

Rural Power

KEC closes on new facility for the Apparatus Testing Department



KEC is the new owner of 6910 W 229th Street, just north of Osage City, which will serve as the future home of the Apparatus Testing Department. The new facility is located six miles from the current facility, and the move will begin this month.

Danny Seele, KEC's Director of Apparatus Testing, said that the department is ready to start moving inventory immediately.

"It's going to be a slow and meticulous process," Seele explained. "We have until the end of the year to vacate the current facility in Burlingame. By January 1, we will totally be in our new facility."

Seele does not anticipate the move to interrupt any jobs, as work will continue at the Burlingame facility while equipment and inventory are moved to the Osage City facility.

"We have time. We don't have to move everything in a week and shut down production."

Seele said that the new facility will provide a much larger production area.

"Right now, we're limited how many technicians we can have at one time and we're just

swamped," he said. "We have totally outgrown this place. The new facility is much larger, both inside and outside. It's going to give us a better working area. By moving into the new facility, we can get more people in here and catch up."

The new facility will have some work done before the move is complete.

"We have plans to put work stations in the new facility, such as a new paint booth and hoists so we will have production capabilities at both sites during the move," Seele explained.

He continued, "This space will allow our entire inventory to be stored in a more orderly manner, so everything will be easier to get to and easier to find."

To finance this purchase, KEC requested proposals from several lenders and ultimately selected CoBank.

"We have financed the purchase price of the building as well as improvements that were identified as necessary during the inspection and some of the additional equipment that will be needed to prepare the building for our operations," reported KEC's CEO Bruce Graham.



(Far left) An interior shot of the new Osage City facility showing the garage bays. (Left) An exterior view showing a pre-existing security fence.

INSIDE

- 2 | Calendar
- 2 | KEC hires Bob F. Hall as new director of finance
- 3 | Victory Electric teaches students about energy
- 4 | Nemaha-Marshall joins Touchstone Energy



PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267
www.kec.org

Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives Facebook page

Co-ops urged to warn members of bill payment scam

Co-ops are warning members about the scam in which residents are told that President Obama will help pay energy bills under a special federal program if they provide personal information, such as a bank routing number or their Social Security number.

The scam began in April, targeting utility customers in South Carolina and Florida, but has since spread nationwide, targeting tens of thousands of customers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

Better Business Bureaus in several states also have issued consumer warnings.

“We have taken hundreds of calls at this point, probably topping 1,000, from Mississippi residents concerning this scam,” said Jan Schaefer, a spokeswoman at the state’s attorney general office.

It’s unknown how many have lost money, and the cases are under investigation, said Schaefer.

ECT – 7/9/12

Energy industry crime stoppers program

Energy Crime Stoppers, a program committed to reducing and solving energy industry crime, now covers 10 states. The Energy Crime Stoppers venture, launched in 2008, now includes programs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Energy Crime Stoppers tipline (888-OIL-TIPS), ensures callers providing information on energy-related crime remain anonymous. Cash rewards up to \$1,000, funded by Energy Security Council, are paid when tips result in arrest and/or conviction of individuals responsible for theft, fraud, or other crimes committed against energy companies.

ESC – 8/16/12

AUGUST

24 **Annual KCRE Golf Tournament**, Salina Municipal Golf Course, Salina.

SEPTEMBER

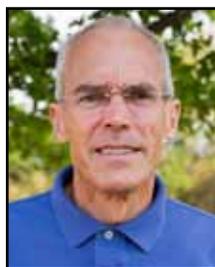
- 11-13 **KEC Hotline School**, Pratt Vo-Tech, Pratt.
- 18-20 **KEC Hotline School**, Manhattan Vo-Tech, Manhattan.
- 19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 20 **Tri-County’s Annual Meeting**, Texas County Activity Center, Guymon, OK.
- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 25-26 **NRECA Retirement Planning Seminar**, KEPCo Office, 600 S.W. Corporate View, Topeka.
- 27 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 27-28 **Kansas Line Supervisors Association Meeting**, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita.

OCTOBER

- 3-4 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
- 10-12 **KMSDA Meeting**, Wichita.
- 10-11 **Region 7 & 9 meeting**, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.

Bob Hall hired as KEC’s director of finance

Robert “Bob” F. Hall joined KEC as the director of finance on August 22, 2012.



Bob F. Hall

A native of Topeka, Hall graduated with an accounting degree from Kansas State University. He earned his CPA in 1985 and has extensive experience in accounting. For the past 20 years, he served as Chief Financial Officer of a

Topeka-based construction company.

“This is the first time in 20 years that I’ve had a first day on the job,” he said.

“I’m most excited about learning the type of association KEC is and how we have members in all quarters of the state. I’m from Kansas and I’m looking forward to getting out there to meet the members.”

In his free time, Hall and his wife, B.L., enjoy remodeling and landscaping their home and playing with their three grandsons.

KEC to host a retirement planning seminar in Topeka

KEC is hosting a two-day Retirement Planning Seminar on Sept. 25-26, 2012. The seminar will be at the KEPCo office, 600 SW Corporate View, Topeka.

Due to the popularity of this event, there is extremely limited seating. This seminar is geared toward employees who are within 10 years of retirement and their spouses. Managers and insurance/benefit administrators are also welcome.

Topics covered on the first day of this seminar will include investment basics, retirement benefits from NRECA, and calculating retirement needs. The second day will explore legal affairs and estate planning, protecting

assets, and financial products and services. Lunch will be provided both days.

For member co-ops, the cost is \$25 per employee and \$25 per spouse. For non-member co-ops, the cost is \$100 per person. A block of rooms has been put on reserve at the Marriott Courtyard under the name “Kansas Electric Cooperative” at a rate of \$99.

For more information about the retirement seminar or to register, contact Angela Howard, ahoward@kec.org, or call 785-478-4554.

Unless individual retirement projections had been previously requested, projections will be sent to those individuals at a later date.

LCS&C keeps members safe

KEC values the safety of its employees and the employees of its member systems. While each co-op has its individual safety program, KEC offers to its members a loss control, safety and compliance (LCS&C) program. This department, headed by Larry Detwiler, acts as a support program to assist the member systems' safety program.

LCS&C is dedicated to its members and offers a number of services that are related to "loss control." This includes assisting the membership in controlling workplace injuries, liabilities, property damage, litigation, safety and employee training. Through workshops, safety meetings and seminars, LCS&C gives its members the training and information to keep employees, their equipment and property safe.

"The workshops we offer are highly technical and industry-specific to work activities, regulations and standards," Detwiler said. "We offer anything from hotline schools to regulation compliance inspections."

The program gives member systems the opportunity to choose which specific areas it would like to focus on with its employees.

KEC facilitates the Kansas Managers Association's Mutual Aid Program. This establishes rates and gives responsibility in requesting help and coordinating assistance. If there is a disaster in one of the co-op member areas, KEC helps to facilitate resources and coordinate aid to those specific areas.

"I like to call it one-stop shopping," Detwiler said. "Members have to make one phone call to tell us what they need as far as manpower and equipment."



KEC's Larry Detwiler coordinates the Kansas Mutual Aid Program during a storm.

Victory helps students get into the "Spirit of Energy"

Students from Sacred Heart Cathedral School's summer academic camp visited Victory Electric in July as part of their two-week "Spirit of Energy" themed camp.

"Summer academic camp is a program at Sacred Heart aimed at giving kids educational activities for the summer," said Daniel Dawson, teacher. "We pick a theme each summer and we try to coordinate classroom lessons with field trips for the students."

In the "Spirit of Energy," students learned from Victory employees how electricity works. They received a lesson on how electricity is generated and the numerous places it travels before arriving at their home to turn on their lights, computers and televisions. Following the lesson on the flow of electricity, students visited with Victory linemen,



Students from Sacred Heart Cathedral School's summer camp inspect the linemen's safety equipment at Victory.

Mikey Goddard, on how he does his job, the safety equipment he wears, and even got to check out the inside of a line truck.

"We enjoyed having the students out to Victory," said Jerry King, director of marketing and communications. "Number five of the seven cooperative principles states that cooperatives provide education, training and information to the public, and this is just one way Victory provides education."

Midwest Energy helps finance a fire station through USDA loan

Midwest Energy is helping the City of Quinter build a new rural fire station.

The new building allows for all of the city's fire equipment to be under one roof, which will help improve the fire station's efficiencies when crews respond to emergencies in its 400-square-mile service area.

Midwest Energy received financing for this project through USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program. The cooperative will establish a revolving loan fund through the repayment of this initial loan. As the revolving loan fund is established, Midwest Energy will use that capital for additional community development projects, or to assist for-profit businesses within their service area.

According to City of Quinter administrator Ericka Gillespie, the city



The City of Quinter celebrated the groundbreaking of a new fire station with city employees, members of the volunteer fire department, USDA Rural Development staff, and representatives from Midwest Energy.

of less than 1,000 needed a new fire station because the old facility was not meeting the needs of the community. A larger space was needed for training, storage, and additional fire protection

equipment and trucks.

"The new fire station will allow us to add to our fleet of fire equipment, and will ultimately help better serve the residents of Quinter and Gove County," said Gillespie.

In addition to Midwest Energy's loan, other Kansas cooperatives have also received funding for rural development programs in their service territories. Caney Valley received a \$740,000 loan for the expansion of a farm equipment dealership in Winfield, and Butler received a \$702,500 loan to support the expansion of the Asbury Park, Inc. retirement community in Newton.

Nemaha-Marshall joins Touchstone Energy

Nemaha-Marshall has joined a growing number of cooperatives who have become members of Touchstone Energy. The Nemaha-Marshall board of directors approved membership at its May 23 meeting.

According to Kathy O'Brien, Nemaha-Marshall's general manager, being a Touchstone Energy member was a good decision for the cooperative.

The Board approved Touchstone Energy membership because of the added value and benefits to the co-op members.

"They felt that if even one member benefited from cost savings when using the Co-op Connections card, then we owe that to the members," explained O'Brien.

"The board also felt it was important to reach out to our newer members and help them recognize the ownership they have in the cooperative and how much we value their membership," she said.

Nemaha-Marshall is excited about the benefits of being one of the nationwide alliance.

"Our members will benefit from Touchstone Energy's innovative programs – such as the Together We Save resources and the Home Energy Savings Guide – to save energy and money," she added.

Nemaha-Marshall is one of 26 cooperatives that belong to Touchstone Energy. There are 739 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in the nation who collectively deliver power to more than 30 million members.

Wheatland employees serve at the annual Beefiesta

Wheatland Electric employees lent a hand at the annual "Beefiesta" last month in Scott City.

This event was created in the 1970s by the local Kansas Livestock Association, area beef producers and Scott City Chamber of Commerce. Beefiesta is a celebration of the cattle industry.

The tradition continues with a free meal for thousands of people on the first day of the Scott County Free Fair.



Wheatland employees Lewis Brown and Jevin Kasselman help by serving drinks at "Beefiesta" in Scott City.

Local business volunteers organize and serve all attendees at no charge.

Wheatland employees have volunteered for the past several years to serve meals and drinks to the attendees.

Through lots of experience, the co-op volunteers have learned how to serve a meal of a barbecue beef sandwich, chips and a drink to a big crowd. Despite long lines of hungry people, everyone was fed in less than two hours.

jobmarket

Lane-Scott seeks general manager

The Lane-Scott Board has contracted with NRECA's Executive Search to fill the position of general manager.

The cooperative offers a comprehensive benefits package, including a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications.

Please send an electronic resume, at least three professional references, and cover letter by August 31.

For a complete position description or to apply, please contact Ken Holmes, NRECA Executive Search, at executivesearch@nreca.coop, or call 785-201-2148.

Western seeks general manager

The Western Cooperative Electric Board is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of general manager. The current general manager will retire on June 1, 2013.

To be considered for this position, applicants must submit an employment application along with a complete package, including cover letter, resume, recent salary history, along with six business and three personal references, no later than November 14, 2012 to Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc., Attn: Larry J. Evans, President, P.O. Box 278, WaKeeney, KS 67672.



Rural Power

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



Rural Power is published every three weeks on Fridays. This electronic version is provided to you as a service of KEC. If you would like to receive personal e-mail notice of this publication in electronic format or discontinue such notice, please email sread@kec.org.