

AUGUST 2011



Committee Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our IUC newsletter:

A truly useful newsletter will always be somewhat of a work-in-progress and evolve over time. And since ours is new, it's expected that each of you may make suggestions or confirm that you like how the various parts are being handled. So as we decide what we want from the newsletter and figure out what works (and what doesn't) you'll see changes and improvement.

The Atlanta conference, by all accounts, was a success and well received by attendees. We had some very good sessions—some with significant challenges. One session fell apart a few weeks before the conference and was replaced by an even better session and presenter. Two others had their presenter cancel out just days before the conference, and thanks to a new IUC member (David Amory, Chase RE Services) an excellent session was presented on very short notice.

As everyone knows, going forward each member will have a project or effort that will be part of their contribution to the IUC. I've been impressed by your

willingness to step forward with enthusiasm for these projects. The ideas were varied and there's no doubt that the IUC is going to grow in any number of ways this year. With this quality of effort by you, we may soon surprise even ourselves with the things we get done.

These projects are something new for us and I'd like to ask that, if you haven't already begun working on your project, to go ahead and put your plan of action together. We can then see where others can be of assistance and what you'll need from the committee. For those who haven't decided what you'd like to do, don't despair, as the members' project plans are finalized there will be a number of ways for you to help. It's a great time to be in the utilities industry and there's no doubt the opportunities will be rewarding for those involved.

I'd like to close by welcoming our newest members to the IUC, as well as welcoming back the folks who have worked to provided us with such a good committee to serve on.

Your time & efforts are appreciated....

Glenn Winfree, SR/WA

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Welcome New Members

Jennifer Altschuler

Puget Sound Energy
Bellevue, WA

David Amory

Chase Real Estate Services
Charlotte, NC

Tim Bunker, SR/WA

Universal Field Services
Tulsa, OK

Jake Farrell

Omaha Public Power
Omaha, NE

Mike Hart, PLS, CFedS

Towill, Inc.
San Diego, CA

Terry Matheson

Doyle Land Services
Houston, TX

Jay Shepard (Reg. 1 Rep)

ENGlobal
San Diego, CA

Russell Verba

OG+E Electric Services
Oklahoma City, OK

Justian Wylie, SR/WA (Reg. 10 Rep)

Alta Link Management
Calgary, Alberta

“What we learn from history is that people don’t learn from history.”

WARREN BUFFET

IUC Mission Statement

The mission of the International Utilities Committee is to provide advice and assistance to the Association on matters related to the acquisition, use, management or disposal of rights of way for the utility industry including but not limited to, gas, electric, power, steam, cable TV, communications, data, water, sewer and drain lines. It shall monitor legislation or changes in legislation, methods or practices pertaining to any matters affecting utility rights of way. It shall cooperate with the International Liaison Committee in all interagency or legislative activities and shall keep other industry committees informed.

IUC Meeting Minutes: 6/12/2011, Atlanta

Patti Morris, Committee Chair, called meeting to order. There are 26 in attendance, including Vice Chair and incoming Chair, Glenn Winfree, SR/WA, Ana Rausch, SR/WA, Secretary and incoming Vice Chair, and Becky Merkley, SR/WA incoming Secretary. Peggy Barnes was present as IPDC Liaison and Pat Petitto, SR/WA from IEC. Patti asked for approval of minutes from February meeting. Minutes approved.

Meeting highlights.

- Patti reported from earlier meeting with IEC on roles of Region Reps; gave update on the facilitators' training process. Also discussed Committee's function historically and how it's reshaping for current industry needs. Developing education always an important focus.
- Glenn led discussion on expectations moving forward on meetings. Should members be required to attend meetings & conference calls? Discussion about advanced meeting notice and having agendas would increase attendance. Glenn suggests 2 conference calls and 2 in-person meetings/yr. Glenn created report templates to make it easier and standardized for Region Reps to report to regions and chapters in their region.
- Also wants to have a quarterly newsletter with sub-committee updates. Melissa Wurtz, SR/WA will coordinate newsletter with Dave Amory representing wireless, Nick Anasatkis, electric power; Randy Ferris, SR/WA, alternative energy; Becky Merkley, SR/WA, pipeline.
- Peggy Barnes reported Ron Ellis has left IRWA. Course 218 will be the Utilities course; Patti Morris brought up paying for speakers (travel expenses at very least) Ana said reimbursement process now with international is too long. Pat Petitto, IEC, said to submit speaker budget, because funds are typically approved year in advance.
- IEC Candidates, Mary Anne Marr and Wayne Goss introduced selves for 2011 election
- Julie McDonald and Mike Finn from McKim and Creed, Surveying, gave an excellent presentation on subsurface utility engineering (S.U.E)

"The problems that exist... cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Electric Industry

A survey of media articles:

- Merger has been announced between Progress Energy and Duke Energy that will reportedly result in the largest electric utility in the US, based on the number of retail customers.
 - As most know, there have been a number of severe winter storms this year. In Texas, multiple storms have left them with 4-6 inches of snow and, within the last 2 weeks, Texans were subjected to rolling blackouts. The electric load was so high that Mexico's Federal Electricity Commission has provided 300 MW of power to enable Texans to heat their homes.
 - America's wind industry built over 5,100 MW of wind power in 2010, down from nearly twice that amount in 2009. Over 5,600 MW was under construction as 2011 began.
 - Duke Energy has entered into an agreement with the China-based ENN Group to build clean energy transportation and electrical systems for China's first smart-energy "eco-city."
- This effort is intended to develop the city as a test platform for new energy systems, including electric vehicle infrastructure.
- The Alaskan settlement of Galena has accepted an offer from Toshiba to install one of the company's first new mini-nuclear reactors. The units are sometimes referred to as 'nuclear batteries' and the unit will not need refueling, maintenance or even to be opened for 3 decades. Another company has a unit ready to market with a 60 year life that can be located underground. A third company, Hyperion Power Generation, Inc., is developing a unit the size of a hot tub. They are about 5 years from market with their unit but reportedly already have orders for 120 units. Prices are expected to be \$35-50 million. Toshiba's unit has already been submitted to the NRC for licensing.

Think like
a person
of action.

Act like
a person
of thought.

Alternative Energy

- Germany has revised its Renewable Energy Sources Act (RESA) for 2012. The RESA sets a minimum renewable requirement of 35% by 2020, 50% by 2030, 65% by 2040, and 80% by 2050. The RESA addresses energy from both on-shore & off-shore wind generation, as well as from biomass, geothermal, and solar sources. The German government act was finalized in the wake of the Fukushima, Japan nuclear accident and a 30 year debate in Germany about their use of nuclear energy in general.
- A Texas company, Xtreme Power, is aiming to have the world's largest energy storage system operational in late 2012. The \$44 million dry-cell battery system is being funded by Duke Energy (\$22 million) and the US Dept. of Energy. The market for energy storage systems is considered to be vast and just now developing due to the combination of need, alternative energy sources & technological improvements. Xtreme Power is also active in 2 storage systems in Hawaii and a 750 kW system for a solar facility in Michigan.
- Alternative energy projects are appearing everywhere it seems, but in no more surprising places than in the Middle East. Solar plants are being built to provide

100 gigawatts of power in Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria. Wind farms are also being built in Egypt in the Suez Canal area. Part of the energy is planned to be provided to Europe by way of a transmission line under the Mediterranean Sea. Even Saudi Arabia has announced that it intends to generate power from solar energy to equal its oil export generating capacity. Middle Eastern governments say they have recognized that their resources are finite and they are beginning to plan for their future.

“The only time you can trust that politicians are telling the truth is when they’re calling each other a liar.”

ALABAMA FARMER

Environmental Issues

- According to a survey of utility industry executives by Black & Veatch, water has emerged as their top concern. It's an obvious issue for hydro plants, but nuclear units must also have adequate water for proper cooling to produce power, and even solar panels located in the desert must be washed to remain efficient. The respondents also expressed concern over new government regulations reducing the number of fish killed at water intakes for power plants.
- Water is also an important component of the process of hydro-fracking used in both the gas and the oil industries. And based on the variety of opinions and information available in the media, it is an environmental unknown at this time in relation to groundwater issues.
- TransCanada is planning a 1,700 mile pipeline to transport product from the oil sands in Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico through the US. The 1,000 page Environmental Impact Study report is due out in August 2011 and will address issues related to the pipeline crossing over the huge Ogallala Aquifer and Nebraska's environmentally sensitive Sandhills area. For this project to be allowed to move forward, it will need to be determined to be vital to the national interest of the USA (this decision to be made by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton) and must be personally approved by President Obama before it can be built. The decision to approve the project is scheduled to be made before 12/31/11.

Always
remember that
you're unique...
just like
everyone else.

Contact Information

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Notices and Reminders

** This section is available for members (space permitting) to provide reminders or announcements of interest to the committee. Please send your brief 'notice' to the newsletter editor in a ready-to-print form.

Calendar

*The following is provided to allow planning of schedules.

Final agendas will be sent closer to each event date.

- 9/1/11** Date for submission of sessions topic ideas
- 9/14/11** Conference Call (8-9:00 a.m. PST, 11-12:00 EST)
"Discussion of Conference Sessions"
- 12/7/11** Conference Call (8-8:30 a.m. PST, 11-11:30 EST)
"Update & Review of Conference Sessions"
- 2/17/12** Meeting in Seattle, WA (8:00-12:00)
"Mid-Year IUC Meeting"
- 5/16/12** Conference Call (8-8:30 a.m. PST, 11-11:30 a.m. EST)
"Finalize Conference Sessions & Presenters"
- 6/10/12** Meeting in Seattle, WA (8:00-12:00)
"Annual IRWA Education Conference"