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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Kansas House passes comprehensive energy bill

The Kansas House of Representatives passed the House comprehensive energy bill, H. Sub. For HB 2014, on Feb. 27 with a vote of 79-44.

“This bill insures Kansans a dependable, clean base-load source of generation and supplies needed jobs and tax revenues,” explained KEC’s Dave Holthaus.

The bill as passed by the house will provide all cooperatives, including G&Ts an opportunity to vote on deregulation; include RPS and net metering, and will allow for regulatory certainty for coal power plant air permits.

However, Governor Kathleen Sebelius said she plans to veto the bill. “It would be beneficial for Kansas to make a clear public policy statement embracing a clean energy future, as my recommendations proposed, but tying these proposals to coal plants is not beneficial for our environment or for the health of Kansans,” she said in her statement.

“Because this bill faces a promised veto by the Governor, we must have 84 votes to overturn it,” stated Holthaus. “We

feel the 84 votes needed for the Governor’s veto override are out there, and we intend to ask.”

This week, the Senate is debating similar legislation with SB 265.

“The bill that passed the House last week may be gutted by the Senate this week and replaced with their own bill. We still have a lot more changes to come,” Holthaus said. “We feel legislators from all corners of the state are realizing this bill strikes a balance between clean energy and affordability.”

H. Sub. for HB 2014 – House Comprehensive Energy Bill

- Enact new law regarding fuel efficiency for state-owned motor vehicles and energy efficiency of state-owned and leased space and equipment.
- Enact a new law establishing a time frame for the Kansas Corporation Commission’s action on certificates of public convenience.
- Amend the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority Act authorizing collection of fees for certain activities and clarify other Authority powers.
- Amend existing law to authorize large electric cooperatives to be deregulated under certain circumstances.
- Enact the Renewable Energy Standards Act.
- Enact the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act.
- Amend the Kansas Air Quality Act in regard to its relationship to federal law and in regard to appeals from decisions of and energy powers of the Secretary of Health and Environment.
- Enact new law creating access by municipal and cooperative electric utilities to new base load electric generation capacity.

Todd Bailey joins Kansas Electric Cooperatives as LCS&C instructor

Todd Bailey has joined Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. as its new loss control, safety and compliance (LCS&C) instructor on March 1, 2009.

Bailey has served as a lineman in Nebraska for the past 18 years. He, along with his wife and their two grade-school-aged children, are relocating to western Kansas.

Bailey said that his wife actually is the one who spotted the



Todd Bailey

job announcement and encouraged him to apply.

“I wanted a change,” he stated. “I’ve worked for a small REA and for a big power company. I knew I had the qualifications for this job.”

Bailey said that he is extremely family oriented and loves fishing, softball, baseball. He and his family are hoping to relocate someplace where they can use their boat.

In Brief

Tiahrt asks Sebelius to permit clean-coal power plant construction

Congressman Todd Tiahrt sent a letter to Governor Kathleen Sebelius asking her to reconsider her opposition to the construction of two coal-powered electrical generating plants in Western Kansas in light of President Obama's \$2 billion earmark for a coal plant in his home state of Illinois.

The latest version of the economic stimulus package includes a \$2 billion earmark for a coal power plant in Mattoon, Ill., that represents the largest earmark project in history. Unlike using \$2 billion in taxpayer funds to construct a coal power plant in Ill., Tiahrt asks the governor to allow the private sector to move forward with its plans for two clean-coal power plants in Western Kansas that would not use tax-payer dollars.

American Chronicle - 2/15/09

Obama says Sebelius gets it

President Barack Obama hailed Governor Kathleen Sebelius, his choice to head the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for her deep sense of what's wrong with the nation's health care system.

Sebelius said she was uneasy about leaving Kansas in the middle of her second term as governor. But she welcomed the opportunity to participate in an effort to bring affordable, quality health care to all Americans.

Topeka Capital-Journal - 3/2/09

Tri-State looking at how it could be more efficient

The Colorado company wanting to build a coal-burning power plant in southwest Kansas has reached a settlement with an environmental advocacy group that will result in an extensive study on how the company could be more energy efficient.

The agreement between Tri-State and Environment Colorado could affect plans to build future plants, according to an official with Environment Colorado.

Lawrence Journal World - 2/9/09

Cooperative Calendar

March	18-19	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	20	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	23-25	Rural Electric Statewide Managers Association Meeting, Arlington, VA.
	25-27	KMSDA Meeting, Hotel Old Town, Wichita.
	26	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
April	15-16	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	17	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	23	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
	29-30	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
May	3-6	NRECA Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.
	5-7	Supervisors Conference, Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Mayetta.
	15	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	20-21	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.
	28	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

KEC Members' Annual Meetings

March	9	Bluestem - Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Wamego Middle School, Wamego.	
	12	Butler - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Circle High School, Towanda.	
	21	Pioneer - Lunch at noon, Health Fair 7 a.m. - 11 a.m., Meeting at 10 a.m., Grant County Civic Center, Ulysses.	
	24	Flint Hills - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Centre High School, Lost Springs.	
	24	Ninnescah - Dinner at 6:15 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Pratt Municipal Building.	
	24	Heartland - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:15 p.m., Jayhawk Lynn High School, Mound City.	
	26	Doniphan - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Midway School, Denton.	
	30	Lyon-Coffey - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Burlington High School.	
	31	Prairie Land - Lunch at noon, Meeting at 12:45 p.m., co-op hqtrs, Norton.	
	April	1	Kaw Valley - Dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m., co-op headquarters, Topeka.
1		Wheatland - Lunch at 11:30 a.m. (mountain time), Meeting at 12:30 p.m., Tribune Fairgrounds.	
3		Alfalfa - Dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cherokee High School.	
4		Sumner-Cowley - Lunch at 11:30 p.m., Meeting at 1 p.m., Wellington High School.	
7		Ark Valley - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Hutchinson Fairgrounds.	
9		Radiant - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., co-op headquarters, Fredonia.	
13		Sedgwick County - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cotillion Hall, Wichita.	
14		DS&O - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Bicentennial Center, Salina.	
14		Victory - Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m., Dodge City Civic Center.	
16		Twin Valley - Meeting at 7 p.m., Labette County High School, Altamont.	
May	17	CMS - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Protection High School.	
	17	Rolling Hills - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Beloit Vo-Tech.	
	5	Caney Valley - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Sedan Fairgrounds.	
	8	Tri-County - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 6 p.m., Texas City Activity Center, Guymon.	
	13	Western - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., co-op headquarters, WaKeeney.	
	15	Sunflower - 8 a.m., Prairie Land headquarters, Norton.	
	19	KAMO Power - meeting at 5 p.m., Chateau Hotel, Branson, MO.	
	July	14	Lane-Scott - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting following, Dighton Fairgrounds.
	September	9	LJEC - Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m. McLouth High School.
	November	16	Midwest Energy - Meeting at 1:30 p.m., Fort Hays State University, Hays.
18		Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m. Holiday Inn, Salina.	

Highlights from NRECA's 2009 Annual Meeting in New Orleans

The annual meetings of NRECA, CFC, Federated, NRTC and NCSC were held in New Orleans, LA, Feb. 11 – 18. Approximately 80 representatives from Kansas cooperatives joined nearly 9,000 annual meeting attendees.

Speaking before co-op leaders from around the nation, NRECA's Glenn English warned that federal climate change legislation will be terribly expensive and make electric bills less affordable for consumers. He encouraged cooperatives to engage with their members, to share with them the real life impact that changes in the industry will have on their power bills and to enlist them as grassroots advocates for affordable energy and climate policies.

He predicted that any success co-ops have in protecting consumers from excessive increases in their electric bills would be in direct proportion to the amount of political strength they could demonstrate in Washington.

Presentations and handouts are available at www.cooperative.com. More Kansas photos are posted at www.kec.org.



(Clockwise from top): Jacob Wagner, the Kansas representative to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council, carries the Kansas State flag during the opening ceremony. Ann Claassen, wife of Pioneer's Fred Claassen, tastes alligator. Shana Holsteen, KEC, poses with former American Idol contestant Brooke White during the American Co-op Idol entertainment night. Ralph and Linda Ohl, Sumner-Cowley, "wrestle" a gator at the NRTC reception. Terry Janson, Victory, gets in the Mardi Gras spirit. Several Kansans enjoy the CFC-sponsored breakfast.

Job Opportunities

Brown-Atchison seeks journeyman

Brown-Atchison is looking for a journeyman lineman or an apprentice(s) working toward the journeyman designation. Contact Jim Currie, Line Superintendent, at 785-486-2117 or e-mail qualifications to jcurrie@baelectric.com.

LJEC seeks two linemen

Leavenworth Jefferson Electric Co-op is seeking two journeyman linemen to work primarily on a construction crew for the duration needed to construct 230 miles of primary infrastructure.

Positions require a high school di-

ploma or equivalent, a valid KS driver's license and CDL. Must be able to successfully pass a DOT physical and drug testing.

Linemen must have completed a four-year certified apprenticeship program. Merchants course is a benefit. LJEC serves 8,400 meters in five counties. McLouth is located 20 miles west of the Kansas Speedway and Legends Mall.

LJEC offers a competitive starting salary and an outstanding benefits package. Send resume by March 20, 2009 to HR Department, PO Box 70, McLouth, KS 66054. EOE.

In Sympathy

Quentin Herring

Quentin Herring, former KEC Trustee and Board President at Doniphan, passed away on Feb. 22, 2009.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 26 at the Community of Christ Church in Fanning. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Quentin Herring Memorial Fund, which may be sent in care of the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, PO Box 33, Highland, KS 66035.



Quentin Herring

KEC offers two member services courses

Two half-day courses will be offered for cooperative employees in conjunction with the spring Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) spring meeting on March 26 in Wichita.

NRECA consultant Jean Freeman will facilitate both the 361.05 Implementing Member Services Best Practices course and the 359.05 Communicating to Exceed Member Expectations course.

The first module is designed to illustrate the best practices of today's leading providers of member service. The second module demonstrates how clear and accurate communication can go a long way toward improving service to members. If cooperatives can relay a detailed picture of the services the co-op provides, the long-term benefits will be great and members will feel valued, understood, and involved.

To register, go to www.kec.org. The registration fee for both courses is \$250 for non-KMSDA members and \$225 for KMSDA members. The registration deadline has been extended to March 6, 2009.

For reservations at Hotel Old Town, call (316) 267-4800 and ask for the KMSDA rate: \$119 for queen, \$129 for king.

If you have any questions please contact Shana Holsteen at sholsteen@kec.org or call (785) 478-4554.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Brown-Atchison

The Brown-Atchison annual meeting was held February 26 at the cooperative's headquarters in Horton. Approximately 300 members enjoyed lunch and entertainment prior to the meeting.

David Hinton was re-elected to a three-year-term to the Board of Trustees.

Joe Taliaferro was elected to a three year term, replacing Dale Bodenhausen, who did not stand for re-election.

Daryl Sales was elected to a three-year-term, replacing the late Harold Foley on the Board.

Stuart Lowry of KEC and Alexandria Leach, winner of the 2008 youth

tour, were the guest speakers.

Harold Foley was remembered for his service to the Board and his picture graced the cover of the annual meeting program. Dale Bodenhausen was honored for his 37 years serving on the Board of Trustees.



Board president Kevin Gigstad (left) presents Dale Bodenhausen a plaque commemorating his 37 years of service to the cooperative.

New tools available to help your members save with the stimulus

With the passing of the stimulus bill, cooperatives have a unique opportunity to help members on real pocketbook issues.

Touchstone Energy has produced a series of informational public service messages about critical portions of the new federal stimulus package. The TV and radio messages focus on how co-ops and their members can take advantage of substantial new energy efficiency incentives. In addition, NRECA has produced a complete written communications kit to pair with the public service messages.

Also, a new website will help Kansans take advantage of the federal stimulus package. The website, www.governor.ks.gov/recovery, currently focuses on five specific areas: tax cuts; modernize roads, bridges, transit and waterways; education; lower health care costs; and clean, efficient American energy.

RuralPower

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