

Turbocharged

For a company tied to the automotive industry, one might think IHI Turbo America (ITA) would be located in Detroit, Michigan. Instead, this expanding company planted its roots west of Shelbyville some 36 years ago.

Warner Ishi was formed in 1980 through a partnership with American-based Borg Warner and Japanese-based Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries. In 1984, Decatur-based Warner Ishi opened its manufacturing plant in Shelbyville, Illinois, to initially help build turbocharger engines for the Ford Thunderbird. After IHI and Borg Warner parted ways in 1998, Warner Ishi became ITA.

As global demand for high-quality, American-made products continued to grow, expansion was inevitable for this rural manufacturer. “As we continued to grow and expand, we obviously needed dependable, efficient electrical load, and our power supplier, Shelby Electric Cooperative, has been with us every step of the way and has been a valuable asset as we have continued to move forward,” noted ITA Director and Chief Operating Officer John Schuessler.

Shelby Electric Cooperative President and CEO Josh Shallenberger added, “It is important for the cooperative to improve our facilities to bring the required electrical capacity to meet their demand, so our team works closely with ITA. It is a great relationship and ITA is not only great for Shelby Electric consumers but also for the surrounding communities.”

Shelbyville Mayor Jeff Johnson commented, “IHI Turbo America has been a blessing to this community. Not only are they providing great jobs, along with the dollars that it pumps into our local economy, but the company and employees are actively involved in the Shelbyville area. It is truly a great partnership with a wonderful group of people.”

ITA employees are involved in many community organizations and activities. Over the years, ITA has supported or been involved with Shelby County CEO Class, Lake Shelbyville Balloonfest, Scarecrow Daze, Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, local fireworks, JFL, Festival of Lights, Shelby County Rescue Squad, and 4-H, just to name a few. “As a business thriving in this area, we think it is important to be community minded, and it just makes sense to be involved and support the Shelbyville area the best we can,” noted ITA Human Resources Manager Karen Logan. “Through our sister city program, we sponsor a high school student to be part of a visit to Okuwa, Japan. We alternate years, so this year we will send someone on this trip,” added Logan.

To meet the growth for a company that manufactures supercharger engines for Dodge, Jeep, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, and Mercury Marine, and turbocharger engines for Volkswagen, Honda, and Humvee General Engine Products; ITA has expanded to a point where they can have

up to 16 total assembly lines. Currently, six assembly lines are in operation. This growth also means increased employment with good paying jobs. Beginning with approximately 26 employees in 1984, ITA expects to have 160 employees by year’s end. By 2023, the employee base is expected to increase to 270. These jobs will be in manufacturing, engineering, and management.

Why does a company based out of Tokyo, Japan, with six other global manufacturing facilities, invest in a factory in rural Illinois? “It is the people. They are hardworking, dedicated employees with a great work ethic. This might sound cliché, but it is true,” noted Schuessler.

ITA designs and manufactures a full range of diesel, gasoline, and natural gas turbocharger products and accessories for the agricultural, industrial, marine, commercial truck, and military markets. They provide professional support from advanced engineering to mass production to customers in North and South America. Not bad for a small-town factory 455



- 1980** – Warner Ishi, founded in Decatur, Illinois, was a joint venture between Borg Warner and IHI
- 1984** – Manufacturing turbochargers for the Ford Thunderbird began in Shelbyville, Illinois
- 1998** – IHI parted ways with Borg Warner and became a wholly owned subsidiary
- 2004** – Started line of superchargers for Mercury Marine
- 2012** – Small expansion and the creation of 30 new jobs
- 2015** – Started building superchargers for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles
- 2018** – \$40 million expansion announced
- 2020** – Six assembly lines in operation with room for 16 total lines

Do you have a green box near your yard?

Driving down country roads or through towns and subdivisions, it is easy to see the power lines that bring electricity to homes and businesses. However, in some areas of the cooperative's service territory, the absence of power poles is noticeable due to electric lines being buried underground. You might see green boxes instead of poles, wires, and other equipment used to bring power to your home.

These green boxes, known as pad-mounted or padmount transformers, are part of the supply chain that helps provide power to your neighborhood. The boxes sit in an easement area, which allows utility workers access to them.

What are the green boxes for? Their job is to step down high-voltage electricity to a lower voltage, which is needed to supply the required power to many homes and businesses.

As you beautify your yard this spring and summer, Shelby Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity want to provide you with a few safety tips:

- Do not plant shrubs or trees close to green box transformers or other utility equipment. Limiting or restricting access to the box in your yard could delay restoration



work during an outage and create a serious safety hazard. We need a minimum of 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked), as well as ample clearance on the other three sides.

- Do not paint, enhance, block, or otherwise obstruct padmount transformers. By respecting all utility equipment, including meters and transformers, you can help keep the power on and your local line crews safe.
- Contact us with questions about landscaping around or installing fencing near a padmount transformer (or any other changes) to learn what is permitted. Utility vehicles and the tools linemen use need to have clear access to work on or to perform repairs caused by an outage or any other unforeseen situation.
- Contact us if the transformer becomes unlocked or if it, or any

other type of utility equipment, appears to be damaged.

- Call 811 prior to digging around a transformer and respect the clearance requirements previously noted. If you dig near a transformer (even if it is beyond the clearance requirements), you could inadvertently hit a live underground cable. Always call 811 prior to any digging.
- Keep a clear path to the transformer. Although the transformer seems like it is in "your yard," it is technically on an easement. Our workers need clear access to repair and maintain equipment to keep power running smoothly.

Contact us with any questions or concerns about the safety of padmount transformers. Always teach children that they should not sit on, open, or play around these green boxes.

SHELBY News

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Pay-by-Phone:
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Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden, or indoor plants.



Honoring cooperative lineworkers

If the power is on where you are reading this article, you likely have a lineworker to thank.

America's Electric Cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April every year as National Cooperative Lineworkers' Appreciation Day. Lineworkers serve on the front lines of our nation's energy needs. On April 13, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor these brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our farms, homes, and businesses. Whether they are restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature does not work around holidays, vacations, or birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

SEC depends upon our entire team to keep the cooperative running smoothly. We are proud to honor our 24 lineworkers that maintain 2,400 miles of power lines serving our member-consumers in all or parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon, and Shelby Counties.

SEC invites all co-op members to take a moment and say thank you to a lineworker for the important work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.



*#ThankALineman
on April 13*

Our lineworkers are fearless, committed, and critical to our success. We say THANK YOU to our line personnel:

Manager of Operations

Terry Oldham

Construction Superintendent

Brian Chevalier

Metering Foreman

Dave White

Foremen

Brad Wright
Andy McDonald

Linemen

Luke Brown
Cary Bryson
Matt Clark
Steve Darnell
Nick Dunaway
Roger Jones
Blake Knearem
Jake Kull
Nick Ray
Adam Schrock
Jamie Sharp
Nick Sloan
Blake Summers
Tyler Urbanski

Apprentice Linemen

Dalton Brown
Lucas Morse

Groundman

Daric Austin

Forestry Foreman

Jerry Johnston

Fleet Manager

Craig Atteberry



Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Digging

Since April is National Safe Digging Month, it is a great time to introduce you to JULIE. No, JULIE is not a new employee of Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC). JULIE is the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators. Not only are professional excavators required to call for utility locates, so are you!

State law requires that JULIE be notified at least two business days before digging begins. To contact JULIE, call 811 or go online for self-service options at www.illinois1call.com. JULIE personnel do not perform locating or marking services. They alert member utility companies, such as SEC, so each utility can mark property for safe digging. Calling Shelby Electric for a locate will not be sufficient. You will be directed to call 811.

Before you notify JULIE, mark the proposed site with white flags

or paint. After JULIE has been notified, each utility is responsible for locating and marking their own underground lines with paint or flags within the next two business days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays). Locate requests received after 4 p.m. are processed as if received at 8 a.m. the next business day. If you want to start your project on a weekend, remember to contact JULIE before 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Your digging project must begin within 14 days of your notification to JULIE.

It is important to understand that utility companies, such as SEC, only mark the underground lines that they own, not privately installed or owned lines. It is possible that you have both public and private utilities in your dig site area. SEC Operations Assistant Jami Boehm explained, “When we perform our locates through the JULIE request, our locates will be

for our lines only. Any lines that the homeowner buried are the responsibility of the homeowner.” Therefore, it is critical to call JULIE and not SEC. A few examples of private lines are:

- Electric lines installed after the meter
- Propane gas lines from the tank to the home or building
- Septic and well systems
- Internet lines
- Invisible fences

A list of private contract locators is available on the Illinois1call website.

Take the extra time to plan ahead and remember to contact JULIE. We want our members to remain safe while digging into their outdoor projects.

*~Marla Foor,
Communication Specialist
Source: Adam Schrock, SEC lineman*

What lines are considered private lines?

Private lines are maintained by the property owner and not the utility or service provider.

Private lines need to be located by an independent locator.



Water and sewer lines from the meter to the house are private lines.

Electric, gas, water, or communication lines that you or a contractor install are private lines.



ONLINE BILL PAY

Pay your bills online and monitor usage with the **smarthub app!**

