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**Village of Deshler, Ohio Utilities Superintendent receives national award**

**New Orleans, Louisiana, June 10, 2025** — Kirk Behrman, Utilities Superintendent for the Village of Deshler, Ohio, received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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.

Kirk has been the Utilities Superintendent for the Village of Deshler, Ohio, for 22 years, beginning his career as a lineworker. He is responsible for all major utility projects, including the planning and design of a second power feed for the community's distribution system in 2024. Kirk secured a $2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for improvements to the village's natural gas system. Additionally, he manages annual budgets for electric, water, and gas services, sets emergency funds, and oversees a diverse staff. His experience as a lineman provides him with valuable insights into employee responsibilities. Outside of his official capacity, Kirk provides a great deal of service to the community, serving as a volunteer firefighter and high school football coach. In 2024, he was honored with the AMP Seven Hats Award for exceptional management in communities with fewer than 2,500 meters.

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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.*