

\$18 million needed to finish Lamar coal-fired power plant

Rising prices of building materials like steel, concrete and copper have increased the cost of rebuilding boilers at the Lamar, Colo., power plant from natural gas to coal.

Cities in the Arkansas River Power Authority are being asked to put up an additional \$18 million to complete construction of the coal-fired plant, which is similar but about one-third times larger than a 25-kilowatt plant going up at the Goodland Energy Center.

The Goodland plant, which is under construction five miles west of town, has had some financing problems, but is on track to be in production by the end of the year.

Alice Jewell, manager of energy support services for the Arkansas River Power Authority, gave a slide presentation on the Lamar Repowering Project during the board's regular meeting on March 29 at Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colo., as reported by *The La Junta Tribune-Democrat*.

The initial budget for the Lamar project was \$66 million, with the power board approaching member cities in 2006 for an additional \$10 million. Now the board wants another \$18 million from its member cities, Holly, Springfield, Lamar, Raton, N.M., Las Animas, La Junta

and Trinidad.

Together, the increases represent a 42 percent cost overrun from the original estimate. The increase is primarily due to what has been dubbed the "Katrina effect," Jewell said. The cost of concrete, steel, copper and other basic building materials have risen because of the high demand to rebuild the homes and businesses destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and other storms more than a year ago.

The Lamar Light and Power plant, built to burn natural gas in 1970, is being rebuilt into a coal burning plant, increasing capacity from 25 megawatts to 38.6 megawatts. The switch in fuel is designed to save money as gas prices continue to climb while coal prices remain relatively steady, although there has been an increase in coal price since the project began in October 2005.

The request for more money was criticized by board members from Raton, who voted against the measure at a meeting March 5. They said when they were asked last year for the first \$10 million that the power board had made a mistake and should not come back for any more. Because both Raton representatives voted against the measure, the city will not be obligated

to take on the additional financial burden.

General Manager Jim Henderson took some grueling questioning when he presented the request to the Lamar City Council, the first city the board approached. Lamar Utilities Board member Dr. Charles Kelley said he felt the project had been ill-conceived from the beginning, a sentiment that Raton Public Service General Manager Glenn Fisher shared.

The new estimate includes a \$3.4 million contingency, which Jewell said would help offset any further unexpected expenses.

"Most of the major contracts have been awarded or have been bid on, so we know more closely the final cost," Jewell said.

The power board has taken over management of the construction, she said, and they believe that should help them control costs and provide an opportunity to negotiate prices with contractors.

The project will continue despite Raton's refusal to put up more money, said Jewell. The other members will make up the difference. Over \$56 million has been spent so far, with much of the assembly on the new plant, which the authority says is still on schedule despite the recent bad weather, already done.



The exhaust stack is up at the new coal-fired power plant at the corner of Second and Oak in Lamar, Colo. The coal bunkers (right) and most of the major pieces are in place and the steel framework has been erected. The project will convert the 1970 city power plant from natural gas to coal with an increase from 25 mega watts to 38 megawatts, serving seven area towns.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

matters of record

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Stanley R. Barnes and Mary E. Barnes to Megan Goodrow, all of Lots 5 and 6, Block 44, Beahm's Addition to the City of Goodland.

Linda R. Markstein and Donald Shaw of New York County, New York, quit claim to WLSR, Inc., a Kansas farming corporation, NE/4 Sec. 27, T9S R37W.

Stephen Patton Rooney and Cindy Kaplan Rooney of New York County, New York, quit claim to WLSR, Inc., a Kansas farming corporation, NE/4 Sec. 27, T9S R37W.

Ronald H. Rooney and Glenda Rooney of Hennepin County, Minnesota, quit claim to WLSR, Inc., a Kansas farming corporation, NE/4 Sec. 27, T9S R37W.

W. T. Rooney III and Anne Rooney of Finney County quit claim to WLSR, Inc., a Kansas farming corporation, NE/4 Sec. 27, T9S R37W.

Linda Charron also known as Linda J. Rumpel and Brian Rumpel to Karlene Kay Trachsel, S60' Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 63, Original Town of Goodland.

Robert K. Evans to John G. Topliff and Carol J. Topliff, Lot 6, Block

66, Original Town of Goodland.

Matthew L. Belshe and Carrie Lynn Uhrig Belshe of McPherson County to Paul Franklin Burk of Overland Park, Lot 1 and N/2 E/2 NW/4 Sec. 30, T9S R38W.

Jon McLean and Lynette McLean to Christopher S. Foltz and Renae D. Foltz, Lots 11, Block 3, Eastridge Addition No. 1 to the City of Goodland.

Gloria Elliott, Darrell Rohr and Sharon L. Rohr, Robert Rohr and Dolores Rohr, William Rohr and Lisa Rohr and Thomas A. Rohr to Thomas A. Rohr and Coleen A. Rohr, N/2 Lot 12 and all of Lot 13, Block 9, Sharps Addition to the City of Goodland.

Teresa M. Hoppe and Marshal R. Hoppe quit claim to Marshal R. Hoppe and Teresa M. Hoppe, N/2 W77' of Lot 23 and W77' of Lot 24, Block 47, Second Addition to the City of Goodland.

Marion J. Craney of Shawnee County quit claims to Connie S. Allaman, all interest in undivided one-half interest in SW/4 Sec. 33, T6S R40W and NE/4 Sec. 32, T6S R40W.

Myra J. Craney of Cole County, Mo., quit claims to Connie S. Allamin, an undivided one-half interest in SW/4 Sec. 33, T6S R40W

and NE/4 Sec. 32, T7S R40W.

William G. Callahan and M. Susan Callahan to Paige G. Leach, Lots 14, Block 3, Eastridge Addition No. 1 to the City of Goodland.

Louis B. Spinney and Diana D. Spinney quit claims to Kurt Zupko, Lots 5 and 6, Block 37, First Addition to the City of Goodland.

Federal National Mortgage Association to Steven E. Criswell and Joyce F. Criswell, W13' Lot 5, all of Lots 6 and 7, Block 57, Original Town of Goodland.

Federal National Mortgage Association to Walter Kane and Nancy Kane, a tract in SE/4 Sec. 7, T8S R39W also known as Lot 5, Block 1, Roeder Subdivision to the City of Goodland plus three tracts.

Bankwest to Federal National Mortgage Association, a tract in SE/4 Sec. 7, T8S R39W also known as Lot 5, Block 1, Roeder Subdivision to the City of Goodland plus three tracts.

Cynthia K. Strnad Trust, mineral deed to Magic M & R LLC of Denver, SE/4 Sec. 15, R9S R37W and S/2 Sec. 27, R9S R37W.

Strnad Family Trust mineral deed to Magic M & R LLC of Denver, NW/4 Sec. 15, T9S R37W.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Road Improvement Road 65 From K-27 Highway To County Road 14 2007 Sherman County

Owner: Sherman County
Engineer: Penco Engineering, P.A.
711 NW 3rd Street, PO Box 392
Plainville, Kan. 67663
Tel: (785) 434-4611 Fax: (785) 434-4612

Sherman County will receive sealed bids for the ROAD IMPROVEMENT-ROAD 65-2007 project at the office of the Sherman County Clerk, 813 Broadway, Goodland, Kans. 67735 until 9:00 a.m. (Mountain Time) on Thursday, April 26, 2007. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time.

Major items of work include: 26,491 tons of Aggregate for Base Course (BM-2), 5,974 tons of Aggregate for Surface Course (BM-2), 1,780 tons of Asphalt Cement (PG 64-22), 32 tons of Emulsified Asphalt (SS-1HP) for Tack, 260 Sta. of Milling (Full Depth), and 520 Sta. of Pavement Edge Wedge, and 81,636 square yards Manipulation (Subgrade Modification).

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations: Sherman County Public Works Department, 1004 West 8th, Goodland, Kansas 67735 or Penco Engineering, P.A., 711 NW 3rd St., Plainville, Kan., 67663.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of PENCO ENGINEERING, P.A., P.O. Box 392, 711 N.W. 3rd Street, Plainville, Kan. 67663, upon payment of \$75.00 for each set. Document holders of record returning the documents in good condition within 30 days after the opening of bids will be refunded \$25.00 per set.

Sherman County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any or all technicalities.

April 5, 2007

Date

/s/ Jerol J. DeBoer, Consultant

“Hays Medical Center gives excellent, excellent care.”

Ron Wente, President, Golden Belt Bank

When oral medication no longer controlled his diabetes, Ron Wente consulted with his doctor about changing to insulin injections. He began a series of diagnostic tests related to his diabetes and overall health.

One of the diagnostic tests was for sleep apnea, a condition in which air passages become blocked causing breathing to stop repeatedly during sleep and impacting the amount of oxygen and rest the body receives. Wente learned that the lack of proper rest can affect the heart and – in the ensuing testing process – discovered serious cardiac problems.

“I had blockage in four arteries and so that lead to quadruple bypass surgery.”

Preparation for his surgery was thorough and informative.

“I had never been through surgery, except when I was a young kid.”

Wente reviewed a videotape that walked him through the procedure.

“Knowing exactly what’s going to happen, what all the procedures are, what the rehab is, everything you are going to be going through, then there’s no surprises. You know what’s coming.”

In discussing options with his doctor and cardiac specialist, he was given the option of going elsewhere for his surgery but wouldn’t even consider it.

“This is my home. I am proud that we have a quality regional hospital here and I want my surgery done here,” he told them.

“During my surgery, the information beforehand, the procedures, the rehab afterwards, was excellent. Hays Medical Center gives excellent, excellent care.”



At HaysMedicalCenter

Bickle Pavilion
2214 Canterbury Drive - Hays
Toll Free – 888-625-4699
www.haysmed.com

HealthGrades™, the nation's leading independent reviewer of healthcare quality, has ranked The DeBakey Heart Institute at Hays Medical Center among the Top 10 Hospitals in Kansas for Heart Surgery, and the Top 10% Nationwide for Coronary Interventional Services.



“There’s no surprises.”

