

CURRENTS & Waves

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Material Cost Increases and Delivery Lead Times

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It has been a very interesting year for those of us working in the utility business. As consumers have seen prices rise on most items in the store, and have seen empty shelves on other items, we too have been faced with our own supply and demand problems.

We have never seen electrical equipment in such short supply and at such high prices. For instance, transformers which used to have an 8-week delivery, are now 78 weeks out. Costs are three times more than what they were three years ago and suppliers who previously called on me in the hope of selling their products, now spend their time trying to secure orders that are placed with them.

What is causing all these issues? No one seems to have a good answer. Some say it is the lack of raw materials like copper and aluminum, others say the shortage of computer chips, or the fact that so many factories were closed during the pandemic. Whatever the cause, everyone in the industry agrees that it is likely to stay this way until the end of 2025.

So, what has WW&LC done to ride through this problem? We have slowed down some of our larger projects to conserve the inventory we have. We also have done a great deal of planning to secure the products we require for projects that are two or three years out. Our team has always been excellent at setting goals and creating plans for future projects along with the day-to-day maintenance to ensure smooth operations for our customers. These practices are being put to the test even more with the present-day circumstances. We continue to plan and learn to be even more flexible with the current market.

Cold Weather Precautions

Dale Scheuneman, Water Superintendent

As the snow and colder temperatures set in, please keep in mind some household tasks that tend to be overlooked when it comes to your water service.

- * Make sure all nooks, crannies and cracks in basement walls are sealed up. By doing this, especially near where the water lines enter your home, you can help avoid frozen and broken pipes.
- * If your incoming water pipes are in a crawl space, consider keeping that space heated.
- * Install foam insulation around your pipes, especially near exterior walls.
- * Remove all outside hoses and check to be certain the water is off or install a faucet cover.
- * If your water pipes are behind a cabinet door, you may want to keep the doors open on extremely cold days to maintain a warmer temperature.

National Theater for Children

To celebrate Public Power Week, the National Theater for Children performed their “Energy Endgame” at local grade schools in October. Energy Endgame is performed by two professional actors who lead students through an action-packed, high-tech adventure, all while teaching about energy consumption.



With the Holiday Season approaching, we would like to wish our customers a happy and joyful celebration. If you are looking for a last-minute holiday gift idea, consider a gift certificate from Water Works and Lighting Commission. We can mail your certificate to our customer indicating the monetary amount of your gift.

Call or stop in our office for details.

Congratulations!

Our three lucky Public Power Week Trivia Contest winners:
Karen Cumberland, Mark Peterson, and Michael Weiler.
They each won a \$200 Chamber of Commerce gift certificate! Thank you to everyone who participated.



**Water Works & Lighting
Commission**

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