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Sunflower Celebrates Golden Anniversary

Sunflower marked its 50th anniversary on August 17 with a celebration in Garden City. The theme of the celebration was “Honoring Yesterday, Celebrating Today, Ensuring Tomorrow”.

The large crowd, which was made up of past and present cooperative representatives and community officials, was welcomed by Charles Ayers, Sunflower’s chairman of the board.

Earl Watkins, Sunflower’s president and CEO, summarized the history of the cooperative which was highlighted with a presentation of photos from the past five decades. He compared the current obstacles with the Holcomb expansion project to other obstacles that Sunflower has overcome since being formed in 1957. He commended the vision of Sunflower’s founders, and recognized the current managers, board members, and employees.

Watkins reported that Sunflower is continuing its tradition of moving forward. The cooperative is currently developing the Sunflower Integrated Bioenergy Center. The primary purpose of this project is to develop bioenergy facilities that will integrate several commercial renewable energy technologies with the coal-based power plant located at Holcomb Station.

In addition, Watkins reported that even with the Holcomb expansion, Sunflower would need



Earl Watkins addresses the crowd at Sunflower’s 50th anniversary celebration.

about 400 MW of additional base-load generation by 2018.

Watkins mused that companies are like people in the sense that what one is filled with is what spills out when one is jostled. He stated that Sunflower was filled with integrity, vision and courage that have led to success in both good and bad times. He commended the cooperative’s first 50 years and said, “Let’s go get another 50 (years).”

After Watkins’ speech, the group heard from Bryan Hannegan, vice president for environment for Electric

Power Research Institute (EPRI). Hannegan spoke on the “Future Vision for Power Generation”, and recapped different methods utilities can take to be more energy efficient and more environmentally conscious.



Officials break ground in 1970 for the new S-2 plant. From left in the background are Phil Lesh and Dale Saffels of the KCC. With the shovels are a representative from REA, Sunflower’s president Wilmot Price, and Gov. Robert Docking.

In Brief

US Renewable Energy Up 7%

US renewable energy consumption increased 7% from 2005 to 2006, at a time when total US energy use declined 1%, according to report from the US Energy Information Administration. The increase was largely the result of greater reliance on biofuels for transportation and wind for electricity production, the report, released Tuesday, said.

Platts – 8/21/07

Coffeyville Resources Hires Utah Company For Carbon Capture

Coffeyville Resources Nitrogen Fertilizers LLC has contracted with a Utah company to develop carbon capture and storage methods for carbon dioxide produced at Coffeyville Resource's plant.

Salt Lake City-based Blue Source LLC is an aggregator of greenhouse gas emission reduction offsets and a developer of anthropogenic, or man-made, carbon capture and storage projects. Coffeyville Resources Nitrogen Fertilizers' petroleum coke gasification-based ammonia and urea ammonium nitrate plant produces more than 700,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizer products a year.

Kansas City Business Journal – 8/21/07

\$12 Million to Repair Xcel Plant

Xcel Energy Inc.'s Shoshone power plant on the Colorado River in western Colorado will need an estimated \$12 million in repairs and is expected to be back in operation by the start of spring 2008, the utility said Thursday.

The 98-year-old hydroelectric plant, about eight miles east of Glenwood Springs, was shut down on June 20 after one of the nearly century-old pipes delivering water into the station burst and flooded the plant. About eight feet of water and tons of rock and dirt were washed into the plant.

There were no injuries and power was rerouted from other sources to accommodate residential customers.

Denver Business Journal – 8/16/07

Cooperative Calendar

September	7	Kansas REC Managers Association Fall Meeting, Prairie Band Casino and Resort, Mayetta.	
	11-13	KEC Hotline School, Pratt.	
	12	Leavenworth-Jefferson Annual Meeting. Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., McLouth High School.	
	20	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.	
	21	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.	
	25-27	KEC Hotline School, Manhattan.	
	26	KEC Committee Meetings, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.	1:30 p.m. - Apparatus Committee
			3 p.m. - Communications Committee
			4 p.m. - Legislative Committee
	27	KEC Executive Committee Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Wichita, 7 a.m. KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.	
October	2-4	Region 7 Meeting, Sheraton Hotel/Convention Center, Overland Park.	
	11-12	Kansas Member Services Directors Association Meeting, Kansas City, KS.	
	17-18	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.	
	18	High Plains Rally Electric Car Race, 600 Park, West Frontier Park, Hays.	
	19	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.	
	24	District 1 Meeting, Wellington Steak House, 1311 E. 16th, Wellington.	
	26	District 2 Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, 600 SW Corporate View, Topeka.	
	29	District 3 Meeting, KSU Ag Research Center, 1232 240 th Ave., Hays.	
30	District 4 Meeting, Knights of Columbus, 800 W. Frontview, Dodge City.		

Electric Demonstration at Kansas State Fair, Sept. 10-14

Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demo at this year's Kansas State Fair, Sept. 10 – 14.

This sponsorship will incorporate the full-size, electric safety demonstration – on loan from Midwest Energy – with the fair's "Kansas' Largest Classroom".

The demonstration, half-hour in length, will incorporate a full-size electrical safety demonstration. Line personnel from Butler, Midwest Energy, Prairie Land, Sedgwick County, and Wheatland will demonstrate proper safety precaution, show the protective gear linemen use, and discuss other safety issues.

The demonstration will operate 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 10-14 and is free of charge. The demonstration will be

located in the Beef Judging building, east of the Oz Gallery. This is the same building as the sand sculpture.

As an added bonus, the Touchstone Energy and Discovery Channel School "Get Charged" kits will be distributed to teachers who pre-register their 5th-9th grade classes for the demonstration.

The Kansas State Fair is the largest event in the state and attracts over 350,000 people annually.

KEC has a limited supply of free fair passes that will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. KEC is also coordinating any cooperative line crews who would like to be trained on the safety demo. For more information about the fair, to volunteer to help, or for free fair passes, call Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554, or sholsteen@kec.org.

Executive and Administrative Assistants Conference

NRECA's Executive and Administrative Assistants Conference is scheduled for Oct. 7-10, 2007, in Indianapolis. This conference is designed for cooperative office professionals and support staff. For reservations, contact the Westin Indianapolis at (317) 262-8100 before Sept. 5. Ask for the NRECA rate of \$149.

KEC September Board Meeting

The next KEC Board of Trustees meeting is September 26-27 at the Marriott Hotel, Wichita.

KEC has a block of rooms at the hotel for the night of Wednesday, Sept. 26. The room rate is \$81 for a single or double. The room block will be dropped September 12, 2007. The phone number at the Marriott Hotel is (316) 651-0333.

Wind Storm Causes Damage for Kansas Cooperatives

After a rough year of winter ice storm and spring tornadoes and floods, the summer weather hasn't been any kinder to the electric cooperatives in western Kansas.

On Aug. 20, evening storms traveling with wind speeds of up to 90 miles per hour toppled poles and transmission structures throughout Pioneer and Wheatland's service areas, and damaged Sunflower's Holcomb Station.

20 poles from Pioneer, 50 poles from Wheatland, and 11 transmission structures from Sunflower were damaged. Many of the damaged poles were those that had been replaced earlier this year following the severe ice storm.

The Holcomb Station suffered damage to its cooling towers, roofs and doors. Initial repairs are expected to take 7-10 days, and more permanent repairs will be done next spring. Preliminary estimates to repair the station are more than \$1



Strong winds blew over the empty cars from the coal train.

million, according to Steve Miller, Sunflower's senior manager of external affairs.

"The most amazing thing is that despite the damage, the plant

never went offline," Miller said.

Miller explained that the majority of the damage was to the coal stacker. During the repair period, large bulldozers will be used to push the coal from the dead storage pile onto the coal conveyor system. The dead storage pile currently contains a 25-day supply of coal.

In addition to the power plant facilities, the Sunflower Integrated Bioenergy Center algae growth test stands were severely damaged.



A transmission structure snapped under the force of the wind storm.

SitesAcrossAmerica.com Challenge

Touchstone Energy's SitesAcrossAmerica.com is issuing a challenge to run from Sept. 4 through Dec. 4, 2007.

This free site provides national exposure of your community's available sites and buildings to the nation's leading real estate decision-makers. There are currently over 3,200 properties across the cooperative network. Already, 227 cooperative-served sites have been sold or leased in just three years.

The National SitesAcrossAmerica.com Challenge is a competition across the electric cooperative network to see which co-ops and region can update or add the most sites to the SitesAcrossAmerica.com website.

Cooperatives that participate can earn prizes, awards, recognition, and they can encourage more growth, jobs, and economic vitality for your communities!

Touchstone Energy cooperatives in the Midwest will compete as a group with cooperatives in the Southeast and West to see who can list the most new spaces on SitesAcrossAmerica.com over a ninety-day period, from Sept. 4 through Dec. 4, 2007. The winning cooperative for each region will win an iPod and will be honored at NET2008.

For more information about the challenge, go to www.SitesAcrossAmerica.com. Contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, for the user name and password, if needed.

In Sympathy

Leon Wick

Leon Wick, former manager of Sunflower and Western, died Aug. 22. In 1957, Wick was Sunflower's first resident agent. He served as Western's manager until 1969, and retired from a Colorado co-op in 1983. Memorials may be made to Cheyenne Veterans Administration, c/o Allnutt Funeral Service, 650 W. Drake Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526.

Robert "Bob" O'Trimble

Robert "Bob" O'Trimble, former Leavenworth-Jefferson Trustee, died Aug. 28. Funeral services are pending with Barnett-Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Oskaloosa.



NRECA Managing Your Money and Investments Workshop

Doug Fiero, an investment advisor for NRECA, presented a workshop for cooperative employees titled *Managing Your Money and Investments* on Aug. 21 - 22 in Wichita. As part of the training, 25 employees and spouses learned to set financial goals, how to manage debt, and how to invest for retirement.

Holsteen Completes Term on Co-op Communicators Board



Shana Holsteen (left) receives a certificate from CCC Board President Lydia Walters at the August 2007 meeting.

Shana Holsteen, KEC's director of communications, completed her final term on the NRECA Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) Program Board this month.

She earned her CCC designation in 2000, and was elected to the 10-member board for two consecutive terms between 2003-2007.

Holsteen is one of three current cooperative communicators in Kansas who has earned and maintained the CCC designation. The others are Bob Helm, Midwest Energy; and Bob Jennings, KEC.

This certification program offers communication professionals the opportunity to earn a credential that signifies professional competence in the communication profession.

11th Annual KCRE Golf Open has Record Participation

Nearly all of the Kansas electric cooperatives participated in the 11th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament. The event was held August 24, 2007, at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

"We had the greatest number of participants we have ever had in 11 years," said KCRE Secretary/Treasurer Kirk Thompson. The record-setting numbers were reached with 128 golfers forming 32 electric cooperative teams.

The KCRE golf tournament raises an amount of money approximately equal to 300 memberships and provides KCRE necessary funds to support those who support rural electric cooperative issues. This year the event raised \$8,000 for KCRE.

First Flight winners were the KEPCo Services Inc. (KSI) team of Mark Barbee, Ken Bazil, Stan Bray, and Rodney Kenegy. Second Flight winners were the NRECA team of Ken Holmes, Lesley Kuder, Craig Kuder, and Larry Kuder. Third Flight winners were the Rolling Hills team of Doug Jackson, Coleen Wells, Phil Wages, and Kirk

Thompson. Fourth Flight winners were Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange team of Susan Olander, Mike Bird, Kelly Klug, and Bill West. Fifth Flight winners were the Victory Electric team of Terry Janson, Heith Koneceny, Jarod Scheve, and Leroy Woods.

Kirk Thompson of CMS, Doug Jackson of Rolling Hills, Bob Reece of Flint Hills, Ken Maginley of Bluestem, Dale Short of Butler, and Scott Whittington of Lyon-Coffey organized the event.

"Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a success. Your support is greatly appreciated. We could not do this without each and everyone," Thompson said.

Thompson encouraged everyone to mark their calendars for the 12th Annual KCRE Golf Open scheduled for Aug. 22, 2008.



From left: Doug Jackson, KCRE Chairman; Coleen Wells; Phil Wages; and Kirk Thompson, KCRE Treasurer, prepare to tee off at the KCRE Golf Open in Salina.

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