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Arkansas River Power Authority General Manager receives individual achievement award

New Orleans, Louisiana, June 10, 2025 — Rick Rigel, General Manager of the Arkansas River Power Authority, received the James D. Donovan Individual Achievement Award during the American Public Power Association's National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the electric utility industry and to public power.

Since 2011, Rick has served as the General Manager of the Arkansas River Power Authority. During his tenure, he has successfully guided the organization through significant challenges, including navigating the decommissioning of a coal plant and attempts at co-op buyouts. Despite these hurdles, Rick managed to recover costs from the plant and reduce rates for ARPA members, with the anticipated reduction in 2025 expected to save approximately \$2.1 million. With over 40 years of experience in public power, he has held several leadership positions, including Chairman of the Imperial Public Power District, Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, and served on the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Board. Since 2007, he has been an active member of the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities Board, currently holding the position of Vice President. Within APPA, he participates in the Joint Action Agency Committee, is a long-time supporter of PowerPAC, and has been a regular attendee at the Legislative Rally and National Conference since 2010.

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The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 96,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.



Left: John Haarlow
Chair (elect) APPA Board
of Directors

Center: Rick Rigel
General Manager, ARPA

Right: Nick Lawler
Chair APPA Board of
Directors