

Rural Power

Electronic Edition

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

Vol. LVII, No. 9 • July 20, 2007

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Cooperatives Experience Summer Flood Damage

Flood waters washed through areas of south-eastern Kansas June 29 through July 2, 2007, after thunderstorms with lightning and torrential rains swept across parts of the state. Electric cooperatives affected were Caney Valley, Heartland, Radiant and Twin Valley.

Several rivers were at record levels and the state yielded widespread rainfall amounts up to 20 inches. The continuous flooding caused many roads and highways to be closed and several counties had to conduct evacuations and water rescues.

The Kansas National Guard helped with the voluntary evacuation of Osawatomie, one of the hardest hit communities in the region. When the Pottawatomie Creek and Marais des Cygnes both rose out of their banks, about 40 percent of the town residents evacuated.

20 Kansas counties, including, Anderson, Allen, Butler, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Coffey, Cowley, Crawford, Elk, Franklin, Greenwood, Labette, Linn, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Osage, Wilson and Woodson were declared disaster areas.

Radiant received the most damage when its Fredonia substation was under 25 feet of water.

"The water rose above the substation transformer and equipment and was submerged for an approximate thirty-six hour period," said Dennis Duft, operations manager for Radiant.

By 10 p.m. Sunday, July 1, the Fredonia substation was re-energized, returning service to more than 1,500 members. Radiant had approximately \$600,000 in damage expenses.

"All Radiant members were affected either directly or indirectly as a result of the flooding," Duft said. "Restoration efforts were hampered not only by flood waters, but also by environmental contamination relative to the flooded waters."

In nearby Coffeyville, more than 70,000 gallons of crude oil spilled in to the Verdigris River from a flooded refinery. The oil

reached at least 100 homes before the pump was finally shut off late July 1.

Caney Valley and Heartland had approximately \$10,000 and \$160,000 dollars in damage, respectively.

"Our damage was very minimal considering," said Craig Lampson, Caney Valley line superintendent. "We replaced about 6-8 poles and changed out 15-20 meters that were under water."

Caney Valley has wrapped up the cleanup process but there is the possibility of finding more meters that were submerged.

"Our damage will probably be under \$10,000, and most of our costs came in outages and overtime during the initial storm," Lampson said.

Heartland had meters submerged and damaged as a result of the extreme flooding.

"Several hundred meters were under water and ruined," said Paul Norris, operations manager for Heartland. "At one time, approximately 300 meters were not communicating."

"We still have about 100 meters not working, and because the river splits our territory, it is difficult to get across the river to help those people," Norris said. "Just getting around is hard."

Cleanup and recovery efforts continue for Radiant and Heartland in the coming weeks.



Radiant line crews begin cleaning the substation of tree limbs and other debris in the standing water while repairs begin.

In Brief

Program To Place Turbines At Rural Schools

A program aided by the U.S. Department of Energy seeks to place small wind turbines at several rural Kansas high schools in the next three years.

Wind for Schools is a national outreach effort of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado, where organizers hope to familiarize rural residents of the United States with a cheap local source of power.

The program will help selected schools construct a 1.8-megawatt wind generator on a 60-foot tower. In addition, they'll provide educational support for all school levels to create lessons based on the turbine.

Harris News Service – 6/27/07

LG&E, KU To Put Customers' Carbon Output On Bills

E.ON U.S., the parent company of Kentucky Utilities Co. and Louisville Gas and Electric Co., will begin informing its customers how much carbon dioxide is emitted into the environment from their electricity use.

The bills also will list tips for reducing carbon output.

Business First of Louisville – 7/2/07

Energy Bill Cited As National Model

The Council of State Governments has selected a measure by state Rep. Tom Sloan as model legislation that other states should consider.

House Bill 2169, which was signed into law in April, authorizes the Kansas Development Finance Authority to partner with federal agencies, including the military, to install energy conservation equipment and acquire renewable energy. Sloan said he got the idea for the bill after meeting with Fort Riley officials who told him they didn't have the budget to invest in conservation and renewable energy.

Tribune Business News – 6/29/07

Cooperative Calendar

July	20	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	26	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	28-30	Summer Board Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.
	29	Management Evaluation Committee, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, 8 a.m.
August	9-10	Kansas Material Managers Meeting, Wichita.
	15-16	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	17	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	23	MDM Meeting, Salina.
	24	KCRE Golf Tournament, Salina.

2007 KEC Summer Board Meeting

Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas

Saturday, July 28

- 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. NRECA Board Leadership Course 975.1 Capital Credits: Legal and Financial Issues, facilitated by Rod Crile
- 4:45 p.m. Bus Departs Marriott Hotel for KC Royals/Texas Rangers game

Sunday, July 29

- 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. NRECA Board Leadership Course 914.1 Cooperative Communications and the Public Opinion: The Director's Perspective, facilitated by Bob Miller
- 6 p.m. The New Theatre Restaurant performance of "Oklahoma"

Monday, July 30

- 8 a.m. KEC Summer Board of Trustees Meeting
Getting Your Message to the Members – Communications Triangle
KEC Communications Staff; Darlene Lucas, Pioneer; and Travis Griffin, Butler
Benefits of Member Involvement in Annual Meetings
Ed Wiltse, Pioneer; Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey; and Travis Griffin, Butler
Federated Report, Phil Irwin
Kansas Power Supply Reports
Steve Parr, KEPCo; and Earl Watkins, Sunflower
The Climate Change Challenge: Legislation and Technologies
Kirk Johnson, NRECA
Adjournment of KEC meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Kansas NRECA Membership Meeting
NRECA Director's Report, Perry Rubart
NRECA Director Election
CFC Report and Educational Grant Presentation, Harold Foley
- 12 Noon Luncheon Speaker, Jim Two Crows – True Tales and Other Lies
Partnering With Rural Electric Cooperatives
Chuck Banks and Gary Smith, USDA Rural Development
An Action Plan for Workforce Development
Russell Turner, NRECA; and Earnie Lehman, Midwest Energy, Inc.
NRECA Distinguished Service Award
Sen. Roberts' acceptance video
- 3:30 p.m. Grand prize drawing and adjournment

Sebelius names Joe Harkins to Kansas Corporation Commission

Joe Harkins, who currently serves as director of the Kansas Energy Office at the Kansas Corporation Commission, is Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' nominee to replace Commissioner Robert Krehbiel, whose term has expired.

After serving as a special assistant to Sebelius for the past several years, Harkins was named by the Governor to serve as director of the Kansas Energy Office at KCC. While at KCC, Harkins has worked to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, work the governor

says he will continue as a commissioner.

Harkins' appointment is for four years and is subject to Senate confirmation.

The new KCC Commissioner, Tom Wright, was elected Chairman by the three-member Commission on June 20.

On July 3, the Governor's Office announced that Krehbiel would be recommended to the Kansas Racing Commission to fill the new position of Chief Gaming Officer to implement, administer and enforce the Expanded Lottery Act.

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Hosts its Annual Meeting

Lane-Scott's Annual Meeting was held on July 10, 2007, at the Lane County fairgrounds. A crowd of more than 500 were served a meal catered by Stan Hoss BBQ, Ness City.

Re-elected to the board were Larry Jasper, Eric Doll, and Bruce Wilkens.

General manager Earl Steffens gave his report on the state of Lane-Scott Electric. KEC's Stuart Lowry was the guest speaker, and discussed the MKEC

acquisition and the deregulation option available to new Lane-Scott members.

2007 Youth Tour winners, Courtney Klitzke and Erik Steffens, spoke about their trip. Junior Board Members Ashley Ming, Tracy Goebel, and Cameron Shay were recognized for their service on Lane-Scott's high school board of directors.

Members enjoyed both free carnival rides and many door prizes.

Goodman Energy Center Taking Shape



"Even with above average rainfall the last couple of months, crews are continuing to make progress constructing the Goodman Energy Center," said Bob Helm, Midwest Energy's manager of corporate communications.

The 76-megawatt, natural gas fired power plant is expected to be in full operation in the fall of 2008.

"As of last month, the access road has been constructed and crews are pouring concrete footings for the building, erecting the security fence and working on several other preliminary projects," Helm said.

The building construction will begin in late August.

WAPA Praises Sunflower for Wind Power Leadership

Sunflower was lauded as "number one in wind power" in a news article published by the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) in its July 2007 newsletter. In the article, WAPA reviews Sunflower's involvement in the Smoky Hill Wind Farm, and praises the cooperative for its vision as a renewable energy leader and its dedication to customer service.

According to the article, customer service was the goal when Sunflower signed a 20-year contract with TradeWind Energy, LLC, which will provide Sunflower member systems a hedge against volatile energy markets and higher-cost fuels like natural gas.

The deal provides Sunflower with more than 11 percent of its peak demand to be supplied by wind energy.

View the article at <http://www.wapa.gov/es/pubs/esb/2007/jul/jul071.htm>.

Job Opportunities

High Line Services Seeks Foremen

High Line Services, a subsidiary of Lane-Scott, has positions open for working foremen.

This five-year-old company with long-term contracts in Kansas is looking for highly motivated individuals with experience in three-phase reconductor, spreading, pulling, sagging, etc. Job includes competitive pay, 401K, medical and dental benefits, paid vacation and holidays. High Line Services has a profit sharing program for all employees.

Applicants should possess a class A CDL. Must be willing to travel and work overtime when required. Must be able to pass a physical, drug test and initial skills test. High Line Services is very safety conscious and applicants must believe safety is first. For more information, call 800-407-2217 or visit www.highlineservices.net.

SD Cooperative Seeks Digital Telecomm Systems Technician

East River Electric, Madison, is accepting applications for a Digital Telecommunications Systems Technician.

Position assists in the installation, operation and maintenance of 2.4 and 5.8 GHz spread-spectrum radios, 6 GHz microwave radios, fiber optic system, SONET multiplexers, digital channel banks, remote terminal units and associated equipment. Experience with Cisco and Alcatel SONET multiplexers and Alcatel digital microwave radios would be beneficial. Tower climbing is required.

East River offers a competitive salary and excellent benefit package. For a complete position description, contact East River Electric, PO Box 227, Madison, SD 57042; or download at www.east-river.coop. Applications must be received by July 31, 2007. EOE.

NRECA's 2007 Regional Meetings Focus on Striking the Right Balance

The 2007 NRECA Region 7 Meeting will be held in Overland Park on October 2-4. This year's meeting will focus on "Striking the Right Balance" on several critical issues, including:

- Exploring the balance between traditional power supply and renewables,
- Adding new generation and maximizing energy efficiency, and
- Achieving transparency while preserving confidentiality in the board room.

NRECA's regional meetings are also a checkpoint in setting the association's legislative and policy agenda through the resolutions process. NRECA

member systems have an opportunity to participate at the Resolutions Committee meeting, during discussions of proposed resolutions during a general session and during the official Business Meeting.

Two pre-meeting director training programs will be offered this year. New this year is the Board Leadership course, **Understanding the New World of Power Supply**. This course explains 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.

New directors are encouraged to attend the New Director Orientation.

This is a half-day interactive session facilitated by instructors from NRECA, CFC & NRTC and is held the first day of the Regional Meeting. This session is for first-term electric cooperative and public power district directors. New directors will learn about the cooperative business structure and principles, local cooperative governance and financing responsibilities, the electric cooperative network, business support services and financing resources.

Members can make hotel reservations and purchase ACRE Breakfast and General Membership luncheon tickets online at www.cooperative.com.

Twenty-five Kansas Youth to Attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado

The Kansas electric cooperatives' Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO is the summer destination of 25 high school students from across the state. The Kansas delegates will be joining other youth at camp from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming, July 14 – 20, 2007.

Delegates will experience a week long stay in Colorado, and there they have the opportunity to create a mock cooperative, attend sessions featuring legislative simulations, and visit the Craig generation plant and Trapper Mine.

To be selected for the trip, high school students participated in competitions sponsored by their local electric cooperatives. In the competitions, most of the students wrote an essay or a paper, or were interviewed by a panel of judges. The student winners' all-expense-paid opportunity to attend camp is sponsored by their electric cooperative.

"These student leaders are outstanding representatives of their local electric cooperatives," said Shana Holsteen, KEC's Director of Communications. "This camp is a great opportunity

for the youth to develop their leadership skills and to see what they can do to make a difference in their local communities."

Selected to attend the 2007 "Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp" are: Melanie Fritts and Kellie Whipple, Alfalfa; Renee Simon, Butler; Dale Mulderrig and Cassie Wandersee, Flint Hills; Helena Harmison and Shayla Mann, Lane-Scott; Sarah Smith, Leavenworth-Jefferson; Derek Rempe, Nemaha-Marshall; Emma Shrack, Ninnescah; Jake Gibson and Tanner Lampe, Pioneer; Lacy Ellis and Daniel Riffel, Prairie Land; Justin Gengler and Justin Theleman, Rolling Hills; Michael McGoldrick, Sedgwick County; Nichole Church, Sumner-Cowley; Kendra Rice, Twin Valley; Kyvie Lahman and Clyde Redger, Victory; and Brooke Evans and Kyle Kennedy, Western.

Joining the Kansas delegation is Mat Shepard, Prairie Land, and Mellisa Bosley, Victory. These students attended camp in 2006 and were selected by their peers to return as Ambassadors. Chaperones include Rae Bevan, Pioneer; Shana Holsteen, Carrie Kimberlin, and Doug and Shelly Shepherd, KEC.

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Electronic Edition

Rural Power is published every three weeks on Fridays. This electronic version is provided to you as a service of KEC. If you would like to receive personal e-mail notice of this publication in electronic format or discontinue such notice, please e-mail sholsteen@kec.org.