

THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

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June, 2009

Have An Energy Question?

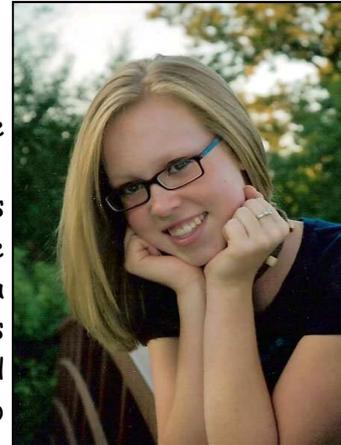
Focus on Energy has a new feature called *Ask An Energy Expert*.



This new feature consists of a team of energy experts at your disposal to answer your energy related questions. Your question may even be their "featured question of the week." You can also search other questions that have been asked about a subject. To ask an energy expert log onto www.askfocusonenergy.com or log onto our website and click on the *Ask An Energy Expert* link.

RICE LAKE UTILITIES AWARDS \$500 SCHOLARSHIP

Corrie Powers received a \$500 scholarship from Rice Lake Utilities. Mike Magee, Wastewater Operations Supervisor, presented the scholarship to Corrie at the Academic Awards Banquet held in June. Corrie is a 2009 graduate of Rice Lake High School and plans to attend the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth to major in pre-medicine. Corrie was active in cross country, track and field, soccer, Key Club, Career and Consumer Leaders of America and International Club. She also volunteered for many various community programs.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER EXPLAINS THE VALUE OF CONSUMER OWNED UTILITIES

"The largest benefit of consumer-owned utilities is payment. Because Rice Lake Utilities does not have to submit payments to shareholders as national companies must, the benefits are brought back to the consumer. The consumer receives much lower prices than a national company could offer, as shown in the March 2009 newsletter from Rice Lake Utilities: "Rice Lake Utilities electric rates ranked as the 10th lowest out of 94 electric utilities." This is an amazing feat for a small town the size of Rice Lake to achieve. By presenting such minimal utility costs, consumer-owned utility companies are able to attract customers and maintain them".

"Another benefit of consumer-owned utilities is the locality of the company. If a customer has an issue with his utilities, he does not have to call an out-of-state number and wait on hold to speak with a representative. He simply goes on the Rice Lake Utilities website where there is link titled "Report a Problem". When this customer explains his dilemma, he knows who is receiving his complaint. The utility worker could be his neighbor or close friend. He is guaranteed a member of his own community will solve the issue".

"By being a part of a consumer-owned utility, a community member is not only benefitting from a locally-owned and trusted company, he is also reaping the profits of owning that company. This is the biggest value of a consumer owned utility".



RICE LAKE UTILITIES CONGRATULATES CORRIE AND THE ENTIRE RICE LAKE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009!!

Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Inch Closer to Becoming a Reality

Facility plans for upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant have been submitted to the Wisconsin DNR for approval. These plans are designed to meet capacity until the year 2030. The projected cost to revamp the wastewater plant is approximately \$7.7 million dollars. The majority of the funding for this project is coming from an account that was put in place at the time of the last upgrade; therefore minimizing future rate increases. The project will also be utilizing energy incentives that are available for motor efficiencies and the re-use of methane gas that's generated in the treatment process. The engineering design portion of the project will begin in July of this year with the plans and construction specifications being submitted to the DNR in January of 2010. The bidding and contract award will then follow in March of 2010 with completion in the spring of 2011. *A copy of the facilities plan is available at our office and also on our web page.

Rice Lake Utilities Awarded the 2008 Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin Safety Achievement Award



Pictured from left to right: Scott Reimer, RLU GM/CEO, Darrell Scott, RLU Lineworker, Tim Aaby, RLU Meter Tech/Lineworker, Gary Haus, RLU Lineworker, Leo Diehl, RLU Electric Superintendent, Dan Becker, MEUW Safety Coordinator, Steve Diercks, RLU Lineworker. Not pictured: Jim Smith, RLU Lineworker.

In a statement from the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW), a safety score of 100 or above is an achievement to be very proud of. It takes hard work and commitment from the employees on the job site watching out for one another, following safety rules and safe work practices-every day, on every job. It also takes commitment from the utility management and governing board to provide the employees with the equipment they need to do the job safely, the training to maintain or improve their skills and knowledge through regular participation in the MEUW Safety Program, seminars and workshops, and the time and effort to promote pro-active safety practices. Rice Lake Utilities also placed 1st in the American Public Power Associations 2008 safety award contest with a zero incident rating.

Congratulations electric crew!!

Rice Lake Utilities Financial Summary For 2008

(Electric Utility)

Serving 5,389 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$12,128,570
Operating expenses	\$11,480,829
Operating income	\$647,741
Rate of return on rate base	7.49 %
Total plant in service	\$13,916,568
Purchased power costs in 2008	\$9,958,603
Tax Equivalent paid to the City of Rice Lake in 2008	\$205,324

(Water Utility)

Serving 3,773 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$1,012,687
Operating expenses	\$959,032
Operating income	\$53,655
Rate of return on rate base	1.88%
Total plant in service	\$9,133,794
Gals. Pumped in 2008	513,102,000
Tax equivalent paid to the City of Rice Lake in 2008	\$132,721

(Wastewater Utility)

Serving 3,773 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$1,098,489
Operating expenses	\$1,438,887
Operating income	\$(340,398)
Rate of return on rate base	-9.40%
Total plant in service	\$12,859,258
Wastewater gallons treated in 2008	561,090,000

RICE LAKE UTILITIES

Electric * Water * Wastewater

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