

Michigan South Central Power Agency Presents:

The Spotlight



March 2014:

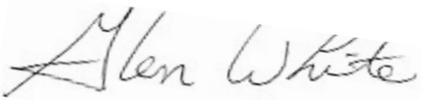
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In spite of the weather, the past couple of months have been quite productive for the Agency. The continued cold temperatures have stressed our energy systems with some wild swings seen in the electricity and natural gas markets, but thanks to the efforts of our employees, our Endicott generation unit has performed admirably.

We successfully closed on the bond issue for Project IV, and now will continue with the engineering and permitting required to meet a late fall installation schedule. The process of filling the FTF positions has begun and we look forward to welcoming all of the new employees over the next few weeks.

Although you can't tell it from the temperatures just yet, according to the calendar, Spring officially arrives on Thursday, March 20th at 12:57 P.M. EDT, which is the time of the vernal equinox when the hours of day and night are equal. Fortunately for us, in this area our "equinox" comes on Monday, March 17th with sunrise at 7:45 A.M. and sunset at 7:47 P.M. Is this just a coincidence that we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day at the same time?


Glen White, General Manager



Spring Forward March 9 at 2:00 AM!

Employee Spotlight: Dave Eichler



Dave Eichler has worked in the Operations Department since March 1982; he spent two years as a plant operator and the last 30 years as a Shift Foreman. "I really enjoy start ups and learning the new systems we implement. It may be very stressful while we are going through it, but you feel like you accomplished something big when it is done" he said.

Dave's job responsibilities include: scheduling and assigning tasks, supervising the work of Power Plant personnel in the proper operation and maintenance of the plant and related facilities; checks and records readings from transformers and switchyard breakers; responsible for lockout/tagout procedures; performs equipment tests; records chemical inventory; maintains Foreman's log book; processes and maintains Operations Department timecards; performs routine maintenance on equipment as necessary; collects waste water treatment plant fallout samples; runs laboratory tests on samples and records results.

Dave grew up in Litchfield and has been married to Sherry for nearly 36 years. Dave and Sherry have two sons (Josh, 34; Jason, 30) and four grandchildren (Emily, 12; Jake, 10; Natalie, 5 and Noah, 4). Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren; golfing; shooting sports; landscaping and grilling (which he even does in the winter 2-3 times a week).

Dave's Favorites: TV Shows: Person of Interest, Survivor and Intelligence
Music: Late 1970's Rock and Modern Country
Food: Asian, especially sushi

New Employees

You may have noticed some new faces around the power plant in the last several months. I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to the following new employees: Matt Linton, Facilities Maintenance; Scott Metz, Facilities Maintenance; Travis Bearden, Facilities Maintenance; Carl Sykes, FTF Operator; Richard Dufault, FTF Operator and Sean Shiery, FTF Operator. Expect to see more new faces in the coming months!

Service awards

Dave Eichler 32 years

TJ Phillips 8 years

Member Cities and Villages Events

Coldwater's Branch Area Career Center will host the 17th annual Women's Health Fest March 1 from 8:15 until noon. Visitors will enjoy exhibits, workshops, goodie bags, door prizes and free babysitting. Taylor's Books and More will Spring into Reading March 1 with activities, story time and more for kids ages preschool to high school, please RSVP to 517-278-2340.

Marshall's Pastrami Joe's first annual Reuben Race 5K will take place March 15 at 9:00 AM; visit <http://www.pastramijoes.com> for more information; the race will help benefit Marshall's Fountain Clinic – an organization that helps those who are under-insured or not insured at all and need medical attention. The 54th Annual Michigan Crossroads Hamfest and Radio Swap takes place March 15th at 8 AM; For registration materials and additional information, please visit their website www.w8df.com. Funds are being raised to help bring back Marshall's first motorized fire engine – a 1918 American LaFrance; you can donate directly to Marshall Community Foundation or attend Marshall Firefighters Association Spaghetti Dinner on March 22 from 4-7 PM in the Marshall House Community Room.

Hearing - Causing Damage

Loud noise damages your hearing; it can harm the sensitive hair cells in the inner ear that send signals to the brain and allow us to hear.

Unlike strengthening your muscles by gradually increasing the weight you are lifting, it is not possible to toughen up your ears by exposing them to loud noises. In fact, the opposite happens. Permanent, irreversible hearing damage can occur from exposure to loud noises.

Hearing can be damaged by a single exposure to an extremely loud noise, such as an explosion or gunshot, or after long-term exposure to loud sounds, such as the noise generated by machines in a woodshop. Short-term exposure to loud noise can bring on a temporary loss of hearing.

If you have to shout to be heard by a person near you, this is a warning sign that you are in an atmosphere that is too noisy. A ringing or humming noise in your ears after leaving a noisy area is another sign.

A person's risk for hearing loss increases with louder noise levels and longer exposures to loud noise. To preserve your hearing, wear earplugs or other ear protection when you need to be around noise that could cause permanent damage. "Living Right," 2014 J.J. Keller & Associates, Inc., Neenah, WI, USA

March birthdays

Dave Sykes

Chris Bernard

Chrissy Van Kampen

Scott Balcom

Erroll Pressler

The Spotlight is a monthly newsletter for the Michigan South Central Power Agency. Articles may be printed in whole or part without permission. If you wish to share any news or comments please contact Chrissy Van Kampen at vankampenc@mscpa.net

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