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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 800-407-2217. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and standby personnel.

24-Hour Electrician Service

If you are without electricity or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day.

Coal Still Has an Important Role

Because each fuel type for generating electricity has both advantages and disadvantages, Sunflower and Mid-Kansas Board members continue to support diverse generation portfolios, which includes coal electric generation.

Why coal?

For many decades, coal was the number-one fuel source for electricity generation. This changed when lower natural gas prices, proposed environmental regulations and the explosion of renewable technologies relegated coal to the number-two spot in 2015.

Despite factors that have caused a drop in coal use, coal's stability and affordability still make it a valuable resource. Currently, Sunflower has 349 megawatt (MW) of coal capacity from Holcomb Station, while Mid-Kansas has 173 MW from Jeffrey Energy Center through a power purchase agreement that will expire in early 2019.

Mid-Kansas systems are owned by the companies' member distribution utilities, including Lane-Scott Electric. Here are a few ways coal help our cooperative provide reliable

electricity at the lowest possible cost to our members:

► **Availability** – One of the greatest advantages of coal generation is its availability. When intermittent energy sources, namely wind and solar, are offline due to a lack of wind or sunlight, coal units can be dispatched to meet energy demands economically.

Coal is also widely abundant. Based on U.S. coal production in 2015, recoverable coal reserves will last about 283 years, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

► **Cost** – The price of coal is very stable compared to the volatility of natural gas pricing. Price stability allows for coal generation to provide an effective hedge against the price of market energy, which is usually correlated to the price of natural gas.

► **Capacity** – Capacity from coal assets helps Sunflower and Mid-Kansas meet the minimum required capacity margin established by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a group of 47 electric utilities serving more than 4 million customers.

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Happy New Year

Our office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1 for New Year's day. Lane-Scott Electric wishes you and your family a happy New Year!



2018

Coal Still Has an Important Role

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ers across all of parts of eight southwestern states. The capacity margin requirement helps maintain reliability by always having more generating supply available than is required at any given time.

▶ **Energy independence**

– The use of domestic coal as an energy resource allows the United States to achieve and maintain energy independence.

▶ **Supply storage** – The ability to store coal on-site at coal generation facilities contributes to the sustainability and continuity of operations during emergency conditions. Most coal facilities maintain at least a 30-day supply of coal supply in on-site storage.

▶ **Environmental regulation** – Sunflower’s and Mid-Kansas’ coal units are equipped with environmental controls that meet state and federal requirements.

The significant influx of wind generation in the region and the implementation of the SPP Integrated Marketplace have reduced the amount of energy generated by Holcomb Station and Jeffrey Energy Center. However, these resources continue to contribute to reliability and price stability. An example of the important role played by Holcomb Station took place in June when the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) portion of Sunflower’s wholesale power supply rate jumped by more than 80 percent compared to previous months. The ECA, which covers variable costs for fuel and market energy, was significantly impacted in June because Holcomb Station was offline due to a maintenance outage.

Having Holcomb Station offline during a summer month when electric demand is typically at its highest

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and wind generation is at its lowest resulted in significant shifts in transmission congestion patterns, which increased market energy prices. Without having Holcomb available to generate energy and sell it into the market, Sunflower did not have a hedge against the shifting market energy prices. As a result, Sunflower was fully exposed to the market volatility and experienced the significant ECA increase. When Holcomb came back online in late June, the ECA in July dropped back down to near normal levels.

Diversity in electricity generation helps produce reliable energy at the lowest possible cost for the Members of Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, including Lane-Scott Electric and the thousands of Kansans they serve.

“Maintaining a diverse generation resource portfolio, including fuel diversity, continues to be a fundamental strategy in how we manage our power supply costs and risks. Our generating resources fueled by coal remain a key part of this strategy,” said Corey Linville, Sunflower’s vice-president power supply and delivery.

Sources:
 “U.S. Electricity Industry’s Use of Coal Fell to Historic Low in 2015 as Plants Closed.” www.theguardian.com.

U.S. Energy Information Administration.
 “How Much Coal Is Left?” 18 April 2017.

U.S. Energy Information Administration.
 “What Is U.S. Electricity Generation by Energy Source?” 18 April 2017.



Home Energy Cost Assistance

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a Federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.

The 2018 LIEAP application period will open on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018. Applications must be received **prior to 5 p.m., March 31, 2018.**

In order to qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.
- ▶ Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchase of the primary heating energy.

The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty level according to the guidelines listed in the chart above.

For more information call 800-432-0043 or visit www.dcf.ks.gov.

2018 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Persons Living at the Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,307
2	\$1,760
3	\$2,213
4	\$2,665
5	\$3,118
6	\$3,571
7	\$4,024
8	\$4,477
9	\$4,930
10	\$5,383
11	\$5,836
12	\$6,289