

# **Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**

Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

March 31, 2019 and 2018

The logo for the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) features the acronym "MEAN" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are closely spaced and have a slightly irregular, blocky appearance.

MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NEBRASKA

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

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## Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors  
Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska  
Lincoln, Nebraska

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska as of and for the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska as of March 31, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Other Matter**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

**BKD, LLP**

Lincoln, Nebraska  
June 14, 2019

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The discussion and analysis on the following pages summarizes the financial highlights and focuses on factors that had a material effect on the financial condition of Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) and the results of operations for the years ended March 31, 2019, 2018 and 2017. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial highlights, the basic financial statements, and notes to the financial statements.

### ***Summary of the Financial Statements***

The financial statements, related notes to the financial statements and management's discussion and analysis provide information about MEAN's financial position and activities.

**Management's Discussion and Analysis** – provides an objective and easily readable analysis of the financial activities of MEAN based on currently known facts, decisions or conditions.

**Balance Sheets** – provide a summary of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position.

**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position** – present the operating results of MEAN into various categories of operating revenues and expenses, and non-operating revenues and expenses.

**Statements of Cash Flows** – report the cash provided by and used for operating activities, as well as other cash sources such as investment income and cash payments for repayment of bonds and capital additions.

**Notes to the Financial Statements** – provide additional disclosures and information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the statements.

## Financial Analysis

The following comparative condensed financial information summarizes MEAN's financial position and operating results for the years ended March 31, 2019, 2018 and 2017.

### Condensed Balance Sheets and Financial Highlights

	March 31,			Change	
	2019	2018	2017	From 2018 to 2019	From 2017 to 2018
<b>Assets and Deferred</b>					
<b>Outflows of Resources</b>					
Current assets	\$ 62,357,342	\$ 63,573,147	\$ 64,946,153	\$ (1,215,805)	\$ (1,373,006)
Restricted and long-term investments	22,747,669	21,626,002	21,949,343	1,121,667	(323,341)
Capital assets and productive capacity, net	123,392,072	123,618,871	126,824,782	(226,799)	(3,205,911)
Other noncurrent assets	39,695,976	42,218,348	44,110,921	(2,522,372)	(1,892,573)
Deferred outflows of resources	8,544,782	9,031,170	9,517,558	(486,388)	(486,388)
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 256,737,841</u>	<u>\$ 260,067,538</u>	<u>\$ 267,348,757</u>	<u>\$ (3,329,697)</u>	<u>\$ (7,281,219)</u>
<b>Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position</b>					
Current liabilities	\$ 21,018,803	\$ 20,504,313	\$ 21,455,240	\$ 514,490	\$ (950,927)
Long-term debt, net	160,339,858	167,521,654	174,433,450	(7,181,796)	(6,911,796)
Deferred inflows of resources	20,983,007	22,207,973	23,517,973	(1,224,966)	(1,310,000)
Net position					
Net investment in capital assets	11,777,336	7,180,715	5,078,979	4,596,621	2,101,736
Restricted for debt service	6,258,906	6,258,906	6,258,906	-	-
Unrestricted	36,359,931	36,393,977	36,604,209	(34,046)	(210,232)
Total net position	<u>54,396,173</u>	<u>49,833,598</u>	<u>47,942,094</u>	<u>4,562,575</u>	<u>1,891,504</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	<u>\$ 256,737,841</u>	<u>\$ 260,067,538</u>	<u>\$ 267,348,757</u>	<u>\$ (3,329,697)</u>	<u>\$ (7,281,219)</u>

## **Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources**

Current assets decreased in 2019 primarily due to decreased productive capacity operating assets and fluctuations in cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments. The decreases were offset in part by increased accounts receivable. Current assets decreased in 2018 primarily due to decreased accounts receivable and productive capacity operating assets and offset in part by fluctuations in cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments.

Fluctuations in long-term investments are related to the maturity in years of the investment portfolio at each year end. Long-term investments increased in 2019 and decreased in 2018.

Depreciation charges exceeded additions to productive capacity as shown in Note 3 in both 2019 and 2018 resulting in an overall decrease in capital assets and productive capacity. MEAN's investment in productive capacity consists primarily of its ownership interest in two power generation plants: 1) a 6.92% ownership interest in the Walter Scott, Jr. Energy Center Unit 4 (WSEC 4) generation plant, located near Council Bluffs, Iowa and 2) a 23.5% ownership interest in the Wygen Unit I (Wygen I) generation plant, located near Gillette, Wyoming. Capital assets include MEAN's operations and management facility, furniture, and equipment.

The decrease in other noncurrent assets in 2019 and 2018 is due to decreases in contracts receivable and recovery of certain costs previously deferred as permitted under Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Codification Section Re10, *Regulated Operations* ("Regulated Operations").

Deferred outflows of resources consist of deferred costs of refunded debt resulting from refunding transactions. The decrease in 2019 and 2018 resulted from annual amortization.

## **Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources**

Current liabilities increased in 2019 and decreased in 2018 due to timing of when invoices were received and paid.

Net long-term debt declined in 2019 and 2018 as principal payments were paid and no bond financing transactions occurred.

Deferred inflows of resources consist of deferred revenue – rate stabilization which fluctuates as a result of activity in the Rate Stabilization Fund which is described further in "Risk Management Practices".

## **Debt Activity**

MEAN did not issue any debt in 2019 or 2018 and made scheduled principal payments of \$5,945,000 and \$5,715,000, respectively.

## **Debt Ratings and Debt Service Coverage**

Standard and Poor's (S&P) assigned an A/stable rating during the issuance process of MEAN's Power Supply System Refunding Revenue Bonds 2016 Series A ("2016A Bonds"), to the 2016A Bonds and affirmed the A/stable rating on MEAN's other outstanding debt. Fitch Ratings affirmed the A rating on MEAN's outstanding debt on August 29, 2018 with a rating outlook of stable. On April 19, 2018, Moody's Investors Service affirmed an A2 rating on MEAN's outstanding debt with a rating outlook of stable. These

high ratings indicate the agencies' assessment of MEAN's ability to pay interest and principal on its debt based on MEAN's financial strength and business characteristics as a public power provider.

MEAN is required by its bond covenants to maintain a debt service coverage of 1.0 times. Typically, MEAN targets year-end debt service coverage of 1.20. Debt service coverage was 1.45, 1.21, and 1.22 for 2019, 2018, and 2017, respectively.

**Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position and Financial Highlights**

	<b>March 31,</b>			<b>Change</b>	
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>From 2018 to 2019</b>	<b>From 2017 to 2018</b>
Sales volumes (MWh's)	2,105,000	2,126,000	2,059,000	(21,000)	67,000
Electric energy sales and other operating revenues	\$ 121,644,319	\$ 123,894,089	\$ 125,566,199	\$ (2,249,770)	\$ (1,672,110)
Transfer from rate stabilization	1,224,966	1,310,000	1,429,405	(85,034)	(119,405)
Total operating revenues	122,869,285	125,204,089	126,995,604	(2,334,804)	(1,791,515)
Electric energy costs	95,895,576	101,107,026	101,780,198	(5,211,450)	(673,172)
Other operating expenses	15,999,054	15,286,059	16,615,130	712,995	(1,329,071)
Total operating expenses	111,894,630	116,393,085	118,395,328	(4,498,455)	(2,002,243)
Operating income	10,974,655	8,811,004	8,600,276	2,163,651	210,728
Net nonoperating expenses	(6,412,080)	(6,919,500)	(8,422,380)	507,420	1,502,880
Increase in net position	\$ 4,562,575	\$ 1,891,504	\$ 177,896	\$ 2,671,071	\$ 1,713,608



## **Sales Volumes and Operating Revenues**

MWh's delivered in 2019 decreased 1% compared to 2018. MWh's delivered in 2018 increased 3% compared to 2017.

MWh's delivered to MEAN's long-term total requirements participants increased in 2019 and 2018. Fluctuations are primarily due to the impact of weather conditions. Electric energy sales revenues from MEAN's long-term total requirements participants decreased in 2019 and 2018 as a result of changes to rates and charges.

In 2019 and 2018, MWh's delivered to MEAN's limited-term total requirements participants increased. Fluctuations are due primarily to the impact of weather conditions. No limited-term total requirements contracts expired nor were any contracts added in 2019 or 2018. Two contracts were extended during 2018. Electric energy sales revenues from MEAN's limited-term total requirements participants increased in 2019 and 2018 as a result of the increase in MWh's delivered and changes to rates and charges.

Although the average selling price per MWh increased in 2019, MWh's sold decreased resulting in an overall decrease in revenues from interchange sales. Both MWh's sold and the average selling price per MWh for interchange sales increased in 2018 resulting in an overall increase in revenues from interchange sales.

For 2019 and 2018, the Board of Directors authorized a transfer from rate stabilization into operating revenues of \$1,224,966 and \$1,310,000, respectively. See Note 1 – Deferred Revenue – Rate Stabilization for additional information.

## **Operating Expenses**

Electric energy costs vary from year to year due to changes in demand for energy by participants and other buying entities, fluctuations in the cost per MWh of purchased and produced power and impacts of changes in transmission costs. Decreased electric energy costs in 2019 and 2018 resulted primarily from decreases in the cost per MWh of purchased and produced power. Electric energy costs in 2019 also decreased as a result of lower transmission costs.

## **General Trends and Significant Events**

### **Southwest Power Pool**

MEAN participates in Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Integrated Marketplace (IM). As a member of the SPP Regional Transmission Organization, MEAN works with other SPP members to identify ways to improve market operations and overall organizational effectiveness.

### **Renewable Resources**

MEAN continues to review renewable energy projects that are of strategic interest and is working with MEAN participants to address the impact of trends in distributed and renewable generation.

MEAN's Board of Directors voted in January 2017 to decommission MEAN's wind farm located near Kimball, Nebraska that included 10.5 MW of wind capacity. The costs incurred for the Kimball Wind Farm were fully amortized as of March 31, 2017. The wind farm was fully decommissioned during 2018. Decommissioning services for MEAN's wind farm were included as part of a negotiated arrangement between MEAN and the developer of a new 30 MW wind-generated facility located near Kimball, Nebraska. No separate charges were incurred for decommissioning of MEAN's wind farm. MEAN entered into a power purchase agreement for the purchase of the energy, capacity and environmental attributes produced by the new 30 MW wind-generated facility beginning on the commercial operation date. Commercial operation began June 2018.

MEAN has also contracted for the purchase of 37 MW of wind capacity from other wind energy producers in the region. In addition to the wind capacity, MEAN has contracted for 4.8 MW from the Waste Management Des Moines Landfill Gas Facility. MEAN has contracted with Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) for 7.6 MW from hydroelectric generating facilities in Colorado owned by Shavano Falls Hydro, LLC.

### **Environmental Regulations**

The electric industry is exposed to continuing environmental regulations which are subject to change. Consequently, there is no assurance that facilities MEAN participates in will remain subject to the regulations currently in effect or will meet future regulations without retrofit. MEAN cannot anticipate the outcome of current regulatory and legislative processes. MEAN could be subject to increased costs or reduced operating levels as a result of future environmental regulations. MEAN continues to monitor the development and implementation of new or modified environmental regulations.

MEAN joined together with four other public power entities to form the Public Power Generation Agency (PPGA). PPGA developed, constructed and operates the Whelan Energy Center Unit 2 (WEC 2), a 220 MW coal-fired generating unit near Hastings, Nebraska. WEC 2 is operated under Best Available Control Technology standards. MEAN has ownership interests in other coal fired generation units, WSEC 4 and Wygen I. These units are also equipped with current Best Available Control Technology that combines lowest emissions with a long-term baseload energy resource. MEAN also has a 1.67% ownership interest in the coal-fired steam-electric Laramie River Station (LRS) generating station.

The following is a summary of the current regulations related to MEAN-owned facilities.

### **Clean Power Plan, Affordable Clean Energy Rule, and New Source Performance Standard**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule regarding New Source Performance Standards on October 23, 2015 and the final Clean Power Plan (CPP) on August 3, 2015. The regulations relate to greenhouse gas emission guidelines for new and existing power plants.

On February 9, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court granted stay motions filed by states and industry that sought to put implementation of the EPA's CPP on hold pending judicial review. Executive Order 13783 on March 28, 2017, required the EPA to review the CPP and other regulations. The EPA issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on December 28, 2017 for replacing the CPP with a limited scope. In August 2018, the EPA issued the proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule as a replacement for the Clean Power Plan. The rule has not been finalized, however the shift to relying on heat rate improvements for lowering carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions will be less burdensome on the utility industry.

Executive Order 13783 also required the EPA to review the final rule regarding New Source Performance Standards. As of March 30, 2017, all pending litigation was held in abeyance by the D.C. Circuit. On December 20, 2018, the EPA proposed revisions in-line with other regulations based on available control technology. The revisions removed carbon capture and sequestration for coal-fired units.

### **Clean Air Act**

Legislation was enacted in 1990 that substantially revised the Clean Air Act (the "1990 Amendments"). The 1990 Amendments seek to improve the ambient air quality throughout the United States. A main objective of the 1990 Amendments is the reduction of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions caused by electric utility power plants, particularly those fueled by coal. Under the 1990 Amendments, SO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction was to be achieved in two phases. Phase I addressed specific generating units named in the 1990 Amendments. MEAN's generating resources meet the emissions requirements under Phase I. Phase II of the Act was effective January 1, 2000. MEAN had sufficient allowances for SO<sub>2</sub> emissions to cover the electric power needs of its participants through 2018. Allowances for future years will be purchased to provide for projected requirements. Currently, all of MEAN's coal-fired generation resources meet Phase II NO<sub>x</sub> compliance requirements.

### **Cross-State Air Pollution Rule**

Phase 2 pollution limits (referred to as a "budget") under the EPA rule referred to as the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule ("CSAPR") became effective in 2017. Under CSAPR, facilities must provide allowances for emission of each ton of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. Nebraska is subject to CSAPR annual SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> allowance programs. Other states, including Iowa, are also subject to CSAPR Ozone Season (May to September) NO<sub>x</sub> allowance programs. Facilities are allocated some CSAPR allowances by the EPA. A market-based system exists to obtain additional allowances. Based on the current CSAPR allocation methodology and current generation projections, MEAN expects to have sufficient allowances to cover MEAN's share of emissions from WSEC 4 and Wygen I, but may be required to obtain additional allowances from the CSAPR allowance market in the future. PPGA purchased an estimated ten years' worth of SO<sub>2</sub> credits during the construction of WEC 2 which are projected to cover WEC 2's requirements through 2019.

### **Regional Haze Rule**

Under the Regional Haze Rule each state is required to develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to improve visibility and air quality in Class I areas (national parks and wilderness areas) by reducing regional haze across the country. The Regional Haze Rule requires states to determine Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) for certain sources that emit NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> pollutants. Nebraska, as a Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR)-affected state, will be able to substitute CSAPR for any requirements related to the Regional Haze Rule. Nebraska submitted its SIP to the EPA in 2011. In July 2012, the EPA issued the final rule on the Nebraska SIP, which approved the NO<sub>x</sub> portion of the SIP but disapproved the SO<sub>2</sub> portion.

Due to WEC 2's modern Air Quality Control System, WEC 2 is well positioned to meet any requirements relating to CSAPR's implementation. Based on a determination by the state of Iowa, WSEC 4 is not subject to the Regional Haze Rule. In January 2014, the EPA issued a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) requiring installation of Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) NO<sub>x</sub> removal technology for three coal plants in Wyoming, including LRS. Legal negotiations continued through 2016 until a tentative agreement was

reached on December 30, 2016. LRS agreed to install non-SCR technology on two units and SCR technology on one unit, which is a significant cost reduction over installing SCR technology on all three units. Wygen I is not currently subject to CSAPR, however, Wygen I is well positioned to meet any requirements relating to CSAPR's implementation.

### **Mercury and Air Toxics Standards**

The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (MATS) rule aims to reduce emissions of heavy metal and acid gases, including mercury, from new and existing coal and oil-fired generating units. WSEC 4 was originally constructed with emissions controls which enable the plant to comply with MATS. At the time of purchase of the Air Quality Control System for WEC 2, WEC 2 purchased the necessary equipment to use activated carbon injection as a control of mercury emission to comply with MATS. Wygen I's current emission control equipment enables the plant to comply with MATS. LRS has installed mercury controls to comply with MATS. Ongoing compliance with MATS must be demonstrated by each affected facility.

On December 27, 2018, the EPA proposed revisions to the supplemental cost/benefit analysis that was used as a basis for the rule. The MATS rule still remains in place at this time.

### **Water Quality**

The Federal Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of process wastewater and certain storm water under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program. WSEC 4 is not impacted by the Clean Water Act. WEC 2, Wygen I and LRS have proper permitting in place under the Clean Water Act.

The future of the Clean Water Rule, issued under the authority of the Clean Water Act, is facing uncertainty. At the beginning of 2018, the Clean Water Rule was suspended by the current administration for two years. The EPA stated at that time its intention to implement its own Clean Water Rule replacement in an attempt to clarify the definition of the term "waters of the United States," which has major implications on the enforcement of environmental water pollution regulations.

### **Coal Combustion Residuals Proposed Rule**

The Coal Combustion Residuals Proposed Rule (Rule) requires owners of unlined surface ponds to conduct initial monitoring to detect indicators that may signify a release of contaminants from a surface pond. If contamination is found, the Rule mandates closure or retrofitting of any unlined surface ponds if the contamination is not able to be attributed to another source. In August 2018, provisions of the Rule that allowed for continued operation of the unlined coal ash pond were vacated by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition, the deadline to initiate pond closure under the Rule had been October 31, 2020, however, that deadline is currently being litigated in a separate action in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin), as the Operating Agent for LRS, hired a consultant to conduct detection monitoring in 2016 and 2017. The consultant detected a statistically significant increase (SSI) in one or more of the indicator constituents from the LRS ash pond. Basin worked with the contractor to determine if the SSI could be attributed to an alternative source. The contractor analyzed soil samples and performed further groundwater monitoring. The contractor could not confirm the SSI came from an alternate source. Basin concluded that the Rule required a corrective action for the ash pond and proceeded to start the design and engineering work to meet the proposed deadline of October 2020. However, because of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals litigation, the specific corrective action requirements and the timeline are not known at this time but will likely include retrofit or closure of the ash pond.

PPGA is currently in the process of groundwater monitoring at WEC 2, working with a third-party consultant. The results of the comprehensive monitoring and modeling will determine the extent and source of contaminants, which will ultimately direct the course of action with regard to the need for an ash pond liner. PPGA is also actively marketing WEC 2's ash in an attempt to decrease the size and mitigate the effects of the coal ash pond.

Until the EPA reissues the Rule, Basin and PPGA are unable to estimate the cost or the extent of any potential corrective action required.

### ***Risk Management Practices***

MEAN is subject to various risks inherent in the electric energy business, including exposure to volatility in electric energy and fuel prices, uncertainty in load and resource availability, the creditworthiness of its counterparties, operational risks associated with transacting in the wholesale energy markets, and regulatory and political risks.

As a means of identifying, measuring, managing and mitigating these various risks, MEAN has developed financial, administrative, and operational policies and guidelines, which have been approved by the Board of Directors and Management Committee, as applicable.

To help manage energy risks, including the risks related to MEAN's participation in regional wholesale energy markets, MEAN contracted with The Energy Authority (TEA) beginning in March 2019 to both transact on MEAN's behalf in the wholesale energy markets and to develop and recommend strategies to manage MEAN's exposure to risk in the wholesale energy markets. TEA's in-depth understanding of the wholesale energy markets, experienced people, and state-of-the-art technology combined with TEA's developing knowledge of MEAN's system will enable TEA to deliver a broad range of standardized and customized energy products and services to MEAN.

One of MEAN's management tools was the creation of a rate stabilization account, within the general reserve fund. This funded reserve may be used to pay operating expenses or debt service or for other purposes that enable MEAN to, or facilitate MEAN's ability to, provide services at stable and economic rates for its participant communities. In 2019 and 2018, there was a transfer from the rate stabilization account of \$1,224,966 and \$1,310,000, respectively.

As a means of stabilizing its rate structure, MEAN has elected to defer certain costs related to its investment in WSEC 4, Wygen I and LRS generating plants as allowed under the provisions of GASB Codification Section Re10, *Regulated Operations*. These costs, primarily depreciation and bond issue costs, will be charged to expense in future years.

### ***Report Purpose and Contact Information***

This financial report is designed to provide member municipalities, other nonmember participants and creditors with a general overview of MEAN's financial status for the fiscal years 2019, 2018 and 2017. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Director of Finance and Accounting at 8377 Glynoaks Dr., Lincoln, Nebraska 68516.

# Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

## Balance Sheets

March 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
<b>Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 39,328,248	\$ 39,668,625
Short-term investments	8,725,909	8,981,058
Accounts receivable	11,594,347	10,635,288
Prepaid expenses and other	367,863	398,955
Productive capacity operating assets	2,340,975	3,889,221
Total current assets	62,357,342	63,573,147
<b>Noncurrent Assets</b>		
Long-term investments	9,519,623	8,649,810
Restricted investments	13,228,046	12,976,192
Contracts receivable	-	920,383
Productive capacity, net	118,142,054	118,163,405
Capital assets, net	5,250,018	5,455,466
Costs recoverable from future billings	39,695,976	41,297,965
Total noncurrent assets	185,835,717	187,463,221
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
Deferred cost of refunded debt	8,544,782	9,031,170
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ 256,737,841	\$ 260,067,538
<b>Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 6,215,000	\$ 5,945,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	11,432,168	11,055,453
Accrued interest payable	3,371,635	3,503,860
Total current liabilities	21,018,803	20,504,313
<b>Long-term Debt, Net</b>	160,339,858	167,521,654
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>		
Deferred revenue - rate stabilization	20,983,007	22,207,973
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	11,777,336	7,180,715
Restricted for debt service	6,258,906	6,258,906
Unrestricted	36,359,931	36,393,977
Total net position	54,396,173	49,833,598
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	\$ 256,737,841	\$ 260,067,538

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and**  
**Changes in Net Position**  
**Years Ended March 31, 2019 and 2018**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
Electric energy sales	\$ 121,069,789	\$ 123,283,007
Transfer from rate stabilization	1,224,966	1,310,000
Other	<u>574,530</u>	<u>611,082</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>122,869,285</u>	<u>125,204,089</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Electric energy costs	95,895,576	101,107,026
Administrative and general	9,617,588	8,965,435
Depreciation and amortization	<u>6,381,466</u>	<u>6,320,624</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>111,894,630</u>	<u>116,393,085</u>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<u>10,974,655</u>	<u>8,811,004</u>
<b>Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)</b>		
Net costs to be recovered in future periods	(1,601,987)	(887,761)
Investment return	1,457,992	492,668
Interest expense	(6,262,862)	(6,527,311)
Other	<u>(5,223)</u>	<u>2,904</u>
Net nonoperating expenses	<u>(6,412,080)</u>	<u>(6,919,500)</u>
<b>Increase in Net Position</b>	4,562,575	1,891,504
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>49,833,598</u>	<u>47,942,094</u>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 54,396,173</u>	<u>\$ 49,833,598</u>

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended March 31, 2019 and 2018**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Cash received from participants and customers	\$ 143,656,541	\$ 150,097,300
Cash paid to suppliers	(118,853,009)	(124,085,069)
Cash paid to coalition members	<u>(6,755,000)</u>	<u>(6,395,700)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>18,048,532</u>	<u>19,616,531</u>
<b>Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>		
Principal payments on long-term debt	(5,945,000)	(5,715,000)
Additions of productive capacity	(6,040,572)	(2,895,541)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	790	2,904
Purchase of capital assets	(120,107)	(219,172)
Interest paid	<u>(6,875,495)</u>	<u>(6,937,058)</u>
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	<u>(18,980,384)</u>	<u>(15,763,867)</u>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Interest received on investments	1,196,730	675,631
Purchases of investments	(24,216,748)	(19,764,681)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	<u>23,611,493</u>	<u>18,828,833</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>591,475</u>	<u>(260,217)</u>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	(340,377)	3,592,447
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>39,668,625</u>	<u>36,076,178</u>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 39,328,248</u>	<u>\$ 39,668,625</u>



**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Statements of Cash Flows - Continued**  
**Years Ended March 31, 2019 and 2018**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash</b>		
<b>Provided by Operating Activities</b>		
Operating income	\$ 10,974,655	\$ 8,811,004
Depreciation and amortization	6,381,466	6,320,624
Transfer from rate stabilization	(1,224,966)	(1,310,000)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable	(736,681)	4,487,542
Productive capacity operating assets	1,548,246	1,674,298
Prepaid expenses and other	31,092	102,217
Contracts receivable	920,383	1,004,812
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	154,337	(1,473,966)
	<b>\$ 18,048,532</b>	<b>\$ 19,616,531</b>
<b>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$ 18,048,532</b>	<b>\$ 19,616,531</b>

# **Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**

## **Notes to Financial Statements**

### **March 31, 2019 and 2018**

#### **Note 1: Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### ***Nature of Operations***

Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN or the Agency) was created pursuant to provisions of the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act (Act). MEAN, pursuant to the Act, is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska providing power supply, energy transmission and exchange of electrical power to its member municipalities and other nonmember participants.

##### ***Reporting Entity***

In evaluating how to define the Agency, for financial reporting purposes, management has considered all potential component units for which financial accountability may exist. The determination of financial accountability includes consideration of a number of criteria, including: (1) the Agency's ability to appoint a voting majority of another entity's governing body and to impose its will on that entity, (2) the potential for that entity to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the Agency and (3) the entity's fiscal dependency on the Agency.

MEAN, Nebraska Municipal Power Pool (NMPP), National Public Gas Agency (NPGA) and Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE), comprise a coalition referred to by the trade name NMPP Energy. This coalition of entities provides energy-related services to member and nonmember participants while sharing facilities and management personnel. None of the organizations included in NMPP Energy are responsible for the obligations, liabilities or debts of any of the other organizations in the coalition. Based upon the above criteria, none of the organizations are considered component units of any of the other associated organizations.

##### ***Basis of Accounting and Presentation***

MEAN's activities are accounted for using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. MEAN's accounting records are maintained in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for regulated utilities and generally follow the Uniform System of Accounts for Public Utilities and Licensees prescribed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). MEAN prepares its financial statements as a business-type activity in conformity with applicable pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). MEAN's accounting policies also follow GASB Codification Section Re10, *Regulated Operations*, which permits an entity with cost based rates to defer certain costs or income that would otherwise be recognized when incurred to the extent that the rate-regulated entity is recovering or expects to recover such amounts in rates charged to its customers. This method includes the philosophy that debt service requirements, as opposed to depreciation or amortization, are a cost for rate making purposes.

##### ***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported balance sheet amounts and disclosure of contingent items at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenses and other changes in net position during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

# **Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**

## **Notes to Financial Statements**

### **March 31, 2019 and 2018**

#### **Note 1: Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued**

##### ***Cash Equivalents***

MEAN considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the date of purchase to be cash equivalents. At March 31, 2019 and 2018, cash equivalents consisted primarily of money market mutual funds.

##### ***Investments and Investment Return***

MEAN maintains various debt service reserve accounts that are available for use to pay off debt. The reserve accounts consist of bank deposits and investments. Investments in money market mutual funds are carried at cost, which approximates fair market value. Investments in U.S. agency obligations and negotiable certificates of deposit are carried at fair value. Fair value is determined using quoted market prices. Investment return consists of interest income and the net change for the year in the fair value of investments.

##### ***Accounts Receivable***

Accounts receivable are stated at the amount billed to participants and customers. Accounts receivable are ordinarily due 30 days after the issuance of the invoice. Accounts past due more than 120 days are considered delinquent. Delinquent receivables are charged off as they are deemed uncollectible. MEAN does not believe an allowance for doubtful accounts is necessary at March 31, 2019 and 2018.

##### ***Productive Capacity Operating Assets***

Productive capacity operating assets related to the operation of Laramie River Station (LRS), Walter Scott, Jr. Energy Center Unit 4 (WSEC 4) and Wygen Unit I (Wygen I) are comprised of operating assets, primarily fuel and supplies inventories, and operating cash. These assets are managed by the operating agent of each respective project. Operating expenses related to MEAN's participation in LRS, WSEC 4 and Wygen I are included in electric energy costs in the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position.

##### ***Productive Capacity***

Productive capacity includes the costs incurred for:

- A 1.67% ownership interest in the three-unit 1,697 MW coal-fired steam-electric LRS generating station and an associated transmission system in Platte County, Wyoming on the Laramie River. MEAN purchased the ownership interest from Lincoln Electric System (LES), a co-owner of the Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP) that includes LRS.
- A 6.92% ownership interest in the 790 net MW coal-fired steam-electric WSEC 4 generation unit near Council Bluffs, Iowa. MidAmerican Energy Company developed, designed, constructed and operates WSEC 4.

# Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

## Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2019 and 2018

### Note 1: Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued

#### ***Productive Capacity - Continued***

- A 23.5% ownership interest in the 85 MW coal-fired Wygen Unit I electric generation unit located near Gillette, Wyoming. Black Hills Wyoming, Inc. developed, designed, constructed and operates Wygen Unit I.

Productive capacity costs are being amortized on the straight-line basis over the estimated life of the various projects.

#### ***Capital Assets***

Capital assets are recorded at cost at the date of acquisition. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of each asset. The following estimated useful lives are being used by MEAN:

Building and improvements	7 – 40 Years
Furniture, equipment and transportation equipment	3 – 7 Years

#### ***Costs Recoverable from Future Billings***

Certain income and expense items which would be recognized during the current period are not included in the determination of the change in net position until such costs are expected to be recovered through wholesale electric service rates, in accordance with the provisions of GASB Codification Section Re10, *Regulated Operations*.

#### ***Deferred Cost of Refunded Debt***

Costs incurred in connection with the refinancing of various bond issuances are being amortized over the remaining life of the old bonds or the life of the new bonds, whichever is shorter. Amortization is recorded annually in nonoperating expenses.

#### ***Deferred Revenue - Rate Stabilization***

MEAN's Board of Directors established a rate stabilization account within the general reserve fund pursuant to the provisions in the 2003 Power Supply System Revenue Bond Resolution and related supplemental resolutions to assist in maintaining stable electric rates for its participants.

The rate stabilization account included electric energy sales revenue from a regulatory independent transmission system operator and transmission adjustment (RITA) established by the Board of Directors and Management Committee. In 2019 and 2018, \$1,224,966 and \$1,310,000, respectively, of RITA funds were transferred into operating revenues from the rate stabilization account. As of March 31, 2019, the rate stabilization account no longer includes any funds related to the RITA.

As of March 31, 2019 and 2018, \$20,983,007 and \$22,207,973, respectively, are shown as deferred revenue - rate stabilization on the accompanying balance sheets.

# Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

## Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2019 and 2018

### Note 1: Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued

#### ***Net Position Classification***

Net position is required to be classified into three components – net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted. These classifications are defined as follows:

***Net investment in capital assets*** - consists of productive capacity assets and capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and costs recoverable from future billings, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets or related debt also should be included in this component of net position. If there are significant unspent related debt proceeds at year-end, the portion of the debt attributable to the unspent proceeds is not included in the calculation of net investment in capital assets.

***Restricted*** - consists of restricted assets, reduced by liabilities related to those assets, with constraints placed on their use either by a) external groups such as creditors (such as through debt covenants), contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or b) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

***Unrestricted*** - consists of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the net investment in capital assets or restricted component of net position.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is MEAN's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted as they are needed.

#### ***Income Taxes***

In accordance with certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, the Act and related governing laws and regulations, MEAN, as a local governmental entity, is exempt from federal and state income taxes.

#### ***Classification of Revenues***

Operating revenues include revenues resulting from provision and delivery of electric supplies to participants and customers and administrative fees charged for scheduling and other services provided. Nonoperating revenues include those derived from capital and related financing, noncapital financing and investing activities.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 1: Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued**

***Rates and Charges***

MEAN annually determines its wholesale electric service rates and charges to recover costs of providing power supply services. Rates and charges are to be nondiscriminatory, fair and reasonable (based primarily on the cost of providing the electric power and energy or the service to which the rate or charge relates). In addition, rates and charges are established and collected in order to reasonably expect net revenues which, together with other available funds (including rate stabilization account funds), will be sufficient to pay the aggregate annual debt service for such year. A Pooled Energy Adjustment is included in MEAN's schedule of rates and charges and is used when necessary to recover the actual monthly energy costs in excess of budgeted monthly energy costs. Rates and charges for providing wholesale power supply are reviewed annually and adopted by MEAN's Board of Directors. The Electrical Resources Pooling Agreement provides for a Management Committee which sets certain rates based on the budget adopted by MEAN's Board of Directors. MEAN's power supply rates and charges are not subject to state or Federal regulation.

**Note 2: Deposits, Investments and Investment Return**

***Deposits***

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, a government's deposits may not be returned to it. MEAN's deposit policy for custodial credit risk requires compliance with the provisions of state law. State statutes require banks either to give bond or to pledge government securities to MEAN in the amount of MEAN's deposits.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures transaction accounts for government deposits up to \$250,000 per official custodian at each covered institution. At March 31, 2019 and 2018, MEAN's deposits exceeded FDIC coverage and collateral held by approximately \$1,518,000 and \$32,000, respectively.

***Investments***

MEAN's investing is performed in accordance with the investment policy adopted by its Board of Directors and applicable state statutes. MEAN may invest in U.S. Treasury and U.S. agency securities, certificates of deposit, time deposits, banker's acceptances, commercial paper, municipal bonds and investment contracts. In the event that secured investment opportunities arise, other than those specified above, investment consent is required through the approval of two of the following: the Chair of the Board of Directors, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Directors or the MEAN Executive Director.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 2: Deposits, Investments and Investment Return – Continued**

***Investments - Continued***

At March 31, 2019 and 2018, MEAN had the following investments, maturities and credit ratings:

	Carrying Value	Maturities in Years		Credit Rating Moody's/ S&P
		Less Than 1	1 - 5	
<b>March 31, 2019</b>				
Money market mutual fund				
- U.S. government obligations	\$ 36,619,745	\$ 36,619,745	\$ -	Aaa-mf/AAAm
U.S. agency obligations	14,017,788	8,924,538	5,093,250	Aaa/AA+
Negotiable certificates of deposit	17,249,874	7,730,251	9,519,623	Not Rated
	<u>\$ 67,887,407</u>	<u>\$ 53,274,534</u>	<u>\$ 14,612,873</u>	
<b>March 31, 2018</b>				
Money market mutual fund				
- U.S. government obligations	\$ 32,872,296	\$ 32,872,296	\$ -	Aaa-mf/AAAm
U.S. agency obligations	13,365,606	4,114,545	9,251,061	Aaa/AA+
Negotiable certificates of deposit	17,142,166	8,981,058	8,161,108	Not Rated
	<u>\$ 63,380,068</u>	<u>\$ 45,967,899</u>	<u>\$ 17,412,169</u>	

***Interest Rate Risk*** - Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. MEAN's investment policy does not place a limit on the amount that may be invested in any one maturity category. The money market mutual funds are presented as an investment with a maturity of less than one year because they are redeemable in full immediately.

***Credit Risk*** - Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. MEAN's investment policy establishes requirements for certain investment securities or issuers of securities to be rated at certain rates or higher. The following investment types must be rated at the minimum rates noted below:

Commercial paper	A-1, P-1
Municipal bonds	AA-

***Custodial Credit Risk*** - For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a failure of the counterparty, MEAN would not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At March 31, 2019 and 2018, certain investments in U.S. agency obligations and negotiable certificates of deposit are held in safekeeping in MEAN's name, and in a broker account with MEAN's primary financial institution. Additionally, any investments held in trust at March 31, 2019 and 2018, are held in a book entry system in an account designated as a customer account at the Depository Trust Company and the custodian's internal records identifies MEAN as the owner.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 2: Deposits, Investments and Investment Return – Continued**

***Investments - Continued***

***Concentration of Credit Risk*** - Concentration of credit risk is the risk associated with the amount of investments MEAN has with any one issuer that exceeds 5% or more of its total investments. Investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government are excluded from this requirement. As of March 31, 2019 and 2018, each of MEAN's investments in negotiable certificates of deposit were covered by FDIC insurance, as the individual investments did not exceed \$250,000, and were therefore also excluded from this requirement. MEAN's investment policy limits the amount of its investment portfolio that may be invested in any one issuer, other than U.S. government securities, to 10%. Allocation limits do not apply to the investment of proceeds from the issuance of debt as these investments are governed by the debt instrument. All of the money market mutual funds held at March 31, 2019 and 2018 are invested with MEAN's primary financial depository. This financial depository also serves as MEAN's Trustee and writer on the credit facilities discussed in Note 6.

Concentrations greater than 5% at March 31, 2019 and 2018, are shown below:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
U.S. sponsored agency obligations		
Federal Home Loan Bank	5.09%	5.79%
Federal Farm Credit Bank	12.55%	9.01%

***Summary of Carrying Values***

The carrying values of deposits and investments shown above are included in the balance sheets at March 31, 2019 and 2018 as follows:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Carrying Value		
Deposits	\$ 2,914,419	\$ 4,235,223
Cash held with Trustee	-	2,660,394
Investments	<u>67,887,407</u>	<u>63,380,068</u>
	<u>\$ 70,801,826</u>	<u>\$ 70,275,685</u>



**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 2: Deposits, Investments and Investment Return – Continued**

***Summary of Carrying Values - Continued***

Included in the following balance sheet captions:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents		
Operating	\$ 26,921,100	\$ 25,170,986
Escrow	-	1,381,304
Rate stabilization fund	2,737,475	3,610,985
Debt service funds	<u>9,669,673</u>	<u>9,505,350</u>
Total	<u>39,328,248</u>	<u>39,668,625</u>
Short-term investments - rate stabilization fund	<u>8,725,909</u>	<u>8,981,058</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Long-term investments - rate stabilization fund	<u>9,519,623</u>	<u>8,649,810</u>
Restricted long-term investments		
Debt reserve funds	<u>13,228,046</u>	<u>12,976,192</u>
	<u>\$ 70,801,826</u>	<u>\$ 70,275,685</u>

***Investment Return***

Investment return for the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 consisted of interest income and the net change in fair value of investments carried at fair value of \$1,457,992 and \$492,668, respectively.

***Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities***

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value measurements must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. There is a hierarchy of three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

***Level 1*** – Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

***Level 2*** – Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

***Level 3*** – Unobservable inputs supported by little or no market activity and are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 2: Deposits, Investments and Investment Return – Continued**

***Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities- Continued***

Money market mutual funds are carried at cost, and thus are not included within the fair value hierarchy. MEAN's investments in U.S. agency obligations and negotiable certificates of deposit are measured at fair value on a recurring basis, and are classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy at March 31, 2019 and 2018.

**Note 3: Productive Capacity**

Productive capacity at March 31, 2019 and 2018 consisted of the following:

	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Retirements</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
<b>March 31, 2019</b>					
Steam production	\$ 190,646,532	\$ 6,024,441	\$ 132,189	\$ -	\$ 196,803,162
Transmission	10,493,911	16,131	(132,189)	-	10,377,853
	<u>201,140,443</u>	<u>6,040,572</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>207,181,015</u>
Less accumulated depreciation					
Steam production	(81,038,707)	(5,873,446)	(9,209)	-	(86,921,362)
Transmission	(1,938,331)	(188,477)	9,209	-	(2,117,599)
	<u>(82,977,038)</u>	<u>(6,061,923)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(89,038,961)</u>
Net productive capacity	<u>\$ 118,163,405</u>	<u>\$ (21,351)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 118,142,054</u>
<b>March 31, 2018</b>					
Steam production	\$ 187,768,389	\$ 2,542,196	\$ 335,947	\$ -	\$ 190,646,532
Wind production	13,710,067	-	-	(13,710,067)	-
Transmission	10,476,513	353,345	(335,947)	-	10,493,911
	<u>211,954,969</u>	<u>2,895,541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,710,067)</u>	<u>201,140,443</u>
Less accumulated depreciation					
Steam production	(75,209,286)	(5,761,608)	(67,813)	-	(81,038,707)
Wind production	(13,710,067)	-	-	13,710,067	-
Transmission	(1,807,382)	(198,762)	67,813	-	(1,938,331)
	<u>(90,726,735)</u>	<u>(5,960,370)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,710,067</u>	<u>(82,977,038)</u>
Net productive capacity	<u>\$ 121,228,234</u>	<u>\$ (3,064,829)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 118,163,405</u>

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 4: Capital Assets**

Capital assets at March 31, 2019 and 2018 consisted of the following:

	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Retirements</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
<b>March 31, 2019</b>				
Land	\$ 489,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 489,000
Buildings and improvements	5,147,328	-	-	5,147,328
Furniture, equipment and transportation equipment	<u>2,090,278</u>	<u>120,107</u>	<u>(180,507)</u>	<u>2,029,878</u>
	7,726,606	120,107	(180,507)	7,666,206
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,271,140)</u>	<u>(319,543)</u>	<u>174,495</u>	<u>(2,416,188)</u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$ 5,455,466</u>	<u>\$ (199,436)</u>	<u>\$ (6,012)</u>	<u>\$ 5,250,018</u>
<b>March 31, 2018</b>				
Land	\$ 489,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 489,000
Buildings and improvements	5,147,328	-	-	5,147,328
Furniture, equipment and transportation equipment	<u>2,109,886</u>	<u>219,172</u>	<u>(238,780)</u>	<u>2,090,278</u>
	7,746,214	219,172	(238,780)	7,726,606
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,149,666)</u>	<u>(360,254)</u>	<u>238,780</u>	<u>(2,271,140)</u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$ 5,596,548</u>	<u>\$ (141,082)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,455,466</u>

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 5: Costs Recoverable from Future Billings**

Costs recoverable from future billings are comprised primarily of costs related to certain purchases of productive capacity, improvements on productive capacity and projects in which MEAN is a participant. The costs consist of the cumulative difference between depreciation recorded on certain productive capacity (primarily LRS, WSEC 4 and Wygen I) and capital assets and principal payments on debt issued to construct or purchase those assets. Upon implementation of GASB Statement No. 65, costs recoverable from future billings include certain debt issuance costs that are budgeted to be recovered through future electric rates. Costs are being amortized in future rate periods when such costs are included in the revenue requirements to establish electric rates.

MEAN annually evaluates the probability that future revenues will be recognized through charging regulated rates to recover costs recoverable from future billings. As a result of this evaluation, no costs were removed in 2019 or 2018.

**Note 6: Credit Facilities**

***Line of Credit***

MEAN has a \$20,000,000 revolving line of credit which renewed May 31, 2017 for a three-year term through May 29, 2020. During the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, no funds were advanced against the line. Interest varies at one percent (1%) above Daily One Month LIBOR in effect from time to time and is payable monthly.

***Letters of Credit***

As financial security for MEAN's performance under certain financial transmission rights and transmission congestion rights in regional transmission organizations in which MEAN participates, MEAN has obtained two standby letters of credit totaling \$4,500,000 at March 31, 2019. The \$500,000 standby letter of credit was automatically renewed in April 2019, under an automatic annual renewal clause, to April 7, 2020. The \$4,000,000 standby letter of credit, expiring December 31, 2019, also includes an automatic annual renewal clause. The amount available under MEAN's revolving line of credit is reduced by the amount of the issued standby letters of credit.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 7: Long-term Debt**

Long-term debt transactions for the year ended March 31, 2019 consisted of the following:

Type of Debt	2019				
	April 1 2018	Additions	Reductions	March 31 2019	Due Within One Year
3.000% - 5.000% Power Supply System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2016A. Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1, from 2020 through 2038. Term principal payment due April 1, 2039. Mandatory sinking fund payments due annually April 1, 2036 through 2039. Redeemable at par on or after October 1, 2026.	\$ 68,905,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,905,000	\$ -
3.750% - 5.000% Power Supply System Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2013A. Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1, through 2019 and 2022 through 2025. Term principal payment due April 1, 2036. Mandatory sinking fund payments due annually April 1, 2033 through 2036. Redeemable at par on or after April 1, 2023.	28,755,000	-	1,310,000	27,445,000	1,375,000
2.389% - 3.319% Power Supply System Revenue Bonds, Series 2013B (Federally Taxable). Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1, through 2022.	4,860,000	-	985,000	3,875,000	1,005,000
5.000% Power Supply System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2012A. Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1 through 2032. Redeemable at par on or after April 1, 2022.	51,985,000	-	2,410,000	49,575,000	2,525,000
5.000% Power Supply System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2009A. Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1, 2018 and 2019.	2,550,000	-	1,240,000	1,310,000	1,310,000
Total long-term debt	157,055,000	-	5,945,000	151,110,000	6,215,000
Premium on long-term debt	16,411,654	-	966,795	15,444,858	-
Long-term debt, net	<u>\$ 173,466,654</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 6,911,795</u>	<u>\$ 166,554,858</u>	<u>\$ 6,215,000</u>

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 7: Long-term Debt - Continued**

Long-term debt transactions for the year ended March 31, 2018 consisted of the following:

Type of Debt	2018				
	April 1 2017	Additions	Reductions	March 31 2018	Due Within One Year
3.000% - 5.000% Power Supply System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2016A. Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1, from 2020 through 2038. Term principal payment due April 1, 2039. Mandatory sinking fund payments due annually April 1, 2036 through 2039. Redeemable at par on or after October 1, 2026.	\$ 68,905,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,905,000	\$ -
3.750% - 5.000% Power Supply System Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2013A. Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1, through 2019 and 2022 through 2025. Term principal payment due April 1, 2036. Mandatory sinking fund payments due annually April 1, 2033 through 2036. Redeemable at par on or after April 1, 2023.	30,015,000	-	1,260,000	28,755,000	1,310,000
1.670% - 3.319% Power Supply System Revenue Bonds, Series 2013B (Federally Taxable). Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1, through 2022.	5,835,000	-	975,000	4,860,000	985,000
5.000% Power Supply System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2012A. Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1 through 2032. Redeemable at par on or after April 1, 2022.	55,465,000	-	3,480,000	51,985,000	2,410,000
5.000% Power Supply System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2009A. Interest due semi-annually on April 1 and October 1. Serial principal payments due annually on April 1, 2018 and 2019.	2,550,000	-	-	2,550,000	1,240,000
Total long-term debt	162,770,000	-	5,715,000	157,055,000	5,945,000
Premium on long-term debt	17,378,450	-	966,796	16,411,654	-
Long-term debt, net	<u>\$ 180,148,450</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 6,681,796</u>	<u>\$ 173,466,654</u>	<u>\$ 5,945,000</u>

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 7: Long-term Debt - Continued**

Future principal and interest payments required to be made in accordance with all of the long-term debt agreements at March 31, 2019 are as follows:

<b>Year Ending March 31,</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Total</b>
2020	\$ 6,215,000	\$ 6,601,015	\$ 12,816,015
2021	5,090,000	6,343,098	11,433,098
2022	5,330,000	6,104,372	11,434,372
2023	5,575,000	5,850,073	11,425,073
2024	5,835,000	5,572,963	11,407,963
2025-2029	29,750,000	23,370,188	53,120,188
2030-2034	35,440,000	15,562,663	51,002,663
2035-2039	47,145,000	6,544,969	53,689,969
2040	10,730,000	160,950	10,890,950
	<u>\$ 151,110,000</u>	<u>\$ 76,110,291</u>	<u>\$ 227,220,291</u>

The Power Supply System Revenue Bonds listed above are special obligations of MEAN payable solely from and secured solely by a pledge of the Revenues, as defined in each applicable Bond Resolution, and certain other funds and amounts pursuant to each applicable Bond Resolution. The Revenues consist of all income from MEAN's Power Supply System.

**Note 8: Electric Energy Sales**

Electric energy sales for the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 were as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Long-term total requirements	\$ 102,104,383	\$ 103,466,783
Limited-term total requirements	11,347,672	11,162,001
Interchange sales	7,617,734	8,654,223
	<u>\$ 121,069,789</u>	<u>\$ 123,283,007</u>

As of March 31, 2019 and 2018, MEAN has sixty-nine participating municipal utilities. Each of the participating municipal utilities, which consist of Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa and Wyoming municipalities; a public power district in Nebraska; and a power authority in Colorado, has entered into the Electrical Resources Pooling Agreement with MEAN. MEAN provides power supply services under various service schedule agreements.

# **Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**

## **Notes to Financial Statements**

### **March 31, 2019 and 2018**

#### **Note 8: Electric Energy Sales – Continued**

##### ***Total Requirements***

As of March 31, 2019 and 2018, fifty-four participants have entered into long-term total requirements contracts. The long-term total requirements contracts extend through the final maturity of MEAN's outstanding long-term debt.

As of March 31, 2019 and 2018, seven participants have entered into limited-term total requirements contracts. The limited-term total requirements contracts vary in length, but are generally up to ten years. There were no additions to or expirations of contracts during 2019. There were no additions to or expirations of contracts during 2018; however, two participants extended their respective contracts for an additional five-year term.

The total requirements agreements require MEAN to supply and obligate the participants to purchase, all capacity and energy in excess of each participant's firm power and energy allocations from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and include limited exceptions for certain generating facilities of Waverly Utilities, Iowa and Aspen, Colorado.

MEAN has contracted to collect payments for WAPA power and energy purchased by certain participants and remits these payments to WAPA. Since MEAN is only acting as an agent, these amounts are not reflected as revenue or expense in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. These amounts totaled approximately \$5,343,000 and \$5,814,000 during 2019 and 2018, respectively.

##### ***Service Power and Market Assistance***

Each service power participant maintains full control and responsibility for its existing and future resources to meet its electric power and energy requirements. There were eight service power participants during 2019 and 2018 consisting of seven municipalities and one power authority. A service power participant may terminate participation by giving two years' written notice to MEAN.

MEAN provides scheduling services in Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Integrated Marketplace (IM) for three of the service power participants. During 2018, one additional municipal utility entered into a market assistance agreement in SPP with MEAN. Under the scheduling service and market assistance agreements, MEAN is paid an administrative fee for the services provided. The administrative fee is included in other operating revenues on the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. MEAN has contracted to collect and receive applicable payments for the municipalities participating in SPP IM and remit funds received to the municipalities and payments collected to SPP and other transmission providers, as applicable. Since MEAN is only acting as an agent, these amounts are not reflected as revenue or expense in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. The net amounts collected and received totaled approximately \$1,297,000 and \$2,722,000 during 2019 and 2018, respectively.



**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 8: Electric Energy Sales – Continued**

***Interchange Sales***

Interchange sales consist of short-to-medium term power sales agreements in and between the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) and SPP markets. In the MISO and SPP markets, MEAN records activity for each separately operated and settled market on an hourly basis. Net hourly energy transactions are evaluated on a net megawatt hour (MWh) basis to determine whether the hourly transaction should be classified as a net purchase or net sale.

**Note 9: Electric Energy Costs and Power Supply Commitments**

Electric energy costs for the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 were as follows:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Purchased power	\$ 72,939,957	\$ 75,523,861
Production	18,068,042	17,923,534
Transmission	<u>4,887,577</u>	<u>7,659,631</u>
	<u>\$ 95,895,576</u>	<u>\$ 101,107,026</u>

***Pooling Agreements***

Firm power service agreements allow for the purchase and sale of capacity and energy between MEAN and other power project participants at both fixed and variable rates under the applicable service schedules.

By execution of a firm power service agreement under the applicable service schedule, twenty participants have committed total capacity and energy output of participant-owned generating units (approximately 129 MW) to MEAN. The Service Schedule M, Total Power Requirements Power Purchase Agreements provide that compensation for generating plants committed to pooling will be based upon the facilities' accredited capability and will be paid at the rate established in the Rate Schedule as modified from time to time upon the determination of the Board of Directors of MEAN. MEAN will also pay a proportionate share of fuel and operation and maintenance costs based on energy actually delivered at rates established by the Management Committee and Board of Directors of MEAN. For Service Schedule K, K-1 and J Participants, these rates are to be established by the Management Committee. The remaining participants who have not committed their total energy resources are able to make sales of available surplus capacity as requested by MEAN at various negotiated rates. Costs related to participant committed facilities and energy output agreements are included in purchased power costs in the table of electric energy costs included in Note 9.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 9: Electric Energy Costs and Power Supply Commitments - Continued**

***Purchased Power Contracts and Participation Agreements***

In addition to ownership interests in energy generation facilities, MEAN has purchased power contracts that provide for the purchase of capacity and wholesale firm and nonfirm energy from suppliers at negotiated rates. Power is purchased primarily for resale to participants of the Electrical Resources Pooling Agreements. Costs related to purchased power contracts and participation agreements are included in purchased power costs in the table of electric energy costs included in Note 9.

***Western Area Power Administration***

MEAN has an allocation from the U.S. Department of Energy, through WAPA, of firm power under contract from Loveland Area Projects hydroelectric plants of approximately 7 MW. MEAN's contract has been extended by amendment and currently runs through 2054. Various MEAN participants also have allocations through WAPA totaling approximately 117 MW. MEAN has contracted to collect payments for WAPA power and energy purchased by certain participants and remits these payments to WAPA as discussed in Note 8.

***Public Power Generation Agency***

MEAN and other utilities created an interlocal agency, the Public Power Generation Agency (PPGA), for the construction of Whelan Energy Center Unit 2 (WEC 2), a 220 MW coal-fired power plant. MEAN signed a participation power agreement with PPGA for 80 MW (36.36%) of the power output for the life of the plant. Under this agreement, each PPGA participant guarantees an allocated portion of PPGA's debt, which is paid by monthly participant billings.

***Agreements with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)***

MEAN has entered into a multi-unit participation power sales agreement with NPPD for the purchase of 50 MW of power and energy from Gerald Gentleman Station and Cooper Nuclear Station which continues through December 31, 2023.

MEAN has entered into a 20-year participation power agreement with NPPD for the purchase of 7 MW of energy from the Ainsworth Wind Energy Facility. MEAN also participates in three Nebraska based wind plants through power sales agreements with NPPD: Laredo Ridge (8 MW), Elkhorn Ridge (8 MW) and Crofton Bluffs (4 MW). For each of these plants, NPPD has the actual power purchase agreement with the wind plant developer/owner.

***Agreement with Black Hills Power, Inc.***

MEAN has a power purchase agreement with Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHPL) which continues until May 31, 2028. The agreement includes an early termination option of May 31, 2023, with 180 days advance notice from MEAN. Under this agreement, BHPL provides MEAN with the capacity and related energy output from a total of 15 MW from Neil Simpson Unit 2 and Wygen Unit III through May 31, 2023 and a total of 10 MW from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2028. The MW from each unit varies over the life of the contract.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 9: Electric Energy Costs and Power Supply Commitments - Continued**

***Purchased Power Contracts and Participation Agreements - Continued***

***Agreement with Kimball Wind LLC***

MEAN has entered into a power purchase agreement with Kimball Wind LLC for the purchase of energy, capacity and environmental attributes produced by the newly constructed 30 MW Kimball Wind Facility near Kimball, Nebraska. MEAN's purchase obligation began on the commercial operation date in June 2018 and continues for an initial term of 20 years.

***Other Agreements***

MEAN has also entered into power supply participation agreements whereby MEAN has agreed to share in the energy output of various projects in accordance with the anticipated needs of MEAN's participants. These contracts include wind, coal, hydroelectric and landfill gas generated energy and vary from 4 to 10 MW's per year.

***Market Activity***

MEAN participates in MISO, SPP and WECC markets. MEAN incurs costs related to market purchases and receives generation revenues related to units dispatched into MISO and SPP. MEAN also incurs costs related to energy purchases in WECC. Auction revenue rights and transmission congestion rights in SPP and auction revenue rights and financial transmission rights in MISO may result in a net financial benefit or cost to MEAN. These financial instruments were primarily designed to allow firm transmission customers the opportunity to offset differences in market prices related to transmission congestion costs between resources and loads. The financial impact of all of these items are included in purchased power costs in the table of electric energy costs included in Note 9.

***Production***

Production costs consist of MEAN's ownership share of costs incurred to operate and maintain LRS, WSEC 4 and Wygen Unit 1.

***Transmission***

The transmission needs of MEAN and the total requirements participants are served by MISO, SPP and multiple transmission providers in the Western Interconnection. Transmission costs include network integration transmission service and point-to-point transmission service.

MEAN has contracted to collect payments for transmission service purchased on behalf of certain participants and remits these payments to the respective providers. Since MEAN is only acting as an agent, these amounts are not reflected as revenue or expense in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. The transmission service purchased by the participants, that MEAN was responsible for collecting and remitting to the respective transmission providers, totaled approximately \$15,348,000 and \$13,541,000 during 2019 and 2018, respectively.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 10: Transactions with Coalition Members**

MEAN, NMPP, NPGA and ACE through common members and management comprise a coalition. MEAN shares personnel and facilities within this coalition, as well as enters into agreements for certain products and services.

Amounts due from coalition members are included within accounts receivable and amounts due to coalition members are included in accounts payable and accrued expenses on the balance sheets.

A summary of amounts due from and due to coalition members at March 31, 2019 and 2018 is as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Due from NPGA	\$ 1,433	\$ 1,996
Due from ACE	1,836	2,564
Due from coalition members	\$ 3,269	\$ 4,560
Due to NMPP	\$ 805,701	\$ 627,068

MEAN incurred expenses of approximately \$7,720,000 and \$6,930,000 for administrative services provided by NMPP during 2019 and 2018, respectively.

MEAN supports the financial health and utility business management of MEAN's participating municipal utilities by paying a portion of the cost of computer software value support plans and cost of service studies purchased by qualifying MEAN participants from NMPP. During 2019 and 2018, MEAN paid NMPP, on behalf of MEAN's participants, approximately \$158,000 and \$149,000, respectively.

In 2019 and 2018, MEAN billed coalition members approximately \$97,000 and \$105,000, respectively, for the use of the operations and management facility, equipment, and furniture.

**Note 11: Risk Management**

MEAN is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions, injuries to employees and others; and natural disasters. MEAN is named as one of the insureds on joint policies for commercial insurance, subject to certain limits and deductibles, to reduce the financial impact for claims arising from such matters. None of the claims exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the three preceding years.

**Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2019 and 2018**

**Note 12: Significant Estimates and Concentrations**

***Environmental Regulations***

Electric utilities are subject to continuing environmental regulation. Federal, state and local standards and procedures which regulate the environmental impact of electric utilities are subject to change. These changes may arise from continuing legislative, regulatory, and judicial action regarding such standards and procedures. Consequently, there is no assurance that MEAN's facilities will remain subject to the regulations currently in effect, will meet future obligations without retrofit, that MEAN can anticipate the outcome of current regulatory and legislative process, or will always be able to obtain all required operating permits. Future changes in environmental regulations could result in MEAN incurring significant costs for additional capital and operating expenditures, reduced operating levels or the complete shutdown of individual units not in compliance. However, due to the level of regulatory and legal uncertainty related to MEAN's facilities, it is impractical to quantify any specific financial impacts at this time.

**Note 13: Contingencies**

***Claims and Judgments***

From time to time, MEAN is party to various claims, public records requests, and legal proceedings. Although the outcome of such matters cannot be forecasted with certainty, it is the opinion of management and legal counsel that the likelihood is remote that any such claims or proceedings will have a material adverse effect on the financial statements of MEAN.