

Rural Power

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Please send your news announcements to ruralpower@kec.org.

KCC conducts hearing on Evergy's proposed DG rate

The Kansas Corporation Commission conducted the evidentiary hearing on Evergy's proposed distributed generation (DG) rate Dec. 16-17. On remand, Evergy proposes a grid access charge and, in the alternative, a minimum bill proposal.

The first day consisted of questioning and cross-examining Evergy's two witnesses. Cross-examining witnesses of other parties spilled over to day two. **DOUG SHEPHERD**, KEC's vice president of management consulting services, submitted testimony on behalf of four cooperative intervenors: KEC, KEPCo, Midwest Energy, and Sunflower. **SUSAN CUNNINGHAM**, KEPCo, served as lead counsel for the KEC group during the pre-hearing conference and the evidentiary hearing. Pioneer and Southern Pioneer are jointly participating in the docket, as well.

Cooperatives have consistently advocated throughout this docket that DG customers take a different type of service from the utility when compared to non-DG customers. As such, it is appropriate and legal to charge DG customers differently than non-DG customers. Post-hearing briefs are due Jan. 11 and a final commission decision is due to be issued by Feb. 25.

2021 youth programs cancelled, virtual conference now planned

For the past 60 years, electric cooperatives from across the country have selected student leaders to take part in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. In addition, for the past 40 years, co-ops have selected student leaders to participate in the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado.

While plans had been in place to host nearly 2,000 students representing 44 states in the D.C. trip and nearly 100 students from four states for the Colorado camp, the decision has been made to cancel both youth programs for 2021 due to continued concerns with the pandemic.

With the cancellation of the youth programs, KEC will now offer the 2021 student winners with a virtual youth leadership conference.

KEC hosted an online information meeting on Dec. 10 for the youth program coordinators to discuss the program and available options. Participating cooperatives have been requested to update the number of students they would like

KEC and KCRE plan virtual meetings for January

KEC is planning a series of virtual meetings to be held on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 26. Co-op representatives are invited to attend the KEC Annual Business Session and the KEC January Board Meeting. The KEC Annual Business Session will feature a year-end report by KEC CEO **LEE TAFANELLI**. The KEC board will elect the KEC officers for 2021 at the January Board Meeting.

In addition, the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) Annual Meeting and the KCRE Executive Committee Meeting will be held immediately prior to the KEC meetings. KCRE members must RSVP to attend the virtual meeting.

A detailed agenda and log in information will be emailed to the cooperatives.

to select to have this leadership opportunity.

"We are sad for the youth who will miss the tour and camp experiences, but we know that the safety of our youth delegates and our chaperones is paramount," said **SHANA READ**, KEC director of education and training and the Kansas youth program director. "Our focus has shifted to now plan a meaningful and engaging virtual youth leadership experience tailored specifically to these students."

The virtual leadership conference will take place this summer and will be a combination of top-notch speakers and fun virtual activities. In addition, each of the participating cooperatives will offer a scholarship incentive for those students who complete the week-long program.

Students who participate in the 2021 virtual youth leadership conference will also be eligible to apply for future statewide and national scholarship awards specifically designed for the youth program alumni.



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KEC hiring finance and government relations positions

KEC is seeking applicants for the **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**. The responsibility of this position is to manage and direct the daily financial and administrative duties of the cooperative in a manner that advances the financial position of the cooperative and promotes the strategic decisions of the Board of Directors.

KEC also has an immediate opening for the **DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**. This position will actively advocate for the interests of KEC's electric cooperative members at all levels of government, focusing primarily on electric co-op issues and overall utility issues, as well as certain matters affecting rural Kansas. The director will actively monitor and lobby state legislative issues daily during session and assist with outreach to the Kansas Congressional delegation. This position plays a key role in the Government Relations team's communications efforts and serves as staff lead for KEC's grassroots policy engagement program.

For complete position descriptions for both positions or to apply, visit <https://www.kec.org/careers>.

jobmarket

KEC helps to promote co-op careers by listing openings on the careers section of the KEC website.

Visit www.kec.coop/careers to learn more about the following positions.

- ▶ Bluestem seeks manager of accounting and finance.
- ▶ FreeState seeks a tree crew/groundsman.
- ▶ KEC seeks director of finance and director of government relations.
- ▶ KEPCo seeks an administrative assistant - receptionist.
- ▶ Lane-Scott seeks warehouse position.
- ▶ Sunflower has multiple openings.

Send your open position listings to ruralpower@cec.org. Positions will be posted on the website for one month, unless otherwise directed by the co-op.

co-opcalendar

DECEMBER

24-25 **Christmas**, KEC office closed

JANUARY

19-20 **NRECA CEO Close-Up**, virtual

21 **KEPCo Board Meeting**, virtual, 9 a.m.

20 **Sunflower Board Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters (hybrid meeting using MS Teams), 8:30 a.m.

26 **KCRE Annual Meeting and KCRE Executive Committee Meeting**, virtual, 8:30 a.m.

26 **KEC Annual Business Session and KEC January Board Meeting**, virtual, 10 a.m.

FEBRUARY

8 **Board Leadership Course 971.1**, Victory Headquarters (pre-registration required)

9 **Board Leadership Course 971.1**, DSO Headquarters (pre-registration required)

10 **Board Leadership Course 971.1**, 4 Rivers Headquarters (pre-registration required)

11 **Board Leadership Course 971.1**, virtual (pre-registration required)

Deadline approaching for KEC Auxiliary scholarship

The KEC Auxiliary is currently accepting applications for its inaugural scholarship program. The KEC Auxiliary is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to current college students who participated in either the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Applicants must have been sponsored by a KEC member-cooperative for one of the youth programs, and they must have completed at least one semester at an accredited university,

college, or trade school as a full-time student at the time of application.

Eligible students must complete the online application and submit a short video. Recipients of the scholarship will be awarded at a future KEC meeting.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31. Applications and eligibility requirements are online at <https://www.kec.coop/form/kec-auxiliary-scholarship>. For additional information, contact Carol Dorr at cdorr@cec.org.

upcomingtraining

Seats still available for the new Board Leadership course

KEC is hosting a series of training locations for a newly-developed directors course, Feb. 8-11.

BRYAN SINGLETARY will facilitate the brand new *971.1 Governance Challenges of the Evolving Distribution Cooperative*. This course will be taught at Victory's headquarters in Dodge City on Feb. 8, DSO's headquarters in Solomon on Feb. 9, and at 4 Rivers' headquarters in Lebo on Feb. 10. In addition, a virtual option is available on Feb. 11.

The co-op marketplace is changing faster today than at any time since our foundational period. Distribution co-ops' relationship with their members are transforming due to changing member preferences, new business models, new technologies and third-party applications. This course focuses

on how these changes call for different ways of thinking, data collection and analysis at the board level if boards are to fulfill their oversight responsibilities and strategic vision.

Participants will learn to recognize the drivers of the changing industry landscape, and they will discuss how the evolving energy landscape impacts governance and the way a board performs its oversight function.

Cost to attend the one-day training is \$300 per person. Seating is limited, and safety protocols will be followed. If an in-person training is deemed unsafe as we near the training dates, all courses may be offered virtually.

Registration has been emailed to each cooperative. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@cec.org.

Co-ops respond with mutual aid following winter storm

On Dec. 3, the CMS service area experienced heavy snow and strong winds which toppled more than 100 poles between Meade and Coldwater, resulting in outages for members. CMS requested mutual aid assistance. Both Southern Pioneer and Victory sent two crews to help restore outages. Two contractors also assisted. All services were restored by Dec. 5.



Pictured from left: Victory linemen Marlon Hernandez, Jake Gier, Austin Gooder, Kevin Freeman, Kade Henry, Jeremy Elling, Justin Straight, and Kody Stockton, responded to the CMS request for mutual aid following the Dec. 3 storm.

insympathy

Lauren James Roe

Lauren Roe, retired trustee of Jewell-Mitchell (now part of Rolling Hills), died Dec. 1. Roe served on the board from 1978 to 2001. Services were held Dec. 5 at the Olive Hill Cemetery in Jewell County.

Fred J. Elyea

Fred J. Elyea, retired trustee of NCK (now part of Rolling Hills), died Dec. 10. Elyea served on the board from 1990 to 2004. Services were held Dec. 5 at the First United Methodist Church, Belleville.

Kansas co-ops show Christmas spirit, commitment to community

If 2020 has shown us one thing, it's the importance of cooperatives coming together to support their communities. Several Kansas electric cooperatives shined even brighter this year with their commitment to community during the holiday season.

MIDWEST ENERGY took home "Best Representation of a Theme" honors during the Colby Chamber of Commerce's 23rd Annual Christmas Light Parade on Dec. 5. Chad Zimmerman, Midwest Energy's field service representative, decorated his truck with LED lights and pulled a lighted trailer.

SUMNER-COWLEY won first place in the Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce Snowman Light Pole Decorating Contest. The co-op decorated their pole with Willie Wiredhand dressed as a snowman. The purpose of the contest was to provide an opportunity for people and businesses to get involved and to make the downtown district welcoming and festive. Sumner-Cowley donated the \$100 prize to the Wellington Food Bank.

WHEATLAND employees sponsored 92 children through Saint Francis Ministries' annual Angel Tree program. Co-op staff purchased wish-list items provided by the non-profit agency that serves children in



Midwest Energy's Chad Zimmerman drives a decorated truck in the Colby Christmas Light Parade.



Wheatland employees donate gifts and a Sharing Success grant to the Saint Francis Angel Tree program.



Sumner-Cowley wins first place with their Willie Wiredhand snowman decoration in Wellington's light pole decorating contest.

the foster care system. Gifts were pre-wrapped for distribution. In addition, Wheatland also awarded a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant for Saint Francis' Angel Tree program.

