



Columbus Utility Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Roll Call

Notice of Open Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the May 21, 2026 Utility Commission Minutes
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report
3. Outage Report

New Business

4. Recognizing Mason Mosher for completion of the Electric Line worker Apprenticeship Program
5. Resolution No. 2026-1 A Resolution accepting the Columbus WWTP Compliance Maintenance Annual Report
6. Consider and take action on the back billing for Fall River

Reports

7. Director's Report Outline
8. June 2026 Live Lines

Adjourn

*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.



Agenda Item Report

Meeting Type: Utility Commission

Meeting Date: June 18, 2026

Item Title: Consider and take action on Financial Reports.

Submitted By: Michelle Kaltenberg, Business Manager

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

Included in the Financial Reports are the Treasurer's Report and the Cash Disbursements Report.

The Accounts Payable Report will be sent via email on the Wednesday before the Commission meeting.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. The Cash Disbursements Report

Action Requested of Commission:

1. Review and approve the Cash Disbursements Report and the Accounts Payable Report.

CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES
TREASURER'S REPORT - May 2026

Item #2.

GENERAL FUND (commingled cash) - ACCOUNT #1310

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	4,483,258.32
Receipts:	\$	940,917.15
Interest Earned:		
Sub-total:	\$	5,424,175.47
Disbursements:	\$	(2,323,266.50)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	3,100,908.97
NOTE: Conventional utility accounting standards recommend a balance equal to two month's expenses - approx. \$1,400,000 (LGIP & Checking).		

UTILITY GENERAL FUND - LGIP #13 - ACCOUNT #1314

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	488,432.28
Receipts:		
Interest Earned:	\$	1,512.15
Sub-total:	\$	489,944.43
Disbursements:		
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	489,944.43

MRB PRINCIPAL & INTEREST - LGIP #5 - ACCOUNT #1255

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	252,631.84
Receipts:		
Interest Earned:	\$	793.05
Sub-total:	\$	253,424.89
Disbursements:		
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	253,424.89
NOTE: Transfers are made monthly to accrue sufficient funds to make May 1 and November 1 principal & interest payments.		

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #4 - SEWER UTILITY GENERAL FUNDS

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	1,270.13
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	3.91
Sub-total:	\$	1,274.04
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	1,274.04

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #11 - COLLECTION MAIN - REPLACEMENT

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$904,109.24	
Receipts:		
Interest Earned:	\$2,784.81	
Sub-total:	\$	906,894.05
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	906,894.05

WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	194,880.63
Receipts:	\$	15,460.00
Interest Earned:	\$	607.95
Sub-total:	\$	210,948.58
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	210,948.58

CW&L RESERVE FUND - F&M - ACCOUNT #1251

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	340,422.56
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	-
Sub-total:	\$	340,422.56
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	340,422.56
F&M Bank/CDAR 52 Week Certificate of Deposit: \$170,211.28 Due June 2026 4.40%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2026 4.25%		

E-3-P ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM - F&M - ACCOUNT #1313

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	139,471.87
Receipts:	\$	1,535.89
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$	516.38
Sub-total:	\$	141,524.14
Disbursements:		
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	141,524.14

CW&L DEPRECIATION - LGIP #6 - ACCOUNT #1266

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	615,579.64
Receipts:	\$	5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$	1,898.57
Sub-total:	\$	622,478.21
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	622,478.21
NOTE: Bond covenants require a "depreciation fund" with recommended balance of \$300,000 to cover plant renewals and replacements.		

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #8 - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	509,303.47
Receipts:		
Interest Earned:	\$	1,568.74
Sub-total:	\$	510,872.21
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	510,872.21

SEWER UTILITY - F&M SAVINGS - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	236,293.05
Receipts:		
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$	883.67
Sub-total:	\$	237,176.72
Disbursements:		
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	237,176.72

WWTP FALL RIVER RESTRICTED REPLACEMENT FUNDS - F&M CDARS

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	1,065,564.23
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	-
Sub-total:	\$	1,065,564.23
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	1,065,564.23

F&M Bank/CDAR (2) - Interest paid out and deposited to Checking

F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.4% / 0.75%	Local Gov't. Investment Pool	3.69%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	3.70%-4.40%		

COLUMBUS UTILITIES
Cash Disbursements Report
May, 2026

10-Jun-26

DATE	CHECK NO	NAME	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
25-May	24873	PUBLIC SERVICE COMM OF WI	(\$1,176.08)	APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT UPGRADES AND REPLACE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
25-May	24969	ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC	\$158.38	PACKOUT TOOL BOX
25-May	24970	AMARIL UNIFORM COMPANY	\$782.94	FR CLOTHES FOR THE CREW
25-May	24971	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL, LLC	\$120.00	ADMIN BLDG RODEN CONTROL AND SUBSTATION RODENT CONTROL
25-May	24972	AQUAFIX	\$8,032.61	AQUABACK (55-GAL DRUM), LAR-V-ZYME (55-GAL DRUM), BUG ON A ROPE SR (CASE OF 4)
25-May	24973	ARING EQUIPMENT CO, INC.	\$1,490.89	HYDRAULIC OIL LEAK BACKHOE
25-May	24974	BAKER TILLY US, LLP	\$11,846.00	2025 AUDIT SERVICES/SERVICES RELATED TO 2026 BOND QUESTIONS
25-May	24975	BOARDMAN & CLARK LLP	\$125.00	AUDIT LETTER
25-May	24976	CARDINAL EMBROIDERY & SCREEN	\$36.00	FIRE THREAD-JAKE/DALTON
25-May	24977	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$76,406.79	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES, 2026 WEST SCHOOL ST. RECONSTRUCTION R&M #162908, PHONE REIMBURSEMENT, GFL
25-May	24978	CORE & MAIN LP	\$4,074.49	UNDERGROUND UTILITY MAGNETIC LOCATOR & SUPPLIES, 2" METER REGISTER, SECURITY SOCKETS, PVC PIPING AND FITTINGS, HANDWHEEL
25-May	24979	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$66.00	PE-DI RENT 5/1-5/31, DI REGENERATION CHARGE
25-May	24980	DREXEL BUILDING SUPPLY INC	\$349.06	4.16 KV CONVERSION
25-May	24981	FORSTER ELECTRICAL ENGIN	\$5,802.00	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES,PHONE REIMBURSEMENT, LRS INVOICE 5943520, R&M INVOICE 156403
25-May	24982	GRAINGER, INC	\$117.93	GENERAL PURPOSE RELAY, ALTERNATING RELAYS
25-May	24983	GRPHIC PRODUCTS	\$289.05	LABEL FOR TAGGING UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE
25-May	24984	HAWKINS, INC	\$4,623.28	WASTEWATER CHEMICALS AND WATER CHEMICALS
25-May	24985	HEIAR FENCING, LLC	\$2,950.00	FENCE REPLACEMENT-SCHOOL STREET PROJECT
25-May	24986	HYDROCORP, LLC	\$980.00	CROSS CONNECTION CNTRL PROGRAM
25-May	24987	ICS MEDICAL ANSWERING SERVICE	\$206.05	PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE
25-May	24988	INFOSEND, INC	\$1,854.79	UTILITY BILL PRINTING AND MAILING
25-May	24989	JEREMY ROLL	\$50.36	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE 2026
25-May	24990	MARTELLE WATER TREATMENT	\$7,739.00	PILOT STUDY
25-May	24991	MC TOOLS AND REPAIR LLC	\$1,462.57	VACTOR SEWER TRUCK-DEBRIS HOSE, GASKETS, S.S. CLAMP
25-May	24992	MELISSA & GAVIN WALSH	\$160.00	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
25-May	24993	MEUW	\$1,035.00	96TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, RENKAS REGULATION, COMPIANCE & SAFETY COURSE
25-May	24994	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT, INC	\$8,422.85	OIL FILTER (1), 10W30 OIL (2), KAWASAKI, 2026 BOBCAT EXCAVATOR, 2025 BOBCAT
25-May	24995	NAPA AUTO PARTS	\$658.95	RUNNING BOARDS FOR TRUCK #24
25-May	24996	NCL OF WISCONSIN, INC	\$844.54	DISINFECTION STATION AND WASTEWATER DAILY TESTING MATERIAL
25-May	24997	NIEMANN FOODS, INC	\$739.67	GRASS SEED, TOWELS, TRASH CAN, CONTRACOTR BAGS, BROOM/DUST PAN, FLEX SEAL GRAY 14OZ, WORK COVER, SCREWS
25-May	24998	NORTHEAST WISCONSIN TECH	\$924.00	APPRENTICSHIP SCHOOL MASON AND DALTON SPRING 2026
25-May	24999	OPENPOINT	\$1,250.00	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION
25-May	25000	O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE	\$53.33	TRUCK #32 AND WIPER BLADES FOR #23 2016 F150
25-May	25001	PACKERLAND RENT-A-MAT	\$240.66	URINAL REFILLS, MATS
25-May	25002	PATRICIA & ROBERT PACKARD	\$540.33	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
25-May	25003	PRAIRIE RIDGE HEALTH	\$25.00	ANNUAL AUDIO GRAMS FOR CREW
25-May	25004	PUBLIC SERVICE COMM OF WI	\$3,170.39	APPLICATION CONSTRUCT UPGRADES & REPLACE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, APPLICATION CONSTRUCT UPGRADES THAT COINCIDE W/ TRANS
25-May	25005	R&R DOORS	\$1,005.66	GARAGE DOOR REPAIRS
25-May	25006	RENU SEALCOATING	\$9,450.00	SEALCOATING DRIVEWAY WATER AND LIGHT
25-May	25007	RESCO	\$53,661.00	3 PHASE TRANSFORMERS (3)
25-May	25008	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$0.00	IT AGREEMENT
25-May	25009	RUEKERT & MIELKE, INC	\$18,078.66	2026 GIS ANNUAL SERVICES, WATER SCADA SERVICE WORK, HERITAGE WAY WATER MAIN EXTENSION, WATER QUALITY TRADING ASSISTANC
25-May	25010	STUART IRBY	\$3,660.00	OH MINOR MATERIAL
25-May	25011	SUPERIOR CHEMCIAL LLC	\$105.49	MULTIFOLD PREM TAD WHITE (2)
25-May	25012	USA BLUE BOOK	\$1,226.12	DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING
25-May	25013	USIC LOCATING SERVICES	\$2,276.01	LOCATING EXPENSES
25-May	25014	VC3, INC	\$295.95	NETWORK SECURITY /FIREWALL LICENSE & SUBSCRIPTION
25-May	25015	VERONA SAFETY SUPPLY, INC	\$61.88	NO-TOUCH FOAM EARPLUGS UNCORDED (1)
25-May	25016	WI STATE LABORATORY OF HY	\$31.00	MONTHLY FLUORIDE TEST
25-May	25017	WILLIAM/REID LTD LLC	\$237.43	PROMINENT P/N MULTI-FUNCTION VALVE

25-May	25018	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS	\$153.00	FPI 700 FOLDER INSERTER SERVICE
25-May	25019	WONDRA CONSTRUCTION, INC	\$306,880.46	2026 HERITAGE WAY WATER MAIN EXTENSION
25-May	25020	PRECISION STRIPPING & TIRE	\$16,151.15	THREE SPOOL REEL TRAILER RECONDITIONING
		SUBTOTAL	\$559,725.64	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LIST APPROVED AT MAY MEETING
	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$20.00	NSF Fees
19-May	ACH-4760	BROOK ANDLER	\$50.00	Commission Salary for May
19-May	ACH-4761	JACK SANDERSON	\$50.00	Commission Salary for May
19-May	ACH-4762	LORI KOENIG-FRY	\$50.00	Commission Salary for May
19-May	ACH-4763	MICHAEL THOM	\$50.00	Commission Salary for May
19-May	ACH-4764	SANDRA CURTIS	\$50.00	Commission Salary for May
21-May	ACH-4765	PUBLIC SERVICE COMM OF WI	\$0.00	APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT UPGRADES AND REPLACE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
26-May	ACH-4766	PUBLIC SERVICE COMM OF WI	\$1,176.08	APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT UPGRADES AND REPLACE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
28-May	ACH-4767	SEERA	\$1,864.19	FOCUS ON ENERGY PAYMENT
21-May	ACH-4768	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$100.00	INTERENT ADMIN BUILDING
20-May	ACH-4769	CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY	\$59.14	FIRST AID SUPPLIES
22-May	ACH-4770	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$10,358.75	LODGING/EXPENSES FOR APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL, MEUW CONFERENCE REGISTRATION, 25KV JUMPER CABLES, ORBIT EXPRESS CLAMPS, TH
19-May	ACH-4771	KWIK TRIP	\$244.21	FUEL
04-May	ACH-4772	PAYMENT SERVICE NETWORK	\$3,537.65	CUSTOMER PAYMENT FEES
20-May	ACH-4773	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$2,631.53	IT AGREEMENT
20-May	ACH-4774	WE ENERGIES	\$459.67	NATURAL GAS SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING
04-May	ACH-4775	WEX BANK	\$1,980.46	FUEL
12-May	ACH-4776	WI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$1,934.10	GROSS REVENUE ASSESSMENT LICENSE FEE
18-May	ACH-4777	WI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$7,991.91	SALES AND USE TAX
28-May	ACH-4778	WPPI ENERGY	\$443,426.74	POWER BILL 4/1/23 TO 4/30/23, NORTHSTAR; ELECTRIC & WATER MDM CHARGES; INTERFACE, LOAN
20-May	ACH-4779	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$119.99	INTERNET ELECTRIC SCADA
20-May	ACH-4780	KWIK TRIP EXTENDED NETWORK	\$102.50	FUEL
20-May	ACH-4781	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$294.77	PRINTER AGREEMENT
20-May	ACH-4782	WE ENERGIES	\$14.76	GENERATOR ON JAMES ST
20-May	ACH-4783	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$135.00	WASTEWATER SPECTRUM
20-May	ACH-4784	WE ENERGIES	\$13.86	119 MIDDLETON ST LIFT STATION
20-May	ACH-4785	WE ENERGIES	\$546.68	TREATMENT PLANT
20-May	ACH-4786	WE ENERGIES	\$12.96	WATERLOO ST LIFT STATION
20-May	ACH-4787	WE ENERGIES	\$31.79	NATURAL GAS WATER PLANT
20-May	ACH-4788	WE ENERGIES	\$15.59	WESTSIDE SEWAGE LIFT
20-May	ACH-4789	WE ENERGIES	\$12.05	WASTEWATER SPECTRUM
01-May	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$36,904.24	Net Payroll for 1st Payroll in May #9
01-May	ACH-4752	EFTPS	\$12,219.56	FICA/MED/FED Withholding Payroll #9
01-May	ACH-4753	NORTHSHORE DEFFERED COMP	\$300.00	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #9
01-May	ACH-4754	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$1,916.98	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #9
01-May	ACH-4755	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$1,901.52	State Withholding Payroll #9
15-May	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$35,784.88	Net Payroll for 2nd Payroll in May #10
15-May	ACH -4756	EFTPS	\$11,731.63	FICA/MED/FED Withholding Payroll #10
15-May	ACH -4757	NORTHSHORE DEFFERED COMP	\$300.00	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #10
15-May	ACH -4758	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$1,731.59	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #10
27-May	ACH	Investment Pool	\$30,000.00	April Bond Interest Payment
27-May	ACH	Investment Pool	\$5,000.00	April Depreciation Payment
27-May	ACH	Investment Pool	\$15,500.00	Transfer into LGIP #13 General Fund
26-Mar	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL	\$15,460.00	TRANSFER INTO LGIP #9-UTILITY GENERAL FUND
29-May	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$37,851.78	Net Payroll for 2nd Payroll in May #11
29-May	ACH -4801	EFTPS	\$12,377.36	FICA/MED/FED Withholding Payroll #11
29-May	ACH -4802	NORTHSHORE DEFFERED COMP	\$300.00	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #11
29-May	ACH -4803	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$1,928.58	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #11
29-May	ACH -4804	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$3,814.83	State Withholding Payroll #11
29-May	ACH-4790	CITY OF COLUMBUS-AFLAC	\$82.42	AFLAC FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
29-May	ACH-4791	CITY OF COLUMBUS - RETIREMENT	\$24,067.32	RETIREMENT FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
29-May	ACH-4792	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH INS	\$26,848.76	DEAN CARE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH

29-May	ACH-4793	CITY OF COLUMBUS - LIFE	\$544.31	LIFE INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES MARCH
29-May	ACH-4794	CITY OF COLUMBUS - DENTAL INS	\$1,564.76	DENTAL INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
29-May	ACH-4795	CITY OF COLUMBUS - VISION INS	\$179.46	VISION INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR MARCH
29-May	ACH-4796	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH SAVING	\$2,838.82	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT TRANSFER FOR MARCH
29-May	ACH-4797	City of Columbus - LTD	\$348.06	LTD NON CASH TRANSFER TO THE CITY
29-May	ACH-4798	CITY OF COLUMBUS-ASSURITY	\$1,085.43	ASSURITY TRANSFER FOR MARCH
29-May	ACH-4799	CITY OF COLUMBUS-CHAMP PLAN	\$10,334.88	CHAMP PLAN TRANSFER FOR MARCH
29-May	ACH-4800	CITY OF COLUMBUS-CHAMP BENEFIT	(\$8,390.88)	CHAMP BENEFIT TRANSFER FOR MARCH
27-May		E3P TRANSFER	\$1,535.89	E3P TRANSFER
03-May		CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$1,000,000.00	TRANSFER OF BORROWED FUNDS
31-May	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$144.30	ACH/ PSN/WIRE Fees
		SUBTOTAL	\$1,763,540.86	

Item #2.

TOTAL \$2,323,266.50 APPROVED BY:

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION #2 CIRCUIT # 206 DATE 6 \ 3 \ 26
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 3F/44/53
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION North Lewis trailer court
 REMARKS _____

Item #3.

PART THAT FAILED

- 0 None
 ① Numerous
 2 Other-note in remarks
 3 Transmission equipment
 4 Substation equipment
O.H. DISTRIBUTION
 10 Anchor or guy
 11 Arrester
 12 Conductor – Primary
 13 “ - Secondary
 14 Connector
 21 Insulator
 24 Metering equipment
 25 Pole
 26 Recloser
 27 Riser or Jumper
 28 Splice
 29 Switch - GOAB
 30 “ - Disc.
 ③ Cutout - Fused
 ③ Transformer – Line
 33 Transformer – Potential
U.G. DISTRIBUTION
 50 Arrester
 51 Conductor – Primary
 52 “ - Secondary
 53 Connector – Bolted
 54 “ - Comp.
 55 “ - Elbow
 56 “ - Splice
 59 Terminator
 60 Transformer – Pad Mount
 61 Transformer – Bayonet Fuse
 62 Metering Equipment

WEATHER

- ① Normal
 2 Wind
 3 Thunderstorm
 4 Rain
 5 Rain and wind
 6 Fog
 7 Ice
 8 Ice and wind
 9 Snow
 10 Extreme cold
 11 Extreme heat
 12 Extreme storm

CAUSE

- ① Unknown
 1 Loss of supply
 2 Operating error
 3 Circuit overload
 4 Mis-coordination
 5 Faulty installation
 6 Lightning
 7 Wind
 8 Ice
 9 Cold weather
 10 Hot Weather
 11 Moisture
 12 Contamination
 13 Fire
 14 Extreme storm

FOREIGN OBJECTS

- 20 Vehicles
 22 Trees – tore down
 23 Trees – shorted
 24 Animals
 25 Birds
 26 Underground dig in
 27 Vandalism
 28 Other

EQUIPMENT

- 30 Manufacturing defect
 31 Equipment overload
 ③ Electrical failure
 33 Worn out

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF 2020 ON 2330Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers	Minutes Duration
<u>6</u>	<u>210</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>120</u>

TRANSFORMER FAILURE

CWL# 473 KVA 50
 MFG 6E AGE (est) 38
 Serial # 92688-11
 Arrester ON / OFF Tank (circle one)

ARRESTOR FAILURE

MFR _____ Porc Polymer
 Riser Line Transformer
 (circle all that apply)

DEVICE THAT OPENED

Distribution
Main Feeder

Breaker _____ Counter _____

Targets _____

Branch Line

O.C.R. _____ Size _____
 Fuse 21 Size 30 amp

TransformerFuse 1 Transf. Size 30 amp**ROUTING (initial)**

Responded By JAKE B.
 Line Assisted By MASON M.
 Assisted By DALTON, JEFF
 Manager Randy
 Outage File _____

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION 1 CIRCUIT # 104 DATE 5/22/2026 Item #3.
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER SE 137/70
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION Eddies Carwash BP
 REMARKS _____

PART THAT FAILED

- 0 None
- 1 Numerous
- 2 Other-note in remarks
- 3 Transmission equipment
- 4 Substation equipment
- O.H. DISTRIBUTION

- 10 Anchor or guy
- 11 Arrestor
- 12 Conductor - Primary
- 13 " - Secondary
- 14 Connector
- 21 Insulator
- 24 Metering equipment
- 25 Pole
- 26 Recloser
- 27 Riser or Jumper
- 28 Splice
- 29 Switch - GOAB
- 30 " - Disc.
- 31 Cutout - Fused
- 32 Transformer - Line
- 33 Transformer - Potential

U.G. DISTRIBUTION

- 50 Arrestor
- 51 Conductor - Primary
- 52 " - Secondary
- 53 Connector - Bolted
- 54 " - Comp.
- 55 " - Elbow
- 56 " - Splice
- 59 Terminator
- 60 Transformer - Pad Mount
- 61 Transformer - Bayonet Fuse
- 62 Metering Equipment

WEATHER

- 1 Normal
- 2 Wind
- 3 Thunderstorm
- 4 Rain
- 5 Rain and wind
- 6 Fog
- 7 Ice
- 8 Ice and wind
- 9 Snow
- 10 Extreme cold
- 11 Extreme heat
- 12 Extreme storm

CAUSE

- 0 Unknown
- 1 Loss of supply
- 2 Operating error
- 3 Circuit overload
- 4 Mis-coordination
- 5 Faulty installation
- 6 Lightning
- 7 Wind
- 8 Ice
- 9 Cold weather
- 10 Hot Weather
- 11 Moisture
- 12 Contamination
- 13 Fire
- 14 Extreme storm

FOREIGN OBJECTS

- 20 Vehicles
- 22 Trees - tore down
- 23 Trees - shorted
- 24 Animals
- 25 Birds
- 26 Underground dig in
- 27 Vandalism
- 28 Other

EQUIPMENT

- 30 Manufacturing defect
- 31 Equipment overload
- 32 Electrical failure
- 33 Worn out

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF 5:38 ON 8:15

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers _____ Minutes Duration _____

1 205 hrs

TRANSFORMER FAILURE

CWL# _____ KVA 50
 MFG Scots Electric AGE (est) _____
 Serial # 9487-15

Arrester ON OFF Tank (circle one)

ARRESTOR FAILURE

MFR _____ Porc Polymer
 Riser Line Transformer
 (circle all that apply)

DEVICE THAT OPENED

Distribution
Main Feeder

Breaker _____ Counter _____

Targets _____

Branch Line

O.C.R. _____ Size _____
 Fuse 2 Size 2

Transformer

Fuse X Transf. Size 30

ROUTING (initial)

Responded By JH

Line Assisted By Dutton

Assisted By Mason

Manager _____

Outage File _____

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE COLUMBUS WWTP COMPLIANCE MAINTENANCE
ANNUAL REPORT (CMAR) 2025**

RESOLVED, that the City of Columbus and Columbus Utilities informs the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that the following actions were taken by the Columbus Utilities Commission:

1. Reviewed the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) which is attached to this Resolution.
2. Set forth the following actions necessary to maintain effluent requirements as noted within the City's WPDES permit # WI-0021008-10-0: No action required at this time.

Dated this _____ day of _____

CITY OF COLUMBUS

By: _____
Joseph Hammer, Mayor

By: _____
Susan Caine, City Clerk

COLUMBUS UTILITIES

By: _____
Michael Thom, Commission President

By: _____
Sandy Curtis, Commission Vice President

Compliance Maintenance Annual Report

Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility

Last Updated: Reporting Per.

6/8/2026

2025

Item #5.

Influent Flow and Loading

1. Monthly Average Flows and BOD Loadings

1.1 Verify the following monthly flows and BOD loadings to your facility.

Influent No. 701	Influent Monthly Average Flow, MGD	x	Influent Monthly Average BOD Concentration mg/L	x	8.34	=	Influent Monthly Average BOD Loading, lbs/day
January	0.8897	x	155	x	8.34	=	1,153
February	0.8575	x	167	x	8.34	=	1,195
March	1.1175	x	126	x	8.34	=	1,171
April	1.2644	x	152	x	8.34	=	1,604
May	1.3025	x	124	x	8.34	=	1,346
June	1.1800	x	135	x	8.34	=	1,330
July	1.0015	x	171	x	8.34	=	1,430
August	1.1511	x	130	x	8.34	=	1,248
September	0.9952	x	156	x	8.34	=	1,292
October	0.8713	x	167	x	8.34	=	1,216
November	0.8367	x	141	x	8.34	=	982
December	0.8720	x	163	x	8.34	=	1,188

2. Maximum Monthly Design Flow and Design BOD Loading

2.1 Verify the design flow and loading for your facility.

Design	Design Factor	x	%	=	% of Design
Max Month Design Flow, MGD	2.2	x	90	=	1.98
		x	100	=	2.2
Design BOD, lbs/day	1775	x	90	=	1597.5
		x	100	=	1775

2.2 Verify the number of times the flow and BOD exceeded 90% or 100% of design, points earned, and score:

	Months of Influent	Number of times flow was greater than 90% of	Number of times flow was greater than 100% of	Number of times BOD was greater than 90% of design	Number of times BOD was greater than 100% of design
January	1	0	0	0	0
February	1	0	0	0	0
March	1	0	0	0	0
April	1	0	0	1	0
May	1	0	0	0	0
June	1	0	0	0	0
July	1	0	0	0	0
August	1	0	0	0	0
September	1	0	0	0	0
October	1	0	0	0	0
November	1	0	0	0	0
December	1	0	0	0	0
Points per each		2	1	3	2
Exceedances		0	0	1	0
Points		0	0	3	0
Total Number of Points					3

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3. Flow Meter

3.1 Was the influent flow meter calibrated in the last year?

- ☒ Yes Enter last calibration date (MM/DD/YYYY)

2025-05-07

☐ No

If No, please explain:

4. Sewer Use Ordinance

4.1 Did your community have a sewer use ordinance that limited or prohibited the discharge of excessive conventional pollutants ((C)BOD, SS, or pH) or toxic substances to the sewer from industries, commercial users, hauled waste, or residences?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If No, please explain:

4.2 Was it necessary to enforce the ordinance?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If Yes, please explain:

5. Septage Receiving

5.1 Did you have requests to receive septage at your facility?

Septic Tanks

Holding Tanks

Grease Traps

☒ Yes

☒ Yes

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ No

☒ No

5.2 Did you receive septage at your facility? If yes, indicate volume in gallons.

Septic Tanks

☒ Yes 881,150 gallons

☐ No

Holding Tanks

☒ Yes 1,815,487 gallons

☐ No

Grease Traps

☐ Yes gallons

☒ No

5.2.1 If yes to any of the above, please explain if plant performance is affected when receiving any of these wastes.

Overall performance improved after August 1st when we raised our rates.

6. Pretreatment

6.1 Did your facility experience operational problems, permit violations, biosolids quality concerns, or hazardous situations in the sewer system or treatment plant that were attributable to commercial or industrial discharges in the last year?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, describe the situation and your community's response.

6.2 Did your facility accept hauled industrial wastes, landfill leachate, etc.?

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☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, describe the types of wastes received and any procedures or other restrictions that were in place to protect the facility from the discharge of hauled industrial wastes.	
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Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
Section Grade	

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Item #5.

Effluent Quality and Plant Performance (BOD/CBOD)

1. Effluent (C)BOD Results

1.1 Verify the following monthly average effluent values, exceedances, and points for BOD or CBOD

Outfall No. 010	Monthly Average Limit (mg/L)	90% of Permit Limit > 10 (mg/L)	Effluent Monthly Average (mg/L)	Months of Discharge with a Limit	Permit Limit Exceedance	90% Permit Limit Exceedance
January	24	21.6	3	1	0	0
February	24	21.6	4	1	0	0
March	24	21.6	4	1	0	0
April	24	21.6	4	1	0	0
May	12	10.8	5	1	0	0
June	12	10.8	4	1	0	0
July	12	10.8	5	1	0	0
August	12	10.8	5	1	0	0
September	12	10.8	5	1	0	0
October	12	10.8	4	1	0	0
November	24	21.6	4	1	0	0
December	24	21.6	4	1	0	0

* Equals limit if limit is <= 10

Months of discharge/yr	12		
Points per each exceedance with 12 months of discharge		7	3
Exceedances		0	0
Points		0	0
Total number of points			0

NOTE: For systems that discharge intermittently to state waters, the points per monthly exceedance for this section shall be based upon a multiplication factor of 12 months divided by the number of months of discharge. Example: For a wastewater facility discharging only 6 months of the year, the multiplication factor is $12/6 = 2.0$

1.2 If any violations occurred, what action was taken to regain compliance?

2. Flow Meter Calibration

2.1 Was the effluent flow meter calibrated in the last year?

- ☒ Yes

Enter last calibration date (MM/DD/YYYY)

2025-05-07

- ☐ No

If No, please explain:

3. Treatment Problems

3.1 What problems, if any, were experienced over the last year that threatened treatment?

None

4. Other Monitoring and Limits

4.1 At any time in the past year was there an exceedance of a permit limit for any other pollutants such as chlorides, pH, residual chlorine, fecal coliform, or metals?

- ☐ Yes

- ☒ No

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If Yes, please explain:

4.2 At any time in the past year was there a failure of an effluent acute or chronic whole effluent toxicity (WET) test?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If Yes, please explain:

4.3 If the biomonitoring (WET) test did not pass, were steps taken to identify and/or reduce source(s) of toxicity?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

Please explain unless not applicable:

Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
Section Grade	

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Effluent Quality and Plant Performance (Total Suspended Solids)

1. Effluent Total Suspended Solids Results

1.1 Verify the following monthly average effluent values, exceedances, and points for TSS:

Outfall No. 010	Monthly Average Limit (mg/L)	90% of Permit Limit >10 (mg/L)	Effluent Monthly Average (mg/L)	Months of Discharge with a Limit	Permit Limit Exceedance	90% Permit Limit Exceedance
January	24	21.6	0	1	0	0
February	24	21.6	1	1	0	0
March	24	21.6	1	1	0	0
April	24	21.6	2	1	0	0
May	12	10.8	3	1	0	0
June	12	10.8	2	1	0	0
July	12	10.8	2	1	0	0
August	12	10.8	1	1	0	0
September	12	10.8	0	1	0	0
October	12	10.8	1	1	0	0
November	24	21.6	2	1	0	0
December	24	21.6	4	1	0	0
* Equals limit if limit is <= 10						
Months of Discharge/yr				12		
Points per each exceedance with 12 months of discharge:					7	3
Exceedances					0	0
Points					0	0
Total Number of Points						
NOTE: For systems that discharge intermittently to state waters, the points per monthly exceedance for this section shall be based upon a multiplication factor of 12 months divided by the number of months of discharge. Example: For a wastewater facility discharging only 6 months of the year, the multiplication factor is 12/6 = 2.0						
1.2 If any violations occurred, what action was taken to regain compliance?						

Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
Section Grade	

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Item #5.

Effluent Quality and Plant Performance (Ammonia - NH3)

1. Effluent Ammonia Results

1.1 Verify the following monthly and weekly average effluent values, exceedances and points for ammonia

Outfall No. 010	Monthly Average NH3 Limit (mg/L)	Weekly Average NH3 Limit (mg/L)	Effluent Monthly Average NH3 (mg/L)	Monthly Permit Limit Exceed ance	Effluent Weekly Average for Week 1	Effluent Weekly Average for Week 2	Effluent Weekly Average for Week 3	Effluent Weekly Average for Week 4	Weekly Permit Limit Exceed ance
January	9.7	15	.031	0	.029	.029	.032	.034	0
February	9.7	15	.038	0	.037	.036	.033	.044	0
March	9.7	15	.039	0	.039	.039	.034	.043	0
April	6	9	.038	0	.036	.032	.034	.047	0
May	6.4	8.1	.048	0	.037	.06	.064	.032	0
June	6.4	8.1	.052	0	.035	.036	.049	.087	0
July	6.4	8.1	.038	0	.041	.029	.031	.052	0
August	6.4	8.1	.038	0	.05	.037	.03	.036	0
September	6.4	8.1	.032	0	.03	.039	.012	.029	0
October	9.7	15	.04	0	.043	.045	.037	.035	0
November	9.7	15	.034	0	.03	.028	.036	.042	0
December	9.7	15	.038	0	.032	.041	.039	.043	0
Points per each exceedance of Monthly average:									10
Exceedances, Monthly:									0
Points:									0
Points per each exceedance of weekly average (when there is no monthly average):									2.5
Exceedances, Weekly:									0
Points:									0
Total Number of Points									0

NOTE: Limit exceedances are considered for monthly OR weekly averages but not both. When a monthly average limit exists it will be used to determine exceedances and generate points. This will be true even if a weekly limit also exists. When a weekly average limit exists and a monthly limit does not exist, the weekly limit will be used to determine exceedances and generate points.

1.2 If any violations occurred, what action was taken to regain compliance?

Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
Section Grade	

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Effluent Quality and Plant Performance (Phosphorus)

1. Effluent Phosphorus Results

1.1 Verify the following monthly average effluent values, exceedances, and points for Phosphorus

Outfall No. 010	Monthly Average phosphorus Limit (mg/L)	Effluent Monthly Average phosphorus (mg/L)	Months of Discharge with a Limit	Permit Limit Exceedance
January	1	0.082	1	0
February	1	0.092	1	0
March	1	0.089	1	0
April	1	0.101	1	0
May	1	0.100	1	0
June	1	0.106	1	0
July	1	0.070	1	0
August	1	0.061	1	0
September	1	0.079	1	0
October	1	0.040	1	0
November	1	0.044	1	0
December	1	0.102	1	0
Months of Discharge/yr			12	
Points per each exceedance with 12 months of discharge:				10
Exceedances				0
Total Number of Points				0

NOTE: For systems that discharge intermittently to waters of the state, the points per monthly exceedance for this section shall be based upon a multiplication factor of 12 months divided by the number of months of discharge.
Example: For a wastewater facility discharging only 6 months of the year, the multiplication factor is 12/6 = 2.0

1.2 If any violations occurred, what action was taken to regain compliance?

Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
Section Grade	

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Item #5.

Biosolids Quality and Management

1. Biosolids Use/Disposal

1.1 How did you use or dispose of your biosolids? (Check all that apply)

- ☒ Land applied under your permit
☐ Publicly Distributed Exceptional Quality Biosolids
☐ Hauled to another permitted facility
☐ Landfilled
☐ Incinerated
☐ Other

NOTE: If you did not remove biosolids from your system, please describe your system type such as lagoons, reed beds, recirculating sand filters, etc.

1.1.1 If you checked Other, please describe:

2. Land Application Site

2.1 Last Year's Approved and Active Land Application Sites

2.1.1 How many acres did you have?

652.8 acres

2.1.2 How many acres did you use?

40.0 acres

2.2 If you did not have enough acres for your land application needs, what action was taken?

2.3 Did you overapply nitrogen on any of your approved land application sites you used last year?

☐ Yes (30 points)

☒ No

2.4 Have all the sites you used last year for land application been soil tested in the previous 4 years?

☒ Yes

☐ No (10 points)

☐ N/A

3. Biosolids Metals

Number of biosolids outfalls in your WPDES permit:

3.1 For each outfall tested, verify the biosolids metal quality values for your facility during the last calendar year.

Outfall No. 008 - SLUDGE

Parameter	80% of Limit	H.Q. Limit	Ceiling Limit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	80% Value	High Quality	Ceiling
Arsenic		41	75			<7.2											0	0
Cadmium		39	85			.33											0	0
Copper		1500	4300			280											0	0
Lead		300	840			9.8											0	0
Mercury		17	57			<.33											0	0
Molybdenum	60		75			4.3										0		0
Nickel	336		420			10										0		0
Selenium	80		100			<14										0		0
Zinc		2800	7500			450											0	0

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Outfall No. 009 - Liquid Sludge

Parameter	80% of Limit	H.Q. Limit	Ceiling Limit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	80% Value	High Quality	Ceiling
Arsenic		41	75														0	0
Cadmium		39	85														0	0
Copper		1500	4300														0	0
Lead		300	840														0	0
Mercury		17	57														0	0
Molybdenum	60		75													0		0
Nickel	336		420													0		0
Selenium	80		100													0		0
Zinc		2800	7500														0	0

3.1.1 Number of times any of the metals exceeded the high quality limits OR 80% of the limit for molybdenum, nickel, or selenium = 0

Exceedence Points

- 0 (0 Points)
- 1-2 (10 Points)
- > 2 (15 Points)

3.1.2 If you exceeded the high quality limits, did you cumulatively track the metals loading at each land application site? (check applicable box)

- Yes
- No (10 points)

- N/A - Did not exceed limits or no HQ limit applies (0 points)
- N/A - Did not land apply biosolids until limit was met (0 points)

3.1.3 Number of times any of the metals exceeded the ceiling limits = 0

Exceedence Points

- 0 (0 Points)
- 1 (10 Points)
- > 1 (15 Points)

3.1.4 Were biosolids land applied which exceeded the ceiling limit?

- Yes (20 Points)
- No (0 Points)

3.1.5 If any metal limit (high quality or ceiling) was exceeded at any time, what action was taken? Has the source of the metals been identified?

4. Pathogen Control (per outfall):

4.1 Verify the following information. If any information is incorrect, use the Report Issue button under the Options header in the left-side menu.

Outfall Number:	008
Biosolids Class:	B
Bacteria Type and Limit:	Fecal Coliform
Sample Dates:	01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025
Density:	92,000
Sample Concentration Amount:	CFU/G TS
Requirement Met:	Yes
Land Applied:	Yes
Process:	Aerobic Digestion
Process Description:	Fecal coliforms tested. Meets limit.

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4.2 If exceeded Class B limit or did not meet the process criteria at the time of land application. 4.2.1 Was the limit exceeded or the process criteria not met at the time of land application? ☐ Yes (40 Points) ☒ No If yes, what action was taken?	0														
5. Vector Attraction Reduction (per outfall): 5.1 Verify the following information. If any of the information is incorrect, use the Report Issue button under the Options header in the left-side menu. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">Outfall Number:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">008</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Method Date:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12/31/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option Used To Satisfy Requirement:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Incorporation when land apply</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Requirement Met:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Land Applied:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limit (if applicable):</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Results (if applicable):</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 5.2 Was the limit exceeded or the process criteria not met at the time of land application? ☐ Yes (40 Points) ☒ No If yes, what action was taken?	Outfall Number:	008	Method Date:	12/31/2025	Option Used To Satisfy Requirement:	Incorporation when land apply	Requirement Met:	Yes	Land Applied:	Yes	Limit (if applicable):		Results (if applicable):		0
Outfall Number:	008														
Method Date:	12/31/2025														
Option Used To Satisfy Requirement:	Incorporation when land apply														
Requirement Met:	Yes														
Land Applied:	Yes														
Limit (if applicable):															
Results (if applicable):															
6. Biosolids Storage 6.1 How many days of actual, current biosolids storage capacity did your wastewater treatment facility have either on-site or off-site? ☐ >= 180 days (0 Points) ☒ 150 - 179 days (10 Points) ☐ 120 - 149 days (20 Points) ☐ 90 - 119 days (30 Points) ☐ < 90 days (40 Points) ☐ N/A (0 Points) 6.2 If you checked N/A above, explain why.	10														
7. Issues 7.1 Describe any outstanding biosolids issues with treatment, use or overall management:															

Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
Section Grade	

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Item #5.

Staffing and Preventative Maintenance (All Treatment Plants)

1. Plant Staffing 1.1 Was your wastewater treatment plant adequately staffed last year? ● Yes ○ No If No, please explain: Could use more help/staff for: 1.2 Did your wastewater staff have adequate time to properly operate and maintain the plant and fulfill all wastewater management tasks including recordkeeping? ● Yes ○ No If No, please explain:	
2. Preventative Maintenance 2.1 Did your plant have a documented AND implemented plan for preventative maintenance on major equipment items? ● Yes (Continue with question 2) ☐☐ ○ No (40 points)☐☐ If No, please explain, then go to question 3: 2.2 Did this preventative maintenance program depict frequency of intervals, types of lubrication, and other tasks necessary for each piece of equipment? ● Yes ○ No (10 points) 2.3 Were these preventative maintenance tasks, as well as major equipment repairs, recorded and filed so future maintenance problems can be assessed properly? ● Yes ○ Paper file system ○ Computer system ● Both paper and computer system ○ No (10 points)	0
3. O&M Manual 3.1 Does your plant have a detailed O&M and Manufacturer Equipment Manuals that can be used as a reference when needed? ● Yes ○ No	
4. Overall Maintenance /Repairs 4.1 Rate the overall maintenance of your wastewater plant. ● Excellent ○ Very good ○ Good ○ Fair ○ Poor Describe your rating:	

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The Columbus WWTP uses a maintenance management software program, (HACH JOB CAL Plus), for scheduling and tracking preventative maintenance tasks. The City of Columbus believes that the data-driven system will minimize costs and mitigate crisis situations.

Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
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Item #5.

Operator Certification and Education

1. Operator-In-Charge

1.1 Did you have a designated operator-in-charge during the report year?

- ☒ Yes (0 points)
- ☐ No (20 points)

Name:

PETER E GALLUN

Certification No:

25216

0

2. Certification Requirements

2.1 In accordance with Chapter NR 114.56 and 114.57, Wisconsin Administrative Code, what level and subclass(es) were required for the operator-in-charge (OIC) to operate the wastewater treatment plant and what level and subclass(es) were held by the operator-in-charge?

Sub Class	SubClass Description	WWTP	OIC		
		Advanced	OIT	Basic	Advanced
A1	Suspended Growth Processes	X			X
A2	Attached Growth Processes		X		
A3	Recirculating Media Filters				
A4	Ponds, Lagoons and Natural				X
A5	Anaerobic Treatment Of Liquid				
B	Solids Separation	X			X
C	Biological Solids/Sludges	X			X
P	Total Phosphorus	X			X
N	Total Nitrogen				
D	Disinfection	X			X
L	Laboratory	X			X
U	Unique Treatment Systems				
SS	Sanitary Sewage Collection	X	NA	NA	NA

0

2.2 Was the operator-in-charge certified at the appropriate level and subclass(es) to operate this plant? (Note: Certification in subclass SS is required 5 years after permit reissuance.)

- ☒ Yes (0 points)
- ☐ No (20 points)

2.3 For wastewater treatment facilities with a registered or certified laboratory, is at least one operator that works in the laboratory certified at the basic level in the laboratory (L) subclass?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A – Wastewater treatment facility does not have a registered or certified laboratory

2.4 For wastewater treatment facilities that own and operate a sanitary sewage collection system, has at least one operator been designated the OIC for sanitary sewage collection system and certified at the basic level in the sanitary sewage collection system (SS) subclass?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A – Owner of the Wastewater treatment facility does not own and operate a sanitary sewage collection system

3. Succession Planning

3.1 In the event of the loss of your designated operator-in-charge, did you have a contingency plan to ensure the continued proper operation and maintenance of the plant that includes one or more of the following options (check all that apply)?

- ☒ One or more additional certified operators on staff

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☐ An arrangement with another certified operator ☐ An arrangement with another community with a certified operator ☐ An operator on staff who has an operator-in-training certificate for your plant and is expected to be certified within one year ☐ A consultant to serve as your certified operator ☐ None of the above (20 points) If "None of the above" is selected, please explain:	0
4. Continuing Education Credits 4.1 If you had a designated operator-in-charge, was the operator-in-charge earning Continuing Education Credits at the following rates? OIT and Basic Certification: ☐ Averaging 6 or more CECs per year. ☐ Averaging less than 6 CECs per year. Advanced Certification: ☒ Averaging 8 or more CECs per year. ☐ Averaging less than 8 CECs per year.	

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Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
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Item #5.

Financial Management

1. Provider of Financial Information

Name:

Nicole Renkas

Telephone:

(920) 623-5912

(XXX) XXX-XXXX

E-Mail Address
(optional):

nrenkas@columbusutilitieswi.com

2. Treatment Works Operating Revenues

2.1 Are User Charges or other revenues sufficient to cover O&M expenses for your wastewater treatment plant AND/OR collection system ?

● Yes (0 points) ☐

○ No (40 points)

If No, please explain:

2.2 When was the User Charge System or other revenue source(s) last reviewed and/or revised?
Year:

2025

● 0-2 years ago (0 points) ☐

○ 3 or more years ago (20 points) ☐

○ N/A (private facility)

2.3 Did you have a special account (e.g., CWWP required segregated Replacement Fund, etc.) or financial resources available for repairing or replacing equipment for your wastewater treatment plant and/or collection system?

● Yes (0 points)

○ No (40 points)

0

REPLACEMENT FUNDS [PUBLIC MUNICIPAL FACILITIES SHALL COMPLETE QUESTION 3]

3. Equipment Replacement Funds

3.1 When was the Equipment Replacement Fund last reviewed and/or revised?

Year:

2025

● 1-2 years ago (0 points) ☐

○ 3 or more years ago (20 points) ☐

○ N/A

If N/A, please explain:

3.2 Equipment Replacement Fund Activity

3.2.1 Ending Balance Reported on Last Year's CMAR

\$ 1,365,716.70

3.2.2 Adjustments - if necessary (e.g. earned interest, audit correction, withdrawal of excess funds, increase making up previous shortfall, etc.)

\$ 0.00

3.2.3 Adjusted January 1st Beginning Balance

\$ 1,365,716.70

3.2.4 Additions to Fund (e.g. portion of User Fee, earned interest, etc.)

+ \$ 81,322.67

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3.2.5 Subtractions from Fund (e.g., equipment replacement, major repairs - use description box 3.2.6.1 below*)

- \$ 338,009.23

3.2.6 Ending Balance as of December 31st for CMAR Reporting Year

\$ 1,109,030.14

All Sources: This ending balance should include all Equipment Replacement Funds whether held in a bank account(s), certificate(s) of deposit, etc.

3.2.6.1 Indicate adjustments, equipment purchases, and/or major repairs from 3.2.5 above.

Collection system projects, pump and valve replacements.

3.3 What amount should be in your Replacement Fund? \$ 1,109,030.14

0

Please note: If you had a CWWFP loan, this amount was originally based on the Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) and should be regularly updated as needed. Further calculation instructions and an example can be found by clicking the SectionInstructions link under Info header in the left-side menu.

3.3.1 Is the December 31 Ending Balance in your Replacement Fund above, (#3.2.6) equal to, or greater than the amount that should be in it (#3.3)?

● Yes

○ No

If No, please explain.

4. Future Planning

4.1 During the next ten years, will you be involved in formal planning for upgrading, rehabilitating, or new construction of your treatment facility or collection system?

● Yes - If Yes, please provide major project information, if not already listed below. ☐ ☐

○ No

Project #	Project Description	Estimated Cost	Approximate Construction Year
1	PLC upgrade	\$280,000	2028
2	Commercial Lift Station (Pumps)	\$160,000	2034
3	Kiwanis Lift Station (Pumps, Valves, Mixer and Piping/Generator)	\$170,000	2032
4	Westside Lift Station (Pump Controls, Pumps and Wet Well Flushing)	\$100,000	2031
5	Birdsey Lift Station (Control Panel)	\$75,000	2026
6	Hughes Lift Station Replacement	\$190,000	2035
7	Street Reconstruction Projects	\$4,412,191	2036
8	Tertiary Filter Replacement	\$4,500,000	2033
9	Removing Chemical Disinfection/Replace with Ozone Disinfection or UV	\$2,100,000	2029
10	Sludge Management - Blowers & Piping	\$200,000	2030

5. Financial Management General Comments

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND USE

6. Collection System

6.1 Energy Usage

6.1.1 Enter the monthly energy usage from the different energy sources:

COLLECTION SYSTEM PUMPAGE: Total Power Consumed

Number of Municipally Owned Pump/Lift Stations: 11

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	Electricity Consumed (kWh)	Natural Gas Consumed (therms)
January	12,628	14
February	10,766	58
March	9,240	49
April	8,224	23
May	6,087	21
June	4,967	20
July	4,786	22
August	5,044	16
September	4,412	24
October	4,707	33
November	7,055	38
December	10,485	54
Total	88,401	372
Average	7,367	31

6.1.2 Comments:

6.2 Energy Related Processes and Equipment

6.2.1 Indicate equipment and practices utilized at your pump/lift stations (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Comminution or Screening
- ☐ Extended Shaft Pumps
- ☐ Flow Metering and Recording
- ☐ Pneumatic Pumping
- ☒ SCADA System
- ☐ Self-Priming Pumps
- ☒ Submersible Pumps
- ☐ Variable Speed Drives
- ☒ Other:

Wet well mixers in two lift stations.

6.2.2 Comments:

6.3 Has an Energy Study been performed for your pump/lift stations?

● No

○ Yes

Year:

By Whom:

Describe and Comment:

6.4 Future Energy Related Equipment

6.4.1 What energy efficient equipment or practices do you have planned for the future for your pump/lift stations?

Energy efficiency is considered in new designs and upgrades to existing pump stations.

7. Treatment Facility

7.1 Energy Usage

7.1.1 Enter the monthly energy usage from the different energy sources:

TREATMENT PLANT: Total Power Consumed/Month

	Electricity Consumed (kWh)	Total Influent Flow (MG)	Electricity Consumed/ Flow (kWh/MG)	Total Influent BOD (1000 lbs)	Electricity Consumed/ Total Influent BOD (kWh/1000lbs)	Natural Gas Consumed (therms)
January	68,785	27.58	2,494	35.74	1,925	1,616
February	60,254	24.01	2,510	33.46	1,801	1,879
March	75,495	34.64	2,179	36.30	2,080	2,226
April	75,741	37.93	1,997	48.12	1,574	1,315
May	72,960	40.38	1,807	41.73	1,748	1,784
June	68,520	35.40	1,936	39.90	1,717	656
July	69,990	31.05	2,254	44.33	1,579	151
August	76,780	35.68	2,152	38.69	1,984	34
September	75,570	29.86	2,531	38.76	1,950	54
October	68,030	27.01	2,519	37.70	1,805	119
November	58,820	25.10	2,343	29.46	1,997	203
December	61,570	27.03	2,278	36.83	1,672	2,009
Total	832,515	375.67		461.02		12,046
Average	69,376	31.31	2,250	38.42	1,819	1,004

7.1.2 Comments:

7.2 Energy Related Processes and Equipment

7.2.1 Indicate equipment and practices utilized at your treatment facility (Check all that apply):

- ☒ Aerobic Digestion
- ☐ Anaerobic Digestion
- ☐ Biological Phosphorus Removal
- ☒ Coarse Bubble Diffusers
- ☒ Dissolved O2 Monitoring and Aeration Control
- ☒ Effluent Pumping
- ☒ Fine Bubble Diffusers
- ☒ Influent Pumping
- ☒ Mechanical Sludge Processing
- ☒ Nitrification
- ☒ SCADA System
- ☐ UV Disinfection
- ☒ Variable Speed Drives
- ☐ Other:

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7.2.2 Comments:

7.3 Future Energy Related Equipment

7.3.1 What energy efficient equipment or practices do you have planned for the future for your treatment facility?

8. Biogas Generation

8.1 Do you generate/produce biogas at your facility?

☒ No

☐ Yes

If Yes, how is the biogas used (Check all that apply):

☐ Flared Off

☐ Building Heat

☐ Process Heat

☐ Generate Electricity

☐ Other:

9. Energy Efficiency Study

9.1 Has an Energy Study been performed for your treatment facility?

☐ No

☒ Yes

☒ Entire facility

Year:

2019

By Whom:

Focus on Energy

Describe and Comment:

Focus on Energy provided results of an audit of the facility and how using best management practices can favorably affect energy consumption.

☐ Part of the facility

Year:

By Whom:

Describe and Comment:

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Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
Section Grade	

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Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems

1. Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) Program

1.1 Do you have a CMOM program that is being implemented?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If No, explain:

1.2 Do you have a CMOM program that contains all the applicable components and items according to Wisc. Adm Code NR 210.23 (4)?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No (30 points)
- ☐ N/A

If No or N/A, explain:

1.3 Does your CMOM program contain the following components and items? (check the components and items that apply)

☒ Goals [NR 210.23 (4)(a)]

Describe the major goals you had for your collection system last year:

The goal of the wastewater utility was to clean 25% and televise 10% of the system and perform manhole inspections during the cleaning and televising operations.

Did you accomplish them?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If No, explain:

☒ Organization [NR 210.23 (4) (b)] ☐ ☐

Does this chapter of your CMOM include:

- ☒ Organizational structure and positions (eg. organizational chart and position descriptions)
- ☒ Internal and external lines of communication responsibilities
- ☒ Person(s) responsible for reporting overflow events to the department and the public

☒ Legal Authority [NR 210.23 (4) (c)]

What is the legally binding document that regulates the use of your sewer system?

City of Columbus Sewer Use Ordinance

If you have a Sewer Use Ordinance or other similar document, when was it last reviewed and revised? (MM/DD/YYYY) 2022-07-19

Does your sewer use ordinance or other legally binding document address the following:

- ☒ Private property inflow and infiltration
 - ☒ New sewer and building sewer design, construction, installation, testing and inspection
 - ☒ Rehabilitated sewer and lift station installation, testing and inspection
 - ☒ Sewage flows satellite system and large private users are monitored and controlled, as necessary
 - ☒ Fat, oil and grease control
 - ☒ Enforcement procedures for sewer use non-compliance
 - ☒ Operation and Maintenance [NR 210.23 (4) (d)]
- Does your operation and maintenance program and equipment include the following:
- ☒ Equipment and replacement part inventories
 - ☒ Up-to-date sewer system map

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- ☒ A management system (computer database and/or file system) for collection system information for O&M activities, investigation and rehabilitation
- ☒ A description of routine operation and maintenance activities (see question 2 below)
- ☒ Capacity assessment program
- ☒ Basement back assessment and correction
- ☒ Regular O&M training

- ☒ Design and Performance Provisions [NR 210.23 (4) (e)] ☐ ☐

What standards and procedures are established for the design, construction, and inspection of the sewer collection system, including building sewers and interceptor sewers on private property?

- ☒ State Plumbing Code, DNR NR 110 Standards and/or local Municipal Code Requirements
- ☒ Construction, Inspection, and Testing
- ☐ Others:

- ☒ Overflow Emergency Response Plan [NR 210.23 (4) (f)] ☐ ☐

Does your emergency response capability include:

- ☒ Responsible personnel communication procedures
- ☒ Response order, timing and clean-up
- ☒ Public notification protocols
- ☒ Training
- ☒ Emergency operation protocols and implementation procedures

- ☒ Annual Self-Auditing of your CMOM Program [NR 210.23 (5)] ☐ ☐

- ☐ Special Studies Last Year (check only those that apply):

- ☐ Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) Analysis
- ☐ Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES)
- ☐ Sewer Evaluation and Capacity Management Plan (SECAP)
- ☐ Lift Station Evaluation Report
- ☐ Others:

2. Operation and Maintenance

2.1 Did your sanitary sewer collection system maintenance program include the following maintenance activities? Complete all that apply and indicate the amount maintained.

Cleaning	23	% of system/year
Root removal	0	% of system/year
Flow monitoring	0	% of system/year
Smoke testing	0	% of system/year
Sewer line televising	23	% of system/year
Manhole inspections	66	% of system/year
Lift station O&M	52	# per L.S./year
Manhole rehabilitation	1	% of manholes rehabbed
Mainline rehabilitation	1	% of sewer lines rehabbed
Private sewer inspections	0	% of system/year

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Private sewer I/I removal % of private services

River or water crossings % of pipe crossings evaluated or maintained

Please include additional comments about your sanitary sewer collection system below:

3. Performance Indicators

3.1 Provide the following collection system and flow information for the past year.

29.99	Total actual amount of precipitation last year in inches
36.5	Annual average precipitation (for your location)
32	Miles of sanitary sewer
11	Number of lift stations
0	Number of lift station failures
2	Number of sewer pipe failures
2	Number of basement backup occurrences
2	Number of complaints
	Average daily flow in MGD (if available)
	Peak monthly flow in MGD (if available)
	Peak hourly flow in MGD (if available)

3.2 Performance ratios for the past year:

0.00	Lift station failures (failures/year)
0.06	Sewer pipe failures (pipe failures/sewer mile/yr)
0.00	Sanitary sewer overflows (number/sewer mile/yr)
0.06	Basement backups (number/sewer mile)
0.06	Complaints (number/sewer mile)
	Peaking factor ratio (Peak Monthly:Annual Daily Avg)
	Peaking factor ratio (Peak Hourly:Annual Daily Avg)

4. Overflows

LIST OF SANITARY SEWER (SSO) AND TREATMENT FACILITY (TFO) OVERFLOWS REPORTED **

Date	Location	Cause	Estimated Volume
None reported			

** If there were any SSOs or TFOs that are not listed above, please contact the DNR and stop work on this section until corrected.

5. Infiltration / Inflow (I/I)

5.1 Was infiltration/inflow (I/I) significant in your community last year?

● Yes

○ No

If Yes, please describe:

I/I is a significant problem with our collection system. Snowmelt in the spring along with rain causes flow to increase at the WWTF.

5.2 Has infiltration/inflow and resultant high flows affected performance or created problems in your collection system, lift stations, or treatment plant at any time in the past year?

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☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, please describe:	
5.3 Explain any infiltration/inflow (I/I) changes this year from previous years: Last year was drier than the previous year so we didn't have the problems we had in 2024.	
5.4 What is being done to address infiltration/inflow in your collection system? We clean, televise, and document potential problem areas and make repairs when feasible.	

Total Points Generated	
Score (100 - Total Points Generated)	
Section Grade	

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Grading Summary

WPDES No: 0021008

SECTIONS	LETTER GRADE	GRADE POINTS	WEIGHTING FACTORS	SECTION POINTS
Influent				
BOD/CBOD				
TSS				
Ammonia				
Phosphorus				
Biosolids				
Staffing/PM				
OpCert				
Financial				
Collection				
TOTALS			0	0
GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) =				

- Notes:
- A = Voluntary Range (Response Optional)
 - B = Voluntary Range (Response Optional)
 - C = Recommendation Range (Response Required)
 - D = Action Range (Response Required)
 - F = Action Range (Response Required)

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Resolution or Owner's Statement

Name of Governing Body or Owner:	
Date of Resolution or Action Taken:	
Resolution Number:	
Date of Submittal:	

ACTIONS SET FORTH BY THE GOVERNING BODY OR OWNER RELATING TO SPECIFIC CMAR SECTIONS (Optional for grade A or B. Required for grade C, D, or F):
Influent Flow and Loadings: Grade =

Effluent Quality: BOD: Grade =

Effluent Quality: TSS: Grade =

Effluent Quality: Ammonia: Grade =

Effluent Quality: Phosphorus: Grade =

Biosolids Quality and Management: Grade =

Staffing: Grade =

Operator Certification: Grade =

Financial Management: Grade =

Collection Systems: Grade =
(Regardless of grade, response required for Collection Systems if SSOs were reported)

ACTIONS SET FORTH BY THE GOVERNING BODY OR OWNER RELATING TO THE OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND ANY GENERAL COMMENTS
(Optional for G.P.A. greater than or equal to 3.00, required for G.P.A. less than 3.00)
G.P.A. =

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Resolution or Owner's Statement

Name of Governing
Body or Owner:

Date of Resolution or
Action Taken:

Resolution Number:

Date of Submittal:

ACTIONS SET FORTH BY THE GOVERNING BODY OR OWNER RELATING TO SPECIFIC CMAR SECTIONS (Optional for grade A or B. Required for grade C, D, or F):

Influent Flow and Loadings: Grade = A

Effluent Quality: BOD: Grade = A

Effluent Quality: TSS: Grade = A

Effluent Quality: Ammonia: Grade = A

Effluent Quality: Phosphorus: Grade = A

Biosolids Quality and Management: Grade = B

Staffing: Grade = A

Operator Certification: Grade = A

Financial Management: Grade = A

Collection Systems: Grade = A

(Regardless of grade, response required for Collection Systems if SSOs were reported)

ACTIONS SET FORTH BY THE GOVERNING BODY OR OWNER RELATING TO THE OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND ANY GENERAL COMMENTS

(Optional for G.P.A. greater than or equal to 3.00, required for G.P.A. less than 3.00)

G.P.A. = 3.86



To: Columbus Utility Commission
From: Randall Myrum
Date: June 18th, 2026
**Re: Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility –
Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR)**

Dear Committee Members,

The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires all state permitted wastewater treatment facilities to submit a Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) by June 30th of each year. The reports are composed of all pertinent plant and collection system data gathered from the previous year (2025) as well as anticipated CIP's and purchases over the next five to ten years.

Please review the CMAR and vote on the ratification of the report. Upon ratification, the Wastewater Utility Lead will submit the report to the Wisconsin DNR for review and approval, which will be issued by August 30th, 2026 (or 60 days, whichever is sooner).

If you have any questions about the report, feel free to contact me or the Wastewater Department Lead, Peter Gallun.



To: Columbus Utility Commission
From: Randall Myrum
Date: June 18th, 2026
Re: Fall River Invoice Instructions

Staff is seeking instructions and guidance on how the commission would like the Utility Department to collect the outstanding balance owed to the Columbus Wastewater Dpt.

At the last meeting the commission instructed utility staff to collect the outstanding balance of \$113,609.00 accumulated over the last 3.5 years (+/-) but stated concerns issuing a lump sum invoice.

The utility staff requests that the commission issue instruction on the preferred approach to collecting the outstanding debt from Fall River, with the consideration of providing the option of an installment plan, and what the duration of said plan would entail.



Director's Report Outline

Randall Myrum – Utility Director

Electric Department:

- New Construction
- System Repairs

Water Department:

- Watermain Break
- System Maintenance

Sanitary Department:

- Phosphorus Removal Pilot Program

Dept. of Public Works

- Pavement Repairs
- Storm Damage Cleanup
- Seasonal Decorations

Project Updates:

- School Street Project
 - Watermain Break

MEUW

LIVE Lines

Volume 75, Issue 6 • June 2026

96th Annual Conference: Advocacy, partnership, and connections

Madison and Sun Prairie shared the hosting stage for MEUW's 96th Annual Conference. Attendees from 40 municipal utilities gathered for "Day at the Capitol" visits, learned about municipal utility governance and finance, heard presentations about the current state of the industry, new and potential legislation that impacts municipal utilities, transmission investments and planning, and energy innovations and research.

More than 130 registrants took part in the 96th annual gathering of municipal leaders

at the DoubleTree Madison East Hotel in Madison. The association's Annual Business Meeting was held prior to the conference's first general session, with MEUW President and CEO Tim Heinrich providing an update about member-engagement activities and other ongoing initiatives designed to sustain MEUW and add value for member utilities and other stakeholders.

Mike Peters, President and CEO of WPPI Energy, who is slated to become Chair of the American Public Power Association (APPA) in June, provided an overview of issues and trends impacting the public power sector, including reliability challenges, a generation-mix shift, queue-to-build gap, and accelerated load growth. He also highlighted the vital role Wisconsin municipal utilities have long played in advocating for industry issues at the national level.



With a mix of education, advocacy, awards, and networking, the Annual Conference offered members a variety of ways to engage, including the addition of a trade show at SPU.



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New honor recognizes enduring commitment to safety
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Herlitzka has left his mark on public power in Wisconsin
Page 4

Despite cost pressures, Wisconsinites face electric rates lower than most
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Made with Public Power: Kikkoman in Jefferson
Page 10

Classifieds — **Page 12**

The group then was able to choose from three different breakout sessions, which were held back-to-back to allow for more participation. Julia Potter, Attorney at Boardman and Clark, reviewed the current state of service territory disputes and litigation, and provided helpful insights for utilities to protect their service area boundaries.

Shane Smith, Statewide Utility Project Coordinator from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, provided new information and updates on the utility coordination work and recent revisions to the easement-acquisition process.

And Mike Czuprynski, MEUW Director of Safety Services and Operations,

Continued on page 3

Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin's mission is to **strengthen and unify community-owned utilities**. Since 1928, MEUW has been the trade association for Wisconsin's 81 public power communities and is affiliated with the American Public Power Association (APPA) — www.publicpower.org

MEUW recognizes 42 member utilities for safety performance

The association presented 42 member utilities with Safety Achievement Awards for their 2025 safety performance. Each was honored at a ceremony held in conjunction with the 96th Annual Conference on May 14.

The MEUW Safety Achievement Award was developed to recognize safety performance and to encourage safety activities by member utilities. Awards are given based on voluntary reporting.

Utilities receive recognition for their dedication to employees' on-the-job focus; following safety rules, using safe work practices, and watching out for one another. The metrics are designed to identify leading indicators of safety performance, rather than lagging indicators. MEUW first presented safety awards in 1999.

The Award also acknowledges the commitment of management and the

utility's governing board to ensuring an environment that supports safe operations. This includes providing employees with the equipment they need to do the job safely and the training needed to maintain or improve skills.

Award recipients are placed in one of three categories — gold, silver, or bronze — based on scoring against key criteria that promote a strong safety culture. A list of the winners is [here](#). ●



MEUW presented its member utilities with Safety Achievement Awards at the association's 96th Annual Conference. Accepting on behalf of their community utility were (seated in front row; from left) — Brian Rhodes (Hartford), George Morrissey (Cuba City), Mike Reynolds (Boscobel), Nick Kumm (Marshfield), Tim Aaby (Rice Lake), Melanie Krause (Menasha), Jill Weiss (Sun Prairie), Jeremy Fischer (Manitowoc); (second row) Steve Brooks (Waupun), Ryan Roehrborn (Plymouth), Adam Carroll (Shawano), Brian Carroll (Gresham), Bill Kosmeder (New Glarus), Sam Trace (Waunakee), Dalton Hiley (Columbus), Ed Hoff (Brodhead), Kevin Kaari (Oconomowoc), Scott Gald (Richland Center), Dave Pahl (Kaukauna), Adam Schleicher (Stoughton), Tyler Mosser (Clintonville); (back row) Brian Dellemann (Two Rivers), Jason Bessette (New London), Richard Merdan (Wisconsin Rapids), Nick Koch (Juneau), Isaac Pooler (Trempealeau)

New honor recognizes enduring commitment to safety

Three municipal electric power companies — Arcadia, Eagle River, and Richland Center — were recognized as 25-time recipients of MEUW's Safety Achievement Award. When presenting the new honor, MEUW President and CEO Tim Heinrich said, "The annual recognition celebrates the most recent success in safety. We believe it's also important to acknowledge and celebrate the enduring commitment of utility employees, management, and the local utility governing boards who are developing an environment and a culture that supports and values safe operations." He added, "Because we know that the trophies are often displayed away from public view, this recognition comes in the form of a large, 6-foot banner that can be hung as a highly visible and continuous reminder of the reward that comes when you 'Work It Safe.'"

At right, officials from City Utilities of Richland Center accepted a banner recognizing the utility's ongoing commitment to safety achievement



Continued from page 1

shared a recap of the severe weather that occurred during last year's Annual Conference throughout portions of the state, prompting a mutual aid event to be called. He reviewed lessons learned from the response and a review of MEUW's notification and support process.

During a lunchtime [awards ceremony](#), MEUW presented awards to 23 individuals whose work is helping to strengthen public power. Marshfield Utilities also was honored as the first recipient of a new award designed to recognize a company that demonstrates exceptional collaboration, partnership, and mutual support in advancing the goals of public power.

Afterward, Ellen Nowak, Vice President of Regulatory and Government Affairs at ATC addressed the group. She thanked the municipal utilities for their support of the Right of First Refusal legislation that failed to pass in last year's session. She also shared with the group information on the state of the grid, drivers of load growth, reforms on the horizon, and how upcoming political elections may impact Wisconsin's municipal utilities.

Three researchers at the Wisconsin Energy Institute (WEI) presented some of the innovative solutions being developed at Wisconsin's flagship university (*see story below*). WEI Associate Director Mary Blanchard; Dr. Michael Wagner, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering; and Dr. Giri Venkataramanan, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Director of the Wisconsin Electric Machines and Power Electronics Consortium, shared their insights with the group.



Among the individual honorees at the Awards Ceremony were four municipal governing body members presented with the MEUW's Philip F. La Follette Public Official Award for their commitment to public power. Recipients included (*from left*) Mike Eberl, President of the Marshfield Utilities Commission; Dan Hornung, a longtime member of the Manitowoc Public Utilities Commission; Andy Moss, Cedarburg Light & Water Utility Commission Chair; and Scott Sawle, President of the City Utilities of Richland Center Commission.

Participants were then given the option to participate in one of three facilitated cohort discussion groups. The topics for the discussions included the affordability of public power, cyber and physical security, and lineworker safety and education.

The day concluded with a nostalgic session from Wayne Larrivee, legendary broadcast professional and "Voice of the Green Bay Packers." He shared stories about his time working with the Packers Radio Network and interactions with players and coaches. ●

UW researchers share insights about innovations to address grid challenges

The electric grid faces dual challenges: unprecedented load growth to support artificial intelligence amid a shift toward cleaner — but non-dispatchable — generation.

Researchers with the Wisconsin Energy Institute (WEI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison presented some of the innovative solutions being developed to address these challenges at MEUW's Annual Conference on May 14.

WEI leads interdisciplinary research and training to develop sustainable power and fuels, managing \$31 million in annual funding to support innovations in bioenergy and other technologies. The institute helps connect indus-

try with experts, technologies, and research to address challenges.

Among the solutions being studied:

- Lower frequency operation and line modulation to increase grid capacity using the existing transmission network.
- Supercritical carbon dioxide (sCO₂) power cycles for increased generation efficiency from solar, next-generation nuclear, and existing fossil fuel resources.
- Long(er)-duration energy storage (LDES) technologies — including thermal storage, reversible storage, second-life electric vehicle batteries, and hybrid energy systems — to handle increasingly variable net load.

These efforts highlight UW-Madison's broad range of energy expertise and commitment to the Wisconsin Idea, helping to "de-risk" new technologies and train the future utility workforce to ensure a more reliable and sustainable energy future.

WEI is the collaborative home of energy research and education on the UW-Madison campus. Led by scientists and engineers committed to crossing traditional research boundaries to identify breakthroughs in how energy is sourced and used, WEI fosters projects across disciplines, prepares the energy leaders of today and tomorrow, and enhances public understanding of energy issues. Learn more [here](#).

If you did not attend the conference and are interested in receiving presentation slides, please [email](#) the MEUW Office.

Herlitzka leaves a legacy of service and collaboration

By Sharon Wolf

For more than two decades, Tim Herlitzka has approached his work with a simple philosophy: municipal utilities exist to serve people.

That mindset has shaped his entire career — from his beginnings in public accounting to his leadership at Waunakee Utilities and his long-standing involvement with MEUW. As he retires this month, Tim leaves behind not only a stronger utility, but also a legacy rooted in community, collaboration, and service.

Tim's professional journey began with an accounting degree and a position at Virchow Krause, now known as Baker Tilly. During college, he worked various jobs for Northern States Power (now Xcel Energy), an experience that unexpectedly shaped the course of his career. When he joined Virchow Krause, he was naturally steered into utility accounting, where he developed a specialty that would define the next chapter of his professional life.

He spent 12 years in public accounting, but as his family grew, so did his desire for stability and community connection. Extensive travel no longer aligned with the life he wanted to build.

That opportunity arrived in 2005, when Waunakee Utilities was hiring a finance manager. Shortly after taking that position, a leadership transition occurred and Tim stepped up, taking on both finance and general manager responsibilities. He has remained with the utility ever since.

Over his 21 years at Waunakee Utilities, Tim has witnessed significant change. The community itself has transformed dramatically — growing from roughly 4,600 customers to nearly 7,700. Technology has evolved just as quickly, modernizing nearly every aspect of utility operations. Under Tim's leadership, the utility completed major infrastructure improvements, constructing a new water tower, developing additional wells, and a full conversion to advanced metering infrastructure (AMI).

"What hasn't changed is our commitment to our customers," he said. "We've always been in business for our customers, and we continue to be. The public power model is very different than investor-owned utilities. We are here to serve our customers, not make money."

That focus on service is what Tim says has made working at a municipal utility especially meaningful. "The satisfaction I get is in providing an essential service to our customers," he said.

The relationships built along the way are what he treasures most. Throughout his career, Tim has found the utility industry to be filled with dedicated, supportive people. He is quick to credit the strength of Waunakee Utilities in part to its supportive Utility Commission and the collaborative environment that helped position the utility for continued growth.



Longtime Secretary/Treasurer of MEUW's Board of Directors Tim Herlitzka was presented with a one-of-a-kind MEUW fisherman's hat at the final Board meeting before his retirement.

Tim's commitment to service extended beyond his local community through his deep involvement with MEUW, including 10 years serving as Secretary/Treasurer on the Board of Directors.

"MEUW doesn't exist without the members," he said. "You need participation to make it succeed."

Believing that strong organizations are built through shared engagement and responsibility, he consistently encouraged others to become involved with MEUW — whether through committees, the Board of Directors, or other

leadership opportunities. Among the highlights of his service to MEUW was participating in the executive director hiring process, an experience he described as especially rewarding. (At this year's Annual Conference, he received the Donald L. Smith Distinguished Service Award — MEUW's highest honor — for his longtime service and dedication to helping advance public power and the association's mission.)

Retirement for Tim is less about rigid plans and more about reflection. He looks forward to spending more time with his family, including his wife, a daughter in college, and another in high school. He plans to be intentional about what comes next.

One thing he already knows will remain important is fishing, a long-term passion he hopes to enjoy more often now.

Looking back on his career, Tim offers simple but enduring advice to younger professionals entering the utility industry: work hard, be a team player, get involved, and enjoy what you do.

Those values have guided his own career for decades. And in many ways, they reflect the broader legacy he leaves behind — a career defined not by titles or accomplishments alone, but by a steady commitment to serving others. ●

MEUW NEWS Monitor

Develop your leadership skills and learn keys to consistency

As part of the professional development programming, MEUW is offering a one-day leadership development course that focuses on why consistency is essential to being an effective utility leader. Participants will take away practical ideas they can apply to become a consistent leader and learn how consistency can inspire people to work toward a common goal. The class will be held Wednesday, Aug. 5, in Mauston. Details and registration are available [here](#).

New seminar will focus on the basics of utility rate setting

MEUW is introducing a one-day pre-conference workshop related to utility cost-of-service and rate design as part of this year's Accounting and Customer Service Seminar. Members have consistently expressed interest in a foundational session on electric rate setting, and this training is designed to meet that

need. The full-day workshop will provide practical insights for municipal employees, as well as help local utility commissioners and governing body members gain a clearer understanding of the rate-making process. Mark your calendar for Sept. 22 in Mauston (and stick around for the next day's seminar). Registration will open July 6.

Accounting and Customer Service Seminar is Sept. 23

Registration will open soon for the annual one-day seminar that brings together municipal electric utility staff with a focus on accounting and customer service topics. Attendees receive updates on regulatory and legislation that affect their utilities and compare best practices to improve their operations. MEUW's Accounting and Customer Service Committee assists MEUW staff in developing the day's program to address industry topics. This year's seminar is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 23 in Mauston.



Incoming MEUW Board Chair Tim Aaby of Rice Lake (right) presented Nick Kumm of Marshfield with the Chairman's Award, recognizing his two years of service leading the MEUW Board of Directors. The leadership transition occurred at the Annual Business Meeting held on May 14.

Save the dates for Member Roundtables

MEUW will once again host Member Roundtables around the state in September and October, providing local utility leaders an opportunity to connect and network on topics of interest to public power. Members are encouraged to attend one of the five scheduled sessions, along with their utility commissioners or elected officials, to receive updates and participate in roundtable discussions. Planned locations and dates are:

- Tuesday, Sept. 29: Bloomer
- Wednesday, Sept. 30: Juneau
- Thursday, Oct. 1: Hartford
- Thursday, Oct. 8: Clintonville
- Thursday, Oct. 15: Richland Center



While there is no cost, advance registration is required. Please watch for details about specific locations and sign-up in future communications. Each session will begin at 9 a.m. and wrap up after lunch.

LIVE Lines

Official monthly publication of **Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin, Inc.**, the statewide trade association representing the interests of Wisconsin's public power providers since 1928.

This e-newsletter is distributed to more than 1,250 utility professionals and leaders throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest on the first Tuesday of every month.

LIVE LINES has been published continuously for many decades and provides useful information, news on emerging utility issues and legislation, updates on events, training programs and member services, as well as engaging feature stories spotlighting utilities, communities and leaders.

Reader comments and suggestions are welcome — send by email to news@meuw.org

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An archive of past issues of *Live Lines* is available at www.issuu.com/meuw

Despite cost pressures, Wisconsinites face electric rates lower than most

Against a backdrop of what seems like nearly continuous dialogue about “affordability,” the Customers First Coalition (CFC) is releasing a new White Paper that examines the primary factors affecting energy costs in Wisconsin today, including infrastructure investment, fuel costs, weather, and changing electricity demand. The policy brief concludes that maintaining affordable and reliable energy in the evolving utility industry depends on public policy that sustains effective utility regulation and preserves

strong consumer protections like those that ensure large new energy users pay their fair share of infrastructure costs.

CFC is an alliance of Wisconsin-based organizations and businesses that includes consumer advocates, municipal electric utilities, rural electric cooperatives, wholesale power suppliers, an investor-owned utility, and utility workers. The Coalition works to ensure that any changes to Wisconsin’s electric utility regulatory structure put customers first. MEUW is a founding member of the Coalition, which was formed in the late 1990s as a result of the debate about restructuring, or deregulation, of the state’s electric utility industry.

Wisconsin households and businesses continue to face energy cost pressures associated with infrastructure replacement, electric grid modernization, weather-related usage changes, and evolving energy demand. At the same time, utilities are making significant long-term investments to maintain reliability and prepare for future growth.

Despite these pressures, CFC says, Wisconsin customers continue to benefit from a regulatory framework that emphasizes long-term planning, infrastructure oversight, and customer protection. Wisconsin’s regulated utility model helps ensure that utility investments are reviewed for prudence and cost-effectiveness before costs are passed on to customers, while supporting one of the nation’s most reliable electric systems.

The CFC paper says energy affordability is best understood by looking at total household energy costs — not just electric rates. Wisconsin customers generally experience lower total household energy costs than the Midwest average due to lower average energy usage, strong energy efficiency programs, a diversified energy portfolio, and effective utility regulation.

CFC identified five policy approaches that can help maintain affordable and reliable energy in the years ahead, including:

- Supporting energy efficiency and demand response programs;
- Maintaining a diversified energy portfolio;
- Ensuring large new energy users pay their fair share of infrastructure costs;
- Preserving strong consumer protections and independent ratepayer advocacy; and
- Continuing effective utility regulation that balances affordability, reliability and long-term investment.

An Executive Summary accompanying the policy paper concludes: “Wisconsin’s energy system is not immune from national and global economic pressures, but the state’s regulatory framework has helped moderate customer impacts while supporting reliable service and long-term infrastructure planning. Maintaining that balanced approach will remain critical as Wisconsin prepares for future growth and evolving energy needs.” ●



Affordability and “energy wallet” will be focus of September forum

The Customers First Coalition’s annual Power Breakfast will focus on understanding utility costs. The forum, planned for Sept. 15 in Madison, will bring together policymakers, energy leaders, and stakeholders to explore the key drivers shaping energy costs in Wisconsin.

Presenters are expected to discuss how global fuel markets, infrastructure investment, and customer usage — especially during Wisconsin winters — influence energy bills, and how effective utility regulation helps manage these pressures.

To learn more about the event, visit customersfirst.org. Registration will open this summer.

Utility regulators to meet in Madison this month

The Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin is hosting the annual Mid-America Regulatory Conference ([MARC](#)) June 7-10 in Madison. Utility commissioners, regulatory staffers, and energy company representatives from 14 states will gather to discuss the most pressing issues facing the industry today. MEUW has joined other trade associations in sponsoring the event.

PSC Chair Summer Strand, who currently serves as President of the MARC Board of Directors, joined the Customers First Coalition’s *Electric Wire* podcast to discuss how regulators balance technical analysis with public policy debates and why forums like MARC matter. The podcast episode is available [here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

PSC approves Alliant's request for special rate to serve Beaver Dam data center

In a May 7 decision that consumer advocates touted as a step toward greater consistency and transparency in handling large energy users, the three-person Public Service Commission (PSC) approved Alliant Energy's revised agreement to serve Meta's planned 220-megawatt data center in Beaver Dam. Regulators also required the utility to establish a standard electric rate for future large data center customers, saying the changes are designed to ensure Meta — not existing utility customers — covers the full cost of the power and infrastructure needed for the project.

Meta's 520-acre campus in Dodge County, a roughly \$1 billion development expected to come online in 2027, will operate under a contract with a minimum 10-year term. The Commissioners strengthened provisions related to termination charges, financial risk, and reporting requirements to better protect consumers, like they did in an April decision for a data-center rate We Energies proposed for its service area. Alliant's agreement, however, applies only to the Beaver Dam project. The PSC ordered Alliant, which has said it is in talks to bring a dozen additional data center projects in its service territory, to create a standard rate for projects that use at least 100 megawatts of power.

The ruling also highlighted broader concerns about who ultimately pays for transmission upgrades tied to these high-demand projects. Meta is the parent company of several major social media and technology platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, among others.

Tragic roadside death highlights importance of work zone safety

A utility worker was killed April 30, after being struck by a vehicle while conducting survey work in the Town of Troy in Walworth County.

The victim — identified as 65-year-old Tim Johnson of New Berlin — was an employee of We Energies. According to authorities, first responders arrived after witnesses reported that a westbound vehicle struck a worker near the roadside. Johnson was pronounced dead at the scene.

Officials said the driver was a 50-year-old man from Oklahoma. He remained at the scene and was later arrested on suspicion of homicide by negligent use of a motor vehicle.

The tragedy serves as a sobering reminder of the dangers faced by utility crews, road construction workers, and first responders who work just feet from passing traffic each day.

With June recognized as National Safety Awareness Month, drivers are encouraged to remain alert in work zones, reduce speed near roadside crews, and eliminate distractions behind the wheel. Municipal employees are also urged to review and reinforce workplace safety practices to help prevent future tragedies.

Applications being accepted for 2026 Energy Innovation grants

The PSC will accept applications for the 2026 Energy Innovation Grant Program through June 30. The program will award up to \$10 million for projects that reduce energy use, expand clean energy technologies, improve resilience, or support energy planning.

Severe weather causes major outages, prompts mutual aid

Communities along the Lake Michigan shoreline bore the brunt of severe weather May 17, with wide-



spread power outages reported in Manitowoc and Two Rivers. Straight-line winds caused extensive damage and brought down trees, poles, and power lines across the area.

The large number of outages resulted in calls for mutual aid support to help safely restore power more quickly. At its peak, Two Rivers Utilities reported 3,500 of the utility's 6,000 customers were without power. MEUW coordinated mutual aid crews from Cedarburg, Gresham, Hartford, Kaukauna, Manitowoc, Menasha, New Holstein, New London, Oconto Falls, Shawano, and Waupun to assist with restoration.

Eligible applicants include manufacturers, local governments, school districts, tribes, municipal utilities, electric cooperatives, colleges, hospitals, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits. Projects may focus on renewable energy and storage, energy efficiency and demand response, or comprehensive energy planning and microgrid feasibility studies. Full details are available [here](#). ●

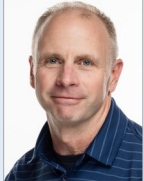


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MEUW 2026-27 Executive Committee takes office

MEUW's Board of Directors on May 14 elected the association's Executive Committee, which, in turn, chose a slate of officers for the coming year.



Board Chair

Tim Aaby
General Manager/CEO
Rice Lake Utilities

Term expires May 2029



Vice Chair

Weston Arndt
Electric Superintendent
New Richmond Utilities

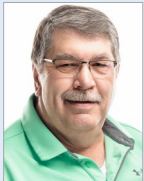
Term expires May 2030



Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Brooks
General Manager
Waupun Utilities

Term expires May 2030



Brian Carroll
Operations Manager
Gresham Utilities

Term expires May 2027



Nicolas Kumm
General Manager
Marshfield Utilities

Term expires May 2028

A complete listing of all members of MEUW's Board of Directors is available online at www.meuw.org/bod

"Day at the Capitol" was part of Annual Conference

With the 96th Annual Conference happening in Madison, more than 50 members representing 18 MEUW communities helped kick off the event and took part in "lobby day" activities on Tuesday, May 12. Periodically, MEUW staff arranges for members to meet with lawmakers to educate and inform them about the vital role played by public power utilities in our state.



State Rep. Joy Goeben (R-Hobart) (second from left) took a meeting with Kaukauna Utilities General Manager Michael Avanzi, Kaukauna Mayor Tony Penterman, and Ald. Kelli Antoine during MEUW's "Day at the Capitol."



Because they were already coming to Madison, members said they wanted to incorporate a "Day at the Capitol" into this year's conference events. After a brief informational session to review the issues and talking points, small groups made their way to the Capitol to visit Senate and Assembly offices for pre-arranged meetings. Among the topics on the agenda was the idea of allowing municipal electric utilities to use a simplified rate case process (similar to what's already in place for municipal water utilities). MEUW members took part in 48 meetings with legislative offices to raise awareness and discuss issues important to public power. ●

Mega merger would create world's largest regulated electric utility

NextEra Energy in May announced plans to combine with Dominion Energy in a deal that would create the world's largest regulated electric utility. The merged company — which will retain the NextEra name and have dual headquarters in Juno Beach, FL, and Richmond, Va. — would serve about 10 million customer accounts across Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina and would own 110 gigawatts of power generation, including the Point Beach Nuclear Plant near Two Rivers and multiple wind farms in Wisconsin.



State regulators in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina will review the merger before it can move forward. The companies say local utility operations would remain under current state oversight. They also pledged \$2.25 billion in bill credits for Dominion customers, along with employee protections, continued low-income assistance, and increased charitable giving. Shareholder approval is expected by early 2027, with the merger potentially closing by the end of 2027.

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Members' **NEWS**



Caitlin Stene joined Waunakee Utilities as General Manager in mid-May, bringing with her several years of experience working with municipal utilities in her previous roles as Assistant City Administrator and Director of Administrative Services for the City of Sun Prairie and Deputy Village Administrator for the Village of Waunakee. She succeeds Tim Herlitzka who is retiring.

Travis Zelinski recently joined Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities as a Lineworker.

Send us your news! Tell MEUW about new hires, promotions, retirements, honors, and awards, so those tidbits can be shared in MEUW member communications. Simply send an email to news@meuw.org to share your news.

Rethinking hearing tests: How OFMU improved employee experience while reducing costs

For years, Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities (OFMU) relied on a mobile RV service for employee hearing tests—but both the experience and cost left room for improvement.

“We were using an RV camper that would come out back, and there was always outside noise causing issues,” according to Beth Rank, Interim Utility Manager. “It just wasn’t an ideal testing environment.”

With support from MEUW Regional Safety Consultant Chris Rosenthal, OFMU explored alternatives. Mobile testing quotes ranged from \$4,000 to \$8,000, and hospital testing cost about \$175 per employee — an expensive option for a team of just 11.



Instead, they chose a portable solution from ExamineTics — the Salux Audiometric system. Shipped in a compact kit with an iPad and calibrated headphones, the system guides users through setup and testing. Employees complete the tests themselves in a quiet, controlled environment, with immediate results.

“The iPad walks you through everything,” Rosenthal said. “Employees basically give the test to themselves.”

The impact was immediate. Employees preferred the quieter, simpler process, and the utility gained more control over scheduling and testing conditions. “Everybody said they really liked this compared to what we did in the past,” Rank said. “It was a better experience.”

The cost savings were significant. With this new solution, OFMU saved over \$600 compared to hospital testing — and far more compared to mobile units. “I think the biggest benefits are that we’re in control of it and getting better results,” Rank said.

With easy setup, flexible scheduling, and strong employee feedback, the switch proved highly effective. “I would definitely recommend it to other utilities,” Rank said. “It’s about thinking outside the box to create a better experience for employees.”

OFMU’s experience shows that improving employee experience and reducing costs can go hand in hand — with the right approach. ●



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MEUW Safety & Education Committee chooses new leaders

Over the years, worker safety has become a core service MEUW provides its members. Guiding the association’s efforts to keep safety top of mind among all municipal electric employees is the Safety & Education (S&E) Committee, comprised of 11 individuals representing the diverse needs of MEUW member utilities.



Dellemann



Pahl



Carroll

Members of the S&E Committee recently chose Brian Dellemann, Two Rivers Utilities’ Electric Utility Director, as Chair for the next year. Dave Pahl, Engineering and Operations Director at Kaukauna Utilities, was chosen as Vice Chair, and Adam Carroll, Line Foreman at Shawano Municipal Utilities, is the Committee’s Secretary.

“We are fortunate to have an active and engaged group of individuals who give their time and expertise to help MEUW deliver the type of safety program that our members demand,” said MEUW Director of Safety Services and Operations Mike Czuprynski. He added, “We are always interested in member feedback which only helps to make the program stronger.” To provide input, contact Mike at (608) 478-2530, or S&E Committee Chair Brian Dellemann at (920) 793-5550, or any member of the S&E Committee. ●

Global food manufacturer chose Jefferson as place to grow



By Karen Whitmer

Kikkoman is best known for its soy sauce, but in Jefferson the company represents far more than a familiar brand on grocery store shelves. The company is completing a \$560 million production facility in the city's Food and Beverage Innovation Campus, an industrial park the community developed to attract manufacturing facilities within those two consumer sectors. City officials say the plant, scheduled to open in mid-September, is expected to create jobs and support long-term economic growth throughout the region.



Oppermann

Jefferson Mayor Dale Oppermann said the city's municipally owned electric utility was a major factor in attracting the project. Jefferson was selected from 64 Midwestern communities considered for the facility. Oppermann was re-elected to a ninth term in April and spearheaded efforts to bring Kikkoman to Jefferson.

"We are a public power community, which was key," Oppermann said. "We are able to provide electric reliability at a favorable price compared to other locations."

Oppermann also credited Jefferson Utilities staff — including Business Manager Sarah Hinze, Line Superintendent Nick Baumann and Forster Electrical Engineering President Bruce Beth — with helping demonstrate the city's ability to meet the company's significant energy demands.

"Our team helped provide the assurance that Jefferson was well-positioned to serve the company's substantial electrical demands," he said.

Jefferson Utilities has supported the project throughout development, providing temporary construction power, connecting the facility to local infrastructure and relocating a major electrical supply line to accommodate construction. Oppermann said that level of service continues to be an advantage as the city competes for industrial investment.

"They chose to build their plant here because they are confident that the City of Jefferson and Jefferson Electric Utility will be able to continue serving their needs as they grow in the coming years," he said.

The Kikkoman project is part of a broader wave of industrial development in Jefferson. Oppermann noted that V&V Supremo Foods, a producer of Mexican cheeses and dairy products, plans to break

ground on a new facility later this year, while Onego Bio, an egg protein manufacturer, is expected to begin construction in 2027.

The new facility is expected to create about 50 initial jobs, many involving the operation and maintenance of advanced automated systems.

soy sauce facility in the Western world."

Kikkoman broke ground on the new Jefferson facility in 2024.



Kikkoman Corporation traces its origins to the 1600s, when family businesses in Japan began producing soy sauce. Over time, it has grown into a global food manufacturer with products sold worldwide. In addition to soy sauce, the company produces a range of sauces, seasonings and related products.

Its Wisconsin presence dates to 1973, when it opened its first U.S. production facility in Walworth. Kikkoman officials said the state was selected for its access

to soybeans and wheat, abundant high-quality water and central location for North American distribution. Today, the Walworth plant is described by the company as the "highest-producing

The 240,000-square-foot plant will produce soy sauce and related seasonings, including teriyaki sauce. When operations begin this fall, the company plans to host a public event with tours of portions of the facility.

Alongside its industrial development, Kikkoman has expanded its presence in Jefferson and across southern Wisconsin through community partnerships and cultural exchange initiatives.

Last summer, the company hosted the "Kikkoman Cook-out" during Jefferson's Summer Festival in partnership with the City of Jefferson and the Japan America Society of Wisconsin. The event introduced Japanese cuisine and culture to local residents and drew about 650 attendees — more than double the number organizers expected. Kikkoman



Continued on page 11

Preparing for peak season: Why AC tune-ups matter for utilities

As temperatures rise across Wisconsin, the importance of proactive air conditioner (AC) tune-ups becomes increasingly clear. For utilities, this seasonal transition brings both an operational challenge and a valuable opportunity to improve system reliability while helping customers better manage their energy use.

Cooling accounts for a significant portion of residential energy consumption, especially during the summer months. In fact, heating and cooling can represent up to half of a home's energy use, making efficiency in these systems critical to both customer energy use and utility load management. This means that even small inefficiencies in AC performance can add up quickly across a service territory.

A well-timed AC tune-up is one of the simplest and most impactful steps customers can take before the cooling season begins. During the off-season, systems collect dust and debris and may develop minor mechanical issues. When suddenly pushed into continuous operation, these issues can reduce efficiency, increase energy consumption, and — in some cases — lead to system failure during peak demand periods.

From a utility perspective, poorly maintained AC units contribute directly to higher peak demand. This increases strain on infrastructure, raises wholesale energy costs, and can heighten the risk of outages. Encouraging customers to schedule annual pre-season tune-ups helps mitigate these challenges. Much like maintaining a vehicle, routine HVAC service ensures systems are “in tip-top shape” and prepared for sustained use.

Incorporating simple maintenance habits can further improve performance and reduce strain on both equipment and the electric grid. For example, regularly inspecting and replacing air filters is one of the most effective actions customers can take. Dirty filters restrict airflow, increase energy use, and shorten equipment lifespan.



Other valuable maintenance tips include checking the condensate drain to prevent blockages and potential water damage and sealing ductwork to reduce energy loss and improve comfort. Together, these measures not only improve system performance but also extend equipment life and reduce the likelihood of emergency repairs during high-demand periods.

To maximize the benefits of AC maintenance, customers are encouraged to pair tune-ups with a smart thermostat upgrade. Smart thermostats allow users to automatically adjust temperature settings based on occupancy and schedules, helping reduce unnecessary energy use while maintaining comfort. These devices also provide greater visibility into energy consumption and enable remote control, making them a practical and convenient efficiency tool.

Focus on Energy offers a \$50 rebate on smart thermostats purchased through the Marketplace, retail stores, or installed by a participating Trade Ally. This incentive lowers the upfront cost and makes it easier for customers to adopt technology that complements their AC maintenance efforts. For more information, visit focusonenergy.com/residential/smart-thermostats. ●

Kikkoman — Continued on page 10

man plans to host another community cookout this summer — on July 18 at Rotary Waterfront Park in Jefferson.

Even before the plant's official opening, Kikkoman is helping to shape Jefferson through new jobs, investment, and growing community connections.

For Jefferson Utilities, the project also highlights the important role community-owned utilities can play in supporting economic development and helping communities attract long-term investment. ●

Karen Whitmer is a regular contributor to LIVE LINES; she is a freelance communicator from the Fox Valley.

Did you Know?

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin provides a handy [online tool](#) that compares the total residential electric bill(s) for one utility or multiple utilities (no limit on the number of utilities) for any

period of time (including a specific month or multiple months). The information is presented in table or graph format and shows the actual rates that comprise the billing: [customer charge](#), [energy charge](#) and either the [Power Cost Adjustment Clause \(PCAC\)](#) or [Fuel Adjustment Clause \(FAC\)](#) plus a total dollar amount billed for each month. The table also provides a calculated average of each rate component as well as the total bill for the time-period shown for each selected utility.

Based on a sample shown below, data from the PSC's online database indicates that residential customers of Waupun Utilities — a municipally-owned electric company — paid significantly less than customers of Alliant Energy and We Energies for the same 600 kWh of electricity charged on their December 2025 bills. Further analysis of data reveals that the average residential bill among all 81 municipal electric utilities for the same month was \$76.62.

MEUW has created easy-to-follow instructions to use the online tool, so that municipal utility employees and customers can do their own comparisons. To learn more, click [here](#).

Monthly residential electric bill comparison



Based on 600 kWh usage for the month of December 2025

Source: PSC E-Services Portal

LIVELines Classifieds

MEUW is pleased to promote job openings with its member utilities across Wisconsin. New positions are regularly added to our website — check them out [here](#) or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below. Here are some current opportunities available:

Juneau Utilities — [Journeyman Lineman or Electric Lineman Apprentice](#)

City of Evansville — [Electric Line Worker; Journey-Level or Advance Step Apprentice](#)

New Holstein Utilities — [Lineman Journey Level or 3rd/4th year Apprentice](#)

Jefferson Utilities — [Journeyman Lineworker](#)

Waupun Utilities — [Apprentice Line Technician](#)

City of New Lisbon — [Journeyman Line Worker](#)

Wisconsin Dells Water & Light Utility — [Journeyman Lineman](#)

Manitowoc Public Utilities — [Journeyman Line Technician](#)

New London Utilities — [Journeyman Line Mechanic](#)



When your utility is hiring, be sure to email the job posting to office@meuw.org.



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The latest edition of the **MEUW Membership Directory** is now available. The publication is available in both print and digital formats and is available to all MEUW members and key stakeholders. The easiest way to access the information included in the directory is through a [flipbook](#) that is linked from the bottom of every page of MEUW.org. To request a printed copy, email the MEUW office (shipping and handling charges may apply).

