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## Governor Holds Press Conference with Energy Leaders

Chief executive officers from the state's generating electric utilities, including Midwest Energy, Sunflower, and KEPCo, joined Gov. Kathleen Sebelius at a press conference on May 25 to highlight the voluntary efforts of electric utilities to increase renewable energy production, specifically wind energy and energy efficiency.

Sebelius had set a goal of increasing wind-generated power to 10 percent by 2010, and 20 percent by 2020. She has also encouraged more transmission lines, and has provided the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority (KETA) a \$1 million operations budget.

Among those joining Sebelius at the event were KEPCo's Steve Parr, Midwest Energy's Earnie Lehman, and Sunflower's Earl Watkins.

Parr said, "Through deliberate and conscientious decisions made over time, KEPCo has created a remarkably diverse power supply, one where more than 50 percent of our energy comes from generation resources, namely nuclear and hydroelectric, which produce no green-house gas emissions."

He went on to point out that KEPCo is working to diversify its generation resource mix even further by participating with Westar's wind projects, as well as in new high-efficiency coal-fired generation.

"KEPCo and its member electric cooperatives also recognize the importance of energy conservation and efficiency programs and have invested in technology for demand side load management," Parr added. "We continue to encourage individual consumer investment in the installation of high-efficiency heat pumps and water heaters."

Lehman remarked during the press conference that Midwest has contracted for wind capacity equal to almost 8 percent of its peak load. "As we continue to rebuild our long-term power supplies, including participation in Sunflower's Holcomb 2 power plant and the construction of our own gas-fired Goodman Energy Center, we plan to increase our wind capacity commitment to 15 percent of our peak

load by 2010," he stated.

Lehman also discussed the HowSmart energy efficiency program proposed by Midwest, which is awaiting approval by the KCC.

Highlighting the efforts of KETA, where he serves as Vice Chair, Lehman said, "We have identified two potential new transmission lines that could open up the development of renewable energy resources in western Kansas and provide other benefits. We are working with the Southwest Power Pool to refine these preliminary study results over the next 30 days."

Watkins emphasized Sunflower's renewable and conservation strategies including its participation in the Gray County wind farm and the Smoky Hill wind project.

"Taken together, we will have accomplished the Governor's 2010 wind energy goal by 2007 for our systems," Watkins said. "While this is an accomplishment we are proud of, it only represents one area of our current development activities."

He noted Sunflower's involvement in the Holcomb expansion project, and the transmission infrastructure that would develop with the construction of the new base-load coal plants. He also commented on the development of an integrated bioenergy center at the Holcomb site. This center will feature ethanol and biodiesel plants, an anaerobic digester, a dairy, and an algae reactor which will add value to the flue gas emissions from the Holcomb power plants.

Other participants in the conference were the chief executives of Westar Energy, Great Plains Energy and Empire District Electric Co. Highlights of their reports included Westar's 500 MW RFP for wind energy, KCPL's 400 MW wind energy RFP, and Empire District Electric's disclosure that it already has wind generation capacity equal to 16 percent of its peak demand.

Sebelius emphasized that educating our state's consumers about energy efficient appliances, compact florescent lights, and proper insulation would go a long way toward energy conservation efforts.

## In Brief

### Talk of a Greener Greensburg

Talk of a future Greensburg turned to visions of green. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said she and the town's mayor, Lonnie McCollum, have discussed the town rebuilding as an environmental model community, with renewable power, energy-efficient buildings and other possibilities.

The town has the name to fit the image, Sebelius said of "green" ideas starting to emerge as residents continue to clear away tons of rubble from the May 4 monster storm. "We have the opportunity of having the greenest town in rural America," the governor said.

*Harris News Service – 5/11/07*

### Head Of KCC to Retire

On May 16, Chairman Brian Moline announced that he plans to retire June 15 after serving more than eight years on the Kansas Corporation Commission. He also was the KCC's chief attorney for 10 years.

Moline, 67, is an attorney and represented a Wichita district in the Kansas House in 1967-71. He served as the KCC's general counsel in 1979-85 and 1991-95 when John Carlin and Joan Finney were governors.

Republican Gov. Bill Graves appointed Moline to the commission in December 1998, and he became its chairman in May 2003. Sebelius has named Tom Wright as Moline's replacement, subject to Senate confirmation.

*The Associated Press – 5/17/07*

### Westar Issuing \$100M In Bonds

Westar Energy will issue \$100 million in mortgage bonds to help finance construction of a new power plant and transmission line. The bonds will be due in 2047 with Westar paying interest quarterly starting in August 2007.

Westar is planning to build a \$350 million power plant near Emporia capable of generating 600 megawatts of electricity and a \$90 million transmission line.

*Wichita Business Journal – 5/10/07*

## Cooperative Calendar

June	15	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	28	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
July	4	Holiday - KEC office closed.
	10	Lane-Scott Annual Meeting. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Dighton Fair Grounds.
	18-19	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	20	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	26	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	28-30	Summer Board Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.

## Students Race in Touchstone Energy ElectroRally

More than a dozen high schools from across the state competed in an electric vehicle race on April 28. The Touchstone Energy ElectroRally, held at Great Plains Manufacturing in Lucas, is designed to introduce and raise awareness of alternative energy sources to high school students.

The objective of the competition is for students to construct and race an electric vehicle the most laps in a period of 60 minutes. The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas sponsored this event.

Scott City High School completed the most laps to win the standard class competition. St. John and Mulvane placed second and third consecutively.

Scott City also took top honors in the experimental class. Ulysses and Mulvane took second and third consecutively. Spearville was recognized as a novice class participant at the race.



Photo by Brian Dreiling

Cooperative volunteers assist the student teams at the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally on April 28 in Lucas.

"On behalf of Kansas ElectroRally, we would like to thank Touchstone Energy for sponsoring such an educational and fun event," said Nikki Pfannenstiel, Sunflower.

Volunteers from Kansas electric cooperatives included: Jerry King, Victory; Dennis Deines, Western; Cindy Suppes, James Kuhlman, Nikki Pfannenstiel, and Clare Gustin, Sunflower; and Brian Dreiling, Midwest Energy. Special thanks to Fort Hays State University organizers, Bob Howell and Joe Chretien.

### NRECA Managing Your Money and Investments Workshop

The NRECA workshop *Managing Your Money and Investments* will be held Aug. 21 - 22 at the Hotel at Old Town in Wichita. Rooms are \$105, and include breakfast. To make reservations, call 1-877-265-3869 and ask for the Kansas Electric room block. Release date is July 30. Workshop registration will be mailed directly from NRECA to each cooperative. For more information, contact Leilani Todd, KEC, at (785) 478-4554.

### NRECA Retirement Planning Seminar

The NRECA *Retirement Planning Seminar* will be held Nov. 27-28 at the Clubhouse Inn and Suites in Topeka. Rooms are \$66 and include breakfast. Call 785-273-8888 for reservations, and ask for the room block under Kansas Electric Co-ops. Release date is Nov. 12. Workshop registration will be mailed directly from NRECA to each cooperative. For more information, contact Leilani Todd, KEC, at (785) 478-4554.

## CMS Secures USDA Rural Development Funding for Nursing Home Facility Addition

CMS Electric Cooperative, Meade, received a ceremonial check on May 8 in the amount of \$300,000 in USDA Rural Economic Development Grant Program funding to support the construction of an addition and renovations to the Protection Valley Manor Nursing Home.



Back Row: Tom Murphy, Tim Evey, Paul Kissel, Merle Wait, Darrol Miller, Orlin Loucks, Brandon Prough, and Candy Murphy. Front Row: Chuck Banks, Larry Landers, Bob Selger, Linda Tomlinson, Ruth Ann Jellison, Penny Peterson, Bonnie Lindsey, and Kirk Thompson.

This funding will be leveraged with supplemental funds of \$473,500. The total cost of the project will be \$773,500.

USDA Rural Development State Director, Chuck Banks said, "These business development funds will help support the important local efforts to bring added economic employment opportunities to Protection and the surrounding area."

"I think the best part about this funding is that we are able

to help a nursing home facility within our service area," said Kirk Thompson, CMS Manager. "This program involves so many different entities all coming together, and this is something we can do. By CMS just doing our little part, Protection Valley Manor will

be able to complete their renovations and they will now also be able to apply for state tax credits."

The addition to the facility will increase the size of the kitchen and dining facilities to accommodate all residents at dinner time, allow for more space for rehabilitation sessions, stay in compliance with health codes, and allow the preparation of "Meals on Wheels" for the community.

## Annual Meetings

### Western Annual Meeting

Western held its annual meeting on May 9 at its headquarters in WaKeeney. 325 members and guests were served a meal, and the trustees' wives served ice cream. Valet parking for the meeting was provided by Western's linemen.

Sunflower's Earl Watkins discussed the Aquila acquisition, ice storm restoration, and the Holcomb bio-energy center.

Re-elected to the Board were Don Schultz, Frank Joy and Charles Luetters.

### Sunflower Annual Meeting

Sunflower held its annual meeting at the Holcomb Station on May 18.

Guest speaker Sheldon Peterson, CFC, discussed positive new direction at RUS under the leadership of Jim Andrew and Jim Newby. He highlighted the MKEC transaction, stating that Sunflower is building "institutions with a lasting legacy that are making decisions that are for the benefit of consumers."

In a re-organization meeting, Charles Ayers, Wheatland, was re-elected as Chairman, and Loren Ochs, Victory, was re-elected Vice Chairman.

## Kansas Communicators Earn Spotlight Awards

KEC's communications staff recently took honors in the 2007 "Spotlight on Excellence" awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC).

Bob Jennings, Manager of Publishing Services, received two Awards of Excellence. The first was for his feature story that appeared in the May 2006 issue of *Kansas Country Living* titled "A Small Kansas Town Remembers 911". His second award was for his design work on the KEPCo Annual Report. The Annual Report was written by KEPCo's Phil Wages, who will also receive a copy of the award.

Carrie Kimberlin, Communications Specialist, earned an Award of Merit for her photo essay that appeared in the September 2006 issue of *Kansas Country Living* titled "Summer Fun: What I did at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp".

"Cooperatives are working hard to communicate effectively with the people they serve – their members," said Maggie Tilley, administrator of Spotlight on Excellence. "Those efforts were clearly



From left: Bob Jennings, KEC; Phil Wages, KEPCo; and Carrie Kimberlin, KEC, display their *Spotlight on Excellence* awards.

demonstrated in the entries we received from across the nation."

The CREC honored the award recipients during a special luncheon at the 2007 Connect Conference. All winning entries were displayed at the conference held in Miami, FL, from May 16-18.

The Spotlight awards competition is an annual event recognizing the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Electric cooperative communicators and marketing professionals submitted more than 800 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year.

## Communications Intern Joins KEC

Jerri Imgarten joined KEC as a communications intern May 23.

Imgarten is a student at Oklahoma State University majoring in Agricultural

Communications and Agricultural Economics. She grew up on a farm near Red Rock, OK.

"I am excited to be a part of the communications department," Imgarten said. "I grew up in a rural community and my family belonged to an electric cooperative. Working for KEC is a great opportunity to combine my rural agricultural background with my interest in the communications industry."

Imgarten is in her last semester at OSU. As a communications intern, she will be helping with a variety of tasks including working with the youth tour and *Kansas Country Living*, photography, design, writing and office work.

"I've always been a creative person and assisting with the publication of a magazine is going to be a fun and rewarding experience," Imgarten said.

Outside of the office, Imgarten enjoys reading, scrapbooking and spending time with her family and animals.



Jerri Imgarten

## Kansas Cooperative Representatives Attend Legislative Conference

Cooperative trustees, managers, and staff traveled to Washington, D.C., May 6-9 to the 2007 NRECA Legislative Conference. Of the 3,000 cooperative advocates from across the nation, 22 delegates represented Kansas electric cooperatives.

The delegates attended workshops and visited with legislators and congressional staff to discuss current state and federal issues. For the Kansas delegation, much of each call was spent sharing information on the recent tornado in Greensburg and the planned restoration efforts.

Sen. Roberts was presented the NRECA Distinguished Service Award by the Kansas cooperative representatives. Roberts was honored at the NRECA Annual Meeting in March, but was unable to attend the meeting.

National issues discussed at the legislative conference were climate change, Rural Utilities Service, the railroad crisis, power marketing administrations, and Clean Renewable Energy Bonds.

Attending the legislative conference were; Ken Maginley, Bluestem; Don Hellwig, DS&O; Dale Coomes, Heartland; Joe Conley, Kaw Valley; Stuart Lowry and Dave Holthaus, KEC; Phil Wages, KEPCo; Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey; Earnie Lehman, Midwest Energy; Perry Rubart, Pioneer; Allan Miller, Keith Ross, and Mike Rogers, Prairie Land; Alan Henning and Don Metzner, Sedgwick County; Earl Watkins and Clare Gustin, Sunflower; Ron Holsteen, Twin Valley; Terry Janson and Josh Schmidt, Victory; and Charles Ayers, Wheatland.

## Job Opportunities

### KEPCo Seeks SCADA/Metering Technician

Responsibilities are to maintain, test, calibrate and install metering and SCADA equipment. Must be self motivated, and be willing to travel daily throughout the KEPCo territory. The position will require the applicant to relocate to the Salina area. Must have a valid driver's license and a clear driving record. Electric utility experience a plus but not a must. Will need to be able to work with numerous KEPCo members and help support and coordinate projects as needed.

KEPCo offers an excellent salary and benefits program. Send cover letter and resume to KEPCo Human Resources, c/o Mark Barbee, PO Box 4877, Topeka KS 66604. EOE.

### Western Seeks Linemen

Western Cooperative Electric, WaKeeney, is seeking two journeyman linemen to help provide safe and reliable electric distribution service to its new members in the Schoenchen through Beaver areas. The workforce operates out of a new facility in Olmitz.

Western offers a competitive wage and full benefit package including paid family health, dental and vision insurance, NRECA pension plan, paid life and LTD insurance and a generous paid leave schedule.

Access the application at [western-coop.com](http://western-coop.com) or call 1-800-456-6720. Send resume and cover letter to Line Superintendent, Western Cooperative Electric, PO Box 278, WaKeeney, KS 67672.

# RuralPower

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