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**Lafayette Utilities System electric operations manager receives public power service award**

**Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021** — Gregory Labbe, electric operations manager at Lafayette Utilities System in Lafayette, Louisiana, received the Harold Kramer-John Preston Personal Service Award during the American Public Power Association's National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The award recognizes individuals for their service to the American Public Power Association (APPA).

Gregory has contributed to many areas across public power, especially demonstrating great leadership in his activities around mutual aid. From coordinating the Louisiana responses to assisting utilities across the country, he has become a reliable resource in emergency response and disaster recovery. He played a key role in having the members of the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority sign a mutual aid agreement. That agreement allowed for the quick action and response following Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020.

In addition, Gregory sits on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority. He and his team regularly attend APPA's Engineering and Operations Conference, Lineworkers' Rodeo, National Conference, and are active supporters of APPA's Mutual Aid Working Group. In his more than 35 years with Lafayette Utilities System, he has been a staunch supporter of APPA, its programs, and its activities.

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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 93,000 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.*

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