

# Rural Power

Electronic Edition

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

Vol. LVIX, No. 1 • January 9, 2009

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## Governor dissolves Kansas Energy Council

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed an executive order on the last day of 2008 to dissolve the Kansas Energy Council.

“For the past four years the Kansas Energy Council has provided the Legislature, my administration and the Kansas Corporation Commission with valuable information on energy issues,” she said in a news release.

She also praised the work of the council, stating that “we now have an in-depth understanding of the future base load power needs for Kansas, and an analysis of effective strategies for energy efficiency and conservation measures to reduce the demand for new energy.”

This state energy group was dissolved because the Governor felt that the council had become redundant with other entities that are also advising various branches of government on energy policy. She noted that the primary mission of advising the legislature, the KCC, and the executive branch had been duplicated by other groups.

The council members were notified about the executive order through an email sent by the council’s co-chair, Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson. Parkinson stated that the legislature recently formed its own joint committee, with the stated purpose of being the premier advisory group to the legislature and other branches of government on energy issues, and that the KCC has its own professional staff. He also said that the executive branch has beefed up policy advisors on energy issues, specifically

noting KEEP, the MGA process, and the Wind Working Group.

The council was originally formed by Gov. Bill Graves with 13 members. In 2004, Sebelius replaced it with a 23-member group, and then eventually expanded it to 34 members. The current council included legislators, environmentalists, and officials from utilities and the oil and gas industry.

“The action of the Governor was not unexpected as disbanding the council had been discussed at the last two meetings and council members had been surveyed on their views of whether the council should continue,” said council member Stuart Lowry, KEC’s executive vice president and general counsel and a member of the council.

House Utilities Chairman, Carl Holmes was disappointed with Sebelius’ decision. He said no other Kansas group matched the Council’s breadth of experience. “You may not have liked some of the recommendations coming out of it, depending on which side you were on, but those other groups don’t have all the players at the table,” he told the Topeka Capital Journal.

Rep. Josh Svaty, also a member of the council, said that in striving for unanimous policy statements the council avoided big issues such as global warming. Council co-chair, Ken Frahm said the Council should be credited for not advocating state limitations on carbon emissions potentially damaging to the economy.

## Cooperatives and FEMA meet to resolve ice storm issues

Additional meetings between FEMA and individual utilities suffering damage in the December 2007 ice storm are planned in the coming weeks. The meetings will provide both FEMA and the utilities an opportunity to reevaluate the appropriate

response to conductor damage caused by the storm.

The meetings follow the efforts of a working group of engineers, managers, and representatives from Kansas electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, FEMA, and the Kansas Department of

Emergency Management last month to resolve differences between recommendations made by utility engineers and the FEMA Joint Field Office for the 2007 disaster. The working group developed a draft methodology to

*Continued on p. 2*



## In Brief

### EPA ruling could speed up approval of coal plants

Officials weighing federal applications by utilities to build new coal-fired power plants cannot consider their greenhouse gas output, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency ruled last month. The ruling, by administrator Stephen Johnson responds to a decision made last month by the Environmental Appeals Board that had blocked the construction of a small new plant in eastern Utah. The Supreme Court ruled last year that the agency could regulate carbon dioxide, the most prevalent global warming gas, under existing law. But a memorandum issued by Johnson puts the agency on record saying that carbon dioxide is not a pollutant to be regulated when approving power plants.

*New York Times – 12/19/08*

### Promoters overstated benefit of wind farms

The British Wind Energy Association has scaled down its calculation for the amount of carbon dioxide emission that can be eliminated by using wind turbines. The move is a setback for the advocates of wind power, as it will be regarded as a concession that twice as many wind turbines as previously calculated will be needed to provide the same degree of reduction in Britain's carbon emissions. Experts previously calculated that to save 200 million tons of CO2 emissions by 2020 would require 50,000 wind turbines.

*UK Telegraph – 12/21/08*

### Phase one of Westar's high-capacity transmission line complete

Westar Energy's first phase of a high-capacity transmission line project in south-central Kansas is complete. Phase one of the new 345 kilovolt transmission line spans from Colwich to Hutchinson. Phase two of the transmission line project will extend the line from the Hutchinson area to Salina. Construction of that portion of the line will begin the first part of January 2009 and is expected to be completed by early to mid 2010.

*CNN Money – 12/22/08*

## Cooperative Calendar

January	16	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	24-27	KEC Annual Meeting, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
	27-28	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.

## KEC to host its 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

KEC's Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 26-27, 2009, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Two NRECA Board Leadership courses will be offered prior to the meeting on Jan. 24-25.

**Sat., January 24:** Board Leadership Course 968.1 *Advanced Rate Decisions: For Experienced Directors* will be taught by Rod Crile from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This course will enable directors to discuss and understand the complex issues that must be balanced when the board considers equity management and alternative rate philosophies and strategies. A luncheon will be served to the course attendees at noon.

**Sun., January 25:** Board Leadership Course 975.1 *Capital Credits: Legal and Financial Issues* will be taught by Rod Crile from noon - 6 p.m. This course explains the board's key responsibilities of adopting and implementing a capital credits policy. Lunch will not be provided.

An ice-cream social will be offered to the Annual Meeting attendees and guests from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**January 26-27:** The KEC Annual Meeting will begin Jan. 26 at 8 a.m. Speakers at the meeting will include Representative Mike O'Neal; Senator Steve Morris; Krista Gordon, Iberdrola

Energy; Nancy Jackson, Climate and Energy Project; Pat Parke, Midwest Energy; Tim Daugherty, National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame; Jerry Bingold, NRECA; Phil Irwin, Federated; Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council; and a special luncheon speaker who will be familiar to everyone.

Also available to the meeting attendees on Jan. 26 is the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual KEC Expo. Breaks and door prizes will be given in the Exhibition Hall.

A photo area will be available in the Exhibition Hall on Monday from 3 - 5 p.m. for any trustee or manager who would like a new photo in the annual KEC Directory.

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) will host its annual meeting and its annual silent auction on Jan. 26. For more information or to donate items, please contact Doug Jackson, Rolling Hills; Kirk Thompson, CMS; or Dave Holthaus, KEC.

A special KEC Auxiliary silent auction item is a hand-made quilt donated by Carolyn McNickle, wife of Twin Valley Director Ronald McNickle. This year's KEC Auxiliary raffle prizes include a rocking chair and a Boyds Bear throw. Raffle tickets are on sale now and will be available at the meeting.

## Cooperatives and FEMA test methodology, cont.

objectively evaluate damage to electric conductor. This methodology might be adopted as a national standard for FEMA. The methodology was tested this week on Bluestem's damage assessments.

The draft methodology developed during the meetings uses facility damage within a line section as an indicator of damage to the conductor. The use of this methodology in future storms would determine the data that would need to be gathered in the field at the time of an ice storm and how the data would be used

to determine the necessary permanent repairs.

The December working group meetings also resulted in an appropriate path for resolving the issues from the 2007 ice storm that would otherwise be raised on appeal before FEMA Region 7. Noting that the damage data needed to apply the draft methodology might not be readily available so long after the disaster, FEMA representatives committed to revisiting the information and recommendations initially submitted by the utilities.

## USDA announces Rural Energy for America Program grants

Electric cooperatives are asked to help spread the word about a USDA grant program for farmers and small businesses.

USDA's Rural Energy for America Program Grants (REAP) helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption, and it helps the nation meet its energy needs. This program allows for the purchase of renewable energy systems and energy efficient improvements.

To be eligible for this program, the agricultural producers directly involved in agricultural production and rural small businesses that meet the Small Business Administration size standards must dem-

onstrate financial need and the project must be located in a rural area. In addition, non-profit organizations and public entities are excluded from this grant.

The types of projects covered by this grant include energy efficiency projects, such as lighting and HVAC system replacements, and renewable energy projects, such as geothermal or solar installations.

For more information about the grant programs or how to apply, contact the USDA Rural Development offices in Kansas. For the contact information for the Garden City, Hays, Iola, Manhattan and Newton offices, visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks/offices.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks/offices.htm).

## Job Opportunities

### KEC seeks LCS&C instructor

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. is now accepting resumes for a loss control, safety and compliance (LCS&C) instructor. The position requires extensive travel and on-site safety training for line personnel in western Kansas.

Candidates must have a minimum of five years of journeyman lineman experience. Must be able to develop presentations and use PowerPoint, facilitate discussion and answer questions on safety and regulatory topics related to distribution electric utilities. Must have basic computer skills and be able to work with various media equipment. Some heavy lifting is required. CLCP designation is preferred.

This position offers excellent benefits including competitive pay and benefit package. A company vehicle is provided.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Larry Detwiler, KEC, PO Box 4267, Topeka, KS 66604, or email [ldetwiler@kec.org](mailto:ldetwiler@kec.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

### Missouri co-op seeks lineman

Atchison-Hold Electric has an immediate opening for a lineman to perform construction, maintenance, and repair work on distribution lines and related

facilities. Position requires high school diploma or equivalent, completion of a four-year certified apprenticeship program, a valid MO driver's license and DCL. Must be able to successfully pass a DOT physical and drug testing. We offer a competitive starting salary and an outstanding benefits package. Send resume to Jerry Clemens, Operations Supt., PO Box 160, Rock Port, MO 64482. EOE.

### South Dakota co-op seeks manager

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative seeks a successor for a retiring general manager. Position requires a degree in business, accounting, engineering, or utility-related area; and ten years of increasingly responsible supervisory experience. Must possess extensive knowledge of electric utility industry and the cooperative business model.

The general manager reports to a 9-person board, directs 22 employees, and oversees an electric co-op serving 2,400 members with 3,300 service sites. Codington-Clark offers an excellent compensation package of salary and benefits.

Apply by Feb. 16 by sending cover letter, resume, salary history and three professional references to Burns Law Office, PO Box 903, Watertown, SD 57201-0903, or email [tomburns@iw.net](mailto:tomburns@iw.net). EOE.

### Dave Campbell accepts Pratt Community College position

Dave Campbell, KEC's loss control, safety and compliance instructor, has accepted a teaching position with the lineman training program at Pratt Community College.



*Dave Campbell*

Campbell has served at KEC since Oct. 2000. He earned his Certified Loss Control Professional certification in 2004, and was responsible for on-site safety training for line personnel in western Kansas.

"Dave has done great work for us at KEC and, while we will miss him, we are grateful that he will be working to train the next generation of linemen and hopefully steering them toward employment with Kansas electric cooperatives," said Stuart Lowry, KEC's executive vice president.

## In Sympathy

### Henry F. "Hank" Pohl

Henry F. "Hank" Pohl, 81, of Atchison, KS, died December 26 at the Atchison Hospital. Henry served on the LJEC Board from 1980 - 2003. He is the father of current LJEC president Bill Pohl.

Funeral service were held on December 29. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society or the Diabetes Association and may be sent to the Becker-Dyer-Stanton Funeral Home, 800 Kansas Ave., Atchison, KS.

### Harold M. Anderson

Harold M. Anderson, retired manager of Smoky Valley Electric Cooperative, died December 24. Funeral services were held Dec. 11 at the Bethany Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, KS. Memorials may be sent to the church or to the Lions Club Vision Bus in Lindsborg.

## Leadership camp alum receives Hometown Health Hero honor

Brenda (Goetz) Pfizenmaier, a 1985 youth leadership camp alum sponsored by Western Cooperative Electric, was named as an honoree of the Healthy Kansas Hometown Health Hero Award from the Governor's Council on Fitness. Pfizenmaier, now a health educator for Ransom Memorial Hospital in Ottawa, is the sixth recipient of the award.

"This is indicative of the quality applicants that we receive at Western for the youth tour programs," said Dennis Deines, Western's manager of member services. "We've always known that the students selected for these trips will go on and become community leaders."

"It was a wonderful, wonderful camp that I attended many years ago and it is still dear to my heart, no doubt." Pfizenmaier said. "I learned a great deal about public speaking, professionalism, and so many things."

Pfizenmaier said she still remembers her interview at the cooperative.

"I will never forget interviewing for the trip. I was nervous as could be," she laughed.

Not only was she selected for the trip, but her peers also selected her to return the following year as a camp ambassador.

Pfizenmaier continues to be an ambassador, but now she promotes healthy living. As the nutrition and diabetes education director for Ransom Memorial Hospital, she has dedicated her career and personal time to health promotion. In addition to teaching aerobics and nutrition program for seniors, Pfizenmaier mentors her students, colleagues, friends, and neighbors through a positive approach to health including personal notes of encouragement and even early morning accountability phone calls.



### Win this rocking chair or a throw

Cooperative employees and trustees have an opportunity to take home a rocking chair or a Boyds Bears throw at the KEC Annual Meeting.

Tickets are available for \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. The raffle drawing will take place on January 26.

The rocker was donated by the KEC Auxiliary, and the throw was donated by Alfalfa. Proceeds from the raffle benefit KEC's youth programs.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Carol Dorr, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or email [cdorr@kec.org](mailto:cdorr@kec.org).

## Congratulations

### Charles Ayers appointed to CFC board

Congratulations to Charles Ayers, Wheatland trustee, who was selected by the CFC Board of Directors to fill Harold Foley's unexpired term.



*Charles Ayers*

Ayers was selected as the Kansas nominee during a special election at the December KEC Board meeting, and was appointed as the District 7 CFC Director-Director by the CFC District Nominating Committee during a conference call the next day.

District 7 encompasses Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas. Each district is represented by one director and one manager of an owner system. CFC directors are elected for three-year terms, and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. Ayer's appointed term will expire in 2009.

CFC's grassroots board of directors comprises 22 members representing 11 geographically defined districts in 49 states. The board members set policies, establish programs, and develop strategies for CFC.

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**Electronic Edition**

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