

ELECTRIC CITIES

Connected

Executive Director's Report

Mark Your Calendars!

The 2012 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature will convene Tuesday, February 7. ECA will resume its weekly Legislative Update on February 10.



ECA Executive Director, Jonathan Hand

Governor Bentley is no longer pushing this idea and the budget shortfall will continue to be a major issue for the 2012 Legislative Session.

In addition to budgetary legislation, ECA expects clarification of the illegal immigration law that was signed into law in 2011 to be considered as well as the legalization of charter schools. Of direct interest to utilities is legislation geared towards metal theft, which is expected to impact guidelines and procedures pertaining to the state of Alabama's scrap metal law.

While the legislature kicks-off session officially on February 7, 2012, ECA will resume the weekly Legislative Updates at the conclusion of each week of session. Please be on the lookout for the first 2012 edition on Friday, February 10. In the event you have a specific legislative concern, I can be reached by e-mail at jhand@electriccities.org or by telephone at (334) 954-3221.

Please know ECA will continue to be vigilant over any legislation that impacts its 36 electric city members and the 1 million customers in which we serve.

Uniting Alabama's electric cities, I remain
Sincerely,

Jonathan A. Hand

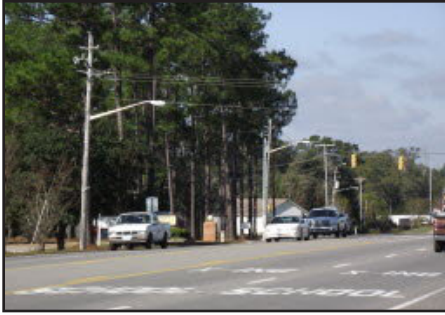
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It has been my pleasure to serve as your Executive Director over the last few years and I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of municipal electric utilities in 2012. As you might expect, Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA) has been preparing for the upcoming 2012 Alabama State Legislature General Session these last few months, which is scheduled to begin February 7.

As you might expect, budget shortfalls continue to plague the state of Alabama. Unlike other states, Alabama experienced a decrease in the unemployment rate. The last few weeks however, revenues for the general fund have continued to fall short. Governor Robert Bentley earlier this month made a request to unify the state's two major budgets, the Education and General Fund. It appears

Robertsdale Gets \$100,000 Grant for LED Streetlights



Robertsdale will replace 120 streetlights with energy saving LED fixtures with money from a \$100,000 federal grant. (Guy Busby/Press-Register)

ROBERTSDALE, Alabama - New streetlights will be going up along Ala. 59 in early 2012 in a move that should cut power and maintenance costs with high-tech energy efficient fixtures, city officials said.

The city of Robertsdale received a \$100,000 grant to replace 120 streetlights between Central Baldwin Middle School and Baldwin County 48. The money was provided by the U.S. Department of Energy.

“The new lamps will use

light-emitting diodes instead of incandescent bulbs now in use,” Greg Smith, city engineer said. “The power cost for one of the fixtures now on the highway is about \$120.90 a year. The bulbs last for about 22,000 hours. The new LED lights will cost about \$39 a year and last for about 50,000 hours, cutting not only power costs, but the time needed for workers to replace bulbs,” Smith said.

“The program will also provide consistent lighting for travelers along Ala. 59. Over the years, several different types of street lights have been installed on the highway in Robertsdale,” Mayor Charles Murphy said. “It really is a good move, it will save us money and improve things all around,” he went on to say.

“The city is now requesting submissions for a grant administrator as required by the program. After the submission deadline Friday, the city will choose a consultant and start designing the

system,” Smith said. He said the lights should be in place by early spring.

Smith also said that until recent years, the high costs of the LED fixtures has canceled out the savings from reduced energy consumption. As technology has developed, however, the cost of the lights has dropped.

“It’s become a lot more affordable than it was and I think in the future, that’s what you’re going to see,” Smith said.

The Foley City Council also voted in January to study installing LED lights on Ala. 59.

He said Mobile and Auburn have also started projects to install LED streetlights.

The grant is administered by Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The funds are provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Source: Guy Busby/Press-Register

2012 Municipal Quality of Life Award Winners



Two of ECA’s member cities were spotted in the Alabama League of Municipalities January 2012 edition of *The Alabama Municipal Journal*. Congratulations to the cities of Piedmont and Tarrant for being chosen in The League’s Municipal Quality of Life Awards program.

The program was created to recognize outstanding projects in local government and to share those success stories with other municipalities. Winners were chosen by a panel of four independent judges who are not affiliated

with the League. Judging was based on written entries and supportive information. Piedmont and Tarrant were chosen as the winners for their population categories – Under 5,000, 5,001, to 12,000 and 12,001 and Over, respectively. These cities were recognized during the Opening Session of the League’s 2012 Annual Convention in Birmingham on May 19, 2011. Log-onto the League’s website, www.alalm.org to read the complete article.

Source: The Alabama Municipal Journal.

Happenings on Goat Hill



The 2012 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature will convene at noon, Tuesday, February 7, 2012. ECA will bring you legislative updates in the “Happenings on Goat Hill” section of *Electric Cities Connected*. Here are just a few important happenings that took place recently:

Jan. 27, 2012 - Governor Robert Bentley request federal assistance for individuals affected by the line of storms that hit on January 23.

December 28, 2011 - Governor Bentley Orders State Agencies to Promote Energy Efficient Practices.

EMA Request Damage Assessments



The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is requesting damage assessments from the line of storms that passed through in January. Public Assistance (PA) Program Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) for costs/dam-

ages incurred as a result of the severe weather event impacting the state on January 23, 2012, are currently ongoing. If your agency has incurred costs or damages to infrastructure as a result of this severe weather event, please contact Chris Newton, Alabama EMA Public Assistance Officer, at (205) 280-2233 or chrisn@ema.alabama.gov.

A description of the eligible PA Program costs is included below:

Category A – Debris Removal (Costs associated with debris removal from maintained property)

Category B – Emergency Pro-

tective Measures (Costs associated with the initial response/recovery)

Category C – Road and Bridge Damages

Category D – Water Control Facility Damages (Pumping stations, levees, dams, drainage channels)

Category E – Buildings and Equipment Damages

Category F – Utility Infrastructure

Category G – Recreation Facilities

Please contact EMA immediately if you were impacted by the storm.

ECA Trivia Grid



In 1733, Charles Francois du Fay discovered two forms of electricity which he called resinous and vitreous. Benjamin Franklin (among others) renamed these two forms as we know them today. What were these new, more widely accepted names?

Be the first to e-mail the correct answer to Andrea Salvador at asalvador@electriccities.org and win a \$25.00 gift card. Good Luck!

Last month's winner was Glenn Boyles of Decatur. Glenn answered that **Thomas Edison** performed the first demonstration of the incandescent lamp. Congratulations Glenn!

A Tale of Two Cities: Enterprise GIS in Torino, Italy and Huntsville, Alabama



Turin City Scape. Image courtesy of Roberto Borgo.

Story By: Cyndi Smith, Richard Zambuni, Directions Magazine

The city of Torino (Turin) is a major business and cultural center in northern Italy. The city has a rich culture and history and is often referred to as “the Capital of the Alps.” What does this ancient city have in common with Huntsville, Alabama – home of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and Monte Sano Mountain? As it turns out – plenty. Utilities in both cities undertook impressive programs to implement comprehensive engineering and GIS systems integrated with ERP (enterprise resource planning) to improve overall productivity throughout their respective multi-utility enterprises.

IREN ENERGIA is one of the main Italian multi-utilities comprising companies that manage water, electricity, public lighting, gas and district heating networks. With strong ambitions to continue its pattern of growth in Italy, the company began planning a next-generation GIS called “New SIT” a few years ago. The goals behind this new GIS were to achieve even

higher efficiency in the management of the multi-utility networks that the company operates. The objective was to achieve a minimum of 20% increase in productivity (by way of reduction in manual labor) across many functions such as planning, engineering design, field engineering, and customer service, all of which use the new system.

Across the world, Huntsville Utilities, which is owned by the city of Huntsville in Alabama and provides electric, gas and water services, was investigating a similar endeavor. As a public utility, Huntsville Utilities answers to the people it serves, and its decisions are based on what is best for its customers. As IREN launched its New SIT initiative, Huntsville Utilities began working toward a solution to consolidate independent design and mapping standards across its electric, gas and water departments and move toward an integrated engineering design and GIS system.

Like IREN, Huntsville was implementing SAP and had very specific goals of improving work order and design processes while building an intelligent as-built model of its utility networks in an open, accessible GIS. Both utilities had a variety of solutions they had implemented over the years, but chose to capitalize on Bentley’s GIS solution based on Bentley Map, Oracle Spatial, Bentley Geospatial Server and Bentley Geo Web

Publisher. Bentley Geospatial Server enabled the design processes to be integrated with SAP and was

also instrumental in supporting the work order process in both utilities. Huntsville also used Bentley Expert Designer to simplify cost estimating and design cost comparison, and to ensure the consistent use of compatible units in the design process.

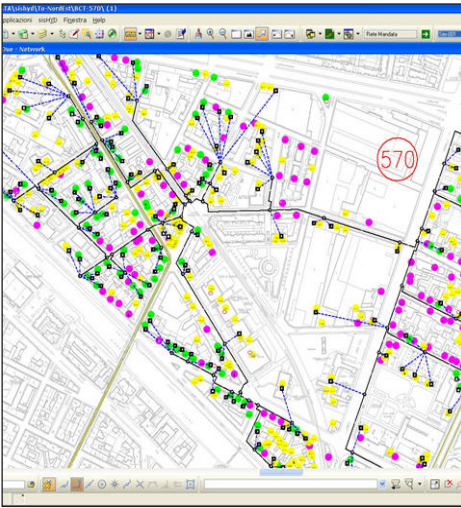
While each utility had, and continues to have, unique requirements, their approaches shared two fundamental principles: the use of a spatial database (Oracle Spatial), and integrated engineering and GIS data managed in the same environment and readily accessible to multiple organizations through a common spatial server and Web publishing environment.

As Mario Cipriano, chief information officer at IREN Energia explains, “We have ambitious plans for our company and these plans predicate a cutting-edge GIS. We wanted a system that was powerful, flexible and based on a service-oriented architecture. The value of the system lies in the fact that the GIS and engineering data are not kept in separate databases or in functional silos. The goal of this project from day one has been to have a single source of data available to anyone who manages or supports the utility networks in any function, be that planning, engineering design, field engineering, customer service and more.”

IREN began this effort in 2007 and Huntsville Utilities got started on parts of this project in 2009. Today, both utilities have successfully deployed their systems and have been reaping the expected benefits as well as building new projects on

continued on next page...

A Tale of Two Cities: Enterprise GIS in Torino, Italy and Huntsville, Alabama (Continued)



Bentley sisHYD let AES Torino combine engineering models and GIS data to improve their district energy network design process.

their visionary architecture.

For example, AES Torino is the utility company that manages the gas distribution network and the district heating network in Torino and in the adjacent area of Moncalieri.

AES Torino was established as a joint venture of IREN and ITALGAS S.p.A. to integrate the management of Torino's gas and district heating distribution.

In the spring of 2011 a new project began in order to evaluate a district heating network extension to a new area in northeast Torino. The goal of this project was to plan the replacement of the existing centralized heating systems (fed by mineral oil and natural gas) with heat exchange substations and to substantially extend the existing district heating network. Completion of this project would deliver district

energy distribution to about 70% of the city, enabling valuable benefits in sustainable development, energy efficiency and air quality improvement.

AES took advantage of the IREN integrated GIS architecture to share information among multiple offices to plan and evaluate the project. Information about the buildings came from IREN, the parent company of AES, which produces the district heating energy. AES also took advantage of Bentley sisHYD, an analytical modeling and network design application delivering the thermal-hydraulic calculations necessary to understand the likely behavior and performance of the extended network. Data were easily extracted from the enterprise Oracle database and imported into Bentley sisHYD for these thermal-hydraulic calculations.

The use of Bentley sisHYD allowed engineers to analyze, design and optimize the district heating network with high precision integrated thermal-hydraulic models, in a geospatial environment. This reduced manual trial-and-error work, saving 20% of operations time. The Bentley sisHYD application allowed them to make reliable decisions based on accurate simulations, and to quickly identify the best possible calibration hypothesis. This process helped the AES designers to define how to develop the district heating in the northeast area of Turin to reach all the targeted

buildings with new connections. The extension will serve a population of about 180,000 inhabitants and support about a 16,000,000 cubic meter flow. The system entails about 140 km of double pipelines and 2,400 heat exchange substations.

This district heating development project is significant for the improvement of the quality of life for the citizens of Torino. The environmental benefits include an estimated annual reduction in emissions of 178 tons of NO_x (nitrogen oxides), 32 tons of CO₂ (carbon dioxide), 56 tons of SO_x (sulfur oxides), and three tons of dust.

As these cities continue to undertake new projects and initiatives to meet the ongoing challenges facing today's multi-utilities, the forward-thinking decision they made to establish an open, common geospatial environment leveraging the Oracle Spatial database will prove to be a winning long-term strategy.

Story By: Cyndi Smith, Richard Zambuni, Directions Magazine

Dates to Remember

February 28, 2012 -

Board of Directors Meeting, Montgomery Legislative Briefing & Meet & Greet Reception

The 13th annual Legislative Briefing and Meet and Greet Reception will be held at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery, AL. ECA member cities and elected officials will have the opportunity to discuss issues impacting public power in Alabama. Invited elected officials include Alabama's Legislature, State Constitutional Officers and Judiciary Officials. ECA has reserved a block of rooms at the downtown Montgomery Renaissance Hotel. Space is very limited and the hotel is expected to completely sell out of rooms for this night. Reserve your room by calling (800)266-9432 and mentioning "ELE" for the special rate of \$150 per night.

March 20-22, 2012 -

Washington D.C. Legislative Rally

ECA's Washington, DC, Legislative Rally will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Please note the Legislative Rally will not be held in conjunction with the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Legislative Rally this year. As in years past, ECA will kick off its Legislative Rally with a Legislative Briefing Tuesday at 4:00 P.M. at the Mayflower Hotel, Virginia Room and will have meetings with Alabama's Congressional Delegation on Capitol Hill Wednesday and Thursday. ECA will once again host an annual legislative dinner Thursday evening, which will include members of Congress and their staff. ECA member cities should attend the 2012 Legislative Rally for this wonderful opportunity to meet with Alabama's Congressional Delegation! Reserve your room today by calling The Mayflower Hotel at (800) 228-9290 or (202) 347-3000 and receiving the special room rate of \$289 per night. The Cut-off date is February 14, 2012. Limited rooms are available at this discounted rate.

July 8, 2012 -

Annual Business Meeting (Board of Directors) and Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference

Join us at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL, for ECA's 12th Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference. ECA's Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference allows member cities, associate members, vendors and sponsors, along with key staff and elected officials, to gather and exchange ideas and experiences. Be looking for more conference details as the date draws near!

October 22-24, 2012 -

Engineering & Operations Conference

The 2012 Engineering & Operations Conference will be returning to Renaissance Ross Bridge in Hoover, AL. Mark your calendars for this outstanding conference that will offer a variety of educational programs. In addition to educational opportunities, ECA will once again host its annual golf outing as well as a clay shooting (off-site at Selwood Farm) and horseshoes (on-site). More information will be available as the event draws near.





Calendar of Events

February 28, 2012

Board of Directors Meeting
Montgomery Legislative
Briefing & Meet & Greet
Reception
RSA Plaza Terrace
Montgomery, AL

March 20-22, 2012

Washington Legislative
Rally
The Mayflower Hotel
Washington, DC

July 8, 2012

Annual Business Meeting
(Board of Directors)
Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach, AL

July 8 - 10, 2012

Annual Meeting and
Governmental Affairs
Conference
Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach, AL

October 22-24, 2012

Engineering & Operations
Conference
Renaissance Ross Bridge
Hoover, AL

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THE ELECTRIC CITIES OF
ALABAMA IS A COALITION OF THE STATE'S
MUNICIPALLY OWNED AND OPERATED ELECTRIC SYSTEMS.
ALABAMA'S ELECTRIC CITIES SERVE
APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION CONSUMERS IN 36 CITIES THROUGHOUT
ALABAMA.

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ELECTRIC CITIES of ALABAMA

Legislative
Meet & Greet Reception



Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
RSA Plaza Terrace, Montgomery, Alabama