

### Nuclear Production Tax Credits

In June, HR 1551 was passed by the full House of Representatives. This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code and would allow qualified public entities, including public power utilities and rural electric cooperatives, to transfer the value of the advanced nuclear production tax credit to for-profit entities who are project partners. The bill also removes the placed-in-service deadline for claiming the tax credit. We now look to the Senate for opportunities to move the bill onto the President's desk.

**Water Wars** The Special Master's report to the Supreme Court stated: "I recommend that the Court deny Florida's request for relief." While some felt that this might end the dispute, the Supreme Court said in March that more legal briefs will be filed in the case, including allowing Florida to contest the Special Master's report that recommended a ruling in Georgia's favor.

**NRC** President Trump named Republican Kristine Svinicki to chair the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Svinicki has served as a commissioner at the NRC since 2008.

**FERC** On August 15, the Senate confirmed two Trump nominees, Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson, to be new commissioners on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Their confirmation gives FERC a quorum for the first time in six months. Chatterjee and Powelson join Cheryl LaFleur on the Commission. The nominees for the two remaining vacant spots are moving through the nomination process.

**Georgia Chamber of Commerce** A key element in the Chamber's new strategic plan involves reaching out to rural Georgia by forming a new committee to address rural issues and focus on strengthening the rural economy. In May, the Chamber opened a regional office in Tifton and will host a Rural Prosperity Summit there November 29-30.

**Georgia Cyber Innovation and Training Center** The state is investing \$50 million to establish this Center in Augusta. It will be a state-owned cyber facility that brings together academia, private industry and government to establish cybersecurity standards across state and local agencies to develop and practice protocols for responding to cyber threats.

## THE MEAG POWER 2017 ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting was a busy affair as Participants heard insightful presentations from various guest speakers and MEAG Power staff members. Additionally, attendees took advantage of the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss issues with their colleagues from throughout the state.

Among the keynote speakers were individuals who had insight into two important areas. Renowned political analyst A. B. Stoddard gave the audience an insider look at today's Washington, D.C., landscape, while Peter Zeihan, a noted geopolitical strategist, was welcomed back to share his thoughts on global energy dynamics. The afternoon sessions included an update from Stan Wise, Chairman of Georgia's Public Service Commission, and the introduction of a new leadership program (EDGE) by Daryl Ingram, Sr. Vice President, External Affairs, Electric Cities of Georgia.

MEAG Power Board elections were held for three seats. Tim Houston, an Acworth Alderman, was newly elected; Keith Brady, Mayor of Newnan, and Greg Thompson, Mayor of Monroe, were re-elected. Having made the decision that he would not run for re-election to the Board, Mayor Larry Guest was recognized for his six years of exceptional leadership as a Board member.

Also, recognized at this year's Annual Meeting were the winners of the MEAG Power President's Award: Clint Ginn, Financial Reporting Specialist, Bret Griffin, Fuel Manager, Power Supply and Darla Lowe, Government Affairs Specialist. These individuals were recognized for their work ethic and efforts to always go above and beyond for MEAG Power and our Participants. Additionally, Elaine Koster, MEAG Power's Communications Manager and a beloved MEAG Power employee, was recognized for her 27 years of service, as she announced her retirement, effective in August.



Mayor Larry Guest of Elberton

### Best Wishes

Albany Mayor Dorothy Hubbard was elected president of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) during the association's annual convention in Savannah. She is the first official from the city of Albany to serve as GMA president in 72 years.

**Doerun, Moultrie & Thomasville** – These communities are part of the five counties that have received grant awards for the Georgia Rural Advanced Placement Science Technology Engineering and Math (AP STEM) Initiative to support the implementation of AP programs in Computer Science and Statistics.

**Griffin** – Griffin Power has finished installing a new Itron 4G LTE, state-of-the-art AMI infrastructure for the city's 16,000-plus electric customers. The utility can now see real-time usage through the customer portal, as well as remote connect/disconnect capabilities. The AMI installation positions the utility very well for the OMS (Outage Management System) implementation that is forthcoming.

**Fort Valley** – Canadian company Pure Flavor is building a \$105 million, 75-acre state-of-the-art greenhouse to grow cucumbers and tomatoes. Fort Valley Utility Commission will serve the electric load.

**LaGrange** – Sentury Tire, a global tire manufacturer of automotive and aircraft tires, is designing a 1.4 million square foot manufacturing facility that will serve as their North American headquarters and bring more than 1,000 jobs to Georgia. The City of LaGrange will provide electric service to the facility, which is expected to be fully operational in 2019.

## 2017 MAKE A NOTE

### MEAG Power Board Meetings

October 19 (hosted by the City of Jackson)

### Mayors Summit

November 10-12

## MEET YOUR *colleagues*



**Edward Easterlin**  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

*This year, Edward Easterlin joined MEAG Power as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Most recently, he served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Omaha Public Power District where he was a member of the executive team responsible for overall organizational direction. Edward has extensive capabilities, including experience in risk management, rates, budgets, corporate accounting, treasury and finance and more. We are fortunate to have someone with his multidisciplinary professional expertise on our staff.*

### After several months with MEAG Power, what are your impressions?

First, I am finding that MEAG Power is a very welcoming organization. Many employees have been here for a number of years; they have embraced the mission of MEAG Power, and that gives me the feeling that this is a good place to work. There is a strong service orientation here. Clearly, the staff members acknowledge and understand that their role is to provide the right services to Participants, and they take pride in bringing value to the member communities.

### How do you perceive MEAG Power's relationship with our Participants?

MEAG Power respects the Participants and the job they do. As an organization, MEAG Power cares what Participants think and say and is always looking for ways to support their efforts, staying flexible and adaptable to what each community needs in terms of information and assistance. MEAG wants to enable the Participants to make informed decisions that benefit their communities.

### What are you tackling now, and what will keep you busy in the future?

My approach is to take the time to understand MEAG Power — what we do and how we do it. From there, I can analyze how we are organized — do we have the right functions in place? Are we staffed with the right skills and tools? I am bringing a fresh perspective, and, with staff input, my goal is to have finance and accounting departments that can provide the greatest value to Participants. Right now, I am looking to fill a number of key positions to ensure that we operate efficiently and do things the most effective way. Looking ahead, my intent is to initiate cross training so we have people with a depth of experience to draw on going forward.

I have always looked for a challenge, and transitioning from a retail utility to a wholesale power provider means taking a different perspective. Plus, being involved with a significant capital construction project like Plant Vogtle is something I know I will find challenging.

## BLAKELY *on the Leading Edge*

The city's fiber to the home (FTTH) internet service — "BlakelyNet" — launched its service June 1. This technology is considered the "gold standard" of Internet broadband service. Connecting directly to fiber optic cable enables enormous improvements in bandwidth, which is essential to high-speed Internet for both homes and businesses. Blakely began the project in September 2016, and, while there were some delays, the city wanted to make sure that the services were properly installed and tested and that there was trained staff to support the system. (The projected final cost for the project was \$3.6 million.)

A new study for the Fiber Broadband Association reported that widely available fiber to the home service is linked to more jobs, a better economy and new business formation.

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