

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORTS  
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

DECEMBER 31, 2007

## Table of Contents

	<u>PAGE</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	4-5
Management's Discussion and Analysis	7-10
Basic Financial Statements:	<u>Exhibit</u>
Statement of Net Assets	A           13
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets	B           14-16
Statement of Cash Flows	C           17
Notes to Financial Statements	18-29
Other Supplementary Information:	<u>Schedule</u>
Schedule of Statistical Data	1           31
Operational Analysis	2           32
Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>	35-37
Schedule of Findings	38-39

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY

# Brinkman & Reed, CPA's

103 South Sixth Street Estherville, Iowa 51334 712-362-5891 Phone 712-362-7172 Fax

## Independent Auditors' Report

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
City of Estherville, Iowa

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the City of Estherville's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall basic financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Management has excluded from inventory in the accompanying statement of net assets items that, in our opinion, should be included to conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that inventory reflect a complete listing of materials and supplies owned by the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa. The distribution plant inventory of the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa does not include all materials and supplies. The amount by which this departure would affect the basic financial statements is not reasonably determinable.

In our opinion, except for the effects of an incomplete inventory, as described in the preceding paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa at December 31, 2007, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated March 8, 2008 on our consideration of the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville,

- 4 -

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Iowa's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations and contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 7 through 10 is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. We did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information on pages 31 and 32 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

*Brinkman + Reed, CPA's*

Brinkman & Reed, CPA's

March 8, 2008

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY  
DECEMBER 31, 2007

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

This narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Electric Utility is for the calendar year ending December 31, 2007. We encourage readers to consider the information in conjunction with the financial statements.

This is the fourth year the City has implemented new reporting standards with significant changes in content and structure. The City was required to comply with Government Standard Board Statement No. 34 (GASB-34), which mandated the changes. Theoretically, comparisons may be more meaningful and go further in explaining the Electric Utility's financial position and results of operations.

**2007 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Operating revenue from energy sales of the Electric Utility increased by \$598,276 (15%) from 2006 to 2007. A very small decrease, 1,107 kWh's, in energy sales occurred in 2007. The increased revenue is a result of an increase in electric rates, which was effective with the July 31 billing.

Operating expenses increased 29.0% or \$1,064,624 from 2006 to 2007. The majority of this change was related to the increase in purchased power cost of \$977,886 related to the new wholesale power agreement.

The Electric Utility's net assets increased \$164,911 or 2.6% from 2006 to 2007.

**USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

The annual report consists of a series of financial statements and other information as required by Governmental Accounting Standard Board Statement No. 34. The required information is:

Management's Discussion and Analysis introduces the basic financial statements and provides an analytical overview of the City's financial activities.

The Statement of Net Assets presents information on all of the Electric Utility's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets presents information showing how the Electric Utility's net assets changed during the most recent year.

The Statement of Cash Flows reports cash receipts, cash payments and net changes in cash and cash equivalents. It provides answers to such questions as where did cash come from, what cash was used for and what was the change in cash and cash equivalents during the reporting year.

Notes to financial statements provide additional information essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the basic financial statements.

Supplementary information further explains and supports the financial statements.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of financial position. The analysis below focuses on net assets and changes in net assets.

Net Assets		
	Year ended December 31,	
	2007	2006
Current Assets & Other Assets	\$3,401,066	\$3,234,833
Capital Assets	<u>3,488,825</u>	<u>3,425,853</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$6,889,891</u>	<u>\$6,660,686</u>
Long Term Liabilities	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Current Liabilities	<u>386,162</u>	<u>321,868</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 386,162</u>	<u>\$ 321,868</u>
Net Assets:		
Invested in Capital Assets	\$3,472,765	\$3,419,733
Unrestricted	<u>3,030,964</u>	<u>2,919,085</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$6,503,729</u>	<u>\$6,338,818</u>

Net assets increased from 2006 by \$164,911, or 2.6%. The largest portion of the net assets is the investment in capital assets (e.g., land, infrastructure, buildings, and equipment). Unrestricted net assets is the part of net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints. Unrestricted net assets have increased \$192,504 since December 31, 2004, the first year under the new reporting standards.

Changes in Net Assets		
	Year ended December 31,	
	2007	2006
Revenues:		
Operating Revenues:		
Charges for service, sales, and rent	\$4,837,662	\$4,022,886
Non-operating revenues:		
Investment earnings	<u>73,547</u>	<u>80,681</u>
Total revenues	<u>\$4,911,209</u>	<u>\$4,103,567</u>
Operating expenses:		
Generation	\$3,105,045	\$2,101,619
Distribution	688,410	668,767
General and administration	941,285	899,730
Non-operating expenses:		
Interest expense	3,041	4,371
Other non-operating expense	6,242	2,334
Transfers, net	<u>2,275</u>	<u>14,928</u>
Total expense and transfers	<u>\$4,746,298</u>	<u>\$3,691,749</u>
Increase in net assets	\$ 164,911	\$ 411,818
Net assets beginning of year	<u>\$6,338,818</u>	<u>\$5,927,000</u>
Net assets end of year	<u>\$6,503,729</u>	<u>\$6,338,818</u>

## **CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

### **Capital Assets**

The Electric Utilities capital assets include land, buildings and improvements, and equipment. Capital assets totaled \$3,488,825 (net of accumulated depreciation) at December 31, 2007. See note 7 to the financial statements for more information about the capital assets.

### **Debt Administration**

The Electric Utility has no long-term debt outstanding. The utility held customer deposits totaling \$71,156 on December 31, 2007.

## **ECONOMIC FACTORS BEARING ON THE ELECTRIC UTILITY'S FUTURE**

A 20-year wholesale power agreement was negotiated with Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative (ILEC) commencing April 1, 2007. This agreement includes a substantial increase in the cost of power due to the market. The amount paid to Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC) for energy generated by their wind turbine also increased.

A significant increase in the cost of power from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) became effective on January 1, 2008. This is due to an eight (8) year drought in the Missouri River Basin. Minimal increases in the cost of power from ILEC and ILCC occurred on January 1, 2008.

Unknown increases are anticipated on January 1, 2009.

An increase in the electric rates for the city's customers was approved effective with the July 31, 2007 billing. This was the first rate increase since 1984.

## **CONTACTING THE ELECTRIC UTILITY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the Electric Utility's finances and to show the Electric Utility's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Vaughn Brua, City Clerk, 2 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Estherville, Iowa 51334 or telephone (712)362-7771.

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY

## Basic Financial Statements

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Statement of Net Assets  
December 31, 2007

Exhibit A

**Assets**

Current Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,474,919
Appropriated Cash - Equipment Sinking Fund	252,274
Designated Cash	82,049
Receivables:	
Accounts	427,034
Accounts - City of Estherville	27,268
Accrued Interest	2,274
Fuel and Lube Oil Inventory	11,263
Distribution Plant Inventory	473,148
Prepaid Insurance	<u>20,971</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,771,200</b>

Noncurrent Assets:

Designated Investments	514,840
Investment in Joint Venture	115,026
Capital Assets (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	<u>3,488,825</u>
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets</b>	<b>4,118,691</b>

**Total Assets**

6,889,891

**Liabilities**

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	280,297
Customer Deposits	71,156
Accrued Payroll	19,584
Accrued Sales and Use Tax	<u>15,125</u>

**Total Liabilities**

386,162

**Net Assets**

Invested in Capital Assets, net of related debt	3,472,765
Unrestricted	<u>3,030,964</u>

**Total Net Assets**

\$6,503,729

See notes to financial statements.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets  
Year Ended December 31, 2007

Exhibit B

Operating Revenues:

Sales of Electricity to Customers	
Residential Sales	\$1,823,999
Commerical Sales - Large	1,214,322
Commerical Sales - Small	736,409
Industrial Sales	395,118
Customer Service and Other Sales	<u>118,652</u>
Total Sales to Customers	<u>4,288,500</u>
Service to City	
Various Departments	<u>290,691</u>
Other Operating Revenues	
Capacity Credits	239,575
Sales of Service Work, Material and Miscellaneous	17,625
Aerial Service Fees	1,231
Rent and Sales of Property	<u>40</u>
Total Other Operating Revenues	<u>258,471</u>
 Total Operating Revenues	 4,837,662

Operating Expenses:

Generation Expense	
Purchased Power - Net	2,719,370
Salaries	156,782
Utilities	60,524
Depreciation	53,360
Employee Insurance	44,278
Payroll Taxes and IPERS	20,359
Capital Improvements	14,039
Fuel Oil	12,796
Repairs and Maintenance	12,444
Natural Gas Fuel	6,275
Building and Structures	2,476
Transportation and Vehicle Expense	1,983
Lube Oil	356
Operating Supplies and Expense	<u>3</u>
Total Generation Expense	<u>3,105,045</u>

See notes to financial statements.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets  
Year Ended December 31, 2007

Exhibit B

Operating Expenses - Continued

Distribution Expense

Salaries	\$ 348,899
Depreciation	118,708
Employee Insurance	70,843
Transportation and Vehicle Expense	51,006
Payroll Taxes and IPERS	43,469
Housing Grant	30,000
Utilities	8,294
Operating Supplies and Expense	7,464
Capital Utility Improvements	3,316
Equipment Repair	3,457
Building and Structures	2,501
Maintenance of Lines & Supplies	365
Maintenance of Street and Traffic Lights & Supplies	88
Total Distribution Expense	<u>688,410</u>

Aerial Service Expense

Administration	4,788
Distribution	60
Total Aerial Service Expense	<u>4,848</u>

Accounting and Collection Expenses

Reimbursement to City for Expense	<u>359,150</u>
Total Accounting and Collection Expense	<u>359,150</u>

Administration and General Expenses

Payment in Lieu of Taxes	466,309
Dues and Other Expenses	46,878
Insurance	34,906
Professional Services	29,194
Total Administration and General Expense	<u>577,287</u>

Total Operating Expense 4,734,740

Net Operating Income 102,922

See notes to financial statements.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets  
Year Ended December 31, 2007

Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses):	
Interest Income	\$ 73,547
Interest Expense	(3,041)
Loss on Wind Generation Project	<u>(6,242)</u>
Net Non-Operating Revenues	<u>64,264</u>
Change in Net Assets	167,186
Net Assets Beginning of Year	6,338,818
Add: Transfers From Other City Funds - Net	86,888
Less: Transfers To Other City Funds - Net	<u>(89,163)</u>
Net Assets End of Year	<u>\$6,503,729</u>

See notes to financial statements.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Statement of Cash Flows  
Year Ended December 31, 2007

Exhibit C

<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>	
Cash Received From Sales of Electricity to Customers	\$ 4,209,268
Cash Received From Service to City	286,103
Cash Received From Other Operating Revenues	234,504
Cash Paid to Suppliers for Goods and Services	(3,202,171)
Cash Paid to Employees for Services	(505,235)
Cash Paid to City for Payments in Lieu of Taxes	(466,309)
Cash Paid to City for Reimbursement of Expense	<u>(359,150)</u>
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	<u>197,010</u>
 <b>Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activities:</b>	
Transfers from Other Funds	86,888
Transfers to Other Funds	<u>(89,163)</u>
Net Cash Used By Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>(2,275)</u>
 <b>Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities:</b>	
Purchase of Capital Assets - Distribution	(191,106)
Purchase of Capital Assets - Generation	(45,634)
Proceeds from Sale of Asset	<u>1,700</u>
Net Cash Used By Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(235,040)</u>
 <b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities:</b>	
Interest Income	73,472
Interest Expense	(1,977)
Loss on Wind Generation Project	<u>(5,224)</u>
Net Cash Provided By Investing Activities	<u>66,271</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	25,966
Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year	<u>1,783,276</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year	<u>\$1,809,242</u>
 <b>Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:</b>	
Operating Income	<u>\$ 102,922</u>
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:	
Depreciation	172,068
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:	
(Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(107,787)
(Increase) in Inventory	(37,669)
Decrease in Prepaid Insurance	5,111
Increase in Accounts Payable	49,577
Increase in Customer Deposits Payable	3,100
Increase in Accrued Payroll	446
Increase in Sales and Use Tax Payable	<u>9,242</u>
Total Adjustments	<u>94,088</u>
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	<u>\$ 197,010</u>

See notes to financial statements.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2007

**(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa's financial statements are prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

A. Reporting Entity

For financial reporting purposes, Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa has included all funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions and authorities. The Utility has also considered all potential component units for which it is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the Utility are such that exclusion would cause the Utility's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. These criteria include appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (1) the ability of the Utility to impose its will on that organization or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the Utility. Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa has no component units which meet the Governmental Accounting Standards Board criteria.

B. Basis of Presentation

The accounts of the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa are organized as an Enterprise Fund. Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations (a) financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges or (b) where the governing body has decided periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes.

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting – Continued

The Utility applies all applicable GASB pronouncements, as well as the following pronouncements issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless these pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements: Financial Accounting Standards Board Statements and Interpretations, Accounting Principles Board Opinions and Accounting Research Bulletins of the Committee on Accounting Procedure.

The Utility distinguishes operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the Utility's principal ongoing operations. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

D. Assets, Liabilities and Net Investments

The following accounting policies are followed in preparing the Statement of Net Assets:

Cash, Investments and Cash Equivalents – The Utility considers all short-term investments that are highly liquid to be cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and, at the day of purchase, have a maturity date no longer than three months. Cash investments not meeting the definition of cash equivalents at December 31, 2007 include certificates of deposit of \$514,840.

Designated Investments – Funds set aside for repurchase of the 69KV portion of substation, 69KV transmission lines No. 1 & No. 2 and backup transformer are classified as designated.

Capital Assets – Capital assets purchased prior to January 1, 1963 are accounted for at appraised values with subsequent additions accounted for at historical cost. Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is charged as an expense against operations. The cost of repair and maintenance is charged to expense, while the cost of renewals or substantial betterments is capitalized. The cost and accumulated depreciation of assets disposed of are deleted, with any gain or loss recorded in current operations.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

Capital Assets - Continued

Capital assets of the Utility are depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Asset Class	Estimated Useful Lives (In Years)
Buildings	40
Building Improvements	40
Equipment and Vehicles	10-50

Interest is capitalized on qualified assets acquired with certain tax-exempt debt. The amount of interest to be capitalized is calculated by offsetting interest expense incurred from the date of the borrowing until completion of the project with interest earned on invested proceeds over the same period. There were no qualifying assets acquired during the year ended December 31, 2007.

Compensated Absences – Utility employees accumulate a limited amount of earned but unused vacation hours for subsequent use or for payment upon termination, death or retirement. The Utility had no vacation payable at December 31, 2007.

Accounts Receivable – Bad debts are charged to operations in the year in which the account is determined uncollectible. If the reserve method of accounting for uncollectible accounts were used, it would not have a material effect on the financial statements. The City carries accounts receivable on the majority of its sales. The City's sales are made to local businesses and residents.

Inventory – Inventory is valued at cost (first-in, first-out method).

**(2) Cash and Investments**

The Utility's deposits in banks at December 31, 2007 were entirely covered by federal depository insurance or by the State Sinking Fund in accordance with Chapter 12C of the Code of Iowa. This chapter provides for additional assessments against depositories to insure there will be no loss of public funds.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(2) Cash and Investments – Continued**

The Utility is authorized by statute to invest public funds in obligations of the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities; certificates of deposit or other evidences of deposit at federally insured depository institutions approved by the Utility; prime eligible bankers acceptances; certain high rated commercial paper; perfected repurchase agreements; certain registered open-end management investment companies; certain joint investment trusts; and warrants or improvement certificates of a drainage district.

The Utility had no investments meeting the disclosure requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, as amended by Statement No. 40.

Investment in Joint Venture – On November 4, 1997, the City entered into a joint venture agreement pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 390 of the Code of Iowa with the Municipal Electric Utility of the City of Cedar Falls, Algona Municipal Utilities, the City of Ellsworth, Westfield Municipal Utilities, Montezuma Light and Power, and the City of Fonda. This joint agreement is a collaborative effort of the parties above, the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”), and the Electric Power Research Institute (“EPRI”) to develop, construct and operate a wind-powered electric generation facility (Iowa Distributed Wind Generation Project – “IDWGP”). The project is partially funded by a grant from EPRI consisting of 47.42% of construction and operating expenses for 1999 and 2000 funded by EPRI.

The City of Estherville owns an 8% interest in the project and at December 31, 2007 and 2006 had a net investment of \$115,026. At this time, the City does not anticipate a need for much additional financial investment. The energy produced by the IDWGP will be apportioned among the parties based on their percentages of ownership. On November 19, 1998, the City entered into a two year agreement to sell its share of the generation from the IDWGP to Cedar Falls Utilities. The City was to receive payments for its generation on a semiannual basis as follows: Annual Payment = (Actual Operating Costs) + (Net Capital Cost) x (8.72%). This agreement has not been fulfilled as Cedar Falls Utilities has found the cost to deliver this energy to them is too high. Currently, Algona Municipal Utilities is purchasing the generated power at their avoided cost which has been determined to be \$.01517/KWH at December 31, 2007 and 2006. It has not been determined how long this arrangement will continue.

**(3) Equipment Sinking Fund**

City officials have established an “Equipment Sinking Fund”. This fund is increased by monthly deposits from various city departments; with purchases being made from the fund for vehicles and equipment. The Utility department’s 2007 balances and transactions are as follows:

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(3) Equipment Sinking Fund - Continued**

	<u>Generation Plant</u>	<u>Distribution Department</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance December 31, 2006	\$ 4,504	\$ 196,498	\$201,002
Deposits to Fund 2007	305	61,786	62,091
Disbursements 2007	<u>          -</u>	<u>  (10,819)</u>	<u>  (10,819)</u>
Balance December 31, 2007	<u>\$ 4,809</u>	<u>\$ 247,465</u>	<u>\$252,274</u>

**(4) Pension and Retirement Benefits**

The City contributes to the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) which is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of Iowa. IPERS provides retirement and death benefits established by state statute to plan members and beneficiaries. IPERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. The report may be obtained by writing to IPERS, P.O. Box 9117, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9117.

Plan members are required to contribute 3.90% of their annual covered salary and the City is required to contribute 6.05% of annual covered payroll for the period from July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, and 3.70% and 5.75%, respectively, for the period from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007 and the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005. Contribution requirements are established by state statute. The City's contributions to IPERS for years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 were \$27,841, \$29,137, and \$26,818, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year for the Municipal Electric Utility.

**(5) Designated Cash**

Designated cash consists of customer security deposits collected and held by the Utility. The Utility pays interest of 5% per annum when the money is refunded.

**(6) Reimbursement to City for Accounting, Collection, and Administration Expenses**

City officials and employees have estimated the Utility's share of accounting and collection expenses to be \$359,150 in 2007.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(7) Capital Assets**

A summary of capital assets at December 31, 2007 is as follows:

	Balance Beginning of Year	Increases	Decreases	Balance End of Year
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Generation – Land	\$ 46,041	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,041
Distribution – Land and Easement	8,324	-	-	8,324
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>54,365</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,365</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Office Equipment	105,849	-	-	105,849
Generation	5,029,974	45,634	-	5,075,608
Distribution	7,373,219	191,106	(1,700)	7,562,625
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>12,509,042</u>	<u>236,740</u>	<u>(1,700)</u>	<u>12,744,082</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Office Equipment	105,849	-	-	105,849
Generation	4,145,523	53,360	-	4,198,883
Distribution	4,886,182	118,708	-	5,004,890
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>9,137,554</u>	<u>172,068</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,309,622</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>3,371,488</u>	<u>64,672</u>	<u>(1,700)</u>	<u>3,434,460</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$ 3,425,853</u>	<u>\$ 64,672</u>	<u>\$(1,700)</u>	<u>\$ 3,488,825</u>

**(8) Commitments – Agreement with Corn Belt Power Cooperative**

On May 29, 1998, the City entered into a “Wholesale Electric Service Agreement” with Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, agent for Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(8) Commitments – Agreement with Corn Belt Power Cooperative - Continued**

Some of the more significant covenants of the current agreement are as follows:

1. The City agrees to purchase from Corn Belt all of its purchased electrical energy in excess of that which is available to the City from Western Area Power Administration, Iowa Distributed Wind Generation Project, and that power which the City generates upon request.
2. Corn Belt Power Cooperative will provide the necessary equipment (including the installation of a backup transformer) to the point of delivery. The City will provide the necessary equipment for the distribution system.
3. The energy rate will be equal to 24.50 mills per KWH (the "Base Rate") from the date of this agreement until December 31, 2001. Beginning January 1, 2002 and January 1 of each year thereafter, Corn Belt may make adjustments to the energy rate. The adjustment shall be no greater than the cumulative percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, U.S. City Average, Urban Wage Earners and Clerical workers from October 1998 to the October preceding the rate adjustment. There was no adjustment to the energy rate for the years ended 2001, 2002 or 2003. As of January 1, 2004, the energy rate was increased to 27.33 mills per KWH. As of January 1, 2005, the energy rate was increased to 28.33 mills per KWH. As of January 1, 2006, the energy rate was increased to 29.77 mills per KWH. There was no rate increase on January 1, 2007. Corn Belt Power Cooperative will also make available to the City up to 5,000 KW of peaking capacity during the months of May to October and the City will pay the following rate each month for the amount specified:

1998	\$4.62 per KW
1999	4.77 per KW
2000	4.92 per KW
2001 – 2006	Priced at Market

The City did not require the use of the 5,000 KW of peaking capacity in 2001 - 2007 so no rate was set.

4. The initial term of this agreement is for a period of five (5) years and will continue from year to year with no further action by either party. On or after the fourth anniversary of the effective date of this agreement, it may be terminated by either party by giving one year's written notice. A written notice, dated December 6, 2005 from Corn Belt Power Cooperative, of termination of the wholesale power agreement effective December 31, 2006 has been received.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(8) Commitments – Agreement with Corn Belt Power Cooperative - Continued**

5. On August 1, 2006, Corn Belt Power granted an extension of the wholesale power agreement to March 31, 2007 to allow the City additional time to reach a contract agreement with Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.
6. Corn Belt Power Cooperative purchased from Mid American Energy Company, the 69 KV portion of substation, 69KV transmission lines No. 1 & No. 2 for an amount equal to their original cost less accumulated depreciation. Upon termination of this agreement, the City shall purchase said facilities and the backup transformer at a price equal to Corn Belt Power Cooperative's original cost less accumulated depreciation as of the date of termination. The City has set aside a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$514,840 in anticipation of these repurchase requirements.
7. The effective date of this agreement was June 1, 1998.
8. The net cost of power purchased during 2007 under this agreement was \$292,572.

**(9) Commitments – Agreement with Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative**

On April 1, 2007, the City entered into a "Wholesale Electric Service Agreement" with Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative (Cooperative) and Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Corn Belt).

Some of the more significant covenants of the current agreement are as follows:

1. The City agrees to purchase from the Cooperative all of its purchased electrical energy in excess of that which is available to the City from Western Area Power Administration, Iowa Distributed Wind Generation Project, Iowa Lakes Community College, that which the City purchases from other renewable energy projects and that which the City purchases under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act or other law or government regulation.
2. Corn Belt will own, operate, maintain and control all the electrical equipment and facilities on the substation site (including a backup substation transformer) and supply and install at its expense all facilities necessary to serve the high voltage side of the substation. The City shall provide and install at its expense all facilities for the low voltage side as well as own and lease to Corn Belt at no cost for the term of the agreement, the real estate upon which the existing substation serving the City is located.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(9) Commitments – Agreement with Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative –**  
Continued

3. The non-coincident demand rate will be equal to \$12.40 per kW and the energy rate will be equal to 32.0 mills per kWh (the “Base Rate”) from the date of this agreement until December 31, 2007. Beginning January 1, 2008, Iowa Lakes may make adjustments to the energy rate for any wholesale power cost adjustment implemented by Corn Belt to its member distribution systems.

The Cooperative will discount the monthly power bills due and payable to the Cooperative less any accredited capacity payments as noted below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Discount</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
2007 (9 months) – 2010	2%	\$50,000/year
2011-2017 (3 months)	1%	\$25,000/year
2018 and thereafter	0%	-

4. Corn Belt shall pay the City for all of the City’s accredited generating capacity at an amount established by Corn Belt on an annual basis. Capacity payments for the first nine months of the agreement will be \$1.75/kW per month.
5. The initial term of this agreement is for a period of twenty (20) years and will continue in one year terms with no further action by either party. Any party may terminate this agreement by giving written notice to the other parties after the sixteenth (16<sup>th</sup>) anniversary but before its seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) anniversary that it will terminate at the end of its initial term. If no party gives the required notice during the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the agreement continues until either party gives written notice to terminate the agreement at March 31st of the third year after the notice.
6. Corn Belt agrees to continue to own and maintain the 69 kV portion of substation and 69 kV transmission lines No. 1 & No. 2. Upon termination of this agreement, the City shall purchase the substation and all associated equipment and have the option of purchasing the transmission lines from Corn Belt at a price equal to Corn Belt’s original cost less accumulated depreciation as of the date of contract termination. The City has set aside a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$514,840 in anticipation of this repurchase requirement.
7. The effective date of this agreement was April 1, 2007.
8. The net cost of power purchased during 2007 under this agreement was \$1,942,097.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(10) Commitments – Agreement with Western Area Power Administration**

On May 1, 1998, the City entered into a "Service Agreement" with the United States Department of Energy, acting through the Administrator, Western Area Power Administrative (WAPA).

Some of the more significant covenants of the current agreement are as follows:

1. WAPA agreed to supply the City electrical energy not to exceed 2,814 KW in the winter season and 2,743 KW in the summer season through December 31, 2005, at which point the contract rate of delivery will be adjusted. The estimated cost of power from WAPA is 1.54 cents per KWH not including the cost of transmission.

On December 15, 2005, the City entered into a new agreement with WAPA effective January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2010. Under this agreement the contract rate of delivery for firm power during any winter season shall be 2,808 KW and 2,739 KW during any summer season.

2. WAPA makes delivery of energy through Corn Belt Power Cooperative, the City's primary energy provider with whom the City has entered into an agreement dated November 1, 2000 for the delivery of this energy at an estimated rate of .462 cents per KWH. This transmission agreement was in effect January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2003.
3. On January 1, 2004, the City entered into a new transmission agreement effective January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2009. The terms of this agreement did not change from the prior transmission agreement. The net delivery cost during 2007 under this agreement was \$50,329.
4. The initial term of this agreement with WAPA is for a period of twenty (20) years with service to begin on January 1, 2001.
5. The net cost of power purchased during 2007 under this agreement was \$280,047.

**(11) Commitments – Agreement with Iowa Lakes Community College**

On September 21, 2004, the City entered into an "Interconnection Agreement" with Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC) for interconnection and operation of a wind turbine generator (WTG).

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(11) Commitments – Agreement with Iowa Lakes Community College – Continued**

Some of the more significant covenants of the current agreement are as follows:

1. The City and ILCC agree that the WTG may be interconnected to and operated in parallel with the City's system.
2. ILCC will provide and maintain the necessary equipment for interconnection and operation of the WTG.
3. The City will have the right to inspect, at its own expense and upon reasonable notice to ILCC, any interconnection equipment for the WTG.
4. The agreement is for a period of 20 years from the commercial date of operation of the WTG. It may be terminated by ILCC at any time by giving the City two (2) years written notice. The City may terminate upon failure by ILCC to generate energy from the WTG by the later of two (2) years from the date of this agreement or twelve (12) months after completion of the interconnection. Either party may terminate by giving the other party at least sixty days' prior written notice that the other party is in default of any of the material terms and conditions of the agreement.
5. The City connected to the WTG on February 15, 2005.

**(12) Commitments – Agreement with Iowa Lakes Community College**

On September 21, 2004, the City entered into a "Power Purchase Agreement" with Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC) to purchase power from the wind turbine generator (WTG).

Some of the more significant covenants of the current agreement are as follows:

1. The City agrees to purchase all of the output of the WTG delivered to the Interconnection Point. There are no minimum or maximum output requirements.
2. Payment will be calculated by multiplying the metered output by the avoided cost rate. Initially the avoided cost rate will be about 2.73 cents per KWH. The avoided cost rate may change from month to month to track the City's actual avoided costs.

City of Estherville, Iowa  
Municipal Electric Utility  
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued  
December 31, 2007

**(12) Commitments – Agreement with Iowa Lakes Community College – Continued**

3. The agreement is for a period of 20 years from the commercial date of operation of the WTG. It may be terminated by ILCC at any time by giving the City two (2) years written notice. Either party may terminate by giving the other party at least sixty days' prior notice that the other party is in default of any of the material terms and conditions of the agreement. Either party may terminate by giving the other party at least sixty days' prior written notice if the Interconnection Agreement is terminated.
4. The City began receiving power from the WTG on February 15, 2005.
5. The net cost of power purchased during 2007 under this agreement was \$154,325.

**(13) Risk Management**

The Utility is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. These risks are covered by the purchase of commercial insurance. Settled claims from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years. The City assumes liability for any deductibles and claims in excess of coverage limitations.

**(14) Related Party Transactions**

The Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa had sales of electric power to the City of Estherville of \$290,691 during the year ended December 31, 2007. The Utility paid \$359,150 for accounting and collection, and \$466,309 for payment in lieu of taxes to the City of Estherville during the year ended December 31, 2007. The City of Estherville owed \$27,269 to the Utility at December 31, 2007.

The Utility is a fund of the City of Estherville.

## Other Supplementary Information

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY  
SCCHEDULE OF STATISTICAL DATA  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

UNAUDITED

	KWH Sold	Amount Billed	Average Unit Revenue Per KWH	Percent of Revenue To Total	Percent of KWH To Total	Number of Meters In Service
Service to Customers						
Residential	21,663,470	\$ 1,810,248	8.36	40.64 %	36.36 %	2,675
Small Commercial	9,066,015	740,085	8.16	16.61	15.21	411
Large Commercial	17,223,937	1,218,462	7.07	27.35	28.91	39
Industrial	6,928,000	395,118	5.70	8.87	11.63	1
Total Service to Customers	54,881,422	4,163,913	7.59	93.47	92.11	3,126
Service to City	4,699,852	290,691	6.19	6.53	7.89	39
Total	<u>59,581,274</u>	<u>\$ 4,454,604</u>		<u>100.00 %</u>	<u>100.00 %</u>	<u>3,165</u>

Analysis of Kilowatt Hours Generated and Purchased

Total Kilowatt Hours Generated - 2007  
 Kilowatt Hours Purchased - Net 2007

106,500  
62,701,772

Less: Station Power Consumption

62,808,272  
(701,400)

Total to Feeders

62,106,872

Kilowatt Hours Sold on Line

54,881,422  
 4,699,852

Service to Customers  
 Service to City  
 Kilowatt Hours Used For Security/Traffic Lights

60,185,994

Line Loss and Excess Generation 3.09%

1,920,878

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY  
OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Schedule 2

UNAUDITED

REVENUE

Sales of electrical energy decreased in 2007 to 59,581,274 kilowatt hours from 59,582,381 in 2006, a decrease of 1,107 kilowatt hours. Operating revenues from energy sales increased to \$4,579,191 up \$598,276 from the previous year. Other operating revenues increased \$216,500. Total operating revenues for 2007 were \$4,837,662, an increase of \$814,776 from the previous year.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSE

Operating expenses in 2007 increased to \$4,734,740 up from \$3,670,116 in 2006 for an increase of \$1,064,624. Energy purchases continue to be the largest single item of operating expense and totaled \$2,719,370 up from \$1,741,484 in 2006. The cost of purchased power, natural gas and fuel oil represented approximately 57.84% of the total operating costs in 2007 and 48.01% in 2006.

NET INCOME

Net operating income before interest totaled \$102,922 in 2007, compared to \$352,770 for the prior year, a decrease of \$249,848. Depreciation expense increased \$11,005 for the current year, and interest expense decreased \$1,330. Interest income decreased \$7,134 in 2007 when compared to 2006.

Net income of \$167,186 was realized for 2007 compared to \$426,746 for 2006, a decrease of \$259,560.

**Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over  
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters  
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in  
Accordance with Governmental Auditing Standards**

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTIC UTILITY

# Brinkman & Reed, CPA's

103 South Sixth Street    Estherville, Iowa 51334    712-362-5891 Phone    712-362-7172 Fax

Independent Auditors' Report on  
Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters  
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with  
Government Auditing Standards

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
City of Estherville, Iowa

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated March 8, 2008. We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the effectiveness of Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be significant deficiencies and another deficiency we consider to be a material weakness.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of the control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with U.S. generally accepted

- 35 -

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accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood a misstatement of Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's internal control. We consider the deficiencies in internal control described in Part II of the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's internal control.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, of the significant deficiencies described above, we believe item II-A-07 is a material weakness.

#### Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, non-compliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of non-compliance or other matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Comments involving statutory and other legal matters about the Utility's operations for the year ended December 31, 2007 are based exclusively on knowledge obtained from procedures performed during our audit of the financial statements of the Utility. Since our audit was based on tests and samples, not all transactions that might have had an impact on the comments were necessarily audited. The comments involving statutory and other legal matters are not intended to constitute legal interpretations of those statutes.

Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's responses to findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. While we have expressed our conclusions on the Utility's responses, we did not audit Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville's responses and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information and use of the members and customers of the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa and other parties to whom the Utility may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa during the course of our audit. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience.

*Brinkman + Reed, CPA's*

Brinkman & Reed, CPA's.

March 8, 2008

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Part I: Summary of the Independent Auditors' Results:

- (a) A qualified opinion was issued on the financial statements of the Municipal Electric Utility, City of Estherville, Iowa.
- (b) Significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting was disclosed by the audit of the financial statements, including a material weakness.
- (c) The audit did not disclose any non-compliance which is material to the financial statements.

CITY OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA  
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Part II: Findings Related to the Financial Statements

REPORTABLE CONDITIONS:

II-A-07 Segregation of Duties - One important aspect of internal control is the segregation of duties among employees to prevent an individual employee from handling duties which are incompatible. We noted that employees who handle cash receipts are also involved with the preparation of bank reconciliations.

Recommendation - We realize segregation of duties with a limited number of office employees is difficult. However, the City should review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances.

Response - The City will make every effort to comply.

Conclusion - Response accepted.

INSTANCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE:

No matters were noted.

Part III: Other Findings Related to the Statutory Reporting:

III-A-07 Questionable Disbursements - No disbursements that may not meet the requirements of public purpose as defined in an Attorney General's opinion dated April 25, 1979 were noted.

III-B-07 Travel Expense - No disbursements of City money for travel expenses of spouses of City officials or employees were noted.

III-C-07 Council Minutes - No transactions were found that we believe should have been approved in the Council minutes but were not.

III-D-07 Deposits and Investments - We noted no instances of noncompliance with the deposit and investment provisions of Chapter 12B and Chapter 12C of the Code of Iowa and the City's investment policy.