*Contact Tobias Sellier, Senior Director of Media Relations and Communications at* *TSellier@PublicPower.org* *or 202-467-2927*

**Retired SMMPA COO receives individual achievement award**

**San Diego, California, June 11, 2024** — Mark Mitchell, General Manager/Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, received the James D. Donovan Individual Achievement Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in San Diego, California. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the electric utility industry and to public power.

Mitchell worked for nearly forty years in the public power industry until his retirement in April 2024, first with Arizona Power Authority and Salt River Project before most recently serving for 13 years as Director of Operations and Chief Operating Officer with the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency. During this tenure, Mitchell oversaw the successful construction of two new energy stations to expand the agency’s generating capacity. Moreover, he contributed to the development and implementation of a plan outlining the Agency’s path to achieve an 80% carbon-free power supply by 2030. Mitchell has contributed to major regional initiatives, such as the CapX2020 transmission projects, in addition to providing leadership for Grid North Partners projects, for which his peers selected him to chair the Vision Team.

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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.*