



**KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.**

# **NEWSMAKER**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Fall 2018

## **Suzanne Lane Selected as KEPCo EVP & CEO**



The KEPCo Board of Trustees has selected Ms. Suzanne Lane as the new Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization.

KEPCo's Board President, Kevin Compton stated, "Suzanne possesses the knowledge and talent to continue to move the cooperative forward to meet the energy needs of our member-owners. We look forward to working with her in her new position as we strive to meet future energy requirements in today's challenging energy markets."

Suzanne Lane Suzanne has 20 years of leadership experience in the utility industry, working at Westar Energy for most of her career, and then joining KEPCo in 2017. Her work responsibilities and experience have included wholesale power marketing, transmission and distribution operations, and key account management. Most recently, she has served as Vice President, Member Services and Government Affairs for KEPCo.

"KEPCo has a long-standing, strong presence in Kansas as a not-for-profit, member-focused organization that works hard to provide its members with the most reliable, cost-effective power. I am honored and privileged to have been selected for this role, and I look forward to working side-by-side with the Board of Trustees and staff to continue that mission," stated Suzanne after her selection.

Suzanne has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance from Fort Hays State University and received a Master of Business Administration from Washburn University. Suzanne and her husband, Martin, have two daughters and reside in the Topeka area. Suzanne assumed the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer on October 1.

## **KEPCo Meets with KS Department of Commerce**

Suzanne Lane and Phil Wages, both of KEPCo, met with Susan NeuPoth Cadoret, Kansas Department of Commerce Division Director - Business and Community Development, to discuss economic development opportunities within the service territories of KEPCo's member cooperatives. Many ideas were shared and valuable information was gained as KEPCo continues to develop economic development opportunities.



## KEPCo Hires Senior Vice President & General Counsel



Susan Cunningham

Susan B. Cunningham has been hired as Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, and General Counsel. Ms. Cunningham most recently was with the law firm Dentons US LLP. Ms. Cunningham has over 28 years of experience in the electric utility industry, including General Counsel with the Kansas Corporation Commission. In her new position, Ms. Cunningham will act as general counsel and be responsible for all legal functions and the oversight of regulatory and government affairs functions for KEPCo.

Ms. Cunningham replaced Mr. William G. Riggins effective October 1. Ms. Cunningham received her undergraduate degree from the Olivet Nazarene University and her juris doctorate degree from the Washburn University School of Law.

“We are thrilled that Susan will be joining the KEPCo team. She not only brings years of industry experience and legal expertise, but she also possesses the leadership skills and personality traits that will add tremendous value to our staff and membership,” said Suzanne Lane, KEPCo EVP & CEO.

Ms. Cunningham and her husband reside near Topeka, Kansas and have two children.

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## KEPCo Attends Kansas Transmission Policy Summit



Attendees at the Kansas Transmission Policy Summit.

Suzanne Lane and Phil Wages, both of KEPCo, attended the Kansas Transmission Policy Summit in Lawrence, Kansas, hosted by Kansas House of Representatives member Tom Sloan. The keynote speaker was Mr. Neil Chaetterjee - FERC Commissioner. Other speakers included Ms. Catherine Jereza - Department of Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ms. Shari Feist-

Albrecht - Kansas Corporation Commission Commissioner, Mr. Paul Suskie - Southwest Power Pool, and speakers from organizations that included MISO, Manitoba Hydro, NREL, ITC Great Plains, Tri-State, and the American Wind Energy Association, among others. A wide range of topics were discussed such as FERC Order 1000, national security of the transmission system, grid-scale storage, inter-regional seams issues, east-west grid interconnections, distributed energy resources, transactive energy systems, streamlining federal and state transmission siting processes, among several others.

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## KEPCo Submits REDLG Loan Applications

KEPCo, and its member cooperatives, have a long, successful history of utilizing the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program for economic development opportunities in rural Kansas communities. This summer, KEPCo worked with several applicants across the state and submitted REDLG applications to USDA on their behalf. If each application is approved, over \$2.5 million in capital will be brought into rural Kansas and nearly 100 jobs will be created or saved.



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## KEPCo Attends SPP Legislative Conference



Suzanne Lane and Phil Wages in the U.S. Senate Reception Room.

Suzanne Lane and Phil Wages, both of KEPCo, attended the fourth annual Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Presenters at the conference included U.S. Congressmen Steve Womack and Fred Upton, Mary Martin (Chief Counsel, Energy and Environment, House Energy and Commerce Committee), Kellie Donnelly (Chief Counsel, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee), lobbyists for NRECA, APPA, AWEA, and EEI, James Danly (Chief Counsel, FERC), and former U.S. Congressmen Martin Frost and Cliff Stearns.

Following the conference, Kansas electric utility lobbyists called upon each of the Kansas Congressional Delegation to discuss current utility issues.

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## KEPCo Secures Power Supply Agreement

For over six months, KEPCo staff worked diligently to secure power supply for a portion of KEPCo's load. The load has a peak of approximately 14 MW and had been previously served under a supply agreement with Sunflower. With the expiration of this agreement set for December 31, 2018, retaining a new, cost-effective, reliable power supply in a timely fashion has been crucial.

In early 2018, it was determined that considering the many changes in the SPP Market and capacity availability since the last time KEPCo secured a power supply, the most efficient, effective method for securing power supply for this load was to initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. With the guidance and support of the KEPCo Board of Trustees, KEPCo staff contracted with the Alliance for Cooperative Energy Service (ACES) to facilitate the RFP process. ACES is based in Carmel, Indiana, and not only provides energy services for its 21 member-cooperatives from across the country, but they also provide services to non-member clients, such as municipal utilities, investor-owned utilities (IOUs), independent power producers, and cooperatives like KEPCo. (*continued on page 4*)

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KEPCo staff and ACES were pleased with the responses received via the RFP process. KEPCo received 25 responses from 15 separate entities, and the responses included a variety of energy products, services, and contract terms. With close interaction with ACES and the continued empowerment and support from the KEPCo Board, KEPCo was able to short-list the responses based on cost, contract term, product structure, and deliverability.

After much analysis and consideration of all aspects, KEPCo staff concluded that entering into a two-year agreement for capacity with Sunflower was the best option. This agreement provides mutual benefit to both KEPCo and Sunflower, and KEPCo is very appreciative of the partnership and interest from Sunflower in serving this load. The associated agreements have been filed with both the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for approval.

In addition, KEPCo entered into an agreement for energy management services with Sunflower. As for the energy component, KEPCo is continuing to work with ACES on opportunities to minimize financial risk in the SPP Market, while still assuring KEPCo provides the most cost-effective, reliable service to its membership.