



**NEWS RELEASE
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Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2020
Contact: Kim Duncomb, Austin Utilities
507-433-8886
KimD@AustinUtilities.com

Austin Utilities Announces Retirements, Advancements

AUSTIN, Minn. November 3, 2020 - Austin Utilities today announced the retirement of Todd Jorgenson, Gas and Water Operations Director, with 38 years of service effective December 31, 2020. "Thank you to Todd for his long-term career at Austin Utilities. We greatly appreciate his leadership to better serve our community. We wish him the best in his retirement," said Mark Nibaur, General Manager at Austin Utilities.

Todd began his Austin Utilities career in May 1982 as a laborer in the underground construction department. He held various positions in generation and engineering until returning to the construction department in 1994. In January 2007 he advanced to director of the department.

One of Todd's many accomplishments during his career was overseeing the design and construction of our Service and Operations Center completed in 2016. During his career, he also oversaw the painting of both elevated water towers and the downtown ground storage reservoir, construction of Well No. 12, a two-million gallon water production and ground storage reservoir, and the rehabilitation of many water production wells and buildings. He was instrumental in the transition to High Density Polyethylene Pipe (HDPE) in the water main replacement program.

On the gas side of the business, Todd executed plans to eliminate low pressure gas in our gas distribution system, review all District Regulator Station buildings for design, location and modernization improvements, and improve distribution system redundancy and reliability by creating a more balanced pressure throughout.

Todd also spent time serving the American Public Gas Association in board and committee positions and was instrumental in helping Austin receive the System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) to recognize those public gas systems that have achieved excellence in the operation of their natural gas utility. He also served on boards for the American Public Gas Association Research Foundation and Municipal Advisory Board of the Plastic Pipe Institute, and on the Planning Committee for the Minnesota Southeast Section of the American Water Works Association Waterworks Operators School.

The following advancement will take place as a result of the retirement:

- Alex Bumgardner, Energy Resources & Utility Operations Director, advanced to the position of Utility Operations Director, effective November 2020.

Based on a change in organizational structure that will allow the utility to operate more effectively, the new position of Utility Operations Director will oversee the operations side of the business under the direction of the General Manager.

“Congratulations to Alex on his advancement,” Nibaur said. “We look forward to his leadership.”

Bumgardner began his Austin Utilities’ career in June 2009 as Power Production Director. He transitioned to Energy Resources and Utility Operations director in 2016 before being awarded the Utility Operations Director.

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Austin Utilities is a municipal utility serving approximately 12,300 electric customers, 10,300 natural gas customers, and 9,000 water customers. Their mission is to offer utility products and services in a safe, reliable and responsible manner in order to enhance the quality of life in our community. Austin Utilities' Board of Commissioners are elected by the consumer-owners of Austin to represent their best interest. For more information on Austin Utilities visit their website at www.austinutilities.com.