



April 16, 2020

UAMPS Communities Respond Aggressively To COVID-19

With health and safety paramount during the COVID-19 crisis, UAMPS member communities are successfully delivering abundant and secure power supplies to customers, while also protecting utility staff and citizens.

Reliable and ample electrical supply is more important than ever as citizens work, shop and learn from home, relying on digital communications and electronic devices for vital services.

A survey of UAMPS members shows local utilities have responded quickly to cope with the crisis and keep the electricity flowing.

-- Most member communities have implemented programs to suspend utility shut offs during the crisis. Programs vary, but mayors and city council are sensitive to the financial hardships facing many businesses and households.

-- Most utilities are decreasing interactions between employees and customers, while maintaining services. Utilities have closed lobbies, use drive-through windows, provide payment drop boxes, and encourage on-line transactions. Proper health protocols are being followed.

-- In many communities, employee travel is restricted and telework is encouraged. UAMPS' own staff is mostly working from home and committee and board



meetings are conducted on-line.

Utility leaders are closely monitoring COVID-19 developments and are making adjustments as needed. City leaders recognize the hardships placed on all community members and are assisting residents and businesses.

Reflecting the approach of UAMPS' public power leaders, Jason Norlen, general manager, Heber Light & Power, said in a letter to customers: "We are committed to ensuring that you can focus on the essential things you need to keep your families healthy and safe, without worrying about your energy."

Nationwide, Public Power Agencies are responding aggressively to the COVID-19 pandemic. Joy Ditto, president and CEO of the American Public Power Association, provides the national perspective in a RealClearEnergy article, [America's Power Industry United in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

CFPP Progress Continues

Work on the UAMPS Carbon Free Power Project (CFPP), which would become the nation's first small modular nuclear reactor plant, is moving forward on many fronts. Here are excerpts and links to articles and videos about the project and nuclear power.

[Nuclear is the solution – and SMRs are the future of nuclear.](#) Guest opinion in the Idaho Falls Post-Register by Peter Lyons, former commissioner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and former Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. An excerpt: "The science is clear — if we're serious about combating climate change, nuclear power must be a part of the solution. Nuclear power provides over 55% of America's carbon-free energy and nearly 20% of its total electricity. Advanced nuclear technologies represent the next natural step in the evolution of this clean, reliable energy source.

"We need look no further than Idaho National Laboratory to see the future of nuclear technology. The Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems formally launched the Carbon Free Power Project in 2015 as part of its long-term strategy to reduce carbon emissions. The CFPP calls for constructing a Small Modular



Reactor power plant at INL using technology *NuScale Power Module* being developed by NuScale Power.”

[Nuclear power is America’s most reliable energy.](#) Power is keeping our communities running, and our communities are what power us through the harder times. Click on the link to see five fast facts about nuclear energy.

[Next-Gen Nuclear Power: Bold new reactor designs promise safe, clean electricity.](#) City Journal Magazine, published by the Manhattan Institute, takes a lengthy look at NuScale Power’s SMR (which will be used by the CFPP) and other small reactors. An excerpt: “This sort of diminutive, factory-built nuclear reactor is known as a Small Modular Reactor, or SMR. The design planned for the Idaho project (CFPP) is the brainchild of Jose Reyes, a former professor of nuclear engineering at Oregon State University. . . . (the NuScale reactor) is leading the pack in terms of navigating the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s byzantine licensing process. ‘We’re on track to be the first SMR to get certified,’ Reyes said.

[Energy Evolution podcast: Small reactors could be a big deal for nuclear industry.](#) This podcast features an interview with Dr. Jose Reyes who discusses NuScale’s SMR and also prominently mentions the UAMPS Carbon Free Power Project and progress in developing the plant.

[Nuclear Regulatory Commission Shows Dry Cask Storage is Safe – Yet Again.](#) The safety and storage of spent nuclear fuel is important in the development of a nuclear plant. The UAMPS CFPP will use dry cask storage at the plant location at Idaho National Laboratory near Idaho Falls. Energy scientist James Conca, writing in Forbes magazine, features the proposed Holtec International’s proposed dry cask storage project near Carlsbad, New Mexico. He writes: “Of course it’s safe! Dry cask storage is probably the safest activity one can do in America. The risks are too small to be measured, although we try to assign numbers. But the risks are below any other activity humans engage in, making the relative risks not statistically different from zero.”

[On-line lesson plan to teach students about nuclear energy.](#) On-line lesson plan to teach students about nuclear energy. The Nuclear Energy Institute has prepared lesson plans on nuclear energy for teachers and parents focused at elementary, middle school and high school students. The lesson plans include videos, books, and other resources. The link can be forwarded to schools, teachers and parents looking for good curriculum.

In Other News ...

Recognition for reliable electric service to the community. Six UAMPS members have been honored for their electric reliability in 2019 by the eReliability Tracker Service. The honorees are Brigham City, Kaysville City, Logan City Light & Power,

Mt. Pleasant City, Spring City, and Washington City. Those city utilities are in the top quartile (25%) of all utilities nationwide for System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), thereby qualifying for the 2019 Certificate of Excellence in Reliability.

If you have questions about UAMPS' plans for a carbon-free future, please email them to jackie@uamps.com.

155 NORTH 400 WEST, SUITE 480 | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84103 | 800.872.5961 www.uamps.com