## INSIDER NEWSLETTER

### Washington Light and Power: Leading with Experience, Growing with Community

# Washington Municipal Light and Power Staff and Services

At Washington Light and Power, we have a dedicated team of 18 employees, including myself, in the electric department. We are a municipally owned utility, and electricity is the only service we provide. This focus allows us to dedicate our full attention and resources to delivering safe, reliable power to our community.

# Team Building and Crew Relationships

Our crew remains family, even outside of work. We all agree that we can count on one another. Whether it's lending a hand or checking in when an employee's family member is sick or hurt. That kind of support makes a big difference.

Each year, we make attempts to bring a few team members to the IMEA Annual Business Meeting. It's a great opportunity to connect with other municipal utilities, share ideas, and enjoy some downtime like playing a round of golf together.

### **Safety Practices**

Safety is a top priority. We take full advantage of the resources and training provided by IMEA, which have been instrumental in reinforcing best practices. Beyond formal programs, we emphasize daily communication and



# Randy Ennis, Washington Light & Power -Superintendent

awareness whether it's through job briefings, tailgate talks, or informal check-ins. Our team looks out for one another, and that culture of care is something we take great pride in.

### **Safety Practices**

As superintendent, I focus on matching the right crew to the right job, recognizing that each team brings unique strengths. I've also stepped into a more hands-on role in our storeroom operations, helping maintain a clean and organized yard.

When someone wants to try a new part or tool, I do my best to support that. My mindset is: Who knows? We might be missing out on something that could make our work safer or more efficient.

With over two decades in the industry, I also try to pass down stories and lessons from linemen who came before me sharing the tricks, safety habits, and values they taught me. And even after all these years, I still enjoy getting in the bucket or climbing a pole and helping out. Staying connected to the field keeps me grounded.

### **Project Highlights**

One of our most significant ongoing efforts has been the Highway 50 Project. As part of this initiative, we've been tasked with removing all visible overhead power lines along the corridor. This required us to relocate a portion of our Central Circuit, which has been a major undertaking.

To ensure we could continue our daily operations while progressing on this large-scale project, we brought in Top Line Hands, a trusted contractor. They've been an incredible asset - so much so that they've started to feel like an extension of our own team.

We've also supported six new housing and apartment developments, along with numerous small homes and duplexes being built by local contractors throughout town. These projects reflect the steady growth in our community and our commitment to meeting the needs of new residents.

On the industrial side, we've seen exciting growth. A few years ago, we installed three miles of three-phase underground primary line to power a truss manufacturing facility. More recently, we've welcomed WTEC Energy, a new manufacturer producing wire products for the green energy sector, and worked with Isoflex, a food-grade plastic manufacturer, to support their production line expansion with new three-phase pad mounted transformers.

Another highlight is The Commons, a one-city block park that hosts concerts, farmers markets, and community events. We're proud to have played a role in powering this space that brings people together.

We also completed new relay installations at one of our substations, enhancing system reliability and preparing us for future load demands.

### **IMEA Involvement and Impact**

IMEA has been a huge part of our success. While we've always been safety-minded, the IMEA Apprenticeship Program has brought so much to our staff. Our apprentices come back from training and share what they've learned., creating a culture of growth and collaboration.

It is also reassuring to know that when we have a question or even a disagreement, we can call Duane, and he'll either have the answer or connect us eith someone who does. That kind of support is invaluable.

IMEA is also outstanding when it comes to mutual aid. It's comforting to know that with one phone call, help is on the way. We take a lot of pride in being available to assist other communities whenever we're needed.



Washington Municipal Light & Power Office Staff



The Commons, Washington, In.





Highway 50 Project, Washington, In.



New Housing and Apartment Development Projects in Washington, In.



# TRANSFORMER THEORY CONNECTIONS

Welcome to Indiana Municipal Electric Association, the Statewide Trade Association of Indiana Municipalities.



Worksite Safety, OH and UG Transformer - construction and theory of operations



Electrical connections, vector diagrams, and transformer banking, troubleshooting

When: August 26 - 28, 2025

Where: St. Joseph's College Campus

1027 S. College Ave. Rensselaer, In. 47978 Registration is available!

www.imea.com / workshops





### **Careers in Public Power**

Public power is more to communities than just an essential utility. It is a source of unique and fulfilling career opportunities in your local community. Employees make a difference by serving their own neighborhoods and families. Talented high school, college and technical college graduates and even technology, environmental and public service professionals will find that competitive salaries aren't the only thing attractive about careers in public power.

Do you have important news or photos that you would like to share in our bi-weekly newsletters? Please email all news and photos to janel@imea.com

To post a classified ad to our jobs in Public Power page. Please email text to janel@imea.com.

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