



# THE WIRE



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## AMU Joins NIMECA

Algona Municipal Utilities and North Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association (NIMECA) have signed an agreement to share power supply resources between Algona and the 12 member municipal electric utilities that makeup NIMECA.

NIMECA, organized in 1965, with headquarters in Humboldt, Iowa, is a municipal joint action agency. NIMECA serves as the agent for its members for the coordination of power supply, planning adequate power sources

and delivery of such power.

According to Greg Fritz, Chief Executive Officer for NIMECA, "the NIMECA mission is to provide efficient and economical power and the delivery of this power to our members in an environmentally responsible manner, enabling them to improve the quality of life and the economic well being of their consumers." NIMECA members cooperate together sharing electric generation resources and coordinating planning efforts for

energy efficiency activities, investment in new generation resources including clean coal technology and renewable energy through wind, and other planning activities to provide economies of scale in pricing services to their consumer owners. NIMECA is also a member of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative located in Humboldt, Iowa. Corn Belt

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## AMU Celebrates Public Power

Algona Municipal Utilities, along with more than 2,000 other electric utili-



Public Power Week • October 5-11, 2008

ties across the U.S. will celebrate Public Power Week. Public Power Week is a chance for electric utilities to tell their stories how they collectively provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 45 million Americans.

"As a community-owned

electric system, our end goal isn't just to provide a service to customers, but to power our neighbors – our community," says John Bilsten, General Manager of AMU.

Public Power Week is a national, annual event sponsored in conjunction with the American Public Power Association. AMU will celebrate the week by having Mayor Jeff Gilmore sign a Public Power proclamation. In addition, AMU will host the Algona Chamber of Commerce weekly coffee on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**The Date For The DTV Transition Is February 17, 2009!**



**You Don't Need Special Equipment To Receive Local TV Stations With AMU Cable TV! Stop At AMU To Get Details!**

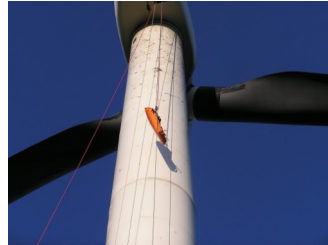
## RESCUE TRAINING AT AMU WIND FARM

Personnel from Algona Municipal Utilities, the Algona Fire Department, and Algona EMS recently partnered on a rescue training at the Iowa Distributed Wind Generation Project Wind Farm.

“The scenario had an injured employee at the top of the turbine,” said John Bilsten, AMU General Manager.

Volunteers practiced bringing the victim out of

the hatch of the turbine or down the ladder inside of the tower.



Rescue workers climbed the ladder inside the tower to rescue a 175 pound dummy at the top of

the turbine.

AMU Line Superintendent Rod Vitzthum described emergency procedures to the volunteers, which included calling 911, turning off the turbine, and turning the turbine so the hatch faces the gravel road. Trucks to haul equipment to the top of the tower using a pulley system.

The three wind turbines were erected in 1998.

## AMU WAIVES RECONNECT FEE

Former AMU Communications customers in good standing with the utility can now take advantage of our communications services, as AMU is waiving the reconnection fee. The fee is normally \$32.10.

“AMU is seeing former customers take another look at our communications services as we provide low, affordable rates. We want to help make it a smooth transition so we are waiving the fee for former customers in good standing with the utility,” says John Bilsten, AMU General Manager.

Bilsten invites former communications customers to stop at AMU to get more information about AMU Communications services.

## USE SPACE HEATERS WITH CAUTION

With the onset of winter, many will turn to alternative sources when comes to heating their homes. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says consumers need to use caution when using space heaters.



1. Purchase heaters with an automatic shut-off feature and heating element guards.
2. Make sure the model has a tip switch that will shut off the heater if it is knocked over or it falls.
3. Select heating equipment that has the UL Approved trademark. This indicates UL staff have tested samples of the product for safety hazards.

Take precautions when using a space heater.

- Avoid using extension cords with heaters.
- Keep things that burn at least 3 feet from the heater.
- Keep the power cord out of high-traffic areas to prevent people tripping over the cord.
- Turn the heater off when you’re not in the room or when you sleep..

### AMU Joins NIMECA

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and NIMECA share generation and transmission facilities, which results in cost savings to both NIMECA and Corn Belt consumers.

“There are many benefits to Algona joining NIMECA,” says John Bilsten, General Manager for Algona Municipal Utilities. “One of the largest bene-

fits is an opportunity to mitigate our electric power supply risks by sharing resources in multiple generating units instead of just one unit like we do today. By spreading our risks over multiple generating units we reduce our exposure to an ever changing electric energy market and help keep our cost as low as possible for our consumer owners in Algona. In addition, the

agreement between Algona and NIMECA will allow Algona to increase its share of renewable energy through wind by jointly purchasing wind energy with other NIMECA members. NIMECA members are also partners in the planned Sutherland Unit #4 – state of the art, clean coal technology power plant planned for the Marshalltown area,” stated Bilsten.



*Community Owned  
For  
Community Benefit*

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