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Borough of Hatfield, Pennsylvania borough manager receives national award

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 9, 2020 — Mike DeFinis, Borough Manager of the Borough of Hatfield, Pennsylvania, received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award during the American Public Power Association's Public Power Connect: Virtual Summit & Business Meeting. The award recognizes managers of small utilities serving fewer than 2,500 meters. These managers have a very small staff and must assume multiple roles. The seven hats they must wear are: planning and design, administration, public relations, field supervision, accounting, human resources, and community leadership.

Mike DeFinis began his service to Hatfield in 1994 as a member of the Borough Council. In 2009, he left council to accept the position of Borough Manager, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job. Mike oversaw efforts to modernize the borough's electric utility, including the installation of new advanced metering infrastructure and reciprocating internal combustion engine (RICE) peaking generation projects. These projects provide numerous financial and reliability benefits to businesses and residents. A large part DeFinis's responsibilities includes the direct oversight of Hatfield's public utilities, including the electric department. He tirelessly promotes public power — educating residents and businesses of the many benefits of the municipally owned power system. DeFinis is well known around the Borough for directly returning phone calls and emails from residents, setting up public meetings and taking the time on evenings and weekends to address the concerns of residents. DeFinis is known as a hands-on supervisor, working directly with Borough staff to ensure that projects and tasks are running smoothly. In addition to his public service, Mike does a great deal of work throughout the community in his private life, serving with the Hatfield Little League, the Hatfield Museum and Historical Society, the Hatfield Chamber of Commerce, and the Montgomery County Borough Association.

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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.