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Supporter Rally For Energy Legislation

About 70 electric cooperative trustees, managers and staff, along with representatives from two building and construction trades councils, rallied at the Kansas



Sunflower's Earl Watkins (far right) speaks to approximately 70 electric cooperatives and labor representatives who rallied at the Kansas State Capitol on February 18, 2008, to voice their support for Senate Bill 327.

State Capitol on Monday, February 18, 2008, to voice their support on the proposed legislation that would give a green light to the \$3.6 billion Holcomb Station expansion project.

The cooperative and labor representatives from across the state showed their unity by wearing stickers that read "Support Regulatory Certainty" or "Support the Rule of Law", and a pin that read "Support Kansas Jobs at Holcomb".

Their goal was to convince the legislators to support the passage of House Substitute for Senate Bill 327 in the Kansas House of Representatives.

The rally was opened by Earl Watkins, Sunflower's president and CEO, who stated



Sunflower's Steve Miller (far right) discusses the pending energy legislation with other electric cooperative employees at the State Capitol.

that Kansas must have sound energy policies and regulatory certainty to both assure reliable electricity and to promote a climate of economic prosperity.

"We

have the right to have jobs, we have the right to support our family, and we have the right to keep our kids at home by offering them jobs to come back to," Watkins said.

Next to speak was Richard Taylor, business manager of the Western Kansas Building and Construction Trades Council. He distributed a handout stating the number of jobs that the Holcomb expansion project would create for Kansas' skilled workers.

"This state-of-the-art plant will provide a tremendous amount of jobs," Taylor stated. "We're all concerned about the environment, but there's no reason this plant can't be approved."

Steve Miller, Sunflower's senior manager of external affairs, explained the importance of this bill.

"Provisions of both this and the house version of the bill would return regulatory certainty to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment permitting process, create a path for approval of the Holcomb Station expansion, and allow Kansas to continue to have some of the lowest electricity rates in the nation," Miller stated.

He said that the purpose of the rally was to raise support for this bill.

"Today's rally is truly grass roots advocacy
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In Brief

SPP Plan Calls for \$2.2 Billion in Grid Upgrades

The Southwest Power Pool has identified \$2.2 billion in transmission upgrades that need to be added to the system between 2008 and 2017.

The plan includes network upgrades that are required because of transmission service requests and generation interconnections with executed service agreements. The upgrades also meet reliability standards set by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. About 55% of the upgrades are for 1,758 new lines at a cost of approximately \$400 million in 2008 and \$400 million in 2009.

Megawatt Daily – 2/5/08

Oklahoma Utilities Describe Ruling as a Setback

Officials with Oklahoma's major utility companies are describing a recent federal court ruling on mercury emissions standards as a setback. Public Service Co. says it will delay improvements to a coal-fired power plant in northeast Oklahoma after the recent ruling by a federal court.

The U.S. Court of Appeals ruled the EPA violated the Clean Air Act when it created a cap and trade systems for mercury emissions from coal-fired plants.

The Associated Press – 2/9/08

Bank Puts a Price on Carbon

Another big bank is getting skittish about financing new coal-fired power plants amid a likely U.S. cap on global-warming emissions. Bank of America says it will factor a cost of CO₂ emissions into its decisions about whether to underwrite new coal-fired plants. Specifically, the bank says it anticipates a federal cap that would require a utility to pay between \$20 and \$40 for every ton of CO₂ emitted.

Bank of America's announcement comes a week after three other big banks – Citigroup, J.P. Morgan and Morgan Stanley – announced their own voluntary standards that those banks say will make them less likely to underwrite financing on conventional coal-fired power plants.

Wall Street Journal – 2/13/08

Cooperative Calendar

February	24-27	NRECA Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA.
	28	MDM Meeting, KEC Office, Topeka, 10 a.m.
March	5-6	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn, Salina.
	26	Touchstone Energy ElectroRally, Great Bend.
April	9	Sunflower Electric ElectroRally, Scott City.
	23	166.1 Understanding the New World of Power Supply for Employees, Hays.
	24-25	Kansas Member Services Director's Association (KMSDA) meeting, Hays.
	25	Kansas Line Superintendents Meeting, Salina.
	30-5/1	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Dodge City.

KEC Members' Annual Meetings

February	21	Brown-Atchison - Lunch at 11 a.m., Meeting at 12:45 p.m., co-op headquarters.
March	3	Bluestem – Meeting at 7:30 p.m., United Methodist Life Center, Clay Center.
	4	Nemaha-Marshall - Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Axtell American Legion.
	13	Butler – Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Circle High School, Towanda.
	15	Pioneer – Lunch at noon, Health Fair 7 a.m. - 11 a.m., Meeting at 1 p.m., Grant County Civic Center, Ulysses.
	25	Flint Hills – Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Centre High School, Lost Springs.
	25	Prairie Land – Lunch at noon, Meeting at 1 p.m., co-op headquarters, Norton.
	25	Heartland – Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., co-op headquarters, Girard.
April	25	Ninnescah – Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting - after dinner, Pratt Municipal Building.
	27	Doniphan – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Midway School, Denton.
	27	Radiant – Meeting at 7 p.m., Fredonia High School.
	31	Lyon-Coffey – Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Civic Auditorium, Emporia.
	1	Ark Valley – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Hutchinson Memorial Hall.
	2	Kaw Valley – Dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m., co-op headquarters, Topeka.
	2	Wheatland – Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Meeting at 12:30 p.m., Syracuse Fairgrounds.
	4	Twin Valley – Meeting at 7 p.m., Labette County High School, Altamont.
	5	Summer-Cowley – Lunch at 11:30 p.m., Meeting at 1 p.m., Wellington High School.
	8	Sedgwick County – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cotillion Hall, Wichita.
	8	DS&O – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Bicentennial Center, Salina.
May	11	CMS – Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Meade High School.
	11	Alfalfa – Dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cherokee High School.
	12	Victory – Health Fair 8 a.m. - 12, Lunch at noon, Meeting at 2 p.m., Dodge City Civic Center.
	18	Rolling Hills – Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., NCK Vo-Tech.
	1	KAMO Power, Reception 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Renaissance Hotel, Tulsa.
	6	Caney Valley – Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cedar Vale Gymnasium.
	9	Tri-County – Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 6 p.m., Texas City Activity Center, Guymon.
	14	Western – Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., co-op headquarters, WaKeeney.
July	16	Sunflower – 8 a.m., location TBD, Hays.
	9	Lane-Scott, TBD.
September	10	Leavenworth-Jefferson – Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., McLouth High School.
November	17	Midwest Energy - Meeting at 1:30 p.m., Sternberg Museum, Hays.
	19	Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) – Reception 5 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting immediately following Dinner, Prairie Band Casino, Meriden.

Leilani Todd Accepts VA Position

Leilani Todd, KEC's director of finance, has accepted the position of vice president of human resources with Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in Chase City, VA.



Leilani Todd

Her last day at KEC will be March 14.

Todd has served at KEC since Jan. 2001, and was responsible for accounting and human resources duties.

"Leilani will be missed, but she leaves KEC with our thanks for all her work," said Stuart Lowry, KEC's executive vice president. "We wish her and her family well in all of their future endeavors."

KEC to Participate in Career Fair

KEC will have a booth at the K-State Internship/Career Fair on March 5. This event is hosted by the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Criminology & Social Work, Civic Leadership Office and Career & Employment Services.

New Power Supply Course Offered for Cooperative Employees

KEC is offering the NRECA course 166.1 *Understanding the New World of Power Supply for Employees* on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Hampton Inn in Hays.

The course, specifically designed for employees, focuses on the "new world" that electric cooperatives face in which power supply decisions are more complex, involve greater risks and have greater cost consequences for consumers. This course explains why this new environment developed, why decision making is more complex, and how utilities can implement prudent risk assessment tools to limit their exposure to the inherent volatility in power supply.

Key topics include concepts associated with power generation and

Supporters Rally for Energy Legislation, *continued*

at its finest," he said. "We have cooperative board members and employees who have driven in from all over the state, we are working with the trades council, and we have a strong lobbying force. In my 25 years at the cooperatives, I've never witnessed all facets of our business to come together in this manner."

After the remarks from labor lead-

ers and cooperative officials, groups of cooperative and labor representatives were given a list of legislators to visit and to share handouts of talking points before the House members convened.

After a rancorous floor debate, the House gave first round approval to the this bill by a vote of 73-45. The bill will next go to a conference committee.

Job Opportunities

KEC Seeks Director of Finance

Candidates must possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting, finance, business administration or related field, and five years of accounting experience.

The position is responsible for budget planning, general accounting and financial reporting for a diverse multi-departmental organization. Applicants should have advanced spreadsheet skills, proven financial analysis abilities, and strong communication capabilities.

KEC provides a competitive salary and a benefit package. Provide resume with salary requirements to: Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., P.O. Box 4267, Topeka, KS 66604-0267. Or email: humanresources@kec.org.

KEC Offers Summer Internship

The KEC Summer Communications Intern will work on a variety of hands-on, portfolio building projects that support the Kansas electric cooperatives. Responsibilities include assisting with the publication of a monthly magazine, designing print materials, providing event support for youth programs, and more.

If you know of a junior or senior in college who is majoring in communications, journalism, marketing, public relations, or a related field, have them contact Shana Holsteen, sholsteen@kec.org, for a complete position description. Deadline is March 14. Interviews will be held in Topeka during the week of March 24. Start and end dates will be based on the successful applicant's academic schedule.

KEC Hosts FEMA Mitigation Strategies Webconference

On Feb. 5, KEC hosted a webconference for FEMA to discuss the available mitigation techniques to everyone involved in the December 2007 ice storm.

The presenter during the webconference was Edwin J. "Tip" Goodwin, PE, of PBSJ Corp. Goodwin prepared this report for FEMA.

Approximately 50 cooperative managers and key staff participated in the web conference, along with 20 representatives of FEMA and Kansas Department of Emergency Management.

A recording of the presentation is available online until March 5 at <https://cc.callinfo.com/play?id=8irn5w9o>. For a copy of the presentation, contact Carrie Kimberlin, KEC, at ckimberlin@kec.org.

Servicemen Take the Polar Bear Plunge



Servicemen Travis Ratcliff (left) and Mike Williams (center) braved chilly waters to raise funds for the Special Olympics.

Two servicemen from Lyon-Coffey's subsidiary business, LCEC Services, Inc., participated in the 2nd Annual Polar Bear Plunge, a fundraiser for the Special Olympics in Emporia.

On Feb. 16, Travis Ratcliff and Mike Williams, joined more than 100 other jumpers to raise \$25,000.

Also on their team were two of Ratcliff's daughters, Taylor and Tina, and a family friend, Charlie Schlotterbeck. They won the Best Team Costume.

The plunge into the icy waters of Mouse Lake was added last year as a fundraising event. It was one of eight events planned statewide in February.

Family's Tragedy Creates Mission to Teach Electrical Safety Lessons

Twelve-year old Caitlyn MacKenzie of Edwardsville, IL, died in June of 2007 from contact with household electrical current. As night fell after a day of swimming at the home of a family friend, she reached to reposition an ungrounded outdoor lamp, and received a heart-stopping electrical shock. Her family will never be the same, and they are determined to help teach others about electrical safety.

Caitlyn's story and the courage of her family to use their experience in hopes of preventing electrical tragedies is the subject of TLC, "Teach Learn Care." TLC is a long-term public service campaign created by Safe Electricity, a safety awareness education and outreach program of the Energy Education Council.

Caitlyn's father, Scott MacKenzie, recalls his disbelief at the events surrounding his daughter's death. "I never thought from a simple household electrical outlet that something like this could happen. Not in a million years. I want to let as many people know to be careful,

teach, learn because I don't want this happen to anyone else."

Caitlyn's father and stepmother Scott and Jamie MacKenzie, and mother and stepfather Teresa and Bob Orasco, worked with Safe Electricity to produce the campaign which is available for all Kansas electric cooperatives to use. TLC public service announcements for radio and TV as well as print are among the tools that will be used to disseminate the potentially life-saving messages about teaching loved ones about electrical safety. Many of the messages are also available in Spanish.

The compelling PSAs were produced with the families' own words. Teresa Orasco put it simply, "If you are not educated about electrical safety, become educated and educate your children, your grandchildren, nieces, nephews – anyone you can. It's important; you don't realize how important until tragedy strikes."

To learn more about Caitlyn's story visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



Caitlyn MacKenzie 1995 - 2007

Learn about
CAITYLN'S
story at



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