

Public Power Outages and Rates

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), public power utility customers experienced the lowest instances of power outages in both frequency and duration in 2016, averaging one outage and less than two hours of interrupted electric service. Also, according to the American Public Power Association (APPA), public power utility rates in 2016 were on average 14% lower than investor-owned utilities for residential customers and 6% lower for commercial customers.

Yucca Mountain On June 1, 2018, the House of Representatives cleared nuclear waste legislation that would invigorate the stalled Yucca Mountain repository while also establishing an interim storage facility for spent nuclear waste. However, the bill's sponsor, Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.), said he doesn't expect to see the bill taken up in the Senate, where Yucca opponent Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) faces a competitive reelection.

EPA On July 5, 2018, Andrew Wheeler, EPA Deputy Administrator, was appointed by President Trump to serve as Acting Administrator. Wheeler succeeds Scott Pruitt, who resigned the same day.

Clean Power Plan (CPP) On August 21, President Trump unveiled the administration's new Affordable Clean Energy Proposal. It gives states the leeway to set their own carbon emissions standards for coal-fueled power plants. The EPA believes that this new plan can deliver the benefits the Obama CPP intended but do so without the steep carbon emissions reductions which that plan mandated. The public comment period on this new proposal is still open and should conclude this Fall.

Water Wars On June 27, 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court sent the Florida versus Georgia case back to the expert judge (special master) that had ruled Florida's argument should be dismissed. The Court ordered him to revisit key aspects of the case and try to reach an equitable sharing decision. This judge will set a timetable for a second round of hearings which could go on months or even a year.

MEAG POWER 2018 ANNUAL MEETING



Thank you to all those who attended the MEAG Power 2018 Annual Meeting. We appreciate your participation and sincerely hope that you enjoyed the program and the opportunity to converse with your Participant colleagues.

The first order of business at the Annual Meeting was the MEAG Power Board elections. We congratulate Terrell Jacobs with the City of Douglas, Steve Tumlin with the City of Marietta and Bill Yearta with the City of Sylvester who were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board.

Greg Thompson, MEAG Power's Board Chairman, welcomed everyone and Jim Fuller, MEAG Power's President and CEO, shared his thoughts on the organization's current and future position. "We are in a good spot," said Mr. Fuller. "Our wholesale power rates are level; we have some of the lowest emission generation in the region and we have declining debt service on our operating fleet." As for the challenges ahead, he reiterated the status of excess capacity, the impact of low natural gas prices and the low utilization of the coal facilities, the complexity of Plant Vogtle's ongoing construction and the overall low load growth scenario.

The remainder of the program included presentations by three informative guest speakers. Meena Dayak, with the American Public Power Association, spoke about the importance of communicating the pluses of public power and encouraged everyone to step up their efforts in this area. Bill Crane, with CSI Crane, LLC, outlined the political landscape at the state and federal level and John Di Stasio, with the Large Public Power Council, discussed many of the trends that are impacting the utility market.

The Annual Meeting also included a trio of break-out sessions: one on economic development; another on the investor-owned utility financial market and its consequences for public power; and a third on cybersecurity and grant opportunities. All three gave the audiences much to think about as they returned to their hometowns.

That evening, MEAG Power honored two employees with this year's President's Award. Dale Dyer, Assistant to the President and Chief Executive Officer, was recognized for her outstanding character and gracious example of professionalism. The second recipient was Brad Spooner, Manager, Environmental Affairs. Brad recently retired but his unending work to monitor legislation and the many regulations surrounding public power and the energy industry has always been exceptional.

Plans have already begun for MEAG Power's 2019 Annual Meeting and we sincerely hope you will join us next July.



Adel Tift Regional Health System is constructing a new facility which is a replacement for The Cook Medical Center. The cost for the new facility is estimated at \$40 million.

Buford Gezolan, a German company that makes synthetic rubber-like granules that provide durable surfaces for a wide variety of uses ranging from playgrounds to track and field venues, is opening a new facility in Buford.

Cartersville Plans have been announced for a new industrial park including developing 62 acres and building six different facilities totaling 380,000 square feet.

Hogansville The Hogansville City Council has approved a downtown master plan. Such a plan is required to apply for the state's rural investment zones, which is a new program that applies tax credits to new and existing businesses in distressed downtown areas. No more than 10 small cities will receive this designation each year out of the 450 cities that qualify.

Lawrenceville A developer is working with the city and the Novare Group on a 37-acre, \$200 million mixed use redevelopment that will have street level retail as well as 600 residential units and walkable green spaces. The city also released details for its \$26 million arts center expansion.

Moultrie A new medical school, Philadelphia College of Medicine (PCOM), is set to begin classes in Moultrie in August 2019. PCOM officials said that their emphasis is on helping to address the medical needs of the nearby communities by drawing students from the area who will in turn help address the need for more physicians in the region.

2018 MAKE A NOTE

MEAG Power Board Meeting

September 20, 2018
October 18, 2018 (Albany)

MEAG Power Mayors Summit

November 9-11, 2018

MEET YOUR *colleagues*



Ames Barnett
Mayor
City of Washington

A native son of Washington, Mayor Ames Barnett is in his seventh year as the CEO of this city. Prior to launching his successful campaign for mayor, he served four years on the city's council gaining valuable experience.

Some citizens will be surprised to know Mayor Barnett is ready to pass the baton to a new leader as he is a year away from the conclusion of his second term. "I never planned to be a long-tenure mayor. It is good to keep fresh ideas at the top as well as throughout the organization," explains Barnett.

Why did you decide to run for Mayor?

We all can serve our community in different ways. My grandmother served on this city's council for 20 years. I was inspired by her. Among my goals are new efficiencies at city hall and creating an environment for employees to take part in the success. I have confidence in my staff's abilities and decision-making as they prepare for economic growth in this part of the state.

What is the best part of being Mayor of Washington?

The best part is working alongside our citizens and my staff. They are the most important asset that we have in Washington. You will find true southern hospitality in our community. Our citizens and staff are hard-working individuals that take pride in our community and helping others. We all are always looking for growth that will benefit Washington-Wilkes.

How would you describe Washington's relationship with MEAG Power?

I am confident that MEAG Power is a partner for economic development opportunities. We see MEAG Power as a player in helping Washington be energy cost competitive when it comes to attracting new industry and maintaining current business. MEAG Power helps us to keep running a stable enterprise.

BLAKELY BUILDS NEW FACILITY *Fire Station and Governmental Complex*

A USDA Rural Development loan made the city's new 12,000 sq. ft. project possible and while it will take one year to complete the building, everyone is excited about the new complex. The center will soon be home to the Blakely/Early County Fire Department as well as E911 Services for a three-county area, the City Marshall and staff as well as training rooms for city employees. When operational, it will house 45 first responders operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Stay in Touch

So much — over 75 percent — of a community's growth comes from existing industries. Making a solid connection with those already in place is critical. Keep the lines of communication open and frequent. Be pro-active. Launch a business of the month award. Mention hometown business news on your website. Make in-person contact. And be sure they know the benefits of public power.

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