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Contact: Wes Rosenbalm
(276) 669-4112

BVU Receives Prestigious APPA Community Service Award

BRISTOL, Va. – Bristol Virginia Utilities was presented with the prestigious American Public Power Association’s Community Service Award at the organization’s national conference held June 21-25 in New Orleans, La.

As a recipient, BVU is among an elite group of only 77 public utilities in the nation to be recognized since 1990 for demonstrating a “good neighbor” approach toward their own communities.

Notably, BVU is also the only public utility in the state of Virginia to ever take home the award.

Three other utilities also received the designation in 2008: Greenwood Utilities in Greenwood, Miss.; Kissimmee Utility Authority, in Kissimmee, Fla., and Tacoma Public Utilities in Tacoma, Wash.

“APPA’s Community Service Award honors dedication to public power customers extending far beyond keeping the lights on,” said APPA President and CEO Mark Crisson. “Bristol Virginia Utilities has distinguished itself as a leader in this regard and should be proud of its achievements.”

The American Public Power Association is the nation’s leading voice on behalf of community- and state-owned electric utilities. The Community Service Award is one of only two utility-wide awards given by the APPA annually. The other, the E.F. Scattergood System Achievement Award, honors utilities for outstanding overall achievement. BVU received the Scattergood Award in 2004.

“We are truly honored to receive one of the APPA’s highest accolades,” said BVU President and CEO Wes Rosenbalm. “In receiving this, we are reminded of how important it is to build programs that give back to the region.”

The APPA Community Service Award honors public utilities that enhance the quality of life for their communities by sponsoring activities that address community needs and improve the location’s social, cultural, educational or economic environment. BVU was cited for its outstanding efforts in expanding company products and services and for its community outreach

programs, which include sponsoring a children's day during the city's Rhythm and Roots Reunion festival, staging an annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, providing free movies-in-the-park during summers and giving college scholarships to local high school seniors.

About BVU

Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU) is a city-owned public utility that provides electric, water, wastewater, cable and advanced fiber-optic broadband services to customers in a 125-square-mile area that includes Bristol, Abingdon and Washington County, Va. The utility also manages cable and phone services for CPC OptiNet, serving business customers in Dickenson, Tazewell, Buchanan and Russell counties in Virginia, as well as cable and broadband services for MI-Connection, serving the towns of Davidson, Mooresville and Cornelius in North Carolina.

BVU's advanced broadband division called OptiNet was the first in the nation to provide the triple play of services (voice, video and broadband) over a fiber-to-the-user network. For more information, visit www.bvu-optinet.com.

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