

# Rural Power

Electronic Edition

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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## Compromise reached on Holcomb expansion

An agreement has been reached between Gov. Mark Parkinson and Sunflower Electric Power Cooperation to allow the Holcomb expansion to move forward with the construction of

one 895-megawatt coal plant instead of the two units that were once planned. After two years has passed, Sunflower may then apply for a second unit.

“After the bill becomes a law, we will work with KDHE to resume the permitting process so a construction air permit will be issued,” stated Clare Gustin of Sunflower Electric.

“We are pleased to work with Gov. Parkinson as this proposal meets the base load needs of the region and will promote the development of renewable energy in Kansas,” Earl Watkins, Sunflower President and CEO, said.

“The proposal will allow our out-of-state cooperative partners to participate in the project in a smaller way while preserving the 200 megawatts needed by Kansas cooperatives and municipal utilities,” Watkins added.

To help promote the Holcomb expansion and provide support for Sunflower, a May 1 rally was held outside the south steps of the Statehouse in Topeka. Sen. Sam Brownback, Rep. Todd Tiahrt and Rep. Lynn Jenkins addressed the crowd trying to gain support for overriding former Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’s veto of the bill for the Holcomb Expansion.

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event, which was billed as a “rally



Members of electric cooperatives, farm, labor, and business groups participated in the Statehouse rally on May 1. Many supporters carried signs as Congressman Todd Tiahrt spoke to the crowd.

for Kansas jobs.” With more than 150 people in attendance the turnout was positive reinforcement for the supporters.

The 10 speakers at the event included Amy Blankenbiller, president of the

Kansas Chamber; Rep. Mike O’Neal, speaker of the Kansas House and Sen. Steve Morris, president of the Kansas Senate. They asked rally-goers to encourage legislators who might be undecided on the issue to override Sebelius’ veto.

This project is estimated to create more than 1,500 jobs at the peak of its 46-month construction cycle. The agreement between the Governor’s Administration and Sunflower Electric is contingent upon the Legislature’s passage of the Comprehensive Energy Package proposed by Parkinson and then-Governor Kathleen Sebelius in January.

Visit the KEC website at [www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org) for more information on the Holcomb expansion.



From left: Dan O’Brien, Kaw Valley, speaks with Sen. Sam Brownback at the May 1 rally.

## In Brief

### FTC will grant three-month delay of enforcement of 'Red Flags' rule

The Federal Trade Commission will delay enforcement of the new "Red Flags Rule" until August 1, 2009, to give creditors and financial institutions more time to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs. For entities that have a low risk of identity theft, such as businesses that know their customers personally, the Commission will soon release a template to help them comply with the law. Today's announcement does not affect other federal agencies' enforcement of the original November 1, 2008 compliance deadline for institutions subject to their oversight.

*FTC News Release – 4/30/09*

### Wind power growth in 2008 exceeded past decade

Wind power is generating a storm of investment with the growth in global wind capacity for 2008 alone exceeding the average growth rate for the past 10 years.

Global wind capacity increased an estimated 27,051 MW in 2008, ending the year at 120,798 MW, according to the latest research from Washington-based research group Worldwatch Institute. This represented a growth of 29% in 2008 with the U.S. overtaking Germany as the world's leading wind power generator.

*Reliable Plant – 5/17/09*

### President Obama supports sustainable energy options

President Obama announced steps to further his Administration's commitment to advance biofuels research and commercialization. Specifically, he signed a Presidential Directive establishing a Biofuels Interagency Working Group, announced additional Recovery Act funds for renewable fuel projects, and also announced his Administration's notice of a Proposed Rulemaking on the Renewable Fuel Standard.

*White House Media Affairs – 5/5/09*

## Cooperative Calendar

May	25	Memorial Day – KEC office closed.
	28	MDM Meeting, KEC headquarters, Topeka.
	29	KEC Legislative Committee conference call, 9:30 a.m.
June	4-5	REC Managers Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.
	10-12	RESMA Meeting, Rapid City, South Dakota.
	11-18	Government in Action Youth Tour, Washington, D.C.
	19	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	22	KEC Attorney's Meeting, KEC headquarters, Topeka.
July	25	MDM Meeting, KEC headquarters, Topeka.
	3	KEC office closed.
	11-17	Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, Steamboat Springs, CO.
	14	Lane-Scott – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting following, Dighton Fairgrounds.
	15-16	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo headquarters, Topeka.
	17	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower headquarters, Hays.
	21-22	CFC BudgetPro Workshop, Sedgwick County headquarters, Cheney.
23-24	CFC BudgetPro Workshop, Sunflower headquarters, Hays.	
	30	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

## Upcoming Training

### CFC BudgetPro workshop

KEC and CFC will host two BudgetPro workshops. The first is scheduled for July 21-22 at Sedgwick County's headquarters in Cheney. The second will be July 23-24 at Sunflower's headquarters in Hays.

Registration is required as space is limited. The cost to attend is \$30 per person, which will be billed after the training. The purpose of the workshop is to learn how to prepare a 12-month operating budget for your distribution cooperative using a CFC-created spreadsheet template.

Attendees should have a basic understanding of the RUS Uniform System of Accounts and the operation of Microsoft Excel 2003 or higher. Attendees should bring a laptop computer to the workshop. A flash drive with operating instructions will be provided at the workshop.

More details on this workshop will be mailed to each member-system. For more information, please contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at 785-478-4554.

### KEC Summer Board Meeting training

KEC is proud to offer two new NRECA Board Leadership Courses prior to the Summer Board Meeting in Overland Park.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, Greg Boudreaux will facilitate *938.1 Effective Boards: Why Some Succeed and Some Fail*.

This course is for directors who will work in small groups to analyze actual case studies in corporate governance. The groups will review news articles and governance documents involving real corporate boards that came to receive a great deal of public scrutiny and law suits brought by owners and investigations by committees of Congress.

On Sunday, Aug. 2, Wallace Barron will facilitate *972.1 Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Demand Response in Today's Cooperative*.

This course helps directors understand the basics of energy efficiency technologies and how they must be integrated into the utility's strategic plan and coordinated with power suppliers. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the potential impacts on utility revenues and expenses.

More information about these courses, as well as a registration form, will be sent to the cooperative systems in the next couple of weeks. For more information about any NRECA training course or individual attendance records, please call Shana Holsteen, KEC, at 785-478-4554 or email [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).

## Kansas cooperative representatives discuss issues on Capitol Hill

A delegation of 23 Kansas electric cooperative trustees, managers, and key staff discussed energy issues with Congressional Representatives, Senators, and staff during the NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., May 4-5.

This year's conference focused largely on the Waxman-Markey climate bill. NRECA is urging Congress to reject calls to auction CO<sub>2</sub> emission allowances. President Obama's suggestion for an auction with an assumed price of \$20 per ton would cost the state of Kansas an estimated \$1.4 billion annually.

Other issues addressed during the conference included the Renewable Electricity Standard, the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, and support for the Rural Utilities Service, including a call to restore funding for loans for base-load generation.

The Kansas attendees at the Legislative Conference included Joe Conley, Perry Rubart, Ken Maginley, Phil Wages, Loren Ochs, Earnie Lehman, Judy Barten, Allan Miller, Kirk Thompson, Jerry King, Pat Morse, Les Evans, Scott Whittington, John Leis, Ken Schulte, Don Hellwig, Steve Foss, Ron Holsteen, Dale Coomes, Mike Rogers, and Cliff Friesen along with KEC's Dave Holthaus and Stuart Lowry.

## Annual Meeting Highlights

### Caney Valley

Despite rainy weather, close to 500 members and guests turned out for Caney Valley's 61<sup>st</sup> annual meeting held at the Sedan Fairgrounds on May 5.

Fred McAdam, Dwane Kessinger and Mack Chrisman were re-elected to the board. KEPCo's Steve Parr spoke to the membership. Scholarship and youth tour winners were announced. Entertainment was provided by the Sedan High School Choir.

### Tri-County

Tri-County's annual meeting was held in Guymon on May 8. Nearly 650 members attended the meeting.

Members heard from Jim Bausell, Touchstone Energy, and attended an energy efficiency fair. Trustee elections were held at the district meetings in March. Re-elected were Ronny White, CJ Mouser and Larry Hodges.

### Western

Western held its 64<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in WaKeeney on May 13. There were 111 registered members, and more than 300 members and guests enjoyed the meal prepared by Bigge's Country Kitchen of

Stockton.

Re-elected to the board were Melvin Keller, Craig Crossland, and Larry Evans. Guest speakers included youth tour winners. KEC's Dave Holthaus updated the membership on pending legislative issues and Sunflower's CEO Earl Watkins informed the group about the recent approval of the Holcomb expansion.

### Sunflower

Sunflower held its 52<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting at Prairie Land headquarters in Norton on May 15.

Matt Dugan, project development manager for Bechtel, presented a report on new generation projects around the world.

Following the board meeting, the board re-elected Loren Ochs as chairman and Larry Evans as vice chairman.

### KAMO

Approximately 275 members and guests attended the annual meeting of KAMO Power on May 19 in Branson, MO.

Six member systems were re-elected to three-year terms: Max Walters, Raymond Nettles, William Mills, PD Kircher, Joe Lynn Carson, and John J Murray.

## Cooperative representatives assist with the 2009 Kansas ElectroRally Championship

The Kansas ElectroRally Series showcased student-built electric vehicles on May 9 in the High School State Championship in Clearwater.

Assisting with the race were Brian Dreiling, Midwest Energy; Ronald McNickle, Twin Valley; Nikki Pfannenstiel, Sunflower; and Phillip Shelley, Wheatland.

The event involved teams from high schools throughout Kansas that have spent the past year designing and building their electric vehicles.

The cars are single person, with three or four wheels, aerodynamic and operate at a high efficiency. All of the cars are powered by deep-cycle lead acid battery packs with a maximum weight of 64 pounds. Students are encouraged to be



*The Ulysses High School vehicle, sponsored by Pioneer, races in the Kansas state championship.*

Photo by Brian Dreiling, Midwest Energy

creative and inventive when designing their vehicles.

The ElectroRally is based on time and distance, and the team that completes the most laps in one hour wins the race. In this competition, strategy is as important as speed. Students drive fast to complete many laps, or go slower to conserve battery and complete the entire distance. Some ElectroRally vehicles can reach speeds in excess of 30 mph and travel up to 25 miles in a one-hour period.

The first three placing in the experimental race were two Scott City teams in first and second, with Campus in third place. In the standard class the first three placing were Scott City, and two Hays teams with second and third place finishes.

## Sara Kentzler joins KEC

Sara Kentzler was recently hired by KEC to fill the position of Communications Intern.

Kentzler is a senior at Kansas State University seeking a degree in Mass Communications and Anthropology. She will be assisting the communications staff with the magazine, Kansas Country Living, youth programs and various communication activities for KEC.



Sara Kentzler

"This internship is going to be a great learning experience for me," she said. "I will have the opportunity to work in a professional atmosphere before graduation, which will be invaluable."

A native of Atchison, Kentzler comes to KEC with experience in writing, editing and design. She has worked for various newspapers and magazines throughout her collegiate career.

"I enjoy new challenges, and this internship will add to my understanding and knowledge of rural Kansas," she said. "It will be a great way to spend the summer."

In addition to studying, Kentzler said she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and taking her dog on walks.

## Spring storms cause damage to Kansas electric cooperatives

Scattered storms produced 90 mph straight-line winds and tornadoes on May 7, causing damage to several Kansas electric cooperatives. Heartland, Twin Valley, Radiant, Butler, and Caney Valley all received damage from these storms.

The damage at Heartland and Twin Valley was extensive enough to require mutual aid. Bluestem, DS&O, Kaw Valley, LJEC, and Lyon Coffey sent crews and equipment to assist with restoration. The bulk of the restoration was completed by May 10.



Remains of a grain bin lie scattered as Heartland linemen Mark Taylor and Cody Conwell replace poles damaged during the May 8 wind storm.

Photo by Ron Graber, Heartland

## Job Opportunities

### Ninnescah seeks general manager

Due to a retirement, Ninnescah's Board of Trustees is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of General Manager.

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of five years of senior-level experience, preferably within the rural electric program. The Board seeks candidates with broad electric utility management experience including strategic planning, finance, operations, member communications and board relations. The successful candidate will have excellent people and communication skills, proven leadership ability and a strong commitment to teamwork.

Ninnescah has 20 employees serving almost 4,000 meters over 2,100 miles of distribution and transmission line. The cooperative's headquarters is

located in Pratt, KS, which has a population of 6,500. Ninnescah offers excellent NRECA retirement plans, competitive benefit programs and a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications.

Send resume with three professional references and salary history by June 30 to: Carla Bickel, Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, PO Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124 or email [cbickel@ninnescah.com](mailto:cbickel@ninnescah.com). EOE.

### Colorado cooperative seeks finance manager

Poudre Valley Rural Electric, Fort Collins, CO, has a position open for Manager of Finance/Corporate Services. Applications can be found at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com).

Submit application along with a resume to Duane Ziller, PO Box 272550, Fort Collins, CO 80527-2550.

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