



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**LANE-SCOTT
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Connections

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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.

2016 Annual Meeting Recap

The Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting was held on July 19, 2016, at the Lane County Fairgrounds. Nearly 450 guests were served a delicious meal by Stan Hoss BBQ of Ness City.

Incumbent Trustees **ERIC DOLL**, representing Finney and Hodgeman counties; **CHAD GRIFFITH**, representing Scott and Logan counties; and **RAD ROEHL**, representing Lane and Gove counties, were re-elected to the Board of Trustees.

General Manager, Ed Wiltse, gave his report on the state of Lane-Scott.

BRENDAN WHIPPLE and **ALEXIS CLARKE** spoke to the crowd about their trip to Washington D.C. for the



Manager Ed Wiltse presents Jared Fellhoelt with a plaque for serving on the Junior Board of Trustees.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and thanked members for the trip of a lifetime.

Guest speaker Stuart Lowry, president and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, stressed the effect that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations may have on your electrical rates and then summarized the discussion surrounding Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and the lesser prairie chicken regulations.

Guests also enjoyed free carnival rides and a safety demonstration led by Lane-Scott's linemen. To conclude the meeting, door prizes were awarded.



President Richard Jennison recognizes Bob Venters for 30 years of service.

Upcoming Maintenance Services this Fall

Starting in September, Lane-Scott will have tree trimmers working system wide through December. Their trucks will be marked Solida Tree Services.

In addition, Global Inspection Services will be testing Lane-Scott Electric's power poles this fall in Ransom, Dighton and rural Scott County.

Choosing Reliable Energy Sources for Our Members

The following article was provided by Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, a wholesale electric generation and transmission service provider. Sunflower's six members, including Lane-Scott, then distribute the energy to their members, approximately 350,000 electric consumers living in central and western Kansas. The article explains how Sunflower depends on a mix of generation resources to supply its members with reliable energy at the lowest possible cost.

Kansans have come to rely more on green sources of energy, namely wind and solar. Presently, wind supplies the “fuel” for 30 Kansas wind farms that provide nearly 24 percent of all in-state electricity production.¹ In 2015, solar installations totaling 2.4 megawatts were installed, an 84 percent increase over 2014.²

The call for more green energy is getting louder, and many tout the benefits of wind and solar energy. However, wind and solar have limitations, too. That is why other forms of generation are essential to ensure that we have a steady flow of electricity to our homes and businesses.

Reliability is essential

One essential component of reliability is the ability of an energy source to be available whenever it is needed. Because the wind and sun are intermittent, these sources of generation are not continually available.

The energy output of a wind turbine is partly dependent on turbine location and size, but the availability of wind is most important to its dependability as a fuel source. While it may seem that the wind never stops blowing in Kansas, that is not the case.

For example, in Kansas, winds are most prevalent in March and April—months when there is less demand for electricity. In contrast, during the hot daytime hours of July and August, a time when the demand for electric-

ity is the greatest, the wind blows the least.³ These factors result in wind generators being classified as “off-peak” resources because they are capable of producing more energy than is needed during periods when electric demand is low, and they can’t be relied on to produce ample energy during periods when electric demand is at its highest.

Similarly, the energy output of solar resources depends on the presence of sunlight, which is not always available. To understand why solar energy is not wholly efficient, consider the average number of sunny days of Dodge City, a western Kansas community.

The average of “sunny” and “partly sunny” days (up to 30 percent cloud cover) at that western Kansas location is 241 days each year.⁴ When coupled with the number of hours of darkness during a 24-hour period, sunlight to produce energy from a solar resource is only available 25-30 percent of the time.

The importance of a mix of generation resources

Because wind generators and solar systems do not produce energy on demand, they are considered non-dispatchable sources. Coal and natural gas generation resources, however, are considered dispatchable resources because at any time they can be turned on, off, or adjusted to respond to the energy demands of consumers. For instance, when your family rises in the morning, energy consumption spikes, especially when the dishwasher, stove, washing machine, electronics, etc., get turned on. Then when your family leaves for work or school, energy consumption drops off until your family arrives back home. Traditional generation can be dispatched so that the output from generators matches the consumers’ electric demand to support the

changes in energy consumption that constantly occur throughout the day.

Each fuel resource has economic impacts. While the price of coal tends to be consistent, historical prices of natural gas show more volatility or a wide variance in cost, sometimes making natural gas units very expensive to operate. When this happens, having other fuel resources—in our system those are wind, solar and coal—helps keep electric rates as low as possible. However, because renewable energy contracts are commonly set up on a “must take” basis, when the price of both coal and natural gas are low (as they currently are), the use of non-dispatchable renewable energy offsets energy that could be provided by cheaper resources, causing electric rates to be higher than they otherwise would be. Because predicting the cost of fuel resources with 100 percent accuracy is not possible, having a diverse resource portfolio serves as a hedge against factors that cause fuel price volatility. This strategy acts as an insurance policy to keep electric rates stable and affordable.

“Sunflower’s primary mission is to provide our members with reliable energy at the lowest possible cost,” said Stuart Lowry, president and CEO. “We will continue to consider all options for energy production to ensure that we fulfill our commitment to our members, who, in turn, serve the families and businesses of central and western Kansas.”

Sunlight to produce energy from a solar resource is only available 25-30 percent of the time.

1. <http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/File-Downloads/pdfs/Kansas.pdf>
2. <http://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/kansas>
3. <http://www.weather.gov/ddc/avewind>
4. <https://www.currentresults.com/Weather/Kansas/annual-days-of-sunshine.php>

Electrical Safety Warning for Pokémon Go Players

Lane-Scott Electric and other utilities are reminding players of *Pokémon Go* to stay away from electric substations, power plants, pad mount transformers and other electric equipment. The new augmented reality game sends players to real world places to “catch” Pokémon.

Pokémon characters turn up everywhere—from grocery stores to hospitals. But they’re also appearing at electric substations, drawing players into dangerous situations.

“Electric utilities cannot control where the Pokémon characters appear, and players should make sure they catch their Pokémon from a safe distance,” said Ed Wiltse, Lane-Scott’s general manager. “Any activity that distracts people from the possible dangers around them and potentially brings them in proximity to

our electric equipment and lines is a major concern for all us.”

When you are on the search for Pokémon characters, avoid pad mounted transformers. These are green metal boxes that contain the above ground portion of an underground electrical installation. Pad mount transformers carry high voltages and are safe when locked, but they can be deadly if someone reaches inside. If you see one in your neighborhood that is open, call authorities and your utility immediately.

Remember these important electrical safety tips from Lane-Scott as you try to #CatchEmAll:

- ▶ Contact with any type of electric equipment, including transformers, utility poles and power lines, could put you at risk. Be safe and never touch electric equipment.
- ▶ Avoid contact with downed power lines. Always assume all lines are

energized and dangerous.

- ▶ Substations carry extremely high voltages, so keep a safe distance from substations.

Here at Lane-Scott, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy outdoor activities. Visit www.lanescott.coop for more electrical safety tips.



Be aware of your surroundings as you #CatchEmAll. Steer clear of electrical equipment, such as substations, power plants and pad mount transformers.

Pokémon characters are appearing at electric substations, drawing players into dangerous situations.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT BULB FOR THE RIGHT JOB

There are three primary types of lighting: ambient (general lighting), task lighting and accent lighting. As lighting technologies continue to advance, consumers should be open to trying new shapes and types of bulbs.

The check marks below indicate appropriate locations for different types of bulbs on the market. Happy shopping!

BEST BETS FOR HOME LIGHTING

Common Bulb Types	Ambient Lighting			Accent Lighting			Task Lighting
	Pendant Fixture	Ceiling Fixture	Recessed Cans	Ceiling Fan	Wall Sconce	Spot Light	
Spiral	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Globe	✓				✓		
A-Shape	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Candle	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Reflector	✓		✓			✓	



ALL OF OUR LINES ARE CUSTOMER SERVICE LINES.

Some deliver electricity. Others deliver information. All must deliver on the Touchstone Energy Co-
operatives mission: to provide you with service that's just as dependable as the energy you count on
for every day. Learn more about your locally owned and operated Touchstone Energy cooperative
at TouchstoneEnergy.com.



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