



THE WIRE

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DTV Transition Delayed

Congress has passed legislation delaying the date of the DTV Transition from February 17th to June 12th. The bill allows TV stations to stop offering their broadcast signals in analog before June 12th, meaning there could be a rolling transition from analog to digital in some markets.

Congress passed the legislation over concerns not all consumers would be ready for the DTV transition on February 17th. For over a year, Federal regulators, TV Stations, and ca-

ble companies, including Algonia Municipal Utilities have worked to educate the public about the im-



pending transition. AMU has had radio ads on KLGA and has posted articles on "The Wire" about the DTV Transition. TV stations con-

ducted "soft tests" to warn consumers about the change from an analog signal to a digital signal.

A majority of TV viewers won't be affected by the change as they are connected to cable TV or satellite services. People without these services and don't have a television with a digital tuner will need to purchase a converter box to convert the signal from

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AMU Provides Mutual Aid To Missouri Community

Algonia Municipal Utilities was one of five municipal utilities from Iowa that provided crews and equipment to Kennett, Missouri, an area devastated by an ice storm during the last week in January. AMU electric linemen Cody Fritz, Jaron Benz, and Heath Vileta volunteered to help restore electric power to the city of over 11,000 in the far southeast corner of Missouri.

The three men left January 30th with two AMU trucks to help with the recovery effort and returned February 7th. . Rod Vitz-

thum, Electric Line Department Manger, said his crew told him it looked like a war zone. "All the power poles in sight were down, lines were down, and people were driving over them."

Other Iowa municipal utilities that provided mutual aid to Kennett included Pocahontas Municipal Utilities, Milford Municipal Utilities, Cedar Falls Utilities, and Indianola Municipal Utilities. Projections were that it would take four weeks or more for the restoration work to be completed

The ice storm affected Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Tennessee, and Kentucky. An estimated 54,000 homes and businesses in Missouri alone remain without power.

**See What's New
On AMU Cable TV!**

**Turn to Page Two
To Read
The Details!**

Iowa Stored Energy Park Matching Loan Ok'ed

The Iowa Power Fund Board has approved a \$3.2 million matching loan for the Iowa Stored Energy Park (ISEP). The ISEP principals are now responsible for raising their share of the matching funds.

The Iowa Stored Energy Park is a Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES) facility utilizing air stored underground at naturally occurring pressures. Stored air is released when

needed to help generate energy for cities and utilities which have purchased rights to utilize it. Used as a supplement to existing energy sources, it is predicted that ISEP will save clients millions of dollars each year by providing a consistently reliable energy source during periods of high demand.

The Iowa Association of Municipal utilities has been highly involved in the planning of ISEP, and IAMU

member utilities are expected to be among the clients served by ISEP.

Algona Municipal Utilities is one of 130 municipal utility companies in Iowa and surrounding states that plan to build a revolutionary energy park in Dallas County.

Plans for the test drilling process are already in place. More information about ISEP is available at www.isepa.com.

MEGAtalk Refill Machine located at the Chrome Truck

With i wireless you can choose from MEGA talk® plans that give you unlimited 24/7 local calling with unlimited text and long distance available giving you more calling for your money.



You can refill your MEGAtalk® minutes even when the AMU offices is closed. Our new MEGAtalk® Refill Machine at the Chrome Truck stop in Algona gives MEGAtalk® customers the opportunity to refill their MEGAtalk® and POWERSupplize® cards 7 days a week, from 5 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Get more information on MEGAtalk® prepaid plans at AMU.

NEW CHANNELS ON AMU CABLE TV

AMU Cable TV customers who subscribe to the digital basic tier of service can view three new TV networks. The networks were added at no additional cost to the customers. The networks are located on the following channels:

- Channel 235: IPTV World**
- Channel 236: IPTV Learns**
- Channel 237: My 3.2.**

IPTV World broadcasts Iowa, national, and inter-

national public affairs programming 24 hours a day. IPTV Learns broadcasts how-to-programs during the day and PBS kids programs between 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

My 3.2 was launched by KIMT TV in Mason City. My 3.2 includes a new local program, "Sports Pulse" which provides viewers sports highlights and behind the scenes stories from KIMT Sports.

"Adding the new net-

works to our system enhances the value for our customers who subscribe to the Digital Basic tier," said Bob Jennings, AMU Information Director. "Basic and Expanded Basic AMU Cable TV customers wanting to watch the new TV networks can easily upgrade to the Digital Basic Tier by calling Algona Municipal Utilities at 295-3584."

New channel guides are available at AMU or at www.netamu.com.

From Page One DTV Transition Delayed

digital to analog. The FCC has issued \$40 coupons to defray the cost of the converter box, but ran out of coupons. Congress delayed the DTV transition date in order to make more money available for the coupon program.

Two TV stations on the AMU Cable TV system will

make the transition from analog to digital on February 17th — WHO and FOX



17 in Des Moines. The remaining local TV stations on AMU Cable TV will con-

tinue to broadcast both analog and digital signals. "AMU Cable TV customers will not need a converter box to watch their favorite programs on local TV stations," said Bob Jennings, AMU Information Director. "Whether it's February 17th or June 12th, our customers will be able to turn on their TV and watch programming from local TV stations just as they have in the past."



*Community Owned
For
Community Benefit*

*That's Our
Commitment to You,
Our Customer
and Owner*