

# Rural Power

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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## Graham Named CEO of Indiana Statewide

Bruce Graham, KEPCo's Vice President of Member Services and External Affairs, has been named Chief Executive Officer of the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

As CEO, Graham will be responsible for the direction of activities and policies adopted by the Board of Trustees, for management of the association operations, as well as internal and external relations that benefit the association's membership. Graham will assume his management responsibilities at the Indiana Statewide, an Indianapolis-based service association for 38 electric cooperatives, on Jan. 3, 2006.

"I appreciate the confidence of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Statewide. I am eager to begin working with them and the association's professional staff to meet the challenges and the opportunities that are part of the changing electric utility indus-



Bruce Graham

try," Graham said. "I will miss my many friends and colleagues in Kansas, but I feel privileged to be able to continue my career as part of the rural electric cooperative family."

During his 18-year career at KEPCo, Graham was responsible for communications and government relations at both the state and federal level. He also supervised and directed KEPCo's marketing and economic development efforts. Currently, Graham is president of NRECA's Council of Rural Electric Communicators. He has also been active in Touch-

stone Energy, the national rural electric cooperative brand and standards program. Graham is a Certified Cooperative Communicator and is a graduate of Leadership Topeka.

Graham and his wife, Kathy, have two sons. Christopher is a December 2005 graduate of Kansas State University and Kevin is a junior at Kansas State.

## Kansas Country Living Staff Plans Improvements for 2006

As the *Kansas Country Living* staff prepares for the New Year, several changes are being planned to improve the statewide publication.

This month, KEC launches the *Kansas Country Living* statewide advertising campaign to attract advertising from businesses, festivals and events in Kansas. If you know of a business that may be interested in advertising,

please contact Carrie Kimberlin, [ckimberlin@kec.org](mailto:ckimberlin@kec.org).

Starting with the January issue of *Kansas Country Living*, the centerspreads will be upgraded to white paper, which will have the same weight and texture of the current yellow paper. This change has been made in response to requests from the subscribing member systems. Photos, graphics and charts

will be clearer, and the text will be easier to read. Colored margins will be used to highlight the centerspread information so that readers may locate the centerspread easily.

These improvements to the magazine are part of KEC's on-going effort to produce a high-quality publication for electric cooperative members.

## Cooperative Calendar

December	14-15	Select Joint Committee on Energy, Rm 313-S, Statehouse, 9:30 a.m.
	26	KEC Office Closed for the Christmas holiday.
January	2	KEC Office Closed for the New Year's holiday.
	18-19	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	20	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	21-24	KEC Annual Meeting, Capitol Plaza, Topeka.
February	17	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	18-22	NRECA Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida.
March	1-2	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn, Salina, 8:30 a.m.
	15-16	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	17	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.

## Lyon-Coffey's John Tufts To Retire

John Tufts, Journeyman Lineman for Lyon-Coffey Electric will be retiring from the electric cooperative industry on January 3, 2006. John has been a lineman since December 4, 1972, when he was first employed by Lyon County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Best wishes on your retirement!



John Tufts

## KEPCo Board Elects Officers

The Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo) Board of Trustees re-elected Ken Maginley as President during its November 17 meeting in Topeka. Maginley is the General Manager of Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The KEPCo Board of Trustees consists of a Trustee Representative and Alternate from each of the 19 KEPCo member rural electric cooperatives. The Board annually names seven Trustee Representatives to serve as its Executive Committee. Kirk Thompson, Manager of CMS, was elected as Vice President. Gordon Coulter, Trustee of Ninescah, was re-elected as Secretary. Bryan Coover, Vice President of Twin Valley, was re-elected as Treasurer.

In addition, Melroy Kopsa, Trustee of Rolling Hills, was re-elected to the Executive Committee. Also elected to the Executive Committee were: Dale Bodenhausen, Trustee of Brown-Atchison; and Robert Reece, Manager of Flint Hills.

### KEC to Offer Board Leadership Course at Annual Meeting

On Jan. 21 at the Capitol Plaza in Topeka, KS, John Sturm of ACES Power Marketing will facilitate **967.1 Fundamentals of Energy Risk Management for Directors**. He will also give a mini session on Jan. 22. For more information, please contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or at [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).

## Job Opportunities

### Nebraska PPD Seeks General Manager

Twin Valleys Public Power District, Cambridge, NE, seeks a qualified General Manager. The successful candidate will assume the duties of the position during the first quarter of 2006.

The board seeks candidates with excellent leadership, management and communications skills, and a broad knowledge of electric distribution. Applicants must have at least five years of experience in utility management, and a bachelor's degree in an appropriate field. The successful candidate will have strong communications and interpersonal skills, and demonstrate a commitment to customer service.

Twenty-two employees serve 6,000 customers and maintain 2,400 miles of line. The Nebraska G&T supplies wholesale power and the district's consumers enjoy competitive electric rates. Annual revenues are approximately \$7 million on a utility plant of \$29 million.

The company offers an excellent NRECA benefits package, including a competitive salary.

Please send resume, a minimum of three professional references and salary expectations by December 23 to John Mashaw, [ExecutiveSearch@nreca.coop](mailto:ExecutiveSearch@nreca.coop), 4301 Wilson Boulevard, ET9-201, Arlington, VA 22203-1860. Or call (703) 907-5646.

### Wyoming Cooperative Seeks General Manager

High Plains Power, Riverton, WY, is seeking a General Manager to be responsible for the cooperative's daily functions including system operations, administration, safety and regulatory compliance, legal and leading 52 employees.

Candidates should have a minimum of 10 years of progressive related experience in electric utility management, including operations, budgeting, finance, member communications, and union and board relations, preferably within the rural electric program. Rate regulation experience desirable. Bachelor's degree in an appropriate field is required.

The successful candidate will have a strong commitment to cooperative principles and be a proven community leader with excellent communications skills.

High Plains Power, Inc. is a consumer owned electric distribution cooperative with 4,370 miles of distribution lines, 315 miles of transmission lines, and 11,600 meters.

The cooperative offers an excellent benefits package, a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications, and relocation assistance.

Please send resume, three professional references and salary history by Jan. 30, 2006, to Sara Rivenburgh, VP Human Resources, Tri-State G&T Assoc., Inc., P.O. Box 33695, Denver, CO 80233.

## In Brief

### California Demands Cleaner Coal

On Nov. 21, the California Energy Commission issued its annual policy report. Noting that California is the world's 17th largest emitter of greenhouse gases, the commission said the state "must incorporate its effort to reduce greenhouse gases into its energy policies."

The action plan commits California agencies to ensuring that "energy supplies serving California, from any source, are consistent with the governor's climate change goals." Those goals require that any energy imported into California be generated at plants that have lower greenhouse gas emissions than traditional coal-fired power plants.

*Billings Gazette, Nov. 29*

### EEI Predicts "Flat" Power Prices

Average U.S. electricity prices are expected to remain "relatively flat" for the next 20 years, despite continuing higher oil and natural gas prices, said Guy Caruso, administrator of the Dept. of Energy's Energy Information Administration. He said power prices now average 7.4 cents/kWh and are expected to drop about a penny in the next few years, but then return to the 7.4-cents average.

*Megawatt Daily, Nov. 29*

### Energy Prices Affect Farm-Loan Repayments

Farm credit conditions in some parts of the West and Midwest weakened in the third quarter, with more producers falling behind on loan payments and asking for extensions, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City said on Nov. 29.

Although rising energy prices affected third-quarter results, many bankers expect the full impact to be seen next year, not at the end of this year, said Nancy Novack, associate economist with the Federal Reserve Bank.

*Wichita Eagle, Nov. 30*

## Severe Storm Came Early to Western Kansas Co-ops

Snow, ice and winds in excess of 60 miles per hour struck western Kansas November 27 and left hundreds of broken poles and thousands of electric cooperative members without power.

"I've been here 38 years and this is the worst one I've been through," said Earl Hansen, director of operations for Prairie Land. "I've seen some bad ones but not like this."

Prairie Land was one of three systems affected by the early winter storm. Midwest Energy and Western were also hard hit.

About 500 poles were down in the Prairie Land area and as many as 4,000 customers were without power during the height of the storm, primarily in Sheridan, Graham and Decatur counties.

Rolling Hills, Wheatland, Bluestem,

Nemaha-Marshall, Kaw Valley, and DS&O sent crews and equipment to assist with restoration.

More than 200 poles were lost in the Western service area. "The buildup of ice on the lines was four and five inches in diameter," said manager Dave Schneider. "The poles just wouldn't take it." As many as 900 households were without service the day after the storm.

Pioneer and CMS sent crews and equipment to Western to aid in service restoration.

Approximately 150 to 200 poles were lost in the Midwest Energy service territory, said Bob Helm, manager of corporate communications. The hardest hit areas were Wallace and Sherman counties and the towns of Goodland and Colby, he said.

(Right): Several of Midwest Energy's poles snapped from the heavy winds and the weight of the ice-covered lines during the blizzard. (Below): Western linemen work to repair the downed, frozen power lines.



## Congratulations

### Husted Hired at Nevada Co-op

Tom Husted, the former manager of Lane-Scott, started last month as the general manager of Valley Electric Association (VEA), a 15,000-member electric co-op based in Pahrump, NV.

Husted, 45, has 23 years of electric utility experience. Most recently, he served as the chief executive officer for eight years at Columbia Rural Electric Association, and its subsidiary, Columbia Energy LLC, of Dayton, WA.

"I grew up in the electric utility business," said Husted. "My father, Don, who is now retired, is a former general manager at Southwest Public Power District in Palisade, NE, and my brother, Dan, is currently the marketing manager for Lake Region Electric Cooperative in Pelican Rapids, MN.

After earning a business degree, Husted started his career at Nebraska's Southwest Public Power's operations department, working on the tree-trimming crew, the line crew, the engineering department, and finally the power marketing department.

He left Nebraska to be the marketing manager at a dual electric and telephone co-op in South Dakota for two years before accepting the general manager position at Lane-Scott in 1992. He accepted the same position almost five years later at Farmers Electric Cooperative in Clovis, NM.

### Hurricane Recovery Efforts Featured at Midwest's Annual Meeting

Approximately 110 members attended Midwest Energy's Annual Meeting on Nov. 22 at the Sternberg Museum in Hays.



Linemen slept on cots during the recovery efforts.

Reports of the Directors and the General Manager were given, and the member-owners enjoyed refreshments. Warmhelp.org posters and a message from Governor Kathleen Sebelius were distributed to the audience.

Mike Stremel and Al Pfeifer were special guests for the meeting and Stremel narrated a video about the restoration efforts in Mississippi by Midwest

Energy's linemen following Hurricane Katrina. Two high school students, Justine Nelson from Little River and Baylee Hess from Scott City,

reviewed the highlights of their trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the "Government In Action Youth Tour". Midwest Energy sponsored their trips. Trustees Chuck Moore, Gary Moss, and Ed Pratt were all re-elected. Officers for next year are Ed Pratt, Chairman; John Blackwell, Vice-Chairman; Chuck Moore, Treasurer; and Keith Miller, Secretary.

### Pioneer Employees Participate in Christmas Parade

Employees of Pioneer Electric participated in the annual Grant County Christmas Parade on December 1.

"Santa," Pioneer's Mark Shogren, drove a decorated golf cart in the 'Miracles and Magic' light parade while other Pioneer employees handed out treats to the parade watchers.

"There were 37 floats in the parade. We had a blast! And yes, it was freezing. It was only 20 degrees," Rae Bevan, Pioneer's Communications Specialist said. "There were 37 floats in the light parade this year, which is their biggest yet."

Pioneer Employees – Mark Shogren (top) and Dee Longoria, Rae Bevan, Kris Leisher and Darlene Lucas – kept warm during the annual Grant County Christmas Parade.



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