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BPU GM CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Board of Public Utilities General Manager Wally Haase has been appointed to a blue ribbon task force on climate change comprised of 30 public power Chief Executive Officers (CEOs). The task-force has been developed by the American Public Power Association (APPA) which is the 2000-member organization of public power companies across the United States and its territories.

Alan Richardson, Executive Director of the APPA noted, “While skeptics remain, there is an ever-growing consensus within the scientific community that climate change in the form of global warming is occurring and the combustion of fossil fuels is a contributing factor. This is leading to an emerging public consensus and a building political directive that inaction is not a viable strategy.”

Richardson explained that, “The electric utility industry, including the APPA, continues to support a voluntary program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a concerted effort to finding technological solutions to produce energy while minimizing or even eliminating carbon emissions. Elected officials are pushing for legislation for a mandatory program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

The task force will address this issue and prepare to participate in legislative debates. The task force is also expected to provide an extremely invaluable service to APPA members by helping them produce “no-regrets” actions for their members that are consistent with the members’ primary mission of providing energy to their customers while at the same time reducing greenhouse gases within their communities.

John Twitty, APPA Board Chairman and General Manager of City Utilities of Springfield, MO has called for the meetings to take place in Washington, DC where the APPA is headquartered. Twitty, stated, “I have taken care to ensure that the task force reflects the diversity of APPA membership.” The issues involved are extremely complex and emission control proposals will affect each APPA member utility differently. Despite that, the organization is committed to finding consensus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

BPU General Manager Haase indicated, “I am honored to be named to this extremely important task force. Our involvement in the New York State Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) uniquely qualifies us to play a crucial role in helping to develop the overall plan of the task force. The decisions and recommendations of this 30-member panel on climate change could significantly affect our community, each of the 2000-member APPA utilities and their communities, as well as all other industries that significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.”