

# HBPW facing additional MISO charge

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Hannibal, MO —

The Hannibal Board of Public Works will have to come up with over \$400,000 to pay its share of "congestion charges" billed to AmerenUE by the Midwest Independent Systems Operator (MISO). The unexpected bill was a point of frustration during Wednesday's meeting of the HBPW Board.

MISO, a federally mandated organization to which all entities must belong that buy or sell power with the exception of electric co-ops, notified AmerenUE that the amounts billed Hannibal from Jan. 1, 2007, to July 11, 2008, were incorrect. According to the notice it received last month the city owns \$432,529.

"This is going to kill us," said Don Willis, general manager of the HBPW. "This is way more than we budgeted for."

After Willis challenged the accuracy of the amount, a check by AmerenUE revealed that the total was indeed incorrect. As of Wednesday's meeting, a revised figure had not been supplied by AmerenUE. The HBPW, along with six other cities who are a part of the present power supply contract with AmerenUE, has indicated that it is not going to make any payment until it is given definitive proof of the error. However, Willis told the board that he has been advised by an attorney that while the city could fight the revised fee, it would only be delaying the inevitable.

This is not the first billing problem brought about by MISO. In 2006, the city's MISO charge totaled \$350,000 before Ameren, after reviewing the complicated MISO bill, discovered some major problems. The errors were so large that eventually a new memorandum of agreement was drafted between Hannibal and AmerenUE. Under the new agreement which took effect March 29, 2006, the city's slate was wiped clean. It also received a credit from AmerenUE for its '05 MISO payments.

Apparently AmerenUE, which joined MISO in 2003, has grown weary of the MISO-related billing mistakes. Willis told the board that AmerenUE has indicated that it is considering withdrawing from MISO.

After this year Hannibal will no longer face unexpected MISO bills. As a part of its new electric contract with Ameren Energy Marketing, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2009, Hannibal will only pay a flat \$2 per megawatt hour fee.

"We won't see this charge again," he said.

Regarding the latest billing mistake, the HBPW Board intends to voice its displeasure to about anyone

who will listen. That list includes state and federal elected officials, as well as the Missouri Public Service Commission.