

## INSIDE

- 2 | Calendar
- 3 | Midwest Energy invests \$1 million in HowSmart program
- 4 | State fair tickets available

Have an idea  
or  
a story  
for  
Rural Power?

Call  
(785) 478-4554

Fax  
(785) 478-4852

or Email  
[ruralpower@kec.org](mailto:ruralpower@kec.org)



## KEPCo receives FERC approval of power contract

After two years of work and negotiations, the contested settlement on KEPCo's new power purchase contract with Westar Energy was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The 36-year cost-based formula rate agreement for wholesale electric service will enable KEPCo and its members access to Westar's fleet of generating resources and mitigate the risk of being vulnerable to price fluctuations in the open market. "This agreement is a critical component in KEPCo's resource mix. It ranks right up there with KEPCo's decisions to participate in Wolf Creek and Iatan 2", said Stephen Parr, KEPCo Executive Vice President and CEO. "The agreement establishes a long-term, economical, and stable power supply at a time when uncertainty abounds within the utility industry."

Under the agreement, KEPCo will purchase wholesale electricity based on Westar's cost to produce the power and combine it with KEPCo's resources to meet all of its members'

energy needs. KEPCo and its members will also benefit by having Westar help manage KEPCo's resources and by participating in joint power supply planning. The agreement allows KEPCo and Westar to "pool" their respective loads and generating capabilities to make the most efficient use of both companies' resources.

KEPCo will also be able to meet future requirements for renewable power by having access to Westar's renewable resources. Since Westar provides power for the agreement from its entire generating fleet, KEPCo will receive access to additional nuclear power from Wolf Creek. KEPCo will also have the option to participate in future, Westar base-load generation projects.



Stephen Parr, KEPCo, and Bill Moore, Westar, execute a 36-year agreement.

## Carla Bickel to retire from Ninnescah, Ed Wiltse hired

Carla Bickel, manager of Ninnescah, will retire at the end of the year.

Bickel leaves Ninnescah with almost 30 years of service to its members in numerous roles beginning in 1980 as office manager, then manager of finance and director of finance before moving to the general manager's position in 2003.

"I've had so many people ask me what I want to do once I retire," laughed Bickel. "But I just say anything I want to do. It will be nice to not have my days scheduled."

Bickel and her husband, Ray, will move to Hutchinson at the beginning of the year.

The Ninnescah Board

of Trustees thanks Bickel for her dedication and service, and wishes her luck in her retirement. The Board also welcomes Ed Wiltse who will join Ninnescah as general manager in November.

Wiltse joined the cooperative family in 1987 when he was hired as manager of member services for Pioneer.

"My involvement has been in everything from communications, marketing, safety accreditation to key accounts," Wiltse said.

Before joining the cooperatives, Wiltse worked in sales. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Pittsburg State University.

"I am very excited and looking forward to working with the employees, staff and board at Ninnescah," Wiltse said. "I bring a strong background in member relations and I'm committed to providing the best possible service to our members."

Wiltse has been married more than 25 years to his wife, Lisa. They have two grown children. Adriane, their 24-year-old daughter, is a corporate engineer for Western Container, a subsidiary of Coca-Cola. Michael, their 23-year-old son, just graduated from New York University and is now auditioning for performance art roles.

**FTC announces expanded business education campaign on 'Red Flags' rule**

To assist small businesses and other entities, the Federal Trade Commission will redouble its efforts to educate them about compliance with the "Red Flags" Rule and ease compliance by providing additional resources and guidance.

To give creditors and financial institutions more time to review this guidance and develop and implement written Identity Theft Prevention Programs, the FTC will further delay enforcement of the Rule until November 1, 2009.

FTC NEWS RELEASE – 7/29/09

**East Texas G&T signs contract to build biomass plant**

East Texas Electric Cooperative (ETEC), based in Nacogdoches, TX, has announced the completion of a contract with North American Procurement Company (NAPCO) to develop a wood-fueled biomass plant in Woodville, TX. The plant will be the first of its kind for the area, converting excess wood materials into renewable, carbon-neutral power for ETEC member cooperatives. When completed, the plant will have the capability of producing 50 megawatts of power.

EAST TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – 8/3/09

**Kansas to receive \$2.6 million for appliance rebate program**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the State of Kansas will receive \$2,688,559 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for an appliance rebate program. Kansas will receive 10 percent of the funds after submitting an initial application on Aug. 15th expressing the state's intention to participate in the program. DOE expects program approval to occur by Nov. 30th.

KCC NEWS RELEASE – 7/14/09

**SEPTEMBER**

- 2 **KEC Budget and Operations Committee meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
- 3 **KEC Legislative Committee conference call,** 9 a.m.
- 7 **Labor Day Holiday – KEC Office closed.**
- 9 **LJEC Annual Meeting. Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.,** McLouth High School.
- 14-18 **High Voltage Safety Demo at Kansas State Fair,** Hutchinson.
- 15-17 **Hot Line School,** Pratt.
- 16-17 **KEPCo Board of Trustees meeting,** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 17-18 **Kansas Line Superintendents meeting,** Holiday Inn Select, Wichita.
- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors meeting,** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 22-24 **Hotline School,** Manhattan.
- 23-24 **KEC Board of Trustees meeting,** Marriott, Wichita.

**OCTOBER**

- 13 **Pre-Regional Director Education; New Director Orientation; Resolutions Meeting,** Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- 14-15 **Region 7 meeting,** Little America Hotel and Convention Center, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- 14-16 **KMSDA meeting,** Hotel at Old Town, Wichita.
- 21-22 **KEPCo Board of Trustees meeting,** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 22-23 **Accountants' Club meeting,** Grand Prairie Hotel, Hutchinson.
- 26 **District 1 meeting,** City Municipal Building, Parsons.
- 27 **District 3 meeting,** Fox Pavilion, Hays.
- 28 **District 4 meeting,** Victory Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Dodge City.
- 29 **MDM meeting,** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 30 **District 2 meeting,** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.

**13th Annual KCRE Golf Tournament**

Golf enthusiasts, get your clubs ready, the annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament is here! Golfers will converge at the Salina Municipal Golf Course on August 28, 2009.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The \$60 entry fee includes the cost for carts, green fees, mulligans, putting

contest and lunch.

The KCRE Open is the premier fundraising event, and is vital to the success of KCRE's legislative efforts. If a cooperative is unable to send players, they are encouraged to sign up for several of the available sponsorships, or donate a prize.

For more information, call Kirk Thompson at (620) 873-2184.

upcoming training

**CFC BudgetPro workshop**

Due to the popularity of the first two BudgetPro workshops, CFC is now planning to host a third session on Oct. 19-20 at Kaw Valley Electric in Topeka.

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 to the workshop, and a flash drive with operating instructions will be provided.

Cooperatives will be sent registration information once a date has been finalized. There is no cost to attend this training. For more information, please contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at 785-478-4554.

# Midwest Energy invests over one million dollars in HowSmart program

Midwest Energy's HowSmart® energy saving program recently surpassed the one million dollar mark in energy efficiency investment.

The program has assisted 203 customers with an investment from Midwest Energy of over \$1 million, and a member investment of nearly \$270,000. It is estimated that members using the program will save over 400,000 kilowatt hours per year, the equivalent of the electricity use of 40 homes. Members are also saving 46,000 therms of natural gas per year, which is equivalent to the natural gas use of 58 homes.

Midwest Energy states that HowSmart is good for the environment. The energy saved by completed projects will result in approximately 13,000 less tons of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere over the next 20 years.

"We serve our customer-owners better when we help them save money by using less energy," said Earnie Lehman, president and general manager of Midwest Energy. "We know customer bills will be lower and customer satisfaction higher because of HowSmart® and our other energy-efficiency pro-

grams. We couldn't do this without our experienced, trained and certified energy auditors and other dedicated employees. We're really pleased with the results."

HowSmart® was recently recognized by the Environmental Defense Fund as one of America's best energy innovations. The Kansas Energy Office intends to use \$34 million in federal stimulus funds to create a state-wide program similar to HowSmart®, named "Efficiency Kansas."

The program began over a year ago as a pilot project in four counties, then was offered throughout all of Midwest Energy's service area in the summer of 2008.

The HowSmart® program provides low-cost capital to Midwest Energy customers, allowing them to improve the energy efficiency of their home or business, through new heating and air equipment installation, insulation and air sealing. Members then repay the investment with part of the savings on their energy bill.

For more information about this program, visit [www.mwenergy.com](http://www.mwenergy.com).

## Keith Ross elected to NRECA Board

Prairie Land trustee Keith Ross has been elected to be



Keith Ross

Kansas' representative on the NRECA Board of Directors.

The election was held during the KEC Summer Board Meeting on Aug. 3. Ross succeeds Perry

Rubart of Pioneer Electric, who chose not to seek reelection.

Ross was elected to Prairie Land's Board in 1990, has served on the KEC Board since 2000, and is currently the KEC Board Vice President. He has earned both the NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate and the NRECA Board Leadership certificate. Ross is a farmer-stockman in rural Long Island and has been a member of Prairie Land Electric since 1965.

Ross will take his seat on the national board following the NRECA Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, GA, in February 2010.

## Taylor represents Kansas on NRECA Youth Leadership Council

Morgan Taylor of Rolla was selected to represent Kansas on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC).

Taylor attended the YLC Conference, July 18-22, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The conference agenda included leadership and team building exercises, meeting with Capitol Hill staff members who are "alumni" of NRECA's Youth Tour, and a competition to select the NRECA's National Youth Spokesperson.

While in Washington, the YLC members gained a broader understanding of cooperatives through discussions with NRECA's Glenn English, CFC's Sheldon Peterson, and NRTC's Bob Phillips.

Taylor's electric co-op experience began in June when she attended the Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. with nearly 1,500 high school students sponsored by their local electric cooperatives. She was sponsored by Pioneer Electric. During the

trip, KEC selected Taylor to serve on the YLC representing Kansas and attend the Leadership Conference.

"Before I actually went there, D.C. was just a place in my history. This trip humbled me when I thought about all the sacrifices it took to make our country great. I have a new perspective. I feel more thankful for what I have," said Taylor.

"We are preparing ourselves for the future with peers from across the country, thanks to Pioneer Electric and NRECA. We will expand our knowledge of the American political system, broaden our understanding of cooperatives and develop our leadership skills," she said.

All 44 members of the YLC, including Taylor, will participate in the 2010 NRECA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. They will provide assistance to the NRECA staff and co-op delegates; participate in the Parade of States at the opening General Session and take part in a variety of educational activities.



Morgan Taylor, sponsored by Pioneer Electric, was selected to represent Kansas on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council.

## Pioneer Electric seeks member services manager

Pioneer Electric, Ulysses, KS, is seeking professional individual for the position of manager of member services.

Responsibilities include overseeing key accounts program; interpreting and explaining KCC approved rules, regulations and rates; cooperative communications, events coordination, customer safety programs, and building and grounds maintenance.

Successful candidate must have strong management skills with commitment to teamwork, demonstrated ability to manage or supervise people and multiple projects; excellent interpersonal communication, organization, problem solving and computer skills required; and have the ability to work with a variety of people.

Pioneer Electric offers competitive compensation and full-time employment benefit package which includes employer-provided family medical, dental, vision and life insurance, retirement and 401(k) plan with employer matching contribution.

A complete position description and application may be obtained at [www.pioneerelectric.coop](http://www.pioneerelectric.coop). Mail resume and application to Pioneer Electric, Attn: Human Resources-MMS, PO Box 368, Ulysses, KS 67880. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

## Kansas State Fair admission tickets available

KEC has a limited supply of free passes for the Kansas State Fair that will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. These passes come with the sponsorship of the fair.

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

Teaching the public to stay safe around power lines is the focus of the electric cooperatives' message at the fair. Linemen from CMS, Heartland, Lane-Scott, Midwest Energy, and Victory will help spread this message.

To request passes or for more information about the Kansas State Fair sponsorship, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554, or [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).



## insympathy

### Larry Jasper

Larry Jasper, trustee for Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, passed away on August 19, 2009.

Funeral services were held on August 24 in the St. Theresa Catholic Church, Dighton.

Larry had served on the Lane-Scott board since July 23, 1980.

Memorials for the St. Theresa Catholic Church may be sent to the Boomhower Funeral Home, PO Box 891, Dighton, KS 67839.

Condolences can be mailed to Virginia Jasper, PO Box 846, Dighton, KS 67839.

### Leulla Rains

Luella "Lee" Rains, mother of Sumner-Cowley's manager Cletas Rains, passed away on August 19. Friends and family may leave on-line condolences on the Hawks-Shelley Funeral Home and Crematory website at [www.hawksfuneralhome.com](http://www.hawksfuneralhome.com).

Funeral services were held on August 22 at the Hawks-Shelley Funeral Home.

Memorials to the Shiloh Rains Scholarship Fund may be sent in care of the Hawks-Shelley Funeral Home, 704 N. Washington, Wellington, KS 67152.

# RuralPower

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.  
PO Box 4267  
Topeka, KS 66604-0267

**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](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).*