

Rural Power

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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a story
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Two Power Plants to be Built in Kansas

After more than five years of development activities, a green light has been given for the construction of two coal-fired power plants in western Kansas.

Sunflower's Board of Directors approved last week a Memorandum of Agreement with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. of Westminster, CO, that will result in the construction of two 600 megawatt coal-fired power plants at Sunflower's Holcomb Station plant located four miles south of Holcomb, Kansas.

The agreement calls for Tri-State to own the new plants and contract with Sunflower to operate and maintain the new units once constructed.

"All of us have worked hard for a very long time to get to this point in the project," said Sunflower's President and CEO Earl Watkins at a Sunflower employee meeting last week. "This new partnership with Tri-State will bring many benefits to Sunflower's Member Systems and will aid Tri-State in its plan to add new resources to their generation portfolio," Watkins said.

Sunflower is receiving significant support for the expansion at Holcomb from the Kansas congressional delegation. Senator Pat Roberts, a long-time supporter of Kansas cooperatives said, "This is great news for economic growth in the Garden City and Holcomb area. Besides creating new jobs, the two coal units will bring millions of dollars of investment to the local economy." He added, "The folks at Sunflower have done an excellent job, and I will continue to support their efforts."

Congressman Jerry Moran also commented on the announcement saying, "The agreement between Sunflower Electric and Tri-



The new plants, shown in the artist rendering above, will be physically located adjacent to the east side of the existing Holcomb plant.

State is great news for Kansas, both in terms of economic growth and meeting the long term energy needs of our state and the surrounding region. I applaud the leadership of Sunflower for their commitment to investing in Kansas."

Tri-State and Sunflower will soon finalize detailed agreements and Tri-State will begin working on transmission permitting and agreements for engineering, construction, and project management services.

The timeline for transmission permitting, site preparations and the construction schedule will be announced once the construction plan is formalized; however, construction is expected to begin in 24-42 months.

While construction of each unit takes approximately 42-months, construction of a second new unit would be most economical if it began about 12 months after groundbreaking for the first plant. Construction will require a workforce of approximately 1,400 workers.

Tri-State's Executive Vice President and General Manager J.M. Shafer, in a recent news release said, "The decisions made by our board of directors today will benefit the region's consumers for years to come in the form of long-term, reliable, affordable electric power. It's not unlike the situation we were in about 30 years ago when the system's demand for power outgrew the capacity and we invested in the development of our existing power plants in Craig (CO) and Wheatland (WY). Those facilities have proven their worth many times over since they came on-line."

These new units will be added to Tri-State's existing system of 3,123-megawatts of generation and more than 5,000 miles of high-voltage transmission line.

Courtesy of Sunflower Electric

Cooperative Calendar

August	24	Budget & Operations Committee, Best Western Airport Inn, Wichita, 10 a.m.
	24	LCS&C Committee, Best Western Airport Inn, Wichita, 1 p.m.
	25	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	26	KCRE Golf Tournament, Municipal Golf Course, Salina.
	31	KEC Sales and Use Tax Workshop, Holiday Inn, Salina, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
	31-9/1	Kansas Managers Meeting, Holiday Inn, Manhattan.
September	13-15	KEC Hot Line School, Pratt Community College.
	14	KEPCo Committee Meetings, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	15	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	16	KEC Member Communications Workshop, Best Western Airport Inn, Wichita, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
	16	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	17	Director Training, CCD Course 2640.1 "Financial Decision Making", Marriott Hotel, Wichita, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

9th Annual KCRE Golf Tournament

The 9th Annual KCRE Golf Open will be held at the Salina Municipal Golf Course on Friday, August 26. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The cost for cart, green fees, mulligans, putting contest, and a sandwich is \$60 per person.

Everyone is welcome, and you don't have to be a good golfer to participate. If you don't have a team, enter as an individual and you will be teamed up with other singles.

The KCRE Open is the premier

fundraiser for the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE). This event is vital to the success of KCRE's legislative efforts and, at the same time, allows for new and renewed friendships and good times.

Even if you can't make it, you can help by sponsoring a hole/tee box (or both), or donate a prize.

To register or for more information, contact Kirk Thompson, P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS, 67864, (620) 873-2184; or Ken Maginley at (785) 456-2212.

KEC Offers Tax Workshop

Continuing legislative and regulatory developments in sales and use taxes make it imperative that electric cooperatives understand the liabilities for these taxes.

The KEC Sales and Use Tax workshop is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 31 at the Holiday Inn in Salina. Registration fee is \$225 and includes lunch.

This workshop includes concepts, as well as technical substance for electric cooperatives. Errors in correctly collecting, paying or reporting tax can result in liabilities, not only for tax, but also for interest and penalties. As a tax for which both purchasers and sellers are liable, almost all businesses incur a potential risk.

For a registration form or for more information, please contact Judy Holliday, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or at jholliday@kec.org.

KEC Offers Member Communications Workshop

Newsletters and centerspreads may be a cooperative's primary vehicle to inform its members of cooperative and industry issues.

KEC is offering a workshop to cooperative communicators that will cover the basics of what information to disseminate to your members, how to share the information through photos and stories, and how to design a reader-friendly layout. It will also review software, tools and resources available to the cooperative communicators / editors.

This workshop is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 16 at the Best Western Airport Inn in Wichita. Registration fee is \$95 and includes lunch.

For a registration form or for more information, please contact Carrie Kimberlin, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or at ckimberlin@kec.org.

Job Opportunities

Heartland Seeks Technology Manager

Heartland is seeking a technology manager. Will be responsible for all aspects of technology for the co-op including technical design, construction and delivery of technology solutions; the maintenance and monitoring of information systems; and the support and training for various departmental applications of information technology.

Resumes accepted through Aug. 26, 2005. Contact: Dale Coomes, Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative, PO Box 40, Girard, KS 66743.

Wyoming Co-op Seeks Journeyman

High Plains Power, Riverton, WY, has an immediate opening for a qualified Journeyman Line Technician.

Requirements include valid Class A CDL with excellent driving record, successful completion of an apprenticeship program or equivalent job experience.

For a complete job description or for an application, contact Marlene Morss, mamhpp@wyoming.com, 307-856-9426. Deadline is Sept. 5, 2005. EOE.

KEC Offers Two CCD Courses

KEC is offering two Credentialed Cooperative Director courses. The fee for each course is \$275 per attendee.

On Sept. 17 in Wichita, Rod Crile will facilitate **2640.1 Financial Decision Making**. This course reviews the role of the board in financial planning, including identifying the basic documents used in financial planning and assessing issues that drive financial decisions.

On Nov. 19 in Topeka, Bob Patton will facilitate **2600.1 Director Duties and Liabilities**. This course explains the duties of loyalty, obedience, and due care, and the need for Trustees to acquire the minimum knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill their responsibilities within the cooperative context.

For a registration form or for more information, please contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or at sholsteen@kec.org.

In Brief

New Transmission Reliability Rules

Officials at the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) have been working out details for new reliability rules in accordance with the energy bill. The energy bill has created plenty of work for NERC as it goes about the change to become an independent Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), an NERC spokeswoman said. The creation of the ERO could take as long as six months to a year, depending on the FERC rulemaking.

Megawatt Daily, Aug. 8

Summer Gas Use Driving Winter Power Higher

The current heat wave overwhelming the nation could have long-term impact on power prices. In response to the heat, electricity prices are at record levels. And with little hope for softer natural gas prices, winter power prices are shaping up to hit the highest levels ever seen. Sizzling temperatures are forcing power generators to use gas-fired units more than planned, a move drawing down the country's gas storage surplus. "It's clearly the high [power] demand that is pushing gas prices higher," said Kyle Cooper, a Citigroup Global Markets analyst.

Megawatt Daily, August 5

Hours of Service Bill

The Senate (on a 91-4 vote) and the House (on a 412-8 vote) approved the conference report on the highway program reauthorization bill (H.R. 3). It is important to electric cooperatives as it includes a utility service vehicle exemption to the "hours-of-service" truck driving rules. The enactment of this legislation marks the end of a battle that started several years ago when cooperatives were forced to seek a legislative remedy after the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration improperly interpreted that the "hours-of-service" rules for long haul, cross-country truckers apply to utility service vehicle drivers.

Innovation Strikes at Twin Valley

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative recently demonstrated a new piece of equipment (below). The new "pole setter" allows linemen to set poles using a compact track loader. Currently, Twin Valley uses the track loader to dig holes in rock. Twin Valley has found that the track loader can maneuver in especially difficult-to-reach locations, including rocky or muddy areas. Another plus is that the track loader's "footprint" is light enough that it won't leave tracks in residential yards.



Merlin Wall Joins KEC

Merlin Wall started work on July 18 as an Apparatus Testing Assistant.

Wall is a self-proclaimed Jack-of-all-Trades. He had previously been



Merlin Wall

a truck driver for 19 years, and then had sold lumber at Schmidt Builder in Lawrence for the past nine years.

Wall explained his new duties in the Apparatus Testing department. "We tear down and rebuild reclosures," said Wall. "We then test the reclosure and make sure that it's safe and within accepted tolerances."

A native to Topeka, Wall and his wife have three grown children and nine grandchildren.

Kansas Electric Cooperatives at the Kansas State Fair

It's going to be a "wild ride" for the Kansas electric cooperative members at this year's Kansas State Fair, September 9 – 18, 2005, in Hutchinson, KS.

The Kansas State Fair will continue its 2004 slogan of "It's a Wild Ride, Baby!" KEC has a limited supply of free fair passes that will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

This year, the Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are co-sponsoring "Oscar the Robot," a sophisticated, robotic people magnet. Radio controlled with an advanced two-way audio system, Oscar actually listens and responds to captivated audiences.



Oscar stands five feet tall and weighs 200 pounds. He will be present every day of the fair to spread the cooperative message.

To kick off our second sponsorship of Oscar, cooperative representatives are meeting Oscar at the fair on Friday, September 9th. The committee also placed an ad in the September issue of *Kansas Country Living* encouraging our members to take a photo with Oscar at the fair and mail it in to the magazine for possible publication.

For more information about the fair or Oscar the Robot, or for free fair passes, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554, or sholsteen@kec.org.

Congratulations

Sedgwick County Employees Bowl For Kids



Pioneer Wins Parade Honors

Pioneer Electric recently won first place for its entry in the Grant County Parade in Ulysses, KS.

Pioneer employees (pictured above from left) Kelly Walbaum, Dee Longoria, Stephanie Cortez, Trish Mills, and Sheila Mason pose in front of the decorated golf cart that Pioneer entered in the parade last month.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Pioneer's entry has won first place in the business class at the parade.

"It was a nice change to decorate a golf cart rather than a large trailer," said Rae Bevan, Pioneer's Communications Specialist. "We incorporated the colors of our logo, red, white and blue and it turned out fantastic! We were very pleased with it and apparently the judges were, as well."



The Sedgwick County Bowling Teams. (Back row, from left): Jesse Black, Keith Jones, Rose Wright, and Andy Riggs. (Front row): Jacob Wetta, Marcia Kampling, and Lora Quick. Not pictured is Jared Cross.

Sedgwick County employees participated in the Big Brothers / Big Sisters "Bowling for Kids" program in their community. Two Sedgwick County teams consisting of linemen and office personnel pitted their bowling skills against each other in this community event.

Bowling for the line department team was: Keith Jones, Jesse Black, Jacob Wetta, and Jared Cross. Bowling for the office team was: Rose Wright, Marcia Kampling, Andy Riggs, and Lora Quick. The cooperative has participated in this fundraising event for three years.

The Willie Ornament Collection Continues!

The 2005 "Willie" ornaments are here! Both the figurine and the globe ornament styles are the perfect gift idea for all the folks on your holiday list!

KEC will be placing a bulk order to get the ornaments at a reduced price, around \$10 each. If you would like either the "globe" or the "figurine" ornament, please contact Shana Holsteen at KEC, or email sholsteen@kec.org, with the quantity and ornament style.

As these ornaments are available on a first-come, first-served basis, please place your order by August 26, 2005.



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