



**KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.**

# NEWSMAKER

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Winter 2016

## **Prairie Sky Solar Update**

The Prairie Sky Solar project is progressing nicely. By mid-November, approximately half of the piles had been installed. The piles, which are driven into the ground with a hydraulic hammer, are the support for the racking system to which the solar panels are attached. A few rows of solar panels have been installed as well. When completed, there will be twenty-two rows of panels, with a total of 4,560 solar panels.

Frequent rains in October slowed the initial dirt work that was needed to ready the site for construction. ElectriComm, Inc., the contractor that is constructing the facility, has been working feverishly to make-up for the weather delay. KEPCo is delighted with the progress of the facility and is planning a dedication ceremony in March of next year.

Below are a few photos from the site to show the progression of the facility.



Installed solar panels



Solar panel racking system



Piles ready for installation



Delivery of materials

## **KEPCo Attends Legislative Dinner**

KEPCo staff attended the annual legislative dinner hosted by Bluestem, Rolling Hills, DS&O, and Nemaha-Marshall electric cooperatives at the Clay Center Country Club in Clay Center, Kansas. Eight legislators representing the host electric cooperative territories were in attendance and each provided comments and insight about the upcoming 2017 legislative session.

## Saddlehorn Substation

KEPCo Services, Inc. provided engineering and project management for the Ninescah Rural Electric Cooperative Saddlehorn Substation. This new 115 to 4.16 kV, 7.5 MVA substation will serve Pump Station #4 on the 550 mile Saddlehorn Pipeline from Platteville, Colorado to Cushing, Oklahoma. The pipeline is a joint venture between Magellan Midstream Partners LP along with Plains All-American Pipeline and Anadarko Petroleum Corp.



Saddlehorn Substation

The pumping station load will initially consist of one 5,000 horsepower pump motor with a variable frequency drive, as well as several smaller motor loads and station service load. A second 5,000 horsepower pump motor may be added in the future.

The substation was readied for service on schedule and under budget in early September and is expected to begin commercial operation after the first of the year.

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## Legislator Utility Meetings

KEPCo participated in luncheon meetings with area legislators. The luncheons were scheduled to introduce electric and natural gas utilities to the new legislators, as well as reintroduce the utility companies to veteran legislators. The meetings were held on consecutive days in Lenexa, Wichita, and McPherson, with 57 legislators attending over the three days.

In addition, KEPCo participated in “coffee and conversation” events at the offices of Lyon-Coffey and Brown-Atchison. Area legislators were invited to discuss the state of the industry, as well as industry issues and concerns.



Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey, and newly-elected Rep. Mark Schreiber visit at Lyon-Coffey’s “coffee and conversation” event.

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## KEPCo Submits 2017 Budget

KEPCo staff submitted the 2017 Budget to the Finance and Audit Committee on November 11 and the full Board will review the budget at the December Board meeting. The 2017 budget is a 7.4% decrease, when compared to the 2016 budget. The budgeted 2017 wholesale energy rate is 75.3 mills, which is a two mill decrease from the 2016 budget.

## KEPCo Conducts 42nd Annual Meeting



Marcus Harris reviews 2016 with the Board

KEPCo's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting was held November 16 in Mayetta, Kansas. During the meeting, Scott Whittington, KEPCo President, provided remarks and thanked the Board of Trustees for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Marcus Harris, KEPCo EVP & CEO, reviewed accomplishments made in 2016 and the possible changes in federal policies due to the change in administration.

The following day, the KEPCo Board of Trustees elected Officers and the Executive Committee for 2016-2017. The officers elected are; (back row, left to right) Kevin Compton, Brown-Atchison – President; Dale Short, Butler – Vice President; Dean Allison, DS&O – Treasurer; and Doug Jackson, Rolling Hills — Secretary. Those elected to comprise the remainder of the Executive Committee are; (front row, left to right) Steve Foss, FreeState; Kirk Thompson, CMS; and Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey.



2016-2017 KEPCo Officers and Executive Committee

A special thank you is in order for Scott Whittington. Scott faithfully served as president of KEPCo from 2013 to 2016. During his tenure, many difficult and challenging decisions were made. Scott exhibited the resolve and leadership necessary to advise and direct the Board of Trustees in a deliberate manner, which resulted in many accomplishments that strengthened the business practices and operations of KEPCo. From us at KEPCo and from the KEPCo Board of Trustees, thank you Scott for your dedicated service and leadership.

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## KEPCo Supports United Way

For many years, KEPCo and staff have been proud to support the local community through donations that support the fine work of the United Way. This year, staff, along with a contribution from KEPCo, raised \$13,500, exceeding last year's contribution by \$500. As a result of KEPCo's generosity, KEPCo reached the Bronze sponsorship level.

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*MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR*  
*from the staff of KEPCo*

