



Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2017

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MEUW OP-ED: CELEBRATE PUBLIC POWER THIS WEEK

Public Power is a valuable asset to our nation, Wisconsin and the 82 local communities that we serve across our state. October 1st -7th, Public Power Week, marks the week set aside each year to celebrate the advantages of Public Power.

Public Power and the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin deliver distinct advantages to the cities, towns and villages we serve. We allow for local control, community value, reliability, affordability and superior service.

Each of our 82 member utilities operates in a manner that fits with the character of the communities that we serve. By having **Local Control**, we are closer to our customers, and can operate our utility in tune with the concerns of our local residents. While some communities may focus on having the lowest costs, others may place a high value on environmental sensitivity. Because we are locally controlled we can respond to local desires quickly and more directly than other utilities.

We also create **Community Value**. Not only do MEUW members provide well-paying jobs to members of our local communities, we also make payments in lieu of taxes that help reduce the property tax burden for our residents and businesses. In 2016 MEUW members paid \$22.5 million to their local service communities. Our members also work to create services and system improvements that will support economic development in our service areas.

Reliability, is a hallmark of our Municipal Electric Utilities. Local utilities serviced by local employees who know the area and the utility. We have well maintained facilities, and when there is an outage, our employees don't have to travel far to get the problem fixed. If the problem is large, like Hurricane Irma, Public Power from around the country comes to assist through our Mutual Aid system. When mother nature lashes out, Public Power is the first to respond.

Municipal Electric Utilities also lead when it comes to **Affordability** of electricity. We regularly have some of the lowest rates for electricity for our customers when compared to others in our industry. Lower electricity costs mean more dollars flowing to area businesses, and keeping our local economy strong.

Because MEUW members are owned by our communities, we can concentrate on delivering **Superior Service** through investment back into utility infrastructure. We can consistently focus on building a utility that delivers high quality service for our customers and is efficient in its operations. Our utilities

plan for the long term, rather than for the next quarterly stock dividend, allowing us to make decisions that are good for today, and for tomorrow.

This week celebrate the benefits of Public Power: **Local Control, Community Value, Reliability, Affordability, Superior Service.**

Public Power is good for the US, and a valuable asset to the 82 Wisconsin Communities that we serve.

Jeff Stone is the Executive Director of the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin