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## Snow storm disrupts power in northern Kansas

More than 5,200 homes and businesses in mostly rural areas of northern Kansas were without electric power during a surprise snow storm on November 16 that left more than 12 inches of heavy, wet snow in some locations over wide areas of territory served by Prairie Land, Rolling Hills, Bluestem, Nemaha-Marshall and Brown-Atchison electric cooperatives.

At the peak of the storm, the cooperatives collectively had more than 6,000 members without power, and had suffered damage to approximately 1,300 poles. The majority of the outages were restored within a few days. Rolling Hills, which suffered the greatest damage to its system, restored power to the last of its members earlier this week.

"We will have replaced between 750 and 800 poles," Rolling Hills manager Doug Jackson said. He noted that most of the line trucks are having to be pulled through mud by tractors to make repairs.

Prairie Land's Jim Coash said that while he was driving through Rolling Hills service area he saw several poles go down.

"I've never seen anything like this before – to see them dropping right in front of you. If I had been going a little faster one might have landed right on top of me," Coash said.

Bluestem's Mike Morton said the cooperative finished restoring power to the last of its members last Friday evening. The cooperative originally had 1,600 meters without power.

"We had to replace in excess of 350 poles," Morton said. "We have been pulling trucks through the mud throughout the week."



Restoration efforts were hindered by the muddy conditions in Bluestem's service area.

Morton said the co-op's emergency preparedness plan worked well through the restoration period. "Our vendor-managed inventory system was also instrumental," Morton said. The cooperative utilizes Kriz-Davis, Topeka, to maintain an inventory of supplies needed.

Crews from Brown-Atchison, Butler, DS&O, Flint Hills, Kaw Valley, Lane-Scott, LJEC, Lyon-Coffey, Prairie

Land and Victory electric cooperatives assisted in the restoration efforts. The cooperatives progress was updated daily on KEC's Web site at [www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org).



Line crews work to restore damaged poles following the Nov. 16 snowstorm.

**RUS changes definition of rural**

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) recently issued a proposed and final rule amending its regulations to revise the definition of “rural” to include any area other than a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. This action implements the change originally approved by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill.

The rule will become effective December 17, 2009, unless adverse comments are received. RUS published the rule as both a proposed and final rule in the Federal Register, because RUS views the change as a non-controversial action and expects no adverse comments.

**Red Flags Rule delayed again**

For the third time, implementation of the Red Flags rule proposed by the Federal Trade Commission has been delayed at the request of Members of Congress. The FTC announced on October 30 that due to requests from members of Congress, they would delay enforcing the rule until June 1, 2010. The rule was designed to protect consumers from identity theft and required covered entities, including electric cooperatives, to adopt rules and procedures to guard against it.

FTC NEWS RELEASE – 10/30/09

**Kansas Geological Survey receives CO<sub>2</sub> storage grant**

The Kansas Geological Survey based at the University of Kansas has received a nearly \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to study the feasibility of storing carbon dioxide underground. It will be used to determine whether a largely depleted oil and gas field in south-central Kansas and an underlying saline aquifer can permanently and safely sequester carbon dioxide.

KU NEWS RELEASE – 11/09/09

**NOVEMBER**

- 26-27 **KEC Office closed**, Thanksgiving holiday.
- 30 **DS&O and Rolling Hills Legislative Dinner**, Smoky Hill Winery, Salina.

**DECEMBER**

- 2-3 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
- 16-17 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.

**JANUARY**

- 23 **Board Leadership Course 929.1 - Current Issues in Policy Development**, Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 24 **Board Leadership Course 933.1 - The Fiduciary Duty of Director and Employee Officers**, Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 25-26 **KEC Annual Meeting**, Maner Conference Center, Topeka.

**Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame nomination sought**

Nominations for 2010 are now being accepted for the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is important for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone “above and beyond the call” in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

Since it was established in 1999, 24 individuals from all types of cooperatives have been inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame. Each December, the Council asks for nominations for additional inductees.

To download the nomination form, visit [www.kansasco-op.coop](http://www.kansasco-op.coop). The nomination deadline is Dec. 14, 2009.

upcomingtraining

**NRECA gearing up for 2010 annual meeting in Atlanta**

It’s NRECA’s annual gathering of cooperative leaders from across the country — a time to celebrate the strength of the cooperative network, to conduct important business of our association and to focus on how we as cooperatives can continue our mission of providing members with affordable and reliable electricity.

The director education courses will be held Feb. 11-14. Pre-Annual Meeting Education is a great opportunity to brush up on your skills and learn more about current issues in rural electric governance.

Network and learn with the best and brightest in the fields of engineering, operations, information technology and supply management at the TechAdvantage on Feb. 12-15. Get insights and solutions from industry experts, take home strategies to help your co-op reduce costs, and improve system efficiencies and network with more than 270

exhibitors whose ideas and technology solutions are helping to transform the energy industry.

The annual meeting will be held from Feb. 15-17. Keynote speakers will include current affairs analyst and CNN commentator David Gergen, energy secretary Steven Chu, and John Walsh, host of the crime-fighting show, America’s Most Wanted.

NRECA is also planning a co-op country night featuring the rollicking sound of Sawyer Brown! This special band burst onto the country music scene in 1983 as national winners of the Star Search talent contest. After two decades, thousands of shows, and gold and platinum album sales, this band still knows the heartbeat of small towns and the rhythm of common places.

For more information, or to register for the 2010 NRECA Annual Meeting, visit [www.cooperative.com](http://www.cooperative.com).

## Special guests speak at KEPCo's 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting



KEPCo's president, Ken Maginley (left), and manager Steve Parr pose with soldiers from the Second Brigade Combat Team, First Infantry Division, during the KEPCo Annual Meeting on Nov. 18.

Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo) held its 35th Annual Meeting in Salina on Nov. 18.

Several soldiers from the Second Brigade Combat Team, First Infantry Division, spoke to the membership to discuss their perception of our nation's mission in Iraq, and the success of that mission. These soldiers had very recently returned to Fort Riley from deployment in Iraq.

Following a reception, dinner was served to approximately 160 trustees, managers and guests. Board President Ken Maginley welcomed the group and

made introductions. CEO Steve Parr reported on the highlights of 2009 and the challenges for the coming years. Following the program, attendees were entertained with several rounds of "KEPCo", a version of Bingo.

Elected as officers at the Nov. 19 meeting were Kirk Thompson, CMS, as president; Scott Whittington, Lyon-Cofey, as vice president; Kevin Compton, Brown-Atchison, as treasurer; and Dale Short, Butler, as secretary. Also elected to the Executive Committee were Ken Maginley, Bluestem; Dwane Kessinger, Caney Valley; and Larry Stevens, LJEC.

## Midwest Energy annual meeting

Midwest Energy held its annual meeting at the Robbins Center at the Fort Hays State University campus in Hays on Nov. 16.

For the first time, Midwest Energy offered their annual meeting via webcast for their members. Those participating in the webcast, along with the 95 members in attendance, heard reports from the Board of Directors and Earnie Lehman, Midwest Energy's general manager.

Midwest Energy's five Youth Tour representatives showed a video presentation to the members that highlighted their trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.

The staff answered questions about energy costs, cap and trade issues, plans for renewable energies, and other industry topics.

Re-elected to the board were Dale Unruh, Juanita Stecklein, and Louise Berning.

## Pioneer hires new member services manager

After reviewing resumes from thirty-five plus applicants, and conducting telephone and on-site interviews, Pioneer has announced Anita Rock as their new manager of member services. Rock will begin her new position on January 4, 2010. She comes to the co-op from Itasca-Mantrap Rural Electric Cooperative in Park Rapids, MN, where she has worked for the last ten years in their member services department.

## King named to national Touchstone Energy Committee

Victory's Jerry King has been selected to serve on the national Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Co-op Relations Committee.

This committee oversees programs such as the new employee orientation, the Discovery Map training, and the "dollar value calculator". It suggests ways to build the brand and to engage employees and directors through education while leading the member recruitment and retention efforts.

His first committee meeting is scheduled in January.



Jerry King

## Victory receives extension council appreciation award

Victory was recently named the 2009 recipient of the Ford County Extension Appreciation Award. The award was presented to Victory's Terry Janson and Jerri Imgarten during the Ford County Extension Council meeting held on November 3.

"Victory Electric Cooperative has shown true community support of Extension in many ways," said Ethel Schneweis, Ford County extension family and consumer science agent. "Victory provides support to our Ford County Fair by offering each 4-H member a free t-shirt, in addition to funds for trophies, and a donation to



The Ford County Extension Appreciation Award was presented to Victory's Terry Janson (left) and Jerri Imgarten.

our general premium fund to benefit each 4-H exhibitor. They also utilize Extension staff as speakers for their annual irrigation meeting and allow our office to have an informational booth on display."

Victory also recently made a donation to Rock Springs 4-H Center to help with the remodeling of the co-op cottage dormitory.

The Extension Council Appreciation Award is presented to an individual, couple or organization who has given a considerable amount of extra effort in support of the Extension Council educational programs.

# Holiday lighting safety: Survivor teaches from tragic experience

A tragic power line accident and the strong-willed Indiana man who survived it shine a bright light on the vital importance of holiday lighting safety. Shawn Miller's experience is the centerpiece of Safe Electricity's 2009 national Teach Learn Care TLC campaign.

A few years ago Shawn Miller of Indiana was just like millions of other Americans every year. As he was helping his mother decorate her house for the holidays, he tossed lights up into the trees. When the lights made contact with the overhead power lines, 7200 volts of electricity entered his body. He suffered 27 exit wounds; the loss of his left hand and a finger on his right hand.

Miller has partnered with Safe Electricity to urge everyone to be cautious this holiday season.

"I'm lucky to be alive," he said. "I want everyone to be careful, be aware of power lines."

Miller was joined by Safe Electricity and electric cooperative representatives this week as he shared his story.

"Shawn Miller has a lot to teach us about electrical safety and we are grateful he is sharing his story through our Teach Learn Care TLC campaign," says Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall. "We want people to learn from his tragic experience and care enough to share it with those they love."

Safe Electricity is a program dedicated to providing life-saving and energy-saving resources. All members of KEC have access to the Safe Electricity program's resources and materials.

For more information about Shawn Miller's story, or for other electrical safety resources, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org). If you need the password and log on information, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC.

## jobmarket

### Twin Valley seeks director of operations

Twin Valley is accepting applications for a director of operations.

Must have a high school diploma and at least 10 years of utility experience, preferred college with a degree in related field.

Successful candidate will supervise, direct and control construction, operations, and maintenance of the distribution and substation facilities, as well as developing competent, skilled line workers. Provide for safety training and

compliance as required for NRECA Safety Accreditation, OSHA Regulations and co-op procedures and policies. Investigate, survey and design the construction of electric distribution lines. Responsible for obtaining all necessary legal documents required for the construction of electric facilities. Will monitor the status of the system's distribution facilities.

TwinValley offers a competitive wage and benefit package. Send resume to TVEC, PO Box 368, Altamont, KS. EOE.

## insympathy

### Samuel E Blenden, Jr

Samuel E. Blenden, Jr., step son of KEC's Charlotte Provo, passed away on November 20, 2009. Survivors include his wife, Christie, and their twin daughters, Samantha and Sydney.

Burial was held on November 25 at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Topeka. Memorial contributions may be made to the Blenden Childrens Education Fund, c/o Capital City Bank, 3710 SW Topeka, Blvd, Topeka, KS 66609.

## RuralPower

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