry Guest; Mayor Greg Thompson; Mayor Steve Tumlin; Mayor Bill Yearns; Steve Rentfrow, MEAG Power Board Chairman

**Jim Fuller; Doug Lego; Paul Warfel; Bob Johnston; Frank Crane

Near Record Year-end Settlement

While Participants can look forward to the second highest year-end settlement in our history ($38.5 million), MEAG Power is cautioning that the 2015 settlement, similar to strong settlements in the past, has been in part the result of one-time occurrences. It is possible that these one-time true-ups may not be there in the future. "We are encouraging Participants to think seriously about reserving some, if not all, of their settlement funds," said Jim Fuller, MEAG Power President and CEO. "Doing so, we believe, will put Participant communities in a more favorable position given future risks and market uncertainties. While it is understandable that such contingency planning is especially difficult for those Participants who are being impacted by the low energy market," he continued, "any funds that can be put aside would be beneficial in the long term, particularly those in the Plant Vogtle expansion."
Dick Morrow is not new to public service. He was first in public office with the county government leadership and then the city commission in 2005. He served as mayor pro tem before being appointed as mayor in January 2016. Dick is a local business owner and has a bachelor of science in mathematics from Washington University. He is a retired Delta Air Lines pilot and a former F-100 fighter pilot.

Why did you want to be mayor?
I love solving problems and fixing things, and with the team we have in Griffin, it is very rewarding to see progress in our community. For instance, the utility leadership has been instrumental in being an agent of change. We re-engineered customer service and rebuilt the distribution system. I am proud of the efficiencies we have obtained. Technology such as AMI for the electric and water utilities prompts increased productivity. Our city manager has also found efficiencies throughout the governmental side of the organization.

What is best part of being mayor?
Making a difference for our citizens is the best part. We have lowered taxes twice since I have been on the commission. We have created efficiencies in terms of processes, personnel and at the same time crafted a customer-friendly culture. We probably are the only community with a citizen engagement specialist at the helm of public relations. That title reflects our commitment to communication with our citizens.

What do you value about your relationship with MEAG Power?
The electric system is the single largest funding source for government operations. It is an incredible asset and a huge draw in economic growth. Competitively priced wholesale electricity from MEAG Power helps us win new industry.

We also appreciate the financial and operational support MEAG Power provides to us.

Congratulations
Mayor Janquell Peters of East Point has become a member of the American Public Power Association (APPA) Policy Makers Council. The council assists APPA in promoting or opposing federal legislation that is important to public power systems. The council also provides advice on other issues of importance to APPA. Members of the council serve a one-year term and meet a minimum of twice a year. They also participate in meetings with elected representatives and congressional staff for the purposes of supporting APPA’s national legislative agenda. The council is made up of 40 members who serve on either utility boards or are elected officials in public power communities.

Check Out the MEAG POWER WEBSITE
If you haven’t had a chance to read an interview with Jim Fuller concerning his new role as president and CEO, it is posted on the MEAG Power website. We think you will enjoy a chance to read some of his thinking. Also, don’t forget that your community’s Profile is posted on the website. If it needs updating, please contact Elaine Koster @ 770-563-0326 or ekoster@meagpower.org with any suggested changes.

NEIGHBORS

Acworth As part of Acworth’s larger downtown revitalization plans, the city was approved to build an $11 million recreation facility next year. The facility will be the first public recreation center in the city.

Albany A new logo has been created that will be used citywide as part of a branding campaign designed to unite the city’s various departments under one umbrella. The brightly colored City of Albany logo was approved by the city commissioners. Additionally, Albany will be the home of the new Commodore Conyers College & Career Academy.

East Point A former General Services Administration warehouse is being developed into a 438,500 square-foot project that represents $20 million in redevelopment funding. It will be known as Creekside at Langford Distribution Corridor.

Fort Valley Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture has created a new state-of-the-art 25,000 square-foot Family Development Complex that will assist in research, teaching and the extension of services.

2016 MAKE A NOTE

MEAG Power Board Meetings
May 19
June TBD

MEAG Power Annual Meeting
July 11-13

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