

RURAL POWER

Electronic Edition



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Cooperatives: United We Stand

April 25, 2003

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Governor Sebelius Signs "Sunflower Electric Bill"

Governor Sebelius signed the Substitute for Senate Bill 104 (Sub SB 104) on April 21. This bill, originally introduced in the Senate Utilities Committee at the request of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, would allow regulated public utilities to request pre-approval of rate-making principles before they enter into contracts to buy power from or participate in the construction of a new power plant.

This bill is an improvement over the current regulatory policies requiring utilities to make investments before they are allowed to ask the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) for rate recovery of their investment. This pre-approval will allow utilities to negotiate favorable financing terms and will also prevent the uncertainty of rate recovery from negatively affecting their bond ratings.

Steve Miller, Sunflower Electric's Senior Manager of External Affairs, said, "Sunflower Electric proposed this legislation because as the development of the Sand Sage project has matured, we've learned that the two primary hurdles we face in selling the output of the new plant are transmission constraints throughout the region and the availability of reasonably-priced credit for those utilities in Kansas who want to either invest in the plant or secure a long-term purchased power contract."

Miller added, "Sub SB 104 will go a long way toward resolving the credit problems for Kansas utilities because they will know how their investment or contracts will be treated before they sign contracts with the Sand Sage project."

Miller explained that throughout the legislation process, strong collaboration was developed among Sunflower Electric, the majority of Kansas utilities, the KCC, and

members of the Legislature.

"Sen. Stan Clark, Senate Utilities Chair, and his committee saw the importance of this bill," said Dave Holthaus, KEC's Manager of Government Relations. "On short notice, they passed the bill over to the House. House Utilities Chairman Carl Holmes and his committee agreed the bill would be beneficial to Kansans and passed it out of the House committee."

Holthaus explained that this bill, by helping electric utilities to predetermine ratemaking principles on new generation, or new or upgraded transmission lines, will create jobs and boost economic development in Kansas.

"Everyone came to this party with very specific ideas about this concept and everyone was willing to work together to craft legislation that is "win-win" for everyone," Miller said. "It was a long, but productive example of how people working together in good faith can reach agreements that benefit the State as a whole."

Now that Sub SB 104 has been signed, Sunflower continues to work toward solving the regional transmission difficulties, come to terms with the Kansas utilities interested in the project and take those proposals to the KCC for its approval. Once these steps have been completed, the participating utilities can approach the credit markets with confidence with the expectation that they will be able to receive market-priced capital unconstrained by the uncertainties of the old regulatory models.

Miller stated, "We certainly appreciate the contributions to this process made by Bruce Graham (KEPCo); and Dave Holthaus, Stuart Lowry and Barry Hart (all from KEC). They were prominent players in this process and aided our cause tremendously."



Have an idea or
a story for
Rural Power?

Call (785) 478-4554

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Cooperative Calendar

April	25	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	28-30	NRTC's 5th Annual InfoComm Conference, Nashville, TN.
	30	KEC Standing Committee Meetings Holiday Inn, Great Bend
May	1	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn, Great Bend, 8:30 a.m.
	1	KEC Women's Executive Committee, Holiday Inn, Great Bend 8:30 a.m.
	2	ElectroRally Race, Dodge City.
	3-4	Kansas Sampler Festival, Riverside Park, Independence, KS.
	4-7	NRECA Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.
	4-5	NRECA's National Orientation for New Communicators, Arlington, VA.
	5-9	NRECA's Human Resource/Benefit Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.
	16	KEPCo Board Meeting, Holcomb Rec Center, Holcomb, 8:30 a.m.
	16	Sunflower Board Meeting, Holcomb Rec Center, Holcomb, 8:30 a.m.
	21-23	KEC Marketing Conference, Radisson Broadview, Wichita.
June	22	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	31	Touchstone Energy ElectroRally, Forbes Field, Topeka.
	5-6	Kansas REC Managers Association Meeting, Salina.
	12-19	"Government In Action" Youth Tour, Washington, D.C.
July	19	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	24-25	Administrative Workshop, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	13-16	MMS&C Conference, Reno, NV
August	17	KEPCo Board Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	18	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	19-25	Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, Steamboat Springs, CO.
	24	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	27-30	NRECA / ECA Tax, Accounting & Finance Conference, Chicago, IL.
	2-4	KEC Summer Board Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.
September	7-8	Kansas Material Managers Assoc. Meeting, Country Inn & Suites, Salina.
	15	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	21	KEPCo Board Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	28	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	11-12	Kansas REC Managers Association Meeting, Garden City.
September	13	Kansas Electric Cooperatives State Fair Day.
	18	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	19	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	25	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	25-26	Kansas Line Supervisors Meeting, Manhattan.

Upcoming Workshops

NRTC's 5th Annual InfoComm

Discover a clear path to the latest technologies available to rural utilities at InfoComm 2003, April 28-30, in Nashville, TN.

InfoComm provides access to leading-edge products and services as well as industry experts to help you create more opportunities for your members and customers. For more information, call Jennifer Brunski at 703-464-5211 or e-mail infocomm@nrtc.org.

KEC Board of Trustees Meeting

The KEC Board of Trustees Meeting is May 1 at the Holiday Inn - Great Bend. KEC has a block of rooms at the rate of \$64.00 for the night of April 30. Phone number is 620-792-2431. Committees meeting are as follows: 1:00 p.m. - Legislative Committee, 2:00 p.m. - Policies and Bylaws Committee, and 3:30 p.m. - Communications Committee. The hospitality reception, sponsored by Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative and Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, is scheduled from 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Summer School for Directors

Summer School is a great way to learn about roles and responsibilities, governance issues and board-manager relations: June 6-11 in VA; July 18-23 in WY; and Aug. 15-20 in MO. Develop your schedule by selecting courses from both the CCD series and the Board Leadership series. For more info, contact Shana Holsteen.

NRECA's MMS&C Conference

Attend the Marketing, Member Services & Communications Conference, July 13-16 in Reno, NV to learn about marketing and communication tools! For more info, go to www.cooperative.com!

KEC Marketing Conference

The KEC Marketing Conference and Vendor Trade Show will be held May 21-23, 2003, at the Radisson Broadview Hotel in Wichita, KS!

This conference is designed for managers, member services managers, and co-op employees. We have a wonderful program with excellent speakers and vendors lined up! Watch the mail for your invitation to this event!

News from Kansas Cooperatives

Bruce Graham Elected as CREC Vice President

The Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC) recently announced the names of new council representatives and its slate of officers for the coming year. Bruce Graham, KEPCo, has been a member of the 16-member CREC board for three years and was recently elected as the board's Vice President. Graham served as Secretary/Treasurer last year.



Bruce Graham

Comprised of electric cooperative communicators from throughout the nation, the council works to advance the recognition, education and professionalism of communicators of electric cooperatives and their affiliated organizations.

New council members include Allegra Brigham, MS, who will serve as a distribution cooperative representative; Derwood Brett, AR, who will serve as a distribution cooperative representative; James

Donahue, AZ, who will serve as a statewide representative and Chris Tryba, IN, who will serve as a G&T representative. Graham also serves as a G&T representative.

Other officers recently elected are Nell Thomas, CA who was re-elected as council president; and Mary Laurent, LA, who was elected secretary-treasurer.

Through NRECA, the Council of Rural Electric Communicators provides educational, enrichment and training opportunities through three main programs: the Certified Cooperative Communicator program, a professional certification process for communicators within the electric cooperative industry; the Spotlight on Excellence awards program which recognizes outstanding communication work produced by electric cooperative communicators; and the National Orientation for New Communicators program which is a comprehensive two-day introduction available to new cooperative communicators designed to acquaint them with the issues facing the industry today and the resources available to them.

Kansas Wheat Commission Guide

In order to promote quality breads made from Kansas wheat, The Kansas Wheat Commission has created a 72-page "Best of Breads and restaurant guide".

Free copies can be ordered by calling 877-75WHEAT. It is also available at www.kswheat.com. On the website, click "What's New" and then click "Best of Breads".

Typically the largest wheat producing state, Kansas produced nearly one-fifth of all wheat grown in the United States. Recent annual average wheat production in Kansas has been about 409 million bushels.

This guide includes:

- A sample of bakeries and restaurants that have been recommended by customers.
- Locations where you can find breads made with Kansas wheat.
- Breads made with Kansas wheat that are for retail sale.
- A special "Baker's Dozen" promotion.

Enjoy the history and breads listed in the "Best of Breads."

Ark Valley and Touchstone Energy Implement Doug Rye Show

The *Doug Rye Show* can now be heard every Sunday at 9 a.m. on KWBW 1450 AM (Hutchinson).

Doug Rye is known for providing guided insight into construction ideas and energy efficiency. Ark Valley and Touchstone Energy are proud to sponsor his radio show in Kansas.

Doug Rye has been called the "King of Caulk and Talk", and the Walter Mathau or the Will Rogers of energy. He is one of the best known residential energy consultants in the

nation.

Doug attended the University of Arkansas where he received a

bachelor's degree in architecture. He has spent the past 25 years in the energy business. Doug

worked 30 years for the FHA as the State architect in Arkansas.

Upon resigning from the FHA, Doug began his own business and with the combination of his techniques and expertise, he has helped people nationwide with building and

remodeling of the most energy efficient structures possible.

Bob Hall, Ark Valley Manager, said, "I think the *Doug Rye Show* is a practical way for cooperatives to inform their members and the general public about smart ways to save their energy dollars. After all, we are in this for our consumers."

For more information about the radio show, visit Doug Rye's website at www.dougrye.com. Doug Rye will be the featured Key Note Speaker at the KEC Marketing Conference and Trade Show, May 21-23, in Wichita.

"If you build a house with high energy costs, it's your own cotton pickin' fault!"
-- from Doug Rye's show

Kansas Co-op Annual Meeting Highlights

Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The Sumner-Cowley Electric Annual Meeting was held April 12 in Wellington at the Wellington Senior High School. Board members, their wives and staff members cooked and served hamburgers and hotdogs to around 200. Approximately 93 members were in attendance. Ralph Ohl and Max Lowrey were re-elected to the Board. John Schon from Argonia was elected to the position previously held by Max Kolarik, a director since 1972. Seven scholarships were awarded and coupons for \$4,000 in free electricity were distributed.

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The 65th Annual Meeting of the members of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on April 8th at the Prairie Land headquarters in Norton, KS. Almost 400 members, guests, and employees were on hand for dinner and the meeting. Among the guests introduced to the crowd was Libby Holste of Ludell, KS who will represent Prairie Land Electric at the "Government in Action" Youth Tour trip to Washington, DC this coming June.

Three incumbent trustees were re-elected to serve on the Prairie Land board. They are Don Solko of Herndon, KS; Ken Carter of Jennings, KS; and Leonard Paxson of Hill City, KS. The same officers will serve on Prairie Land's board as last year.

Guest speaker Lewis Baumgartner, "The World's Worst Farmer", kept the crowd laughing with his amusing anecdotes that portrayed the message that it's always a good thing to laugh, and it's particularly good if you can laugh at yourself.

Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Victory Electric Cooperative had 202 members present at their 58th Annual Meeting held on April 15th at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Dodge City. They served approximately 425 people a KC strip, baked potato, salad and homemade pie dinner.

Trustees re-elected for another 3 year term were Carl Hubbell and Marvin Hampton. Lee Cole was elected to the position previously held by John Durler.

Youth Tour winners were announced during the meeting. Celina Konrade and Nolan Chance will be going to Washington DC. Roger Bach and Sheila Everhart will be going to Colorado Springs, CO.

Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.

586 members registered at the meeting with approximately 1,200 served at the meal. The Bylaws revisions were overwhelmingly approved. There were no board elections as the incumbents Kent McMahan, Mr. Rexroat and Mr. Lawrence were unopposed. The current officers of the AEC Trustees were retained for another year. Travis Cox, Jr. of Cherokee was the winner of the \$500 grand prize.

Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative Assn, Inc.

Flint Hills 65th annual meeting was held March 25 at Centre High School in Lost Springs. The Centre honor choir and pianist Andrea Carison entertained. There were approximately 350 meals served to the 155 registered members, their families and guests.

Elected to the board were: Dale Andres, Alta Vista; Gary Burton, White City; Gus Hamm, Tampa; Allen Pankratz, Marion.

The following guests were introduced by President John Roniger: Steve Parr, executive vice president from Kansas Electric Power Cooperatives (KEPCo); Phil Wages, KEPCo member services and marketing coordinator; and Shana Holsteen, director of communications from KEC.

KEC Members' Annual Meetings

April	25	Twin Valley – Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Harrison Auditorium, Labette County High School, Altamont.
	25	Rolling Hills - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the NCK Technical School in Beloit.
May	6	Caney Valley – Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Chautauqua County Fairgrounds, Sedan.
	14	Western – Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Cooperative Office, 635 S. 13th St., WaKeeney.
	16	Sunflower Annual Meeting, Holcomb Rec Center, Holcomb, 8:00 a.m.
July	15	Lane-Scott – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Lane County Fair Grounds, Dighton.
September	10	Leavenworth-Jefferson – Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at McLouth High School Purple Gymnasium, McLouth.
November	19	Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) – Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting immediately following Dinner, Holiday Inn, Salina.

Electric Cooperative Employment Opportunities

Texas Distribution Co-op Seeks Communications Director

United Cooperative Services in Cleburne, TX, is seeking a Communications Director.

The position will develop and implement the communications program including ad campaigns, newsletters, brochures, pamphlets and web site development. This position will plan, coordinate and direct the preparation of material for publication, review material, conduct presentations and education programs, and write articles.

United Cooperative Services has approximately 64,000 connected meters, 46,300 members, and 8,900 miles of line in 14 counties.

For more information, contact United Cooperative Services (254) 918-6119.

Indiana G&T Co-op Seeks Communications Specialist

Hoosier Energy is seeking a Communications Specialist to produce print, electronic and other communications materials, assist in planning meetings and special events, and provide support to internal and external customers. A bachelor's degree in journalism, communications or related field and at least three years experience is required. Strong writing, desktop publishing, photography and project coordination skills. Working knowledge of Macintosh computers and Quark Express, PhotoShop, Illustrator and Microsoft software.

Hoosier Energy is a generation and transmission co-op serving southern Indiana. Competitive salary and benefits plan. Send cover letter and resume by mail or e-mail to: Hoosier Energy REC, Inc., PO Box 908, Bloomington, IN 47402. Or e-mail rjohnson@HEPN.com.

Iowa Co-op Seeks Finance/Office Manager

Chariton Valley Electric Co-op, (CVREC) Albia, Iowa, is presently accepting applications for the position of Finance/Office Manager. CVREC serves over 5,700 electric meters in Southeastern Iowa.

This position plans, coordinates, and controls all accounting and billing activities of CVREC and its subsidiaries. The position oversees all consumer transactions and records, monitors cash, receivables, delinquents, and customer accounts. The position performs accounting and billing functions, and assists General Manager/CEO in the approval of all records and reports.

The successful candidate will direct benefits administration and human resource record keeping, assist with Board meeting preparation, direct investment of funds, applications for loan funds, budgeting and financial forecast preparation.

The Finance/Office Manager is a member of the management team, and reports directly to the General Manager.

Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in business, accounting, or a related field, and demonstrated experience in running a business office are preferred. RUS accounting experience helpful. This position offers an extremely competitive salary and excellent benefits. This position will remain open until filled.

Send inquiries and applications to Todd E Culley, General Manager, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 486, Albia, Iowa 52531; 641-932-7126.

Wisconsin Distribution Co-op Seeks General Manager

Oconto Electric Co-op, Oconto Falls, is seeking a general manager.

Oconto, located 35 miles north of Green Bay, serves 8,800 meter in four northeastern Wisconsin counties, over 1,300 miles of distribution line, 60 miles of transmission line, and eight substations. Oconto has a seven-member board and 29 employees.

Must have senior management experience within the electric utility industry, including knowledge of power supply, engineering, and operations management. Needs strong expertise in staffing and managing an organization, finance/budgeting, goal setting and strategic planning. Must possess excellent communication and people skills, strong leadership ability, and dedication to economic/ industrial development. Labor contract negotiation experience, knowledge of software system design, and hydro plant operations experience a plus. College degree or equivalent.

Looking for individual with an understanding of issues involved in deregulation of the electric utility industry, with the experience and skills to work with the board, staff, and community. Must have ability to bring innovative ideas to the position as they relate to industry changes and a competitive marketplace.

Submit cover letter, resume, salary history, and six professional and three personal references by May 31 to: Langely and Associates Executive Search, Inc., PO Box 261606, Highlands Ranch, CO, 80163-1606. Phone: (303) 694-2228, Fax: (303) 694-2216.

**Check out the KEC Calendar
on-line at www.kec.org!**



Touchstone Energy® Update

Strut Your Stuff as the Touchstone Energy Co-op of the Week

Show how your co-op is promoting the Touchstone Energy brand and serving your community. Beginning in June, each week a different Touchstone Energy member will be featured on the Touchstone Energy Web site as “Co-op of the Week.” While not a contest, it’s an opportunity for cooperatives to share their Touchstone Energy branding and community service efforts with the entire national alliance.

A link to the Touchstone Energy Co-op of the Week’s home page and a brief description of the co-op’s branding efforts will reside on the Touchstone Energy home page www.touchstoneenergy.coop. Please send information to Marty Haught at marty.haught@nreca.org.

Touchstone Energy PSA to Air on Discovery Channel

The Discovery Channel will soon begin airing a message featuring the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Discovery Channel School project to teach middle school students about electricity and co-ops.

Developed by Touchstone Energy, the public service announcement features a teacher explaining the benefits of the *Get Charged!* educational kit, which is available to middle schools in Touchstone Energy co-op communities. So far, co-ops have ordered more than 3,000 of the kits.

Beginning this week, the announcement will run during Discovery Channel’s “Cable in the Classroom” show, which airs nationwide at 8 a.m. It has a potential audience of 86 million households that receive the Discovery Channel broadcast, as well as 85,000 public and private schools.

Touchstone Energy and Discovery Channel Schools last year entered into an exclusive five-year educational strategic partnership to bring the *Get Charged!* project to middle schools. The broadcast message complements a new Touchstone Energy television spot featuring a teacher explaining co-ops’ commitment to the communities they serve.

New Web Site Helps Co-ops Advance the Brand

Touchstone Energy has created the site www.advancingthebrand.coop to help educate co-op members about the value of cooperative membership. Each quarter, cooperatives can access a new set of high-quality print materials simply by logging on to the site and placing an order.

“Trust” is the theme of the first communications series. The materials include print ads in various sizes for co-op newsletters and newspapers, bill stuffers, posters, counter cards, newsletter stories, CEO columns and more, all of which support the messages and visual images presented in Touchstone Energy television and radio advertising. So get online and access www.advancingthebrand.coop! For more information, contact Marie Jepson at 703.907.5627 or at marie.jepson@nreca.org.

Support Our Troops!

Following is a list of men and women with ties to the Kansas electric cooperatives currently serving in the military. Encouragement is requested for these brave soldiers and their families.

Brett Henry, son of Ark Valley Journeyman Greg Henry, was heading north out of Kuwait two weeks ago. Brett is a US Army Reserves Specialist in the 425th Transportation Unit hauling fuel for tanks in Iraq. He was called up in January, out of Salina to Ft. Riley, through Germany, to Kuwait. Brett is a 22-year-old student at Fort Hays State when he is not serving in the military.

USAF Capt. Les Hauck, the son of Sunflower Electric's President/CEO Chris Hauck, wrote an article for the web edition of the *Combat Edge*. He’s an F-16 pilot who was detached from his squadron to serve as Chief of Safety for one of the Air Expeditionary Wings in the Gulf. To view his article, go to http://www2.acc.af.mil/combat-edge/current_issue/Stories/0403story2.htm.

Pioneer Electric salutes the men and women who live, or who have family, in Pioneer's service area: Angela Aeschliman, Heath Bonnell, Corporal Ben Englert, Kai Englert, Matthew L. Gould, Nathanael W. Gould, Casey A. Grove, Heath W. Hazen, Aaron Jason Houtsma, Cory Lewis, Chad Maguire, Danual R. Murray, Justin Peterson, James E. Scrapper, Christina J. Sukach, Michael Sukach, and Michael Worsley.