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PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Sunflower and Mid-Kansas Electric Utilities Merge

On January 1, 2020, the two electric utilities that provide wholesale generation and transmission services to Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. were merged. As a result, Mid-Kansas Electric Company, Inc. was incorporated into Sunflower Electric Power Corporation.

In 2005, Sunflower and its Members, including Prairie Land Electric, chose to form Mid-Kansas to successfully bid on the sale of Aquila's Kansas Electric Network assets. The acquisition essentially doubled the electric generation capability and the miles of transmission line in the system. The acquisition also meant that more Kansans were served by the electric cooperative business model, which puts ownership and governance in the hands of the electric consumer versus private stockholders.

In addition to added electric load, the acquisition also brought diverse

generation resources, and the enhanced utilization of the two fleets benefitted both Mid-Kansas and the native Sunflower system. Beginning in 2007, the two systems were jointly planned and operated.

However, since the formation of Mid-Kansas, the goal of Sunflower's and Mid-Kansas' member-owners was to capitalize on the synergies of both utilities by merging them into one larger cooperatively-owned and operated utility.

In addition to other work for the merger, regulatory filings were submitted in August 2018 to the Kansas Corporation Commission, which approved the merger in March 2019. Sunflower and Mid-Kansas also filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to obtain approval to combine transmission zones and rates.

So, what are the benefits of this merger? At the wholesale level, merging

removes regulatory and operational duplication, allows access to lower-cost debt, and better absorbs a fluctuating load that occurs due to industry and economic pressures.

At Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., we take pride in our long history of serving our members, but we also take pride in being innovative so that we can best meet our members' current and future energy demands. Your well-being and quality of life are considered in each decision made at the Board table, and the decision by Prairie Land Electric and the other member-owners of Sunflower and Mid-Kansas to merge the two utilities is just one more example of our commitment to taking care of you.

For more information on the merger, visit <https://www.sunflower.net/sunflower-electric-power-corp-and-mid-kansas-electric-company-merge/>

The Board of Trustees for Prairie Land Electric authorized the retirement of \$1,312,530 in capital credits to its members. This retirement includes all allocations from 1994, 1995, and 1996, and 2.55% of all remaining Sunflower G & T allocations.

Those who were members between 1994 and 2018 may have seen a credit on the January bill. Former members may have received a check.

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TO THE ORDER OF:		<i>Prairie Land Electric Members</i>	
Your portion of \$1.3 million in retired capital credits		BILL CREDIT	
MEMO: Your portion of the retired credits is based upon revenues from your electricity usage.		<i>Prairie Land Electric Board of Trustees</i> Capital Credit Refund Notice - This is not a check.	

Cooper Completes 20 Years of Service



Greg Cooper
20 Years

Prairie Land extends their congratulations and appreciation to Greg Cooper for his years of service to our members and cooperative.

GREG COOPER is a foreman in Saint Francis and began his career with Prairie Land on Feb. 1, 2000.

"The continued changes in technology in the electrical field, especially with our metering system, are the biggest changes I have seen the last 20 years.

Cooper and his wife, JaNan, have three children, Gavin, Gaten and Garin.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family.

Four Tips for Winter Safety

It's no surprise that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. During the coldest months, individuals are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators along with cooking inside more often.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage annually. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

1. Don't overload outlets. Over-loaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections—they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.

2. Never leave space heaters unattended. If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least 3 feet away from flammable items.

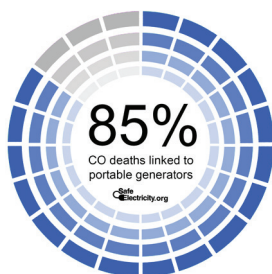
It should also be noted space heaters take a toll on your energy bills. Space heaters should be used to warm up small spaces like a bedroom or office. If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.

3. Inspect heating pads and electric blankets. These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads—look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged.

Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

4. Use portable generators safely.

Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, before you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.



KILOWATT TIPS

Think Safety When Operating a Generator



Kilowatt

A generator is a great to keep your family safe and warm when the power goes out. However, if you do not know how to operate one correctly, you might be putting them in harm's way. Prairie Land offers these safety tips to keep in mind when operating your generator:

- ▶ Make sure you know how to operate the generator safely. Unsafe operation can threaten you, your family, neighbors and even the linemen working to restore the power.
- ▶ Temporary-use generators should not be connected to the circuit breaker or fuse box and should not be plugged into a household outlet. Portable generators should only be used with heavy-duty extension cords rated for the wattage of the load being connected.
- ▶ Permanently installed generators should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, using a transfer switch that prevents potentially dead back-feed.
- ▶ Generators should only be operated outside a home to prevent toxic and deadly exhaust from entering a home. Keep children and pets away from generators.
- ▶ When starting a generator, disconnect all appliances that might be connected to it. That will not only protect them but prevent a fuse from being blown on the generator.
- ▶ Connect all appliances to your portable generator after it has been started. Use only three-prong plugs that allow connections to be grounded.
- ▶ When refueling generators, allow the engine to cool in order to prevent a fire should the gas tank overflow.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.