



President's Message

Summer Readiness

—by Jack Alvey

This spring, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), an independent organization that dispatches and delivers power throughout most of Indiana and other parts of the Midwest, announced it may not have enough reserve generation capacity to meet expected peak loads this summer. This does not mean temporary outages are imminent, only that there is a higher than normal risk depending on the weather and performance of power generating units. Multiple discrete events must happen in tandem before MISO would reach the emergency process stage of shedding load.

First, electric demand loads must be higher than forecasted—an event that would most likely

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Recognizing Excellence in Public Power

Each year, the American Public Power Association (APPA), the national voice for not-for-profit electric utilities, announces winners of the organization's sought-after awards in public power. This spring, APPA honored three officials associated with the Indiana Municipal Power Agency with prestigious awards. The Agency is proud to recognize each individual who received APPA's acknowledgement.



Brian Mullen of
Darlington, IN

First, Brian Mullen of Darlington was awarded the Larry Hobart "Seven Hats" award, which recognizes public power managers who lead with excellence in seven distinct categories: planning and design, administration, public relations, field supervision, accounting, human resources,

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be due to abnormally high temperatures and humidity levels. Second, greater than expected generating unit outages must occur, resulting in a shortage of capacity relative to increased demand. Third, MISO would not be able to import power from other independent organizations that dispatch and deliver power to neighboring regions. Lastly, renewable generation resources must not be providing the expected capacity due to inclement

weather or other factors. The necessity of rolling outages will only take place if each of these events occurs in tandem.

Outages, or “load shed,” will only be required as a last resort to prevent damage to the electric transmission network that could result in more serious and longer term outages. MISO has already established an extensive process through which it will try to relieve strain on the grid before requiring outages. However, in the case of rolling outages to maintain the grid, all load shedding would be performed by the transmission owners and IMPA’s load would be part of the shedding cycle managed at the transmission level. IMPA is proactively monitoring grid status and expected events, and should there be any indication that Members will be affected at the retail level, IMPA will communicate that information directly to Members.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to do their part by remaining thoughtful of their energy consumption, especially during hot and humid days. Try to adhere to the following practices to lessen your impact on electricity demand:

- Adjust your thermostat higher during peak load times to use less electricity.
- Run large appliances at night when energy demand is lower.
- Use fans to circulate air rather than dropping the temperature on your air conditioner.
- Close blinds during the day to keep the sun and heat out of your home.
- Turn off lights and electronic devices when not in use.
- Replace the filter in your air conditioning unit so that it runs more efficiently. •

Agency Increases Cybersecurity Efforts

Since the North American Electric Reliability Corporation mandated utilities to have cybersecurity standards in 2016, IMPA has worked to thoroughly meet and exceed cybersecurity guidelines to protect the Agency’s power assets. Access to power is a crucial need for all communities in today’s world, and while cybercriminals continue to threaten the nation’s power infrastructure, IMPA is doing what it can to prevent any and all potential dangers.

In the last five years, IMPA staff members have completed quarterly security training sessions and have undergone simulated phishing attempts on a regular basis to better recognize cyberthreats. As of this year, the Agency has begun requiring multi-factor authentication for access to workplace networks. This authentication method prevents cybercriminals from hacking into a company’s systems and also acts as an intrusion detection system

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and community involvement. As the Electric Superintendent and IMPA Commissioner of Darlington, Mullen is responsible for running the town’s electric utility, managing town repairs, and effectively communicating between the community and IMPA. Mullen is loved by community members and town staff alike, and is well-known for his generosity, fairness, and honesty.

Second to be awarded was Dick Klein of Tipton, who received APPA’s Honor Roll, a designation that honors public power officials who have made significant local contributions. Klein has dedicated decades of his life to serving Tipton, and has played a key role in IMPA’s history, serving as Tipton’s Commissioner, as well as on the Agency’s Nominating Committee, Operating Committee, and Reengineering Forum. Over the years, Klein has championed the ideals of public power and worked with IMPA to bring Tipton a solar park and AMI technology.

Lastly, IMPA’s former President and CEO Raj Rao was awarded the James D. Donovan Individual Achievement honor, which recognizes individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions to the electric utility industry and to public power. Rao’s tremendous 40 years in public power continue to be recognized even as he

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enjoys his retirement.

IMPA appreciates each of these individual’s commitment to public power—their hard work has bettered the electric utility industry for all of us. Congratulations to all APPA award winners! •



Raj Rao of IMPA



Dick Klein of Tipton, IN



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that reports suspicious activity to staff members if someone is attempting to use their credentials. Through continuous staff training, safeguarding methods, and software improvements, IMPA is prepared to handle any threat that comes its way.

As the Agency's experience with cybersecurity increases, IMPA looks forward to assisting member communities with protecting their assets as well. The Agency is currently exploring the possibility of offering cybersecurity assistance to member communities through IMPA Service Corp, as well as keeping an eye out for grant opportunities that could help members fund cybersecurity opportunities. Through these growing efforts, IMPA hopes to provide a great defense against the virtual dangers that are always lurking. •

