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Utilities brace for action on Senate energy bill

Kansas utilities are keeping close watch this week on high-level talks aimed at passing a comprehensive energy bill in the U.S. Senate.

The Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill passed the House of Representatives narrowly last month. If passed by the Senate, the bill would set a cap on carbon emissions starting in 2012 and would decrease the amount of carbon emissions by 15 percent by the year 2020.

Kansas electric cooperatives, IOU's and municipalities appear to be in agreement that the House-approved bill will increase costs. According to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office, the legislation would increase the amount Americans have to pay for their energy by an annual average of \$175 per household.

"We object strenuously to the CBO projections of cost increases and think the increases will be substantially higher," said Earl Watkins, Sunflower's president and CEO. "In addition, the Waxman-Markey bill contains carbon sequestration requirements that cannot be attained with existing technology and will make new coal plant development virtually impossible."

Details on exactly what Senate Democrats

plan to write into their version of the climate bill remain unclear. However, they have stated that they want to have legislative text ready for public release yet this month.

"The Kansas cooperatives will work in partnership with the utilities and Kansas Senate offices as consideration of the bill moves forward to make sure all impacts of the legislation to consumers are known," said Stuart Lowry, KEC's executive vice president and general counsel.

NRECA had worked extensively with members of Congress on the House bill. One of the primary problems with the bill, according to NRECA, was the allowance allocation formula. It resulted in utilities from some parts of the country, including the Midwest, not receiving sufficient allowances, while utilities from other parts of the country receiving more than needed.

NRECA's Glenn English met several times with the leadership from both the House Agriculture and Energy and Commerce committees to adjust the allocation formula. With this agreement, NRECA agreed not to stand in the way of the bill's passage, but did not support the bill.

High winds cause damage to Caney Valley's transmission lines

Caney Valley received extensive damage on June 27 when tornado-like winds reaching over 100 miles per hour tore through its system.

The cooperative lost 22 poles on the 69KV transmission line running west of Cedar Vale. This line also contained a three-phase distribution underbuild that went down. In addition, the cooperative lost 10 three-phase distribution poles and experienced several other smaller storm-related problems. Early damage assessments



By re-routing power, Caney Valley linemen quickly restored power to its members following the June 27 storm.

are estimated to be around \$500,000.

"Several linemen interrupted their weekend to assist," said Caney Valley manager, Allen Zadorozny. "Office personnel helped coordinate and identify which consumers were needing power restored. This accomplished restoring power to all those affected within 48 hours."

"It's a good example of coming together as a group to get the job done well and promptly," Zadorozny added.

In Brief

Climate bill could hurt oil

A landmark climate and energy bill could spark investment in renewable energy, but could prove disastrous for the local oil and gas industry, leaders on both sides of the issue said.

The U.S. House narrowly passed the climate bill last month, calling for the nation's first limits on pollution linked to global warming. The bill would require the U.S. to reduce emissions by 17 percent by 2020 and by 80 percent by 2050.

Don Briggs, president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association, said the bill would cause a "continuous slowdown in oil and gas exploration" as industries move to countries that do not have controls on greenhouse gases.

Money spent to reduce pollution would ultimately be passed on to consumers, resulting in higher utility bills and gasoline prices, he said.

"This is one of the biggest taxes that's ever been put on the American citizens," Briggs said. "It's disguised as a good thing, but in reality, consumers will pay for it."

The Advertiser.com - 7/1/09

DOE to provide \$408 million in funding for carbon capture pilots at two coal plants

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said July 1 that the Department of Energy has selected a project in North Dakota and another in southern California to test carbon capture and storage technologies designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions at two coal-fired power plants.

The company sponsors are Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Hydrogen Energy International, LLC.

The two projects are eligible for a combined total of \$408 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Pub. 111-5), the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill passed in February.

The proposals will employ different technologies with the goal of achieving at least 90 percent carbon capture efficiency.

Bureau of National Affairs - 7/2/09

Cooperative Calendar

July	11-17	Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, Steamboat Springs, CO.
	14-16	Commercial Energy Auditing Workshop, KEC headquarters, Topeka.
	14	Lane-Scott Annual Meeting - 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.
August	30	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
	1	NRECA Board Leadership Course - 938.1 Effective Boards: Why Some Succeed and Some Fail, Overland Park Marriott. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
	2	NRECA Board Leadership Course - 972.1 Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Demand Response in Today's Cooperative, Overland Park Marriott - 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
	3	KEC Summer Board Meeting, Overland Park Marriott.
	6-7	Kansas Material Managers Association Meeting, Overland Park Marriott.
	19-20	KEPCo Board of Trustees meeting, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.

Upcoming Training

CFC BudgetPro workshop

KEC and CFC will host two BudgetPro workshops: July 21-22 at Sedgwick County in Cheney, and July 23-24 at Sunflower in Hays.

Registration is required as space is limited. The only openings at this time are at the Hays workshop.

The purpose of the workshop is to learn how to prepare a 12-month operating budget for your distribution cooperative using a 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.

For more information, please contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at 785-478-4554.

Commercial energy auditing workshop

Energy expenses are a substantial cost of doing business for small commercial customers. Energy audits are one of the services most requested by commercial and industrial customers to help identify potential energy savings measures.

KEC is offering a commercial energy auditing workshop, July 14-16, at the KEC headquarters in Topeka. This 2.5 day workshop, facilitated by Jim Heri-

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*.

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

Registration for these courses has been sent to each member cooperative.

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.

tage, is your chance to learn how to put together an effective energy audit report.

This training is structured so that you may walk away with actual groundwork for conducting a small commercial customer energy audit the next day! Homework is given the first and second nights, so come prepared to learn!

To register or for more information, email Shana Holsteen, KEC, at sholsteen@kec.org.

Cooperative youth to attend Colorado leadership camp

Twenty-six Kansas high school students will join youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 11-17 in Steamboat Springs, CO.

During their week-long stay, the students will create a complete cooperative based on the product of candy. They will establish a board of trustees and a general manager that will hold daily membership meetings. When students arrive at camp, they will elect the board and manager and pay dues. In the evenings, they will market their product at the canteen. At the end of the week the group will decide how to handle any profit margins.

The campers will also take part in legislative presentations, a light and high voltage display and a competition to build a transmission line. They will explore the Steamboat Village, Old Town Steamboat Springs and tour the Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

Kansas students selected to attend the "Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp" are: Sierra Hatfield and Tesica Starkey, Alfalfa; Jessica Albers, Butler; Cale Ellis, Erin Champlin, and Ben Bellar, Caney Valley; Kyle Foerschler, DS&O; Jared Stieben and Chase Rein, Lane-Scott; Katlin Walbridge and Molly Adams, LJEC; Greg Howard, Nemaha-Marshall; Destiny Wendland, Ninescah; Keltin Wiens and Lena VanWinkle, Pioneer;

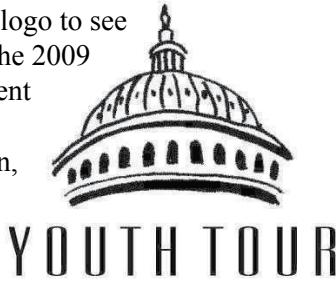
Samuel Field, Trevor Baker, and Jake Romey, Prairie Land; Lexi Wingerson and Kaylene Bonjour, Rolling Hills; Kim Friedrichs, Sedgwick County; Sonia Lena Arnett, Sumner-Cowley; Aaron Pearce, Twin Valley; Savannah Dwyre and Britnie Jenkins, Victory; and Colton McNinch and Dal Schultz, Western.

The campers will be joined by four additional youth who attended the camp in 2008 and were selected by their peers to return this year as ambassadors. The ambassadors act as junior counselors, helping with coordination and facilitation of leadership activities. This year's ambassadors are Donovan Campuzano, White City, Lydia Smith, Rose Hill, Seth Freeman, Elmer, and Haley Holwick, McLouth.

Chaperones will include Ron and Josie Shafer, Alfalfa; and Shana Holsteen and Carrie Kimberlin, KEC.

Youth tour photos online

Go to KEC's website at www.kec.org and click on the youth tour logo to see photos of the 2009 "Government in Action" Washington, DC Youth Tour.



FEMA approves disaster assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently approved two federal disaster assistance requests from Gov. Mark Parkinson in response to damaging storms during the periods of March 26-29 and April 25 to May 16.

In March, severe winter storms and record snow left many Kansas electric cooperatives in need of recovery funds. The funding will be provided to nine cooperatives under FEMA-1848 to restore damaged facilities. The cooperatives are: Ark Valley, Butler, CMS, Flint Hills, Kaw Valley, Lyon-Coffey, Ninescah, Sedgwick County and Sumner-Cowley.

During April and May, straight-line winds of up to 90 miles per hour and heavy rain caused power outages through much of central and eastern Kansas.

Lyon-Coffey, Heartland, Ark Valley, Midwest Energy, Flint Hills and Ninescah electric cooperatives all suffered damage in the second round of spring storms. More than 16,000 meters were reported out of service immediately after the storms, with damage in 28 counties. These cooperatives will receive assistance under FEMA-1849.

The funding is being provided under FEMA's Public Assistance program. Local governments that qualify can be reimbursed for the cost of the repair or replacement of publicly owned facilities damaged by an event.

In Sympathy

Anita Murphy, wife of retired KEC Executive Vice President Lester Murphy, died on June 30.

Anita was highly active with the KEC Auxiliary.

Funeral services were held on July 3 at the First Christian Church in Grove, OK. Memorials may be sent to the church at PO Box 450327, Grove, OK 74345, or to the Ozark Christian College, 1111 North Main Street, Joplin, MO 64801.

Online condolences may be left on the Worley-Luginbuel Funeral Home website at www.honoringmemories.com.

Cooperative volunteers prepare for the Kansas State Fair

Teaching the public to stay safe around power lines is the focus of the electric cooperatives' message at this year's Kansas State Fair. Cooperative linemen from CMS, Heartland, Lane-Scott, Midwest Energy, and Victory have volunteered to help spread this message.

Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are again co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demo at this year's Kansas State Fair, Sept. 14 - 18.

This sponsorship incorporates the full-size, electric safety demonstration - on loan from Midwest

Energy - with the fair's "Kansas' Largest Classroom". In addition, the Touchstone Energy "Get Charged" kits will be distributed.

KEC has a limited supply of free fair passes that will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. To request passes, call Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554, or sholsteen@kec.org.



Job Opportunities

Ark Valley seeks journeyman

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative, South Hutchinson, is seeking a journeyman lineman. Ark Valley serves 5,000 meters in nine counties on 2,000 miles of line. The cooperative offers very competitive pay and benefits.

Qualified journeymen linemen should mail a resume and cover letter to Scott Foster, Ark Valley Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 1246, Hutchinson, KS 67504-1246, or fax to 620-665-0148, or email to sfoster@arkvalley.com.

Wisconsin co-op seeks energy efficiency and member programs manager

Dairyland Power Cooperative, a leading generation and transmission electric cooperative headquartered in La Crosse, WI, has an immediate opening for a manager of energy efficiency and member programs.

Will develop and administer concepts and marketing programs for Dairyland member cooperatives concerning ef-

ficient utilization of energy, improving the lifestyles of member consumers and enhancing the image of Dairyland and its member cooperatives.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree plus five years successively complex experience in a related field. Knowledge and experience of electric cooperatives strongly preferred. Understanding of electrical and process equipment for residential, agricultural, business and commercial uses a plus. Exceptional written, verbal and public speaking communication skills and a demonstrated ability to work effectively with people required. Must have proven analytical and data gathering capabilities, organizational proficiency and enhanced computer skills. Valid driver's license.

Dairyland Power Cooperative offers an excellent opportunity for a rewarding career. Apply online at www.dairynet.com/careers or request an application and position description by calling Dairyland's Jobline: 608-787-1293. Applications accepted until filled. EOE/M/F/D

Kansas energy office announces job training scholarships

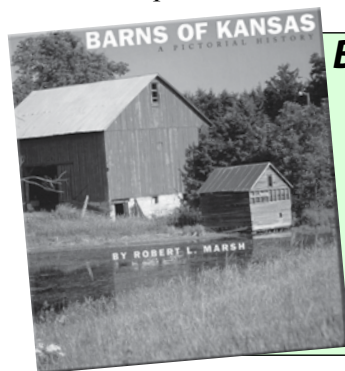
The State Energy Office announced partnerships with the Kansas Building Science Institute in Manhattan, Metropolitan Energy Center in Kansas City, and Neosho County Community College in Chanute to provide training for all energy auditors qualified to work in a new program, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The State Energy Office is anticipating an increased demand for energy auditors as it prepares to launch a new revolving loan program to improve the energy efficiency of Kansas homes and small businesses. All projects financed through the Efficiency Kansas loan program must be based on energy audits conducted by qualified auditors.

To assist Kansans who wish to become energy auditors, the State Energy Office will use ARRA funds to provide 100 scholarships to cover the cost of training at one of the approved institutions. To be eligible, Kansans must be at least 18 years and knowledgeable in construction and/or HVAC.

Individuals who complete the training program at any of the three partner institutions will be eligible to participate in the new energy efficiency program as qualified auditors.

For more information about auditor training or to apply for a scholarship visit <http://kcc.ks.gov/energy/arra.htm> or call 785-271-3185.



Barns of Kansas in Final Quantity

Less than 100 copies remain of *Barns of Kansas: A Pictorial History*. This book is an 8 1/2 x 11, hard cover, limited edition volume with 160 pages featuring 300 vibrant photos of Kansas barns. Proceeds from book sales are used to fund youth programs through Kansas' rural electric cooperatives.

For just \$41 this beautiful book can be shipped directly to your door or you can pick it up at the KEC Summer Board Meeting for just \$31.88.

To order call (785) 478-4554 or e-mail sholsteen@kec.org.

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