

Rural Power

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Underway

Announcing itself with destructive 145-mph winds, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast on August 29 causing devastation not seen since Hurricane Camille 36 years ago. Katrina, a massive category four storm, flattened entire cities and left hundreds missing or dead.

Katrina's storm surge was the highest in modern hurricane history, submerging entire communities. With massive flooding and debris hampering restoration efforts, millions of people are without power and early estimates quote four to six weeks before electricity will be restored in some areas.

KEC contacted the Kansas electric cooperatives to see which crews and equipment were available to help with the restoration efforts.

"We were initially unable to get in contact with the Mississippi Statewide Association," Larry Detwiler, KEC's Director of Loss Control, Safety and Compliance, explained. "As soon as we can determine what equipment and manpower is needed, and where in Mississippi our assistance is specifically requested, we will

send crews from our member systems who are willing to aid in this time of great need."

As of Thursday morning, Kansas electric cooperative crews were preparing to leave for Coast EMC in Mississippi. Midwest Energy is sending 18 linemen on a 1,100-mile-trek today, along with three digger trucks, six bucket trucks, and three service pickup trucks.

Midwest Energy's crew will also haul a supply trailer for the linemen that will be stocked with items such as water, food, tents and other necessities, so that their crews will be self-sufficient.

Coast EMC serves 63,000 customers over 4,900 miles of line, and is located in one of the worst hit areas.

"Coast EMC estimates they have approximately 30,000 electric poles down, and Mississippi still has more than 450,000 members without power," Detwiler said. "This cooperative is still trying to locate 50-60 of their employees. We will be sending another contingency of several Kansas cooperative line crews next week."

KEC to Coordinate Donations for the Hurricane Relief Effort

Following the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. is coordinating the collection of cash donations to help the victims.

"We were naturally very concerned about our sister-cooperatives, especially in Louisiana and Mississippi," said Stuart Lowry, KEC's Executive Vice President / General Counsel. "Many of our cooperatives have asked what they can do to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Coordinating this effort will be a small step in aiding their recovery."

Both the Louisiana and

Mississippi statewide associations have set up a hurricane relief fund for the co-op employees and members that were in Katrina's path.

To reduce the amount of paperwork for these two statewide associations, KEC will be collecting funds, and will send each organization one check.

"We ask that the funds be mailed to KEC, and that they be denoted for hurricane relief," Lowry said. "These funds will then be sent to the Louisiana and Mississippi statewide associations to assist with their cooperatives' recovery efforts."

The American Red Cross

also continues to accept donations for the hurricane victims.

"What we really need now is cash," said Dana Wethington, CEO of the Kansas Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. "The best thing we can do is to buy food and clothing locally. With cash, there is no shipping costs and no need for storage. It's the most efficient use of resources."

To donate funds to the American Red Cross, call 1-800-HELP-NOW, or donate funds electronically on the secure site at www.redcross.org.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Cooperative Calendar

September	5	Labor Day - KEC Office Closed.
	13-15	KEC Hot Line School, Pratt Community College.
	14	Leavenworth Jefferson Annual Meeting, McLouth High School, 6:00 p.m.
	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. - 4:00 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.
	22	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	22-23	Line Superintendents' Meeting, Wichita.
	27-29	KEC Hot Line School, Manhattan Area Technical School.
	28	KEC Committee Meetings, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
	29	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Wichita, 8:30 a.m.
October	11-13	NRECA Region VII Meeting, Cheyenne, Wyoming
	19-21	Accountant's Meeting, Manhattan
	19	KEPCo Committee Meetings, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
	20	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	21	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	26	District Meeting 1, Sedan Golf Club House, Sedan, 10 a.m.
	27	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	28	District Meeting 2, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

KEC Offers Member Communications Workshop

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.

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**. On Nov. 19 in Topeka, Bob Patton will facilitate **2600.1 Director Duties and Liabilities**.

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

Job Opportunities

Solomon Corporation Seeks Professional Sales Representative

Solomon Corporation, a leading manufacturer of electrical transformers and related equipment and services, is seeking an outside sales representative to serve electric utility and industrial customers in Kansas and Nebraska.

Must have experience in the electric utility industry, knowledge of electrical transformers and equipment and the ability to travel every week. Must have good communication skills and the ability to work independently.

Compensation is commensurate with experience. Company vehicle, travel expenses and product training provided.

Solomon Corporation is a family-owned and operated business with over 30 years experience. Full benefits package, including health, dental and 401(k) provided.

For complete position description or to apply, contact: Tom Hemmer, Sales Manager, Solomon Corporation, P.O. Box 245, Solomon, KS 67480, Fax 785-655-2502, or email themmer@solomoncorp.com.

2005 Husker Harvest Days

The annual Husker Harvest Days are scheduled for Sept. 13-15 near Grand Island, NE. This "totally irrigated working farm show" will have 550 exhibitors, as well as field demonstrations, cattle handling sessions, and horse and rider competitions. For more information, visit www.HuskerHarvestDays.com.

Midwest Energy Hires Summer Interns

Midwest Energy is among the Kansas electric cooperatives that are participating in summer internship programs. Several Kansas electric cooperatives have hired students from Pratt Community College and Area Vocational School who are studying to become linemen.

This summer, Midwest Energy line crews included Travis Dinges of Victoria, Matt Hosler of Valley Falls, and Nathan Schippers of Cullison. Following their internships, Dinges has been hired full-time at Midwest Energy as an Apprentice Lineman, Hosler is going to work for Aquila, and Schippers will return to school in Pratt.

Midwest Energy hired three summer interns. (From left) Travis Dinges, Matt Hosler, and Nathan Schippers.



In Brief

White House to Release Petroleum Reserves

On Aug. 31, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman announced that Bush administration will release oil from federal petroleum reserves to help refiners affected by Hurricane Katrina to aid in the recovery effort.

The move is designed to give refineries a temporary supply of crude oil to take the place of interrupted shipments from tankers or offshore oil platforms affected by the storm.

Associated Press, Aug. 31

Senators Urge Blockage of EPA Mercury Rule

Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Olympia Snowe, R-Maine sent a "dear colleague" letter last week urging support for a resolution that would block the Environmental Protection Agency's new rule regulating mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The resolution (S.J.20) is grounded in the authority of the Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to reject rules by executive branch agencies such as EPA. Backers of the resolution maintain EPA's mercury rule is insufficiently protective of public health and the environment, as well as illegal under the federal Clean Air Act.

"This resolution would give EPA the chance to fix these flaws and come back with a rule that would better protect the American people," Leahy and Snowe wrote. "To leave EPA's mercury pollution rule in place is a risk to the public's health that we need not, and should not, accept."

Megawatt Daily, August 25

12 Injured in Kansas Tornadoes

Twelve people sustained minor injuries on Aug. 19 when two tornadoes touched down near Great Bend. Wind speeds were clocked at 65 miles per hour with gusts up to 75 miles per hour.

Kansas.com, August 20

Golfers Raise \$7,000 for KCRE

The 9th Annual KCRE Golf Open was held at the Salina Municipal Golf Course on Friday, August 26. The KCRE Open is the premier fundraiser for the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE).

More than 100 golfers formed 27



The 9th Annual KCRE Golf Open raised \$7,000 for the Kansas Electric Cooperatives political action committee.

teams and raised approximately \$7,000 for KCRE.

First Flight winners were Brown-Atchison's team of Rod Gerdes, Kevin Compton, Darren Thorson and Dave Olson. Second Flight winners were Solomon's team of Tom Hemmer, Joe Hemmer, Ken Holmes, and Lesley Holmes. Third Flight winners were Rolling Hill's team of Craig Clark, Steve Bahan, Don Minard and Doug Jackson. Fourth Flight winners were the singles team of Max Ott, Fred Lewis, Coleen Wells, and Charles Gabehart. Craig Lampson, Caney Valley, won the KEC golf travel set and Bob Bieker, Stanion, won the early bird drawing. The putting contest winner was Jerry Manning, Kaw Valley.

"The KCRE Golf Open is vital to the success of KCRE's legislative efforts," said Kirk Thompson, KCRE Chair. "Thanks to all the sponsors and participants for helping to make this year's KCRE Open a success."

The 10th Annual KCRE Open is tentatively scheduled for August 25, 2006, in Salina.

Counties Declared Disaster Areas

Due to the extensive damage suffered from severe storms earlier this summer, President Bush declared Neosho, Crawford, and Cherokee counties as disaster areas.

The damage from flooding, high winds, tornado, and hail from storms on June 30 and July 1 totaled nearly \$4.7 million. Both Heartland's and Twin Valley's systems were damaged during these storms. Heartland estimated \$400,000 to \$500,000 worth of damage. Twin Valley estimated \$220,000 worth of damage.

"This declaration will help rebuild the facilities damaged by the storm," said Ron Holsteen, Manager of Twin Valley. "We have already spent considerable time and money in this area since the storm, and we will now be able to bring the lines back to RUS standards. This is certainly good news for the members in that part of our service area."

Cooperatives at the Fair

There are still a limited number of free fair passes for the Kansas State Fair, September 9 – 18, 2005, in Hutchinson.

This year, the Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are again co-sponsoring "Oscar the Robot," a sophisticated, robotic people magnet. 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, Sept. 9th.

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

Dowling Appointed to NERC

The Southwest Power Pool has appointed Bill Dowling, Midwest Energy's Vice President of Energy Management & Supply, to represent the cooperative on the planning committee of the National Electric Reliability Council (NERC).



Dowling's two-year term began July 1. Dowling has been an employee at Midwest Energy since 1981, and has served on several electric industry organizations.

NERC is an organization formed in 1968 and incorporated in 1975 to address issues related to the reliability and adequacy of bulk power supply of the electric utility systems in North America.

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Lyon-Coffey Hires Whittington

Scott H. Whittington, age 52, will be the new General Manager of Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc. and LCEC Services, effective Dec. 5.

He and his wife, Cindy and daughter Logan, age 14, will be relocating from Atlanta, TX, to the Burlington area.

They also have a son, Luke, 21, who is a senior at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX.



Scott H. Whittington was hired as General Manager of Lyon Coffey Electric.

He is currently Assistant General Manager of Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative in Douglassville, TX. Bowie-Cass is a 35,000 member coop with 95 employees.

Scott is a graduate of Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH, with a BA in Political Science; is completing his MBA program; and is also a graduate of NRECA's MIP Program.

Andrew Nominated as RUS Administrator

President Bush announced on Aug. 25 his intent to nominate former Jefferson Energy director James M. "Jim" Andrew to serve as administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) when the Senate reconvenes in September.



Jim Andrew

When confirmed by the Senate sometime this fall, Andrew will head the RUS, a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency, which focuses on building and improving rural infrastructure to provide essential

services such as electricity, water and telecommunications.

"I applaud the President for his decision to nominate Jim Andrew to serve as the next Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service," National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Glenn English wrote in a statement. "Jim has been a powerful and dedicated advocate for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve."

Currently a private consultant, Andrew has held top posts at Jefferson Energy Cooperative in Wrens, GA; Georgia EMC, the statewide trade association; National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC); and NRECA.

RuralPower

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