



People asked to support sound energy policies

Since KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby denied the project air permit for the Holcomb Expansion on Oct. 18, Sunflower Electric has endured public criticism from people who contend that Kansans should obtain their energy from sources other than coal.

First, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation is a not-for-profit utility that operates as the wholesale power provider for six rural electric cooperatives based in central and western Kansas.

The proposed expansion project involves building two additional coal plants at Holcomb Station. The \$3.6 billion project will provide \$750 million in financial benefits to Sunflower; these are costs that won't have to be passed on to its member cooperatives.

These financial benefits, in addition to cash payments, include lower fuel costs, reduced operating costs, and the economies of scale derived from larger operating efficiencies. Power from the two units will be used by members of 67 distribution cooperatives serving rural customers in the region.

The construction project will create more than 2,400 construction jobs in southwest Kansas. The six-year construction phase would create significant job opportunities for workers in Kansas.

But why use coal?

Electric cooperatives are required to provide their members with reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business and cooperative principles.

The United States has more than one-third of the world's proven coal reserves; we have more coal than Saudi Arabia has oil. If we want to be energy independent, coal is a reliable source or energy that can serve our nation for many generations to come.

Other fuels have characteristics that make them less desirable than coal.

Because natural gas is not as plentiful as coal, the law of supply and demand makes it more expensive. Consumers will see a substantial increase in energy prices if a "no-coal" policy is adopted in Kansas.

Nuclear plants are prohibitively expensive to build.

Solar energy seems like a logical choice, but this developing technology is not yet advanced for large-scale use, the cost is staggering. In December 2007, Power magazine estimated the production cost for the world's largest solar project in Germany was \$510 per MWh.

Wind energy seems like the solution to many people. However, base-load units such as large coal units operate consistently at 90 percent capacity factors, while wind systems average less than 40 percent in most instances.

clusively on wind.

No coal? Higher rates

Understanding "why" coal is the most cost effective requires knowledge of how electricity is measured. A kilowatt (kW) is the basic unit of electric demand, equal to 1,000 watts.

Generation facilities measure output in megawatts (MW), equal to 1,000 kilowatts or 1 million watts. A megawatt hour (MWh) is equal to 1,000 kilowatt hours or 1 million watt hours.

In 2007, production costs for Sunflower's Holcomb Station averaged \$12.23 per MWh, and production costs for Sunflower's gas-based generation plants were \$68.68 per MWh. The average home uses approximately 1,000 kWh per month, so relying on natural gas would increase members' annual electric rates by more than \$675.

Stewards of the environment

Sunflower's member cooperatives primarily serve those who make their living off the land, a large number of large and small businesses, and residential consumers. Knowing that you, our customers, care not only about affordable electric rates but also about living in a healthy environment, we continue to seek and implement technological solutions to upgrade our generation fleet.

Due to the significant investment in these new technologies, today's generation from coal is more efficient and results in lower CO2 emissions and less coal being burned per megawatt. In fact, a comparison of 2006 emission rates from the eight Kansas coal plant facilities shows that Sunflower's coal plant has the lowest emission rate in the state for SO2, NOx, and CO2.

Sunflower has also made significant investments in wind. The combined fleet of Sunflower and Mid-Kansas Electric Company (MKEC) has 124 megawatts of wind energy, which equates to more than 12 percent of our native load.

You can help

Currently, your Kansas legislators are deliberating legislation that would help provide customers in central and western Kansas with affordable and reliable electricity. The success of the Holcomb Expansion project will have a definite and immediate impact on you.

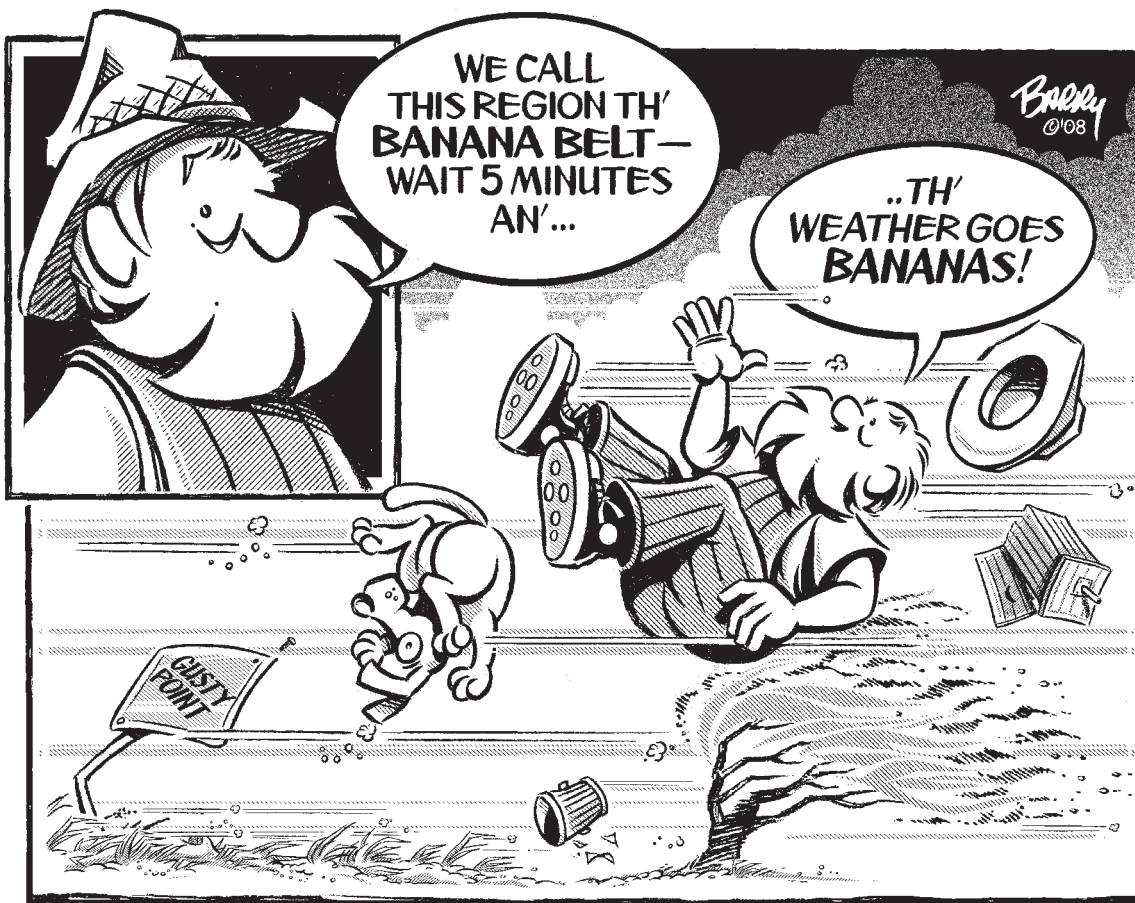
Time is of essence, so please act today.

To find out how your legislators voted on the pending energy legislation, go to www.kecl.org and click on "Support Sound Energy Policies in Kansas."

Please contact your Kansas Legislators immediately in support of the pending sound energy legislation.

If you have further questions, please contact our office at (800) 577-3323 or stop in for a visit.

Allan Miller
General manager
Prairie Land Electric Coop
Norton



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I just ran into a friend of mine who is taking his 10-year-old son to Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

When I was a kid our family loaded up in the station wagon and drove from Denver to California to Disneyland. The trip was a pilgrimage to the holy land of all children, both young and old.

Disneyland was the brain child of Walt Disney. His vision helped create a wonderland that everyone can identify with. Even if you've never been there, who doesn't know Mickey Mouse, Cinder-

ella, Jiminy Cricket, Tinkerbell or Dumbo from TV or movies?

On another family trip, we flew to Florida to visit my grandparents, who had relocated from the midwest. Even though I was in my early 20s, I still felt the same euphoria of my youth at Disney World. This was before the EP-COT Center was built. So I have another reason to go back someday.

To give you an idea of the power Disneyland had on me as a boy; after visiting there, it still played upon my mind.

On Christmas Eves I would lie in bed trying to fall asleep. The only way I could escape from the excitement of the presents waiting under our tree was to imagine being in Disneyland. By escaping the "here and now," thoughts of wandering the Magic Kingdom would eventually put me into a slumber.

I'm anxious to hear about my buddy and his son's adventures.

Restaurant is worth the drive

Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

It's amazing! I've heard about Delroy Holzwarth's restaurant, but never took the time to check it out. Turn off on I-70 on I-135 and keep driving. I'd never heard of Smolan either! It is a lost little town like lots of Kansas historical towns.

In 1993, the Holzwarths renovated the schoolhouse kitchen, purchased a smoker and founded The Hickory Tree Restaurant and catering service.

Inside the restaurant, the walls are filled with old school memorabilia with much of it being donated from patrons all over the U.S.

You dine in the original gym. It has the stage like our grade school

but it has a balcony around the upper part of three sides of the gym. The walls and balcony are decorated so uniquely with trophies, sport memorabilia and desks. But, don't stop there! Go upstairs where you can rent a room for private parties. The Holzwarths have decorated the classrooms like a teacher would, only maybe more classy. There were science, history, and library rooms (the library sure wasn't like our study hall). I loved the old musical instruments and 33 and 78 records on the walls along with the historical pattern books. You have

to visit yourself to see it all. Delroy and I were classmates in high school. I'd never dreamed he's be back in school!

Oh, also, the food was great! It is almost hard to eat for trying to absorb all the memorabilia.

Don't expect to visit much with Delroy. He's the chef attender of the all-you-can-eat hickory smoked meat.

Donna Stevens
St. Francis

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Wilmot Klie, Wray, Colo.; John Hendricks, Bird City; Mary L. Walz, St. Francis; Rowland Roelfs, St. Francis; Eddy Schultz, St. Francis; Daryl Loyd, St. Francis; Shelly Christensen, St. Francis; Frontier Ag, Bird City; Mike Cecil, Goodland; Shirley/Alvin Amack, St. Francis; Virginia Miley, St. Francis; Lawrence Crites, Idalia, Colo.; Ralph Duell, Goodland;

New gym should wait

The new gym — I'm all for it, but not right now. We should maintain what we have before we think about it. They talk about a new floor in the high school, the one in the grade school has nails coming out of it, the bleachers are chipped and torn up, there are no doors in the boys' and girls' bath-

rooms, the wind blows through some of the windows, the boiler is old and can't keep up. Outside, the front needs a sprinkler system, out back of the school needs paving first, to name a few things.

Jim Laffond
St. Francis

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Scott Northrup, St. Francis; Dustin Gilliland, St. Francis; Dwen DeGood, St. Francis; Ilone Ketter, St. Francis; St. Francis Community High School Library, St. Francis; Nick Raile, St. Francis; Dorothy Smestad, St. Francis; Meta Dankenbring, Bird City; Shirley Amack, Bird City;

GOD SAYS
The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends. He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.
Proverbs 14:20, 21

The Saint Francis Herald
(USPS 475-960)
A Century of Service to Cheyenne County
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050
Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050.
Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.
Subscriptions: One year \$33 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$25 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day
Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Solid Rock
Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed
7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening
Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
St. Francis
Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church,
AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday eve
Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis
Equity

St. Francis
Herald

nwkansas.com
P.O. Box 1050 • St. Francis
785-332-3162
sfherald@nwkansas.com