

# Hometown CONNECTION

April 2010

A Newsletter for and about the Members of ElectriCities

**NC Public Power**  
City Owned Electric Service



## NC Public Power Communities Top RP<sub>3</sub> Announcement Once Again



### Power Lines:

News from Statesville and Huntersville

### Triumph in National Rodeo



Save the Date:  
The Business of Public Power: Delivering Value, Managing Costs  
2010 Public Power Policymakers Conference  
August 12-14, 2010

NC Public Power communities were once again well represented at the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP<sub>3</sub>) awards ceremony during the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Annual Engineering and Operations Technical Conference, which was held in Omaha, Nebraska in March.

Ninety-four of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities have earned recognition for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. Nine NC public power communities and four associate members received the RP<sub>3</sub> designation this year.

"The RP<sub>3</sub> designation represents a level of service to communities all over the country," said Paul Allen, Chair of APPA's RP<sub>3</sub> Review Panel and Vice President, Engineering at Nashville, TN Electric Service. "These 94 utilities stand out as models of safe and reliable utility operations."

RP<sub>3</sub> recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, train-

ing and system improvement. Criteria within each category are based on sound business practices and represent a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

This is the fifth year that the RP<sub>3</sub> designation has been offered.

#### NC Public Power 2010 RP<sub>3</sub> Award Recipients

Diamond Level: Rocky Mount  
Platinum Level: Concord and Wilson  
Gold Level: Benson, Cornelius, Huntersville, Monroe, Tarboro, and Winterville

#### ElectriCities Associate Member RP<sub>3</sub> Award Recipients

Platinum Level: Easley Combined Utilities and Greer Commission of Public Works  
Gold Level: Danville Utilities and Gaffney Board of Public Works

*For more information about RP<sub>3</sub>, contact Gregg Welch at 800-768-7697 ext. 6353 or visit [www.APPAnet.org](http://www.APPAnet.org).*



## Statesville City Fair Educates Residents

Statesville's fifth annual City Fair succeeded in reaching local residents with information about how the city works for them. City staff members manned interactive booths and held presentations about the various city departments during the event at the Statesville Civic Center.

Fair attendees had the chance to speak with city leaders about issues in a setting that was more user-friendly than past fairs. According to Assistant City Manager Lynn Smith, this fair had a larger group of attendees than forums the city has held in the past. More than 100 people spent time talking with City Manager Rob Hites about Statesville's future.

According to City Public Affairs Director Nancy Davis, it is the first time that Statesville has used its annual community forum to demonstrate what the city provides to local residents.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it," said Statesville resident Rose Schotte. "It's been very informative."

Residents had the opportunity to learn about energy-saving tips from employees of the electric utility department, includ-

ing how appliances like hair dryers and heaters affect electric bills, as well as how to read their utility bills.

In addition to discussing energy efficiency, citizens proposed what they wanted to see from the city planning department and also learned about voting wards and how to start a neighborhood watch.

Mayor Costi Kutteh said the event exceeded expectations and that the new format of the fair allows local residents to get involved with their government. "This is a great time to do that," Kutteh said.

## Huntersville Suburb Tops Affordability Rankings

Huntersville is the fourth-most affordable suburb in the United States, and the most affordable suburb in North Carolina according to the latest rankings from BusinessWeek magazine.

The national magazine describes Huntersville as "a fast-growing suburb 10 miles from Charlotte...located along Lake Norman, a manmade lake with 520 miles of shoreline. There is an entertainment and shopping center, nature preserve, and

amusement park, and the mountains and beach are a short drive away. Education here is also exceptional: Huntersville Elementary School earned a Blue Ribbon Award in 2008."

BusinessWeek focused on selecting one suburb in each state that is located within 25 miles of the most populated city in the state, has a median family income of \$51,000 to \$120,000, a population of 5,000 to 60,000, and lower-than-average crime rates.

The magazine also considered other factors, including livability (short commutes, low pollution, green space), education (well-educated residents, high test scores), crime (low personal and property crime), economy (high job growth, low unemployment rate, high family income), and affordability (median household income, cost of expenditures).

According to BusinessWeek, 863 communities were evaluated based on a range of metrics developed by community data company Onboard Informatics.

*Power Lines is compiled from NC Public Power communities' news releases. To include news in Power Lines, contact Rebecca Agner at [ragner@electricities.org](mailto:ragner@electricities.org)*

# NC Public Power Communities Bring Home Top Safety Honors



Eighty public power communities throughout the country were honored during the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Electric Utility Safety Awards of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2009. The awards were presented at the annual Engineering and

Operations conference held in Omaha in late March.

The Town of Winterville was awarded First Place in Group B, the category for systems with 15,000 to 29,999 worker-hours of exposure.

New River Light and Power of Boone won first place in Group D, which includes systems with 60,000 to 109,999 worker-hours of exposure.

Fayetteville's Public Works Commission earned Second Place in Group F, which covers systems with 250,000 to 999,999 worker-hours of exposure.

"Safety is the top concern when it

comes to working with electricity," said Marc Gerken, Chair of the APPA Board of Directors and President/CEO of American Municipal Power, Inc. in Columbus, Ohio. "These utilities have demonstrated that they are the best of the best when it comes to guaranteeing that safety is always top of mind."

More than 200 utilities entered the annual contest, which reviews three years worth of data prior to considering utilities for an award. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker-hours and judged for the most incident-free records during 2009. The incidence rate used to judge contest entries is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2009, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

# NC Line Workers Triumph in National Rodeo

Two of the nine winning teams in the American Public Power Association's ninth annual Public Power Line Workers' Rodeo hail from NC public power utilities.

Forty teams and 50 apprentices from not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities nationwide participated in the rodeo, which was held in conjunction with the APPA's Engineering and Operations Technical Conference. The competition is comprised of a series of events that demonstrate the safe work practices that line workers must implement while on the job at their utilities.

There are two levels of competition within the rodeo. Journeyman teams have three members—two climbers and one ground person—with an optional alternative team member. All journeymen competitors must have more than four years of experience within the electric utility trade. Apprentices make up the second level of competition. These line workers

have four years or fewer of experience in the trade.

Events were judged based on safety, work practices, neatness, ability, equipment handling, and timely event completion. All safety rules established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the APPA Safety Manual were observed during the competitive events.

## 2010 NC Public Power Rodeo Winners

**Journeymen—600 Amp Switch**  
 First Place: North Carolina Association of Municipal Electric Systems—Ryan Hardee, Jody Kiser, Brian Small, and Kevin Willoughby  
 Third Place: Greenville Utilities  
 Commission—Keith Gaskins, Mike Harper, Mark Howery

**Journeymen—Lightning Arrestor**  
 Second Place: Greenville Utilities



Commission—Keith Gaskins, Mike Harper, Mark Howery

Third Place: North Carolina Association of Municipal Electric Systems—Ryan Hardee, Jody Kiser, Brian Small, and Kevin Willoughby

**Journeymen—Oil Circuit Recloser**  
 Third Place: North Carolina Association of Municipal Electric Systems—Ryan Hardee, Jody Kiser, Brian Small, and Kevin Willoughby

*For more information about APPA and the Line Workers' Rodeo, visit [www.APPAnet](http://www.APPAnet).*

## ElectriCities Board of Directors' News

During the March Board of Directors meeting, Strib Boynton, the 2009 ElectriCities Board of Directors Chairman, was honored for his leadership to the Board and was presented with a resolution and commemorative meter lamp. Boynton was also sworn into a second term on the Board during the March meeting.



Ron Hovis of Cherryville was sworn into his first term on the ElectriCities Board of Directors during the February meeting.

### Plant Status

#### NCMPA1

**Catawba Unit 1** is operating at 100 percent power without any major problems.

**Catawba Unit 2** is currently operating at 100 percent power in its 355th day of continuous operation.

**McGuire Unit 1** began a scheduled 34-day refueling outage on March 13. The unit is projected to return to service by April 16.

**McGuire Unit 2** is currently operating at 100 percent power in its 181st day of continuous operation.

*All items reported as of April 9, 2010*

#### NCEMPA

**Brunswick Unit 1** is currently in a refueling outage.

**Brunswick Unit 2** is currently operating at 100 percent power and has provided 60 days of continuous service.

**Harris Unit 1** is currently operating at 100 percent power and has provided 140 days of continuous service.

**Mayo Unit 1** is currently in a planned maintenance outage.

**Roxboro Unit 4** is operating normally according to system load requirements.

### Billing Determinants

#### NCMPA1 Billing Determinants for participant usage in March 2010

Billing Demand (kW)	Billing Energy (kWh)	Billed Amount
586,821	391,140,544	\$25,288,012.11

*Note: All values are less SEPA. Values include Gastonia Prime Power Park.*

#### NCEMPA Billing Determinants for participant usage in March 2010

	Billing Demand (kW)	Billing Energy (kWh)	Billed Amount
Progress Energy Carolinas	861,756	489,049,758	\$48,439,961.07
Dominion	103,109	62,313,709	\$6,160,037.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>964,865</b>	<b>551,363,467</b>	<b>\$54,599,998.87</b>

*Note: All values are less SEPA. Dominion values include Edenton and Elizabeth City generating project output.*

### Load Management Info

In March, NCMPA1 recommended load management for Agency cities for two hours over a one-day period. Electric-Save operations occurred for two hours over a one-day period. For Non-Agency cities, NCMPA1 recommended load management for five hours over a three-day period including the Duke Control Area Peak which occurred on March 2 at hour ending 8 p.m.

In March, NCEMPA provided advance telephone or pager recommendations for residential load management for 11 hours over a four-day period, including the day and hour of the Progress Energy Carolinas (PEC) monthly peak. Electric-Save (direct control) operations occurred for five hours over a four-day period, including the PEC monthly billing peak occurring on March 2 at hour ending 7 p.m.

*For more information on how your city or town can benefit from load management, call Cecil Rhodes at ext. 6231 or Jim Deaton at ext. 6223.*

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ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc.  
1427 Meadow Wood Blvd.  
Raleigh, NC 27604

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## ElectriCities of NC 2009 Annual Report: Setting Our Sights Now Online

Our Annual Report is online this year to reduce costs, energy and the impact on our environment. To view the 2009 Annual Report visit [www.electricities.com](http://www.electricities.com)



## The Business of Public Power: Delivering Value, Managing Costs 2010 Public Power Policymakers Conference (formerly the ElectriCities Annual Meeting) Myrtle Beach, SC • August 12-14, 2010

SAVE THE DATE

**Make plans now to attend this unique educational opportunity for public power elected officials and leadership. This program is the only conference that offers sessions specifically tailored to North Carolina public power issues.**

**Who should attend?** Mayors, City/Town Council Members, Alderman, Commissioners, NCEMPA and NCMPA1 Commissioners, City/Town Leadership Team (City/Town Managers, Electric Directors, Public Works Directors), EA Alternate Commissioners, A1 Alternate Commissioners, Non-Power Agency Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners

**Sessions include:** Economic development trends and local/regional best practices, state and federal legislation affecting your community, and the value of public power to your community

**Confirmed speakers:** Mark Crisson, American Public Power Association President; Jeff Finkel, International Economic Development Council; and Dale Carroll, Deputy NC Commerce Secretary.

Look for more information coming soon and visit [www.electricities.com](http://www.electricities.com) for updates.

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ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc.  
1427 Meadow Wood Blvd.  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
Phone: 919-760-6000 or 800-768-7697  
Fax: 919-760-6050  
Web site: [www.electricities.com](http://www.electricities.com)  
Editor: Rebecca Reagan Agner