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ruralpower@kec.org



FEMA Delays Hamper Electric System Restorations

Eligible electric utilities across Kansas have not restored many of the poles and wires damaged in last December's ice storm due to delays associated with reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The utilities hope that meetings scheduled with FEMA this month will break the bottleneck of funding.

Meetings thus far this week focused on the disparity of damaged elements identified by FEMA during inspections, as they were far less than those that the electric cooperatives identified. FEMA has proposed joint inspections to reconcile the actual damaged elements. Engineers working with the utilities have also agreed to meet with FEMA engineers to attempt to write criteria that can be used to identify the appropriate response to reported damage.

Under federal law, eligible entities such

Pioneer Employee Uses First-Aid Skills Learned at Cooperative

"I do not take any personal credit as I feel that anyone that works at Pioneer would have done the same thing," said Kris Leisher, receptionist/clerk of Pioneer Electric Cooperative.

On Saturday, June 21, Leisher and her husband were driving through Colorado when they came across a traffic accident.

"A semi t-boned a small vehicle," she explained. "The driver got out of the car, but the passenger was trapped."

Leisher crawled through the driver's side of the car to reach the passenger who appeared to have severe head trauma.

"I wrapped a towel around the wound and applied pressure with my hand where he was bleeding. I had to go by feel because the grill was literally up against his head. There was blood everywhere," she recounts.

Leisher said that at one point, she considered what had motivated her to jump to action while others merely watched.

"As I looked around I did ask myself what in

as electric cooperatives and municipal utilities may receive reimbursement for the costs required to restore damaged electrical systems to pre-disaster condition. The State of Kansas estimated the damages from the storm to be approximately \$340 million for electric cooperatives statewide. Thus far, FEMA has agreed to pay only expenses of about \$50 million related to the initial storm restoration effort, which took over two weeks last December. That effort, however, did not return the electrical systems to pre-disaster condition.

"The initial restoration effort focuses solely on getting the lights on as quickly as possible," said KEC's executive vice president Stuart Lowry. "Rebuilding the electrical systems to pre-disaster conditions is undertaken after our engineers can assess the damage and determine the appropriate way to restore the

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Kris Leisher

the heck I was doing there, and why was I not standing around the wreck looking on as so many others were," she stated. "Not one person offered to do anything else while waiting for the ambulance."

Leisher credits her ability to help to the first-aid training that she received at her cooperative.

"I am usually the kind that faints at the sight of blood, but somehow, somehow, it all came

together just as our safety instructors have told us over and over again," she said.

"For almost 18 years I have gone in and out of all of these classes, learning, listening, and, yes, sometimes yawning. But I never realized what this training would mean to me should I ever have to use it. I am so thankful that I work for a company that trains its employees on safety issues," Leisher said.

Leisher has received a couple of phone calls from the accident victims who are from Parsons, KS. They are hoping to visit her at Pioneer's office next month.

In Brief

Off-Peak Electricity Could Power Hybrid

Off-peak electricity production could fuel 70 percent of the 220 million vehicles on U.S. roads if they were plug-in hybrid electrics, a study found.

The study, performed for the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory indicates replacing vehicles solely powered by gasoline engines with hybrids powered by off-peak electricity could improve air quality by using existing infrastructure more efficiently.

If drivers charged vehicles overnight when demand for electricity is low, most regions of the country would have plenty of off-peak generation, transmission and distribution capacity to handle that region's hybrid vehicles.

United Press International – 7/14/08

OK, KS 'Super' Transmission Networks to be Linked

A new 765-kilovolt transmission system in western Oklahoma will be linked with a similar "ultra-high-capacity" network in Kansas that was announced in May by Westar Energy. The transmission lines are seen as the start of a "transmission superhighway" that will promote the development of wind power in the region.

Kansas City Star – 7/16/08

Administration Releases EPA Report, Then Repudiates It

The Bush administration published a government blueprint to reduce the U.S. output of global-warming gases, but at the same time rejected the document out of hand – saying it would impose "crippling costs" on the U.S. economy.

The White House argues the Environmental Protection Agency must not be allowed to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, for fear it would be able to block development across the country. The EPA's report attempts to summarize the benefits and costs of regulating greenhouse-gas emissions, and makes no recommendations. But its details may be less significant than its potential political impact.

Wall Street Journal – 7/12/08

Cooperative Calendar

July	31	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
August	2-4	KEC Summer Board Meeting, Overland Park Marriott.
	14-15	Kansas Material Managers Meeting, Holiday Inn Express, Hutchinson.
	15	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	20-21	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.
	22	KCRE Golf Tournament, Salina Municipal Golf Course.
September	28	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
	8-9	Rural Development Utilities Programs CPA Seminar, Kansas City, MO.
	9-11	KEC Hot Line School, Pratt Vo-Tech.

Program Finalized for KEC's Summer Board Meeting

The program for the 2008 KEC Summer Board Meeting August 2-4 at the Overland Park Marriott features a diverse array of speakers and workshops.

Among scheduled speakers on Monday, Aug. 4 are NRECA's Susan Pettit, who will discuss climate change legislation; Maurice Martin, of NRECA's Cooperative Research Network, who will discuss smart metering technologies; and Dr. David Barton, of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center at Kansas State University.

Also on the program are Second District Rep. Nancy Boyda, State Rep. Tom Sloan and State Sen. Janis Lee. Other speakers will include Sunflower's Earl Watkins, KEPCo's Steve Parr, and Federated's Rose Middleton and Stan Bray.

KEC is offering three trustee courses on Aug. 2 and 3. The Board Leadership

Course **930.1 Ethics and Governance: Implementing the New Accountability** will be offered on Saturday, Aug. 2.

On Sunday, Aug. 3, KEC offers the CCD course **2600.1 Director Duties & Liabilities** and the Board Leadership Course **970.1 The Role of Renewables in Power Supply**.

All KEC meeting events will be held at the Overland Park Marriott, which is undergoing an exterior renovation during the Summer Board Meeting.

Other group activities include a KC Royals vs. Chicago White Sox baseball game at the Kauffman Stadium on Aug. 2 – with a new game time of 2:55 p.m. – and a performance at the New Theatre Restaurant on Aug. 3.

For more information, call Charlotte Provo-Blenden at (785) 228-4604 or email cprovo@kec.org.

Cooperative Volunteers Needed at the Kansas State Fair

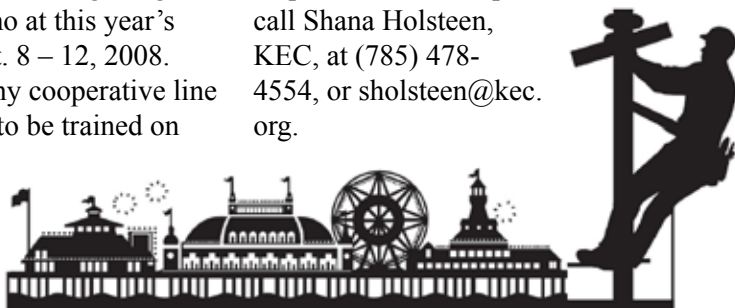
Teaching the public to stay safe around power lines is the focus of the electric cooperatives' message at this year's Kansas State Fair, and volunteers are needed to help spread this message.

Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are again co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demo at this year's Kansas State Fair, Sept. 8 – 12, 2008. KEC is coordinating any cooperative line crews who would like to be trained on the safety demo.

This sponsorship incorporates the full-size, electric safety demonstration

– on loan from Midwest Energy – with the fair's "Kansas' Largest Classroom". In addition, the Touchstone Energy "Get Charged" kits will be distributed.

KEC has a limited supply of free fair passes that will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. To volunteer to help, or for free fair passes, call Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554, or sholsteen@kec.org.



FEMA Delays Hamper Electric System Restoration, *cont.*

systems to pre-disaster condition.”

According to Lowry, the engineering assessments have been performed and the recommendations delivered to FEMA, but FEMA disputes that rebuilding line sections is needed. He said each utility was notified by FEMA that the electrical systems showed little, if any, damage that required further action.

“The damage caused by the ice loading on the systems was widespread and severe,” said Lowry. “The twenty electric cooperatives that were damaged are now experiencing increased outages, and cooperatives continue to find areas that were weakened in the storm that are failing now. Without FEMA funding, the costs of the needed repairs can only be

recovered through rates.”

Utilities have also been placed in a catch-22 situation in that construction projects need to be undertaken now, prior to the next winter season, yet FEMA funding has not been approved, and FEMA has informed utilities that any repairs they undertake on their own will not be eligible for reimbursement. Utilities hope that upcoming meetings with FEMA will eliminate further delays in obtaining the necessary funding.

“Because of the potential rate impacts we owe it to electric cooperative members to seek FEMA reimbursement,” said Lowry. “The electric cooperatives will seek only what the law allows from FEMA and not one penny more.”

Touchstone Energy’s Kids Energy Program Features CFL Charlie

Meet CFL Charlie, the mascot for the Kids “Super Energy Saver” classroom kit developed by Touchstone Energy.

This program has been developed for school age children grades K-5. The program materials teach kids about electricity, electrical safety, energy savings, and renewable energy. The kits are designed for teachers or cooperative staff to present to children.

The program teaches kids how to become “Super Energy Savers” by taking a checklist home and walking through the house with their parents to identify

energy saving practices. The kids bring the checklist back to school and receive a “Super Energy Saver” certificate.



The Kids “Super Energy Saver” classroom kits include a poster, energy saving checklists, activity books, light switch covers, and the certificates.

To place an order for your schools, call Jason McGrade at 703-907-6063 or email jason.mcgrade@nreca.coop by July 30 to take advantage of the bulk order press run.

Cost per kit is \$20 plus shipping.

12th Annual KCRE Golf Open

Golf enthusiasts, get your clubs ready, the annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament is almost here! Golfers will converge at the Salina Municipal Golf Course on August 22, 2008.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The \$60 entry fee includes the cost for carts, green fees, mulligans, putting contest and lunch.

The KCRE Open is the premier fundraising event, and is vital to the success of KCRE’s legislative efforts. If a cooperative is unable to send players, they are encouraged to sign up for several of the available sponsorships, or donate a prize.

For more information, call Kirk Thompson at (620) 873-2184 or Ken Maginley at (785) 456-2212.

In Sympathy

Leon Forsythe

Leon A. Forsythe, 55, Heartland’s former Technology Manager, died July 2, in La Jolla, CA, after battling cancer for several months.

Services were held July 9 at the Trinity Baptist Church. Condolences may be left at www.bathnaylor.com. Memorials may be made to the Vie Medical Clinic in Pittsburg or Give Ye Them To Eat, a branch of Heifer Project International. Memorials may be sent to the Bath-Naylor Funeral Home, 522 S Broadway Pittsburg, KS 66762.

Charles Atwood

Charles Atwood, retired Trustee for Nemaha-Marshall, passed away on July 15th. Atwood served on the board from 1989 - 2004.



Atwood

Services were held on July 17th at Padden Funeral Chapel in Frankfort. Memorials may be sent in care of Padden Funeral Chapel, 101 E Third Street, Frankfort, KS 66427.

Job Opportunities

Pioneer Electric Seeks Staking Technician

Pioneer is seeking a staking technician. Responsibilities include field and technical engineering, staking line extensions and collecting data. HS diploma or equivalent is required. Associate degree in engineering or surveying is desirable.

Applicants must have excellent communication skills, a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail, be self-motivated, enjoy public contact and ability to work with a variety of employ-

ees, contracted personnel and consumers. Experience in computer operations including spreadsheet and word processing required.

Pioneer offers a competitive compensation and benefit package. For a complete position description or to apply, contact Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc. Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 368, Ulysses, KS 67880. Deadline is 5 p.m., August 1. EOE.

Kansas Youth Earn Top Honors at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

“There comes a time in a person’s life when you find out who you are and what you’re made of,” said Jake Gibson, a 2008 camp ambassador sponsored Pioneer. “This camp not only helped me figure out what I have, but it showed me what to do with myself and the skills I carry.”

Gibson, along with 28 other high school students from Kansas electric cooperatives, joined youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 12-18, 2008, in Steamboat Springs, CO.

During their week-long stay in Colorado, the students created their own cooperative, complete with a board of trustees and general manager selected by the students.

Five of the nine students on the board of trustees were represented by Kansas cooperatives. These student board members were Taylor Diehl, vice president, Flint Hills; Lydia Smith, treasurer, Butler; Haley Holwick, secretary, LJEC; and trustees Donavon Campuzano, Flint Hills; and Claire Thiessen, Rolling Hills. The cooperative board selected Becca Wieneke, Rolling Hills, to serve as general manager of the camp.

Among other activities were legislative presentations, a high voltage display, and a competition to build a transmission line from craft supplies. Students also toured Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

“This camp was a great learning



The Kansas and Oklahoma youth pose on top of Mt. Werner near Steamboat Springs during the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

experience as well as lots of fun,” said Kassie Curran, sponsored by Caney Valley. “I met many great people, and I think I will take things I learned home and use them to help others to be great leaders.”

The high school students attending the trip were selected through a competition by their local electric cooperatives. Students attending and their sponsoring cooperative: Jessie Argraves and Kyle Spade, Alfalfa; Lydia Smith, Butler; Kassie Curran and Jake Fulsom, Caney Valley; Zeke Wischer, DS&O; Cassie Wandersee (ambassador), Donavon Campuzano, and Taylor Diehl, Flint Hills; Kyle Grose and Matraca Mann, Lane-Scott; Haley Holwick, LJEC; Matt Niehues, Nemaha-Marshall; Shane En-

gelken, Ninnescah; Jake Gibson (ambassador), Andy Molina, and Matti Rich, Pioneer; Ethan Mahin, Madison Reed, and Miranda Simminger, Prairie Land; Claire Thiessen and Becca Wieneke, Rolling Hills; Aron Goode, Sedgwick County; Aaron Osner, Sumner-Cowley; Cole Penrod, Twin Valley; Susi Algrim and Chet Skinner, Victory; and Cas Schultz and Heather Weber, Western.

Chaperones were Jerri Imgarten and Josh Schmidt, Victory; Derrick Rutherford, DS&O, and Carrie Kimberlin, KEC.

Elected by their peers to return to camp as the Kansas 2009 Camp Ambassadors were Lydia Smith, Butler; Donavon Campuzano, Flint Hills; and Haley Holwick, LJEC.

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Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267

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