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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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In case of an outage: If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 257-4174. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After-hours and weekend calls will be answered by a local service and immediately forwarded to standby personnel.

*The board meets at 5:30 p.m.
the fourth Tuesday of each month.*

CA-106

Manager's Message

At Lassen Municipal Utility District (LMUD), we strive to improve the electric system that serves our customers. Throughout 2009 and continuing through 2010 and beyond, the district has made and will make upgrades to our infrastructure. These upgrades will increase our system's reliability and efficiency.

You already may have noticed the increased reliability in the form of fewer outages. On the rare occasion we experience an outage, it normally is for a short time. Although most outages are related to uncontrollable factors such as weather and wildlife, we can lessen their impact by keeping our system in good working order.

One major project has been to "cut-over" our existing 4-kilovolt (kV) system to a more efficient 12-kV system. Our crews already have completed this task in the greater Susanville area. The conversion will continue this spring and summer, focusing mostly on the downtown area of Susanville.

Converting to a 12-kV system allows us to deliver electricity with improved efficiency. This is an important factor in reducing line losses, which occur when the district purchases energy that is never delivered or used by our customers.

Imagine a hose with holes in it, allowing water to leak through it. That would not be a very efficient way to water your lawn. You are losing a portion of the water before it reaches its destination. If you repair the hose, you will use less water. The same is true for electricity.

That is not to say electricity actually "leaks" out of the line, but an antiquated system can have the same results as a leaking garden hose. Not all of the electricity that runs through our lines is being delivered to our customers. Some is lost. By reducing line losses, the district saves money—improving the bottom line for all of us.

As part of improving our system's efficiency, LMUD made changes to the line that serves the two geothermal plants outside of Susanville. The line is now connected to our existing 12.47-kV line, allowing the elimination of the outdated 35-kV line. The new 12.47-kV line interfaces seamlessly with our existing distribution system. The project also included eliminating the 35-kV Standish Substation.

LMUD is in the process of siting a new substation to serve the Standish-Janesville area. This is a time-consuming process, as we must adhere to California environmental and permitting requirements. Once the new substation is in place, it will greatly improve service to those customers.

I would like to commend LMUD Electrical Operations Manager David Folce and his crew. Working together, they have formulated a plan that sets goals and timelines for continuing improvements. The LMUD Board of Directors also should be commended for its foresight. The directors' desire for a modern, reliable, electric system will benefit our entire community, now and for future generations.

—General Manager Ray Luhring