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Legislation top of topics for KEC board meeting

Congressional visits and the election of a new NRECA Director highlighted the 2009 KEC Summer Board Meeting August 3 at the Overland Park Marriott.

“Legislators need to learn from farmers and ranchers,”

Congressman Jerry Moran said as he addressed the membership. “They always keep the future generations in mind when making decisions.”

Moran commended Governor Parkinson and Sunflower’s compromise, calling it an energy policy that assists all areas of Kansas. He commented that the cap and trade legislation is the “most devastating legislation” to work its way through the system. KEC’s Stuart Lowry also thanked Moran for his support on behalf of all cooperatives following the 2007 ice storms.

Congressman Todd Tiahrt met with the audience during the luncheon to discuss health care reform, and the cap and trade legislation, which he calls the “cap and tax.” He held up a thick copy of the health care reform bill while highlighting areas he felt would be of further detriment to the economy and the well-being of Americans. Tiahrt spoke about his strong determination to represent Kansans and the interest of future generations.

Before the election of the new NRECA Director, Perry Rubart reported that the proposed merger between NRECA Regions 7 and 9 had been cancelled. Lowry honored Rubart for



Congressman Todd Tiahrt (left) and Congressman Jerry Moran each addressed the membership at the KEC Summer Board Meeting.



his 10 years of service representing Kansas electric co-ops on the NRECA Board with a presented plaque.

Following the report, five trustees were nominated for election. After five rounds of ballots, Keith Ross

of Prairie Land received the majority of the votes and was elected to represent Kansas on the NRECA Board. He will take his new position following the 2010 NRECA annual meeting.

Neil Chatterjee, legislative advocacy and counsel for NRECA, reviewed the status of the federal climate change bill and the current political climate in Washington, D.C. He commended the cooperatives’ participation in their lobbying efforts and highlighted how Kansas fared compared to the national co-op average under the Waxman-Markey bill. He speculated about the fall legislative issues and stated that NRECA will oppose any anti-co-op provision in the Senate’s climate change bill.

“If we can use grass roots and member support, then we can get something out of Congress that electric co-ops can use and live with,” Chatterjee said.

Representative Forrest Knox, Altoona, spoke about the political process and the 2009 Kansas legislature. He stressed the need to look closely at what is good for rural Kansas. He said co-ops should be paying close atten-

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In Brief

KCC Approves agreement between ITC and Prairie Wind

At a hearing last month, the Kansas Corporation Commission approved a Stipulation and Agreement reached between ITC Great Plains and Prairie Wind Transmission.

Under the terms of the Stipulation and Agreement, ITC and Prairie Wind will each be responsible for building a portion of a proposed 765 kV extra high voltage transmission line in South Central Kansas.

Prairie Wind will design, construct, own, and operate an extra high voltage transmission line between Wichita and Medicine Lodge and south to the Oklahoma border. Prairie Wind will also build two new substations, one near Wichita and one near Medicine Lodge.

ITC will design, construct, own, and operate an extra high voltage transmission line between Medicine Lodge, Comanche County, and Spearville. ITC will also build new substations in Medicine Lodge, Comanche County, and Spearville.

KCC news release – 7/24/09

Energy department moves forward with FutureGen Project

The Department of Energy announced July 14 that it is proceeding with the FutureGen project to build a low-emissions coal-fired power plant in Illinois that will employ carbon capture and storage.

The department issued a record of decision under the National Environmental Policy Act saying it reviewed the relevant factors, “including potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed Project at four alternative sites.”

Based on this review, “DOE has decided to proceed with financial assistance for the FutureGen Project. All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harms have been adopted,” the department said.

Bureau of National Affairs – 7/15/09

Cooperative Calendar

August	19-20	KEPCo Board of Trustees meeting, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.
	21	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	26-28	Touchstone Energy “Together We Save” campaign launch, St. Louis.
	27	MDM Meeting, Salina.
	28	KCRE Golf Tournament, Municipal Golf Course, Salina.
September	9	LJEC Annual Meeting. Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. McLouth High School.
	15-17	Hot Line School, Pratt.
	17-18	Kansas Line Superintendents, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita.
	14-18	High Voltage Safety Demo at Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson.
	22-24	Hotline School, Manhattan.
	23-24	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Marriott, Wichita.

NRTC introduces new member newsletter *NRTCconnects*

The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative launched last month its new newsletter — *NRTCconnects*.

This newsletter is designed to keep members abreast of new technologies, to understand how they will impact member businesses and communities, and to bring communications solutions that work for rural America.

NRTC states that new and evolving communications technologies that are increasingly interrelated, and asks: What next-generation video services will con-

sumers want? What will it take to make the grid smart? How can we bring broadband to everyone who wants it? How will these technologies work together? And, how can rural America benefit from the same advancements offered to our urban neighbors?

These topics will be explored in this newsletter. If you have not already received it by email, or if you would like to share your feedback and comments for the newsletter, please e-mail nrtcconnects@nrtc.coop.

Upcoming Training

CFC BudgetPro workshop

Due to the popularity of the first two BudgetPro workshops, CFC is now planning to host a third session in August at Kaw Valley Electric in Topeka. Registration will be required as space is limited.

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.

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.

Touchstone Energy plans “Together We Save” campaign launch

Excitement is building for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives’ new energy efficiency-themed campaign. Co-op audiences across the country will be logging on to witness this revolutionary campaign launch that will be broadcast live from St. Louis on August 27.

Touchstone Energy will unveil new TV, print and radio ads — plus a host of exciting new interactive Web applications. This event is open to both Touchstone Energy and non-Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

Register on Cooperative.com to be a either a virtual attendee for the web conference, or to be a live attendee in St. Louis. There is no cost to attend this training. For more information, email Kathryn.Momot@nreca.coop or call her at 703-907-5707.

Senate passes energy bill that kills Yucca Mountain repository project

U.S. Senate action last week appeared to seal the fate of the Yucca Mountain repository for spent nuclear power-plant fuel.

Senators voted 85-9 to pass a \$34 billion energy spending bill covering a multitude of federal water projects—and also officially shutting down the Yucca Mountain project.

Earlier last month, the U.S. House passed its own version of the bill, which also included the Yucca Mountain provision. Since it appears in both bills, there would seem to be little chance that it will be removed by a conference committee. The decision comes after spending \$13.5 billion and 25 years of work on the project.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 obligated the Federal government to take the spent fuel by 1998, which has not happened. It also requires utilities which generate electricity using nuclear

power to pay a fee of one tenth of one cent per kilowatt-hour into the Nuclear Waste Fund.

To kill the Yucca Mountain project outright would require Congress to change the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The fund now contains \$33 billion, of which approximately \$180 million has come from Wolf Creek's three owner companies, including \$12 million paid by KEPCo's members.

The U.S. Department of Energy began studying Yucca Mountain, NV, in 1978 to determine whether it would be suitable for the nation's first long-term geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

This decision leaves the country without a long-term solution for storing highly radioactive waste from nuclear power plants. Instead, spent nuclear reactor fuel is now stored inside the plants in spent fuel pools and then, when addition-

al space is required, in large concrete and steel canisters on the grounds of the 121 nuclear plants around the nation.

In 2004, Wolf Creek's owner companies filed a lawsuit against the United States seeking damages resulting from the government's failure to begin accepting spent nuclear fuel for disposal, as the government was required to do by federal law. The damages are related to its costs to replace the fuel storage racks in the spent fuel pool in 1999 to 2000. The project allows for additional storage that would not have been necessary if the government had fulfilled its obligation.

Since 1987, the Yucca Mountain repository has been the proposed U.S. Department of Energy deep geological repository storage facility for spent nuclear reactor fuel and other radioactive waste. It is located in a remote desert on federally protected land approximately 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, NV.

KEC summer board meeting, *cont.*

tion to rate structures, costs and the issue of distributive generation.

"Kansas is in the best position compared to the rest of the country," Knox told the audience. "Cooperatives need to continue being wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

KEC's Doug Shepherd spoke about the economics of small wind generation. He presented a cash-flow analysis tool for those interested in investing in a wind turbine.

KEPCo's Steve Parr and Sunflower's Clare Gustin gave Kansas power supply reports. Parr asked for audience feedback regarding their opinion on NRECA's strategic position of the national energy bill. Gustin detailed the procedure for the Holcomb expansion project.

Carl Schroer, Vice President of Sales and Marketing of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange reviewed the cooperative's market stability and Federated's new services including the member web site, strategy labs and status of claims.

Tom Laing, TSE Services, reviewed the 2008 Touchstone Energy customer information survey. He reported how the data was collected and the purpose of the survey. He also discussed techniques for cooperatives to improve their customer satisfaction score.

During the luncheon, Brenda Spencer made a presentation on her survey of Kansas barns and the role that the *Kansas Country Living* magazine played in her efforts. She traveled 12,000 miles to survey 352 historic barns in the state. Spencer shared the different architectural styles of Kansas's barns and how her work set the stage to fund preservation. She commended *Kansas County Living* for the magazine's support of her project.

Members also heard from Terry Woodbury, President of Public Square Communities. He challenged the co-ops to consider how to transform the economy of a rural community.

Prior to the meeting, members, trustees and employees attended two board leadership courses presented by NRECA,

titled Effective Boards-Why some Succeed and Some Fail, and Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Demand Response in Today's Cooperative.

The next KEC Board meeting will be held Sept. 23-24 in Wichita.

Lane Scott hosts Annual Meeting

Lane Scott held its annual meeting on July 14 at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

A barbeque hog supper fed the members prior to the meeting. Speakers included Youth Tour delegates Kyle Grose and Matraca Mann; general manager Earl Steffens, and Sunflower's Earl Watkins.

A special appearance was made by a fully restored 1953 Dodge Power Wagon that has been in Lane Scott's fleet since it was originally purchased.

Dick Jennison, Craig Ramsey, and Harold Hoss were re-elected to the Board of Trustees, and the Junior Board of Trustees was recognized by the membership.

Leistikow retires from Twin Valley board

Norman Leistikow retired from the Board of Directors of Twin Valley at the May board meeting. Leistikow retired when he and his wife, Marion, moved into Parsons and off co-op lines.

He served on the board for nine years, serving as board secretary and representative to the KEC board. During the June board meeting, there was ice cream and cake served to celebrate his commitment to the cooperative.

Leistikow proved to be a dedicated director and enjoyed representing the membership. The board and employees will miss his presence, but wish him the best in retirement.

Efficiency Kansas loan program launches web site

Efficiency Kansas, a new loan program from the State Energy Office, has launched its web site. The site includes general information about the program, including specific information for energy auditors.

The first energy auditor training scholarships have been awarded. A total of 17 scholarships have been awarded of the anticipated 100 total scholarships.

Efficiency Kansas is designed to provide a sustainable source of financing for cost-effective, energy-efficient improvements in Kansas homes and small business. For more information visit www.encykansas.com.

Radiant adopts QuarterQuest program

Radiant's Board has endorsed QuarterQuest, a new plan to fund food for children in the cooperative's service area.

The program provides weekend food for kids who might otherwise go hungry when furnished meals from schools and childcare end on Fridays.

Radiant encourages each member to voluntarily authorize the addition of a tax-deductible 25 cents (or more) to their monthly electric bill. The donations are then sent to the Kansas Food Bank for the purpose of buying supplies to fill the backpacks for children in its service area who are at most serious risk of present and future problems stemming from childhood hunger.

At the close of the spring semester, there were 400 children in its service area participating in the Backpack Kids program.

When the fall semester starts, the Backpack Program in Radiant's area will grow stronger because of contributions from QuarterQuest, which gives members the opportunity to take care of our own, one quarter at a time.

Radiant is the first cooperative in the state to engage in this program. Radiant's board welcomes other co-ops to follow its lead.



Job Opportunities

Alaska cooperative seeks T&D manager and line superintendent

Copper Valley Electric Association has two leadership positions that offer opportunities to work, grow, and play on beautiful Prince William Sound and in the Copper River Basin.

CVEA operates four power plants and sells electricity over 500 miles of distribution and transmission line in eastern Alaska. Year-round outdoor recreational opportunities cannot be matched. CVEA offers competitive compensation, attractive benefits, and relocation assistance.

The **manager of transmission and distribution** is charged with advancing the strategic mission of the cooperative by analyzing and developing projects that enhance system operations, implement-

ing new and existing technology, applying the cooperative's technical skills and abilities to new project opportunities, and maintaining safe and reliable electric system operations. The T&D manager reports to the CEO and supervises the Engineering and Operations functions.

The **line superintendent/manager of operations** is responsible for operations, maintenance, and upgrades of CVEA's transmission and distribution system. The position reports to the T&D manager.

For more information about CVEA and the open positions, go to www.cvea.org or call Nancy Heidelberg, Executive Assistant, at (907) 822-3171.

RuralPower

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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.