



**KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.**

# NEWSMAKER

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Spring 2017

## **Prairie Sky Solar Dedication**

The Prairie Sky Solar generating facility was dedicated on March 14. Over 100 invited guests were in attendance. Governor Sam Brownback; Marcus Harris - KEPCo EVP & CEO; Kevin Compton - KEPCo President; and Joe Seiwert - KEPCo Trustee and Chairman of the House Utilities, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee, spoke about the importance of renewable energy as a generation choice for utilities, how solar energy is positively impacting the utility industry, and how Prairie Sky Solar further diversifies the generation resource mix of KEPCo.

Mark Barbee - KEPCo Vice President of Engineering, followed the speakers listed above and gave an informational presentation about the engineering, construction, and operation of Prairie Sky Solar. Following the ribbon cutting, the day concluded with a self-guided walking tour of the facility.

Prairie Sky Solar became commercially operational February 22.



Prairie Sky Solar ribbon cutting

## **KEPCo Attends SPP Meeting with Governor**

KEPCo, along with representatives from several Kansas utilities, attended a SPP informational meeting with Governor Sam Brownback, Senator Rob Olson, and Representative Joe Seiwert. Senior management of SPP presented information regarding transmission planning, the energy mix in the SPP day-ahead market, cost allocation, governance, Order 1000, and interregional seams issues.



SPP informational meeting with Governor Brownback

## Betty Lesline Retires

For the past 17 years, if you had reason to call KEPCo or to visit in person, more than likely you spoke to or were greeted by Elizabeth “Betty” Lesline. Betty retired in February, deciding the time had come to spend more time with her family, travel, and just relax. From all your friends at KEPCo and from the KEPCo Board of Trustees, we wish Betty a long, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.



Marcus Harris, KEPCo EVP & CEO, presents Betty Lesline with a crystal vase and flowers for her service and dedication to KEPCo.

## New KEPCo Employee

Melissa “Missy” Kerstiens has been hired to replace Betty Lesline as Administrative Assistant / Receptionist. Missy is from Topeka and spent the last nine years working as a Legal Assistant. Missy attended Mission Valley High School and Kansas State University. Missy has three children, Cameron, Sydney, and Sophie. Cameron is employed by Security Benefit and Sydney and Sophie attend Washburn Rural High School. In her spare time, Missy enjoys cooking, reading, and crocheting. Welcome aboard Missy!



Melissa “Missy” Kerstiens

## KEPCo Employees Receive Service Awards

The following employees were recognized at the annual KEPCo employee appreciation event for their service to KEPCo.

- **Paul Stone** - System Operator - 20 years
- **Carol Gardner** - Operations Analyst 2 - 20 years
- **Mark Barbee** - Vice President of Engineering - 20 years
- **Robert Hammersmith** - Sr. SCADA/Metering Technician - 10 years
- **Chris Davidson** - Engineer 3 - 5 years
- **Missy Kerstiens** - Administrative Assistant/Receptionist - 1 year



Paul Stone



Carol Gardner



Mark Barbee



R. Hammersmith



Chris Davidson



Missy Kerstiens

## Legislative Update



Kansas State Capitol

There has been an effort this session to introduce bills centered around changing and or modifying the way the utility industry has been accustomed to operating. Retail electric bill unbundling, a review of what components are in rates, retail wheeling, and third-party renewable energy purchase power agreements were the topics that garnered the most attention from the industry. Below is a brief description and disposition of bills affecting KEPCo and its members.

- **HB2190** - This bill would have allowed any entity, or an aggregation of entities, to purchase renewable energy from a third party if the entity or aggregation of entities had a minimum demand of 200kW. Electric cooperatives and municipals were exempt under the bill. The bill did not receive a hearing.
- **HB2166** - This bill would have exempted an entity that provided electric car charging stations and the furnishing of electricity on their premises from being considered a public utility or a retail electric supplier. The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) offered an amendment to current law that would have simplified the distinction. The KCC amendment was offered by a Committee member as a replacement to the original language in the bill. The amendment failed and the bill was not worked.
- **HB2177** - This bill will change Kansas from being a destination-based sales tax state to an origin-based sales tax state. This means that if a good is purchased in Wichita and delivered to Wamego, the sales tax will be imposed by Sedgwick County, rather than Potawatomie County. The electric utilities submitted an amendment, excluding the sale of natural gas and electricity from the bill. The amended language was acceptable to the author of the bill.
- **SB182** - This bill would mandate the KCC to open a docket and examine numerous business practices and cost components of all utilities. This bill is not scheduled to receive a hearing.
- **SB183** - This bill would enact the retail choice of electricity in Kansas and would mandate the KCC to develop rules and regulations for the act by July 1, 2018. This bill is not scheduled to receive a hearing.
- **SB196** – Identical bill as SB209. Not scheduled to receive a hearing
- **SB209** – The bill was introduced in Federal and State Affairs, which makes the bill exempt. This bill was introduced on behalf of Americans for Electricity Choice and was heard on March 15. KEPCo testified in opposition. The bill is not scheduled to be worked.

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### Leon Eck Retires from KEPCo Board



Leon Eck, former KEPCo Board President (1993 to 1997) and long-time KEPCo Alternate Trustee for Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative retired from the KEPCo Board of Trustees after reaching his term limit on the Rolling Hills Board.

Leon Eck receives a plaque from President Kevin Compton, as Marcus Harris looks on.

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### Scott Whittington Recognized for Service

At the January Board of Trustees meeting, Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey manager, was recognized by the KEPCo Board of Trustees for his dedicated service and leadership as KEPCo President from 2013 to 2016.



Scott Whittington expresses his appreciation to the KEPCo Board of Trustees.