

## June 2015 – Mayor’s Message

One of our city-owned utilities is Murray City Power. It was created in 1913 when the community demanded affordable, reliable electricity along with the control over this vital service. The Progress Electric Company brought the first power to the city in 1905 when wire was strung to light about 100 lights and a few businesses. The residents were so excited and pleased, they wanted more, but the Company couldn’t accommodate their request. Soon thereafter, the City Commissioners acquired the company and signed a resolution to start the City’s owned power department.

Today, in our Power Department, we employ 47 individuals, performing all aspects of utility work including electrical distribution system design, construction and maintenance, electrical generation and substations, along with administrative functions. The forestry division, including the utility arborists, are also housed in this department.

Our power resource mix is quite diverse and is generated from three main sources – natural gas, coal and water turbines. Fifty percent of the energy comes from three different coal generation projects, 25 percent hydro, 12 percent renewable landfill gas, 6 percent natural gas turbines, and the remaining 7 percent comes from spot market purchases. At the Trans-Jordan and Salt Lake County landfills, the waste generates methane gas which generates useable power. Murray was one of the first communities to receive power from methane gas. Electricity generated from the landfill provides a percentage of our needs and has the ability to produce an even more if needed. Not-for-profit prices help keep Murray’s power costs among the lowest in the state and country.

In the event of regional transmission failures, Murray’s gas turbine generation plant is capable of delivering electricity to a substantial portion of the city, including hospitals and other emergency systems.

Murray City is highly respected when dealing with other power agencies. They are valued members of the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), Intermountain Power Agency (IPA) and the American Public Power Association (APPA).

The utility arborists are responsible for keeping the trees trimmed around the power lines, park strips and other city properties. Murray City was just awarded the Tree City USA award for the 37<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. This is the longest for any city in the state. Each year our arborists plant approximately 50-100 trees and trim upwards of 3400 trees. The arborists train and compete in competitions which test their skills. They always represent our city well.

Murray’s Power Department is stronger than ever, providing exceptional reliability at competitive prices while advancing environmentally sensitive resources and are financially sound. This is just one more aspect of our city that makes “Murray, a City without Equal.”

Sincerely,



Ted Eyre, Mayor