

Michigan South Central Power Agency Presents:

The Spotlight



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Coldwater BPU Breaks Ground on Natural Gas-Fueled Peaking Plant

by Quinn White
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City of Coldwater | CBPU

The Coldwater Board of Public Utilities (CBPU) recently celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony for their future natural gas-fueled generation asset. Michigan South Central Power Agency (MSCPA), public power provider for CBPU, has chosen GE's low-emissions reciprocating engine technology to meet the capacity needs for the City of Coldwater. The peaking project corresponds with the expansion of Mastronardi Produce's Coldwater greenhouse by 28.8 acres to grow peppers.

The GE engines will be supplied by Inland Power Group for the CBPU to produce 13 megawatts (MW) of peak power generation. The project also will provide the capability for the CBPU to partner with Mastronardi Produce to supply carbon dioxide (CO2) and heat for the greenhouse.

During the groundbreaking ceremony for the new plant, CBPU, MSCPA, and Inland Power Group's leaders explained their selection of three GE Jenbacher J624 two-stage gas engines to replace Coldwater's diesel units, which were removed by the city over the past two years. The new engines will provide enough electricity to power the equivalent of 13,000 American homes, and for maximum efficiency, the plant also will have the ability to use captured heat and CO2 from the engines to help grow the greenhouse's vegetables. This innovative process is known as combined heat and power (CHP) and has been successfully implemented at other greenhouses across the globe.

"We are excited to begin construction on this new facility to help power the City of Coldwater and support our mission of providing cost-

effective and reliable electric service to our customers," said Director Paul Beckhusen, CBPU. "I look forward to this new natural gas-fueled plant to start operating next year as we diversify our energy generation portfolio and provide a unique opportunity to support Michigan's growth in greenhouse agriculture."

Michigan's agricultural sector contributes \$91.4 billion dollars to the state economy, and more than 923,000 people are employed in the industry. To help maintain the agricultural industry's success year-round, the new plant is expected to be operational in mid-2015—just in time for the fall season's colder weather to set in and when traditional vegetable growing becomes nearly impossible.

Inland Power Group (IPG), an authorized distributor for GE's distributed power products in the Midwestern United States, will oversee the engineering and configuration support for the CBPU. In addition to supplying the engines, GE will support integration of the plant's equipment with the greenhouse. GE has a successful history of developing CHP projects for greenhouses worldwide with more than 1,000 engines of similar configurations delivered today.

"For more than 50 years, we have been proud to call the Midwest our home, and we are thrilled to work with CBPU and MSCPA on bringing high-efficiency power to the area of Coldwater," said Jon Going, director of sales for Jenbacher gas engines at Inland Power Group. "We are proud to have been selected for this project and look forward to providing GE's latest distributed power technology as a new solution for peak power demand."

Employee Spotlight: Joe Ames



Joe Ames began his career at MSCPA in May 1982. He has been a Coal Handler, a Plant Attendant and is currently a Scrubber Operator. His job responsibilities include: regulating and controlling various equipment; acknowledge alarms and take proper action; inspect wastewater and scrubber equipment on a timely basis; perform all scrubber related lab tests; maintain and operate wastewater treatment plant equipment. "I love figuring out the chain of events that take place when something comes up" he said.

Joe has two daughters that live in Florida (Suzanne, 30; Sheree, 26) and is a proud grandpa to Gavin Michael who was born September 14, 2014. Outside of work he

enjoys hunting, fishing, going to casinos and watching Detroit sports teams, especially the Lions. He plans to retire in November 2015 and the one thing he will not miss is the amount of stairs he has to climb!

Employee Update

Congratulations to MSCPA's newest employees! Josh Reichhart and Patrick Koers have been hired as Facilities Maintenance employees and Elisha Prough has been hired as an Accounting Assistant.

Service awards

Roger Winchell 33 years
Gary Graves 20 years

October birthdays

Brian Bennett
Jim Bice
Mike Sprow
Sean Shiery

5 Ways to Stop Colds From Spreading in Your Family

I found this information on www.webmd.com and thought it would be useful for this time of year. - Chrissy
WebMD Feature - By R. Morgan Griffin

When you've got a family, even a run-of-the-mill cold can be a lot of trouble. As it spreads from one person to the next in your family, that one crummy cold virus can disrupt your lives for weeks -- causing missed school, missed work, sleepless nights, and frayed tempers. So when your child -- or your spouse -- comes home sniffing and coughing, how can you stop those cold germs from dragging the whole household down? Don't panic -- here are five tips that can help stop a cold from spreading.

Cold Prevention Tip 1: Wash Your Hands

You've heard it many times before, but washing your hands is the single most important way to stop the spread of colds. According to the CDC, about 80% of infectious diseases are spread by touch -- the cold germs get on the hands and from there into the eyes and mouth. Look at it this way: you can't keep cold germs out of your house. But if you keep everybody's hands clean, they'll be much less likely to get sick. When you wash your hands, do it thoroughly. Use soap and water and scrub for a minimum of 20 seconds. When you're not near a sink, a hand sanitizer that's at least 60% alcohol is a good substitute.

Cold Prevention Tip 2: Cover Your Nose and Mouth

Most of us were raised to cover our mouths and noses with our hands when we sneezed or coughed. Instead, use the crook of your elbow -- or a tissue. That way, the cold germs won't get onto your hands and spread.

Cold Prevention Tip 3: Disinfect

Cold germs can live on surfaces for hours. Consider disinfecting areas like tabletops, doorknobs, remote controls, and toys. Use a disinfecting spray or wipe. Or make your own by mixing 1/4 cup bleach with 1 gallon of warm water. Don't make yourself crazy wiping down everything your sick preschooler touches -- there's no way to keep a household sterile.

Cold Prevention Tip 4: Go Disposable

Colds can be spread by shared towels and cups in the bathroom. When someone in the house is sick, consider switching to paper products for a week.

Cold Prevention Tip 5: Take Care of Yourself

Can eating healthy foods, getting enough sleep, and reducing stress help prevent colds? We don't really know. There is some evidence that they might help keep your immune system strong -- and potentially more capable of fighting off a cold virus.

Remember: Colds Are Hard to Stop

Practicing these tips can help break the cycle of infection. But you still need to know your limits. Colds can be hard to stop. By the time your kid starts coughing, it might already be too late -- people can be contagious before they show any symptoms. If your best attempts to prevent a cold from spreading fail, don't feel like you did anything wrong. Short of keeping a sick family member in quarantine -- or everyone else in biohazard suits -- there's just no surefire way to stop the common cold.

I hope you found this information helpful. Stay healthy everyone! <http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/treat-symptoms-12/contagious-colds>

Member Cities and Villages Events

October 4: Union City Heritage Days <http://www.unioncitymi.com/index.html>

October 4: Household Hazardous Waste and Scrap Tire Collection 8:00AM until 2:00PM 180 Sprague Street, Coldwater, MI

October 4-5: Marshall's Cornwell Turkeyville Fall Festival and during the weekend hours **October 4-26:** Haunted Adventures <http://www.turkeyville.com/>

October 5-26: Little River Railroad Fall Color Run or Halloween Train <http://www.littleriverrailroad.com>

October 16: Awesome Autumn throughout Downtown Hillsdale 5-8:30PM

October 17: Hillsdale County Wide Health Fair at Perennial Park 10:00AM until 1:00PM

October 18: Halloween Party at Capri-Drive In

October 18 and October 25: Haunted Temple at Masonic Temple Downtown Coldwater 517-278-3079

October 25: Marshall's Children's Costume Parade 11:00 at City Hall

October 25: Coldwater Jaycees Halloween Parade through downtown Coldwater

October 31: Coldwater Trick-or-Treat 5:30-7:00PM

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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