PUBLIC POWER
CURRENT EXTRA

January 16, 2026

SPECIAL FEATURE

Strategies to Address Water Use Emerge in Wake of Community Opposition to Data Centers

With somecommunities pushing backagainst proposed data centersoverconcerns tied to water use, data center developers and others are working to tap technologies that will help to minimize the use of water to cool data center facilities.

SPONSORED

A Practical GIS Modernization Roadmap for Public Power Utilities

Publicpower utilities face rising expectations with limited resources.Thisguide outlines five practical moves utilities are using to modernize GIS, reduce operational friction, improve data accuracy, and support planning, reliability, and regulatory needs heading into 2026. Download the Guide.

FROM APPA

APPA Seeks Nominations for 2026-2027 Board of Directors

TheAmerican Public PowerAssociationis seeking nominationsfor theassociation's 2026-2027 Board of Directors. Nominations are due no later than February 9, 2026. Nominations are being sought for the following regions:

Region 3: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
Region 4: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
Region 5: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
Region 6: Arizona, California, Nevada
Region 8: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont
Region 9: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

The Nominating Committee will meet virtually in February 2026 to consider nominations for new Board members. The Committee's recommendations for new Board members will be presented to the association's membership at the annual business meeting held in June during APPA's National Conference. The nomination form can be found here to nominate deserving individuals for these important positions. Contact Cartina Parks-Williams at CParks-Williams@publicpower.org, for any assistance or additional information.

Webinar Focuses on Bringing Central Heat Pump Water Heaters to Multifamily Buildings

Learn how centralheat pumpwaterheaters performed in two affordable multifamily buildings in downtown Tacoma, Washington in a Jan. 22 webinar (12 – 1 pm eastern time). Tacoma Power and project partners will share real-world performance data, lessons learned on design and operations, and insights on costs, efficiency, and grid benefits to help utilities and building owners evaluate CHPWHs for multifamily applications.

APPA Seeks Nominations for Two Openings on RP3 Review Panel

APPA is seeking nominations for MediumSystemand Workforce Development Representatives on the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) Program Review Panel. These roles can serve up to three consecutive two-year terms. To nominate yourself or someone for these positions, complete this nomination form by Friday, January 30, 2026. The RP3 program is APPA's best practices evaluation and review for public power utilities based on four criteria – reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. The RP3 Review Panel guides APPA staff in implementation of the RP3 program and provides expert peer review of public power utilities' applications for RP3 designation.

Guide to Utility Operational Excellence Identifies Strategic Areas for Public Power Utilities to Focus On

Your utility will need to evolve to meet changing needs, so it is important to reevaluate your operations and strategies regularly to ensure they align with your community's short- and long-term goals. Public Power Forward: A Guide to Utility Operational Excellence identifies 11 strategic areas upon which you must focus your efforts to ensure future success. This guide helps determine your utility's strengths and weaknesses, identify potential warning signs, and develop strategies for future success.

Free Webinar on Jan. 21 Offers Tips on Strengthening Your Smart Energy Provider Application

If you are thinking about applying for the Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation, join us for this free webinar on Jan. 21 to hear from members of the SEP Review Panel on how you can best present your activities on the application. Walk through each of the four main sections of the application: smart energy information, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources, environmental and sustainability programs/initiatives, and communication/education and customer experience, and discuss what makes for a strong score in each. Wrap up with a Q&A with the panel members to get further clarity on your specific application questions. If you have any issues registering, please reach out to us at SEP@PublicPower.org. Registrants will get access to the recording and slides from the webinar for future reference.

Rectangle Ad
600 x 200 px or 600 x 250 px

WASHINGTON UPDATE

APPA Joins State and Local Associations in Bond Letter to Congressional Leaders

A Jan. 13 letter sent by 39 state and local associations in the Public Finance Network (PFN), including the American Public Power Association, to congressional leaders voices support for tax-exempt municipal bonds and a bond modernization agenda. The letter was sent to House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY). The letter touts the benefits of tax-exempt financing and notes the "broad bipartisan support in Congress to enhance municipal bonds for state and local governments, thereby providing a more powerful, cost-effective way to drive further investment and economic growth."

APPA Urges Reauthorization of Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance Program

At a House hearing on Jan. 13, Adrienne Lotto, Senior Vice President of Grid Security, Technical and Operations Services at the American Public Power Association, said that APPA strongly supports reauthorization of the Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance Program (RMUC). She made her remarks at a House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy hearing, "Protecting America's Energy Infrastructure in Today's Cyber and Physical Threat Landscape." In her remarks at the hearing, Lotto said that the key pillars of cyber and physical security are mandatory and enforceable standards, information sharing and public-private partnerships and "defense-in-depth" and sector-wide exercises. To effectuate this, APPA strongly supports the reauthorization of the RMUC program, regulatory harmonization and the replacement of the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) by the Department Homeland Security.

EPA Proposes Revisions to Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency on Jan. 13 issued its proposed rule to revise the 2023 Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule. The proposed rule is posted on EPA's website. Section 401 provides states and tribes the authority to grant, waive, or deny certification before a federal agency issues a permit or a license that may result in discharge into waters of the United States. EPA said it is committed to maximizing permitting efficiency and avoiding permit delays, while also following the law and supporting states and tribes as co-regulators.

EPA Issues Final NSPS for Stationary Combustion Turbines

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued its pre-publication version of revisions to the New Source Performance Standards for stationary combustion and gas turbines under Clean Air Act (CAA) section 111(b)(1)(B). These revisions are codified in 40 CFR part 60, subpart KKKKa and apply to sources constructed, modified, or reconstructed after December 13, 2024. The rule becomes effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

HEARD ON THE PUBLIC POWER NOW PODCAST

> "Each of the series, which are four distinct training experiences in each series, has a very important, different focus."

Cyndi Wentland, the founder of Intentional Leaders, discussing a webinar series of APPA's Leadership Toolkit, which offers a comprehensive path for professional growth. Jan. 12, 2026.

APPA's Public Power Now is a weekly podcast that features key decisionmakers in the public power community. Full episodes are available on APPA's website.

PUBLIC POWER NOW

LATEST EPISODE
Cyndi Wentland Details Benefits of Participating in Leadership Toolkit Webinar Series

SUBSCRIBE

TOP NEWS FROM THE WEEK

New York State Energy Planning Board Approves State Energy Plan

SMUD and Calpine Extend Geothermal Power Agreement

New York Governor Unveils Nuclear Reliability Backbone Initiative

FMPA and Origis Energy Announce Completion of Whistling Duck Solar Energy Center

Legislation Allows Colorado Springs Utilities to File New Clean Energy Plan, Extends Deadline for Replacement Power Supplies

MMWEC Members Receive Federal Grants for Resiliency Projects

Moody's Investors Service Affirms Burlington Electric Department's A3 Credit Rating

Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Linemen to Help Restore Power in Jamaica

Public Power Utilities Earn High Marks in J.D. Power Residential Customer Satisfaction Rankings

MPU's Troy Adams, Tyler Vorpagel from Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin Discuss Refuel Renewable Project

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department Joins MMWEC

Meta Platforms Unveils Series of Nuclear Power Agreements

SMUD CEO Paul Lau Announces Retirement

MESO Presents Electric Operations and Reliability Competition Awards

Linemen for Winter Park, Florida, Participate in Library Story Time, Offer Hands On Activities About Electric Work

IID Directors Elect Division 5 Director Karin Eugenio as Board Chairwoman for 2026

KPP Energy Launches Scholarship Program

Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities Develops Toolkit on Optimizing Transformer Inventory for EV Adoption

APPA ACADEMY | AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

IN-PERSON EVENTS

Legislative Rally
Washington, DC

Feb. 23 - 25, 2026

Engineering & Operations Conference
Huntsville, Alabama
March 29 - April 1, 2026

Safety Summit
Huntsville, Alabama
March 29 - April 1, 2026

CEO & Utility Managers Roundtable
Terranea Resort, CA
April 12 - April 14, 2026

APPA ACADEMY ONLINE | AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

Pole Attachments for Public Power
Virtual Series
Jan. 15-22, 2026

Strategic Planning in a Time of Change
Virtual Course
Jan. 20-21, 2026

Strengthening Your Smart Energy Provider Application
Virtual Course
Jan. 21, 2026

Core Leadership Skills for Emerging Professionals
Virtual Series
Jan. 29 - Feb. 19, 2026

Modern Load Growth & Utility Rate Design: Two-Part Series
Virtual Series
March 3-4, 2026

REMINDERS & DEADLINES

2025 DEED Membership Survey
January 16, 2026

2026 APPA Annual Award Survey
January 16, 2026

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Principal Power Systems Professional Engineer
City of Tacoma

Network Engineer I - Security Systems
Springfield Utility Board

High Voltage Technician - Class 1
Lineman

Systems Electrical Engineer (II-Sr.)
Provo City Power

Electric Engineering Technician 1-3
Springfield Utility Board

Senior Engineer - Transmission and Distribution
Huntsville Utilities

Manager of Customer Service & Call Center
Kissimmee Utility Authority

Electric Reliability - Compliance Analyst Senior - Operations & Planning
Austin Energy

Compliance Analyst Senior - Ops & Planning
Austin Energy

Energy Trading Analyst (I to Senior)
Chelan County PUD

Network Engineer II
Springfield Utility Board

Chief Operations Officer
CDE Lightband

Electric Systems Automation Engineer
CityofOcala - ElectricUtility

Line Worker/Substation Technician
Traverse City Light & Power

Electric Systems Manager
ElectriCities of North Carolina

Electric Program Supervisor-Transmission & Distribution
City of Redding Electric Utility

Hydro Department Manager
Merced Irrigation District

CEO/General Manager
Springfield Utility Board

W/WW Engineering Manager (DOQ)
Brownsville Public Utilities Board

Cybersecurity Analyst (I-III)
Chelan County PUD

VENDOR REQUESTS

Repowering the Smith's Falls Hydroelectric Dam
Stowe Electric Department

NCPA RFP for Renewable Energy Resources, Energy Storage Resources
Northern California Power Agency

Frankfort Plant Board CIS & ERP Software and Implementation Services RFP
Frankfort Plant Board

PR-05-26 Underground Electrical Construction Project Feeder 9E St. John RFP
Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority

Post your RFP, RFI, or RFQ here and in the Vendor Opportunities Portal on PublicPower.org.

Learn more about industry vendors on the Public Power Suppliers Guide.

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