



104 West Call Street
P.O. Box 10
Algona, Iowa 50511
Phone: (515) 295-3584
Fax: (515) 295-3364
Web: www.netamu.com

News Release

May 17, 2019

For Immediate Release

John Bilsten, General Manager, (515) 295-3584

Algona Municipal Utilities Receives National Commendation For Efforts to Restore Electricity to Sibley After April Snowstorm

(Algona, Iowa) Algona Municipal Utilities received a national commendation from the American Public Power Association for its efforts in restoring electric power in the Sibley, Iowa, area following an April snowstorm.

AMU Electric Line Workers Dale Dornbier, Rod Johnson, Nolyn Elliott, Heath Vileta, Mike Stripling, and Brian Hatten responded to the call for mutual aid to Sibley where utility poles and lines went down during the snowstorm. Rod Vitzthum, AMU Electric Distribution Manager, assisted with coordination of crews, material and equipment for the emergency. Four AMU line workers were working in the Sibley area at any given time between April 10th and 14th. Sibley also provides power to Bigelow, Minnesota, and the line workers spent long days working to restore power between the communities. Power was restored to Bigelow around 10 pm on April 13th. Our line workers were part of a group utility workers from many communities that responded to the call for mutual aid to the Sibley area.

Ice had built up around power lines, reaching the size of two inches in diameter. Fields and gravel roads were very soft and mushy, making it difficult to maneuver utility trucks.

“AMU is proud of the work our line workers do every day to provide reliable power to the Algona area and their willingness to respond in emergencies. Our thanks go out to all workers who provided services to that area. This is another example of the value of mutual cooperation during emergencies and embodies the value of public power. We know that if an emergency hits Algona these same communities will be at the call to assist us”, stated John Bilsten, AMU General Manager.

Algona Municipal Utilities is a member of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities and American Public Power Association’s Mutual Aid Network, which coordinates with utilities and authorities during widespread power outages.

Algona Municipal Utilities
“Community Owned for Community Benefit”