

Muni Spotlight



◆ Breese, IL ◆



The City of Breese is in the spotlight for this edition of the *Muni Line*. Breese was a founding member of IMEA and has always maintained an active role in the agency through their IMEA board member's service on committees and working groups, as well as the city and utility personnel's attendance of events.

Breese Electric Operations Manager Jason Deering answered a series of questions about the City's electric utility that will give you insight into operations and plans for the future for this particular system in the IMEA family of utilities.

An overview of your system?

Breese electric system consists of 2470 electric meters served by one substation over 2 12470v circuits and 3 4160v circuits.

Ways your system give back to the community?

We supply electricity, hardware, lighting, and labor for various events hosted by churches and non-profits at no cost. We also do a scholarship match for Breese residents who are awarded the IMUA scholarship.

Barriers for growth or issues you must face, and how does your system deal with them?

Lead times are still a bit of an issue for certain items; it requires us to plan out a little further for projects and keep a slightly higher inventory on some hardware. Rising equipment costs are a challenge, causing us to wring more life out of our trucks and tools.

Ways you keep electric costs competitive for customers?

Buying our power through the IMEA is the most effective way we can keep costs low relative to other energy providers. We also employ smart, reliable, safe and efficient workers that allow the electric department to operate on a relatively small staff that keeps overhead down.

Can you explain some of the planning that has gone into your system recently?

The City is currently planning another delivery point to help harden our local system and to alleviate some stress on our existing substation. We are also adding additional generation to keep up with increasing demand.

What are some key improvements or accomplishments at your utility over the last few years?

Breese recently upgraded to an AMI metering system that will allow us to better manage and troubleshoot problems before they become expensive.

The benefit of the utility's membership in IMEA and IMUA?

In addition to providing affordable power, the IMEA and IMUA offer a wide array of resources that Breese would otherwise need to pay for, including legal and consulting services.