THE CURRENT
Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Spring 2021
For Our Member Systems, Employees and Friends

Dodge City Business Park: certified industrial site

First to earn distinction in Sunflower's Certifed Sites Program

We are pleased to announce that Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation has completed the site certification process for the Dodge City Business Park, marking the first certified site in Sunflower's Certified Sites Program. The economic development staff at Dodge City/ Ford County have completed the due diligence required for certification, and Allstate Consultants has verified the data and attributes of the 245 acre site.

What is a Sunflower Certified Site?

A Sunflower certified site is a parcel of land that meets specific criteria and is ready for industrial development. The site attributes have been thoroughly researched and verified so a potential buyer has access to all information about the site. The exhaustive list of data points is intended to provide a comprehensive picture of the property that is ready for development.

Why should communites participate in Sunflower's Certified Sites Program?

Communities that have sites suitable for industrial development and complete the certification process will have a competitive advantage over other non-certified sites. The competitive advantage is enhanced because the community has proactively identified all of the issues of the site that could impact development. This reduces the risk to a project developer and ultimately increases the speed in which a developer can begin construction, saving the developer both time and money. In addition, communities that have completed the due diligence on the property in advance are able to quickly respond to requests for information that are a good fit for the community and the site.

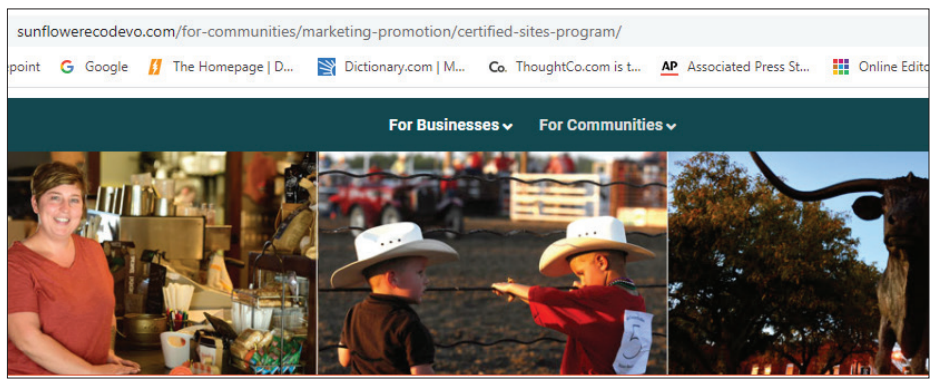
"We are excited to reach this milestone for the Sunflower Certified Sites Program and look forward to showcasing Dodge City's Business Park through our marketing efforts," said Nikki Pfannenstiel, Sunflower's manager of member services. "Having our first community complete the certification is just the beginning of what we see as business development opportunities in our members' service territory."

> "The thoroughness of Sunflower's process brings great credibility to our site and community."

Having one certified site can open the door for more in the future.

"I am excited to have the Dodge City Business Park certified as an approved, developable site under the Sunflower program. The thoroughness of Sunflower's process brings great credibility to our site and community," said Joann Knight, executive director for the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation.

If you are a community served by one of Sunflower's Members and are interested in learning more about Sunflower's Certified Sites Program, visit our website at www.sunflowerecodevo.com or contact Nikki Pfannenstiel at pfannenstiel @sunflower.net.



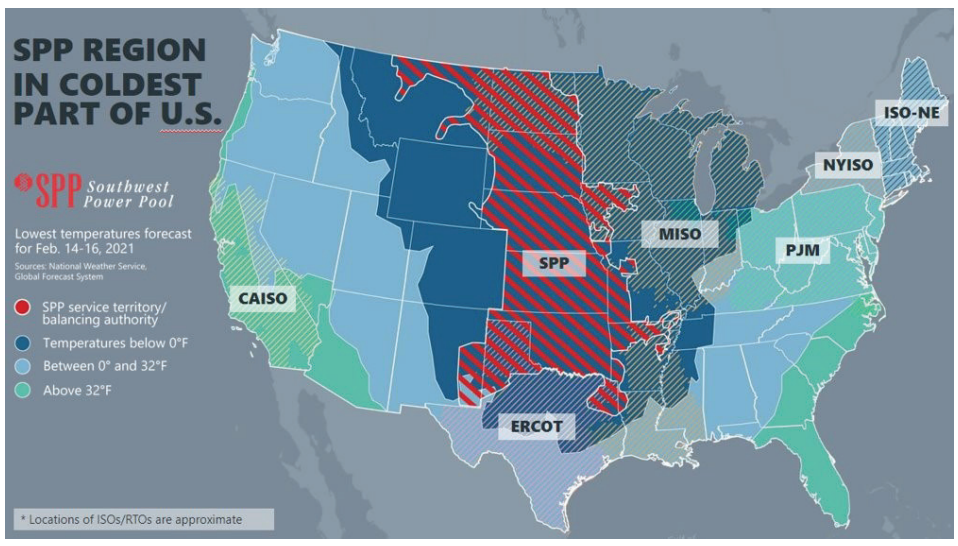
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mother Nature packs historic punch in February

It's spring, and while that doesn't always mean really warm temperatures in Kansas, it is a sign that the record-breaking temperatures we endured in the middle of February are likely behind us.

Let's just stop a moment and ponder that event because it was really something. We made it through but not without concerted efforts by everyone.

The extended frigid weather pattern created emergency situations for people and businesses across the Midwest, including electric utilities. The cold temperatures increased demand for electricity, especially to heat homes and businesses, and the electric demand sometimes caused transmission overload. This increase in energy demand, as well as the impact of frigid temperatures on natural gas wells, also created a shortage of natural gas to generate electricity.



While Kansas wind output is usually greater during the winter versus on hot, summer days when we often have peak demand for electricity, at times during the February cold snap, we experienced a substantial reduction in wind energy production.

The shortage of natural gas, low wind production, increased demand, and transmission overload occurred at the same time, creating strains on the region's electric grid, sometimes to the point that there was not enough energy in the region to supply demand.

Sunflower is a member of the Southwest Power Pool, which manages energy delivery in a 14-state region. Every day, 24-7, the SPP oversees, manages, and balances the dispatch of the energy in its service territory. The fact that we can flip a switch and have access to electricity the majority of time underscores the resilience of the U.S. electric grid.

Sometimes, however, Mother Nature packs such a wallop that contingency measures must be employed. Such was the case in February when many areas of the Midwest experienced record-breaking lows. While we have faced frigid temperatures in other years, the February event included the aforementioned factors that compounded the restraints on the grid…"the perfect storm."

The SPP has a three-level Emergency Energy Alert system to address energy emergencies:the first level directs electric operators to bring all necessary generating units online; the second phase includes a public appeal for electricity conservation; and the third alert level signals that electricity use has exceeded available generation in the SPP territory. SPP then further directs electric utilities to implement load-shedding interruptions in their systems.

The SPP was formed during WWII, and last February was the first and only time it has had to implement an EEA3 during which SPP directed its members to schedule rolling electricity interruptions in order to balance the system.

When an imbalance occurs, SPP directs electric utilities to shed enough load in their service territory to bring the entire 14-state system back into balance. SPP specifies the amount of reduction needed by each utility, and the utility must immediately shed that quantity of load. It must be done very quickly; thus, there is not a way to alert consumers regarding that an EEA scheduled interruption will occur.

Sunflower's load shed blocks are designed to have different load shed quantities that can be quickly shed when needed. For example, Sunflower's engineers know which circuits across different Member systems add up to 50 MW, so when a 50 MW curtailment is ordered, those circuits are interrupted. The load shed blocks are developed with Member input so that they can identify any critical loads that they would prefer not to be impacted, and the curtailed loads are dispersed across different Sunflower member systems.

The load shed lasted one hour and seven minutes on Feb. 15, during which Sunflower had to shed 14 MW. It lasted three hours and twenty-one minutes on Feb. 16, during which Sunflower had to shed 60 MW. No one individual customer was without power for the entire duration of these events because Sunflower rotated the circuits that were interrupted.

Due to the way load sheds are designed, not everyone experienced a power interruption during the storm. We do apologize for the inconvenience it caused those who were without power for that time frame.

Thank you for your understanding. Know that disruptions in service, as inconvenient as they were, prevented what could have otherwise been a much longer and more widespread disruption in service.

So, yes, it's spring. Hopefully, polar vortex weather patterns are behind us. However, remember…it's Kansas where Mother Nature is fickle, and weather can change on a dime.

An Operator Technician Mechanic is responsible for operating, maintaining and repairing low and high-pressure boilers, turbine-generators, combustion turbines, and other generation station equipment in addition to maintaining generation related mechanical components and equipment in order to provide reliable and affordable energy to residents of Kansas.

Operator Technician Mechanic

"I enjoy working at Sunflower because of the people I work with. The crew at FDS is awesome to be around and helpful in all aspects,"

- Thomas Kuns, operator technician mechanic

Our Mission:

To provide reliable, long-term power supply and transmission services to our members and the people they serve at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business and cooperative principles.

Sunflower continues to employ changes in operating protocol to protect energy services

In April 1918, flu-like illness was first detected at Fort Riley, Kansas, infecting over 500 soldiers within a week. Over the next two years, four waves of the virus infected approximately 500 million people and resulted in the deaths of 50 million people worldwide, about 675,000 in the U.S., reaching an end by April 1920.[1]

As documented by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "There was no vaccine to protect against influenza infection and no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections that can be associated with influenza infections, control efforts worldwide were limited to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings, which were applied unevenly." [2]

Kansas officials limited the number of people allowed in a store at one time and shut down schools, theaters, church services, and public gatherings.[3]

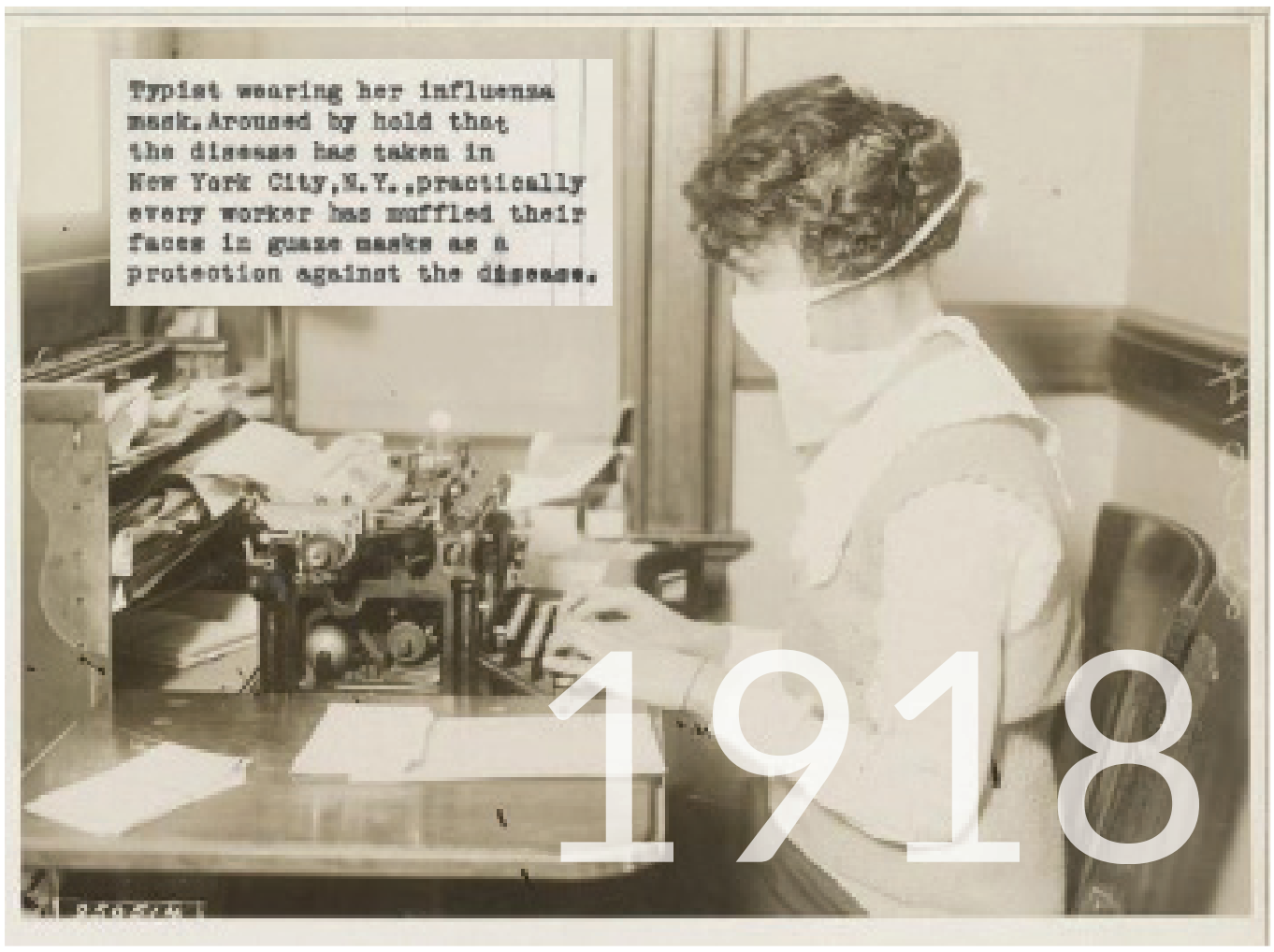
Fast forward to March 2020. The 21st century. When Alexa can control our smart home devices and report on the weather for us. Yet, much comparison has been made between the pandemic of 1918 and the 2020 pandemic. While so much is different now, key aspects are the same: the virus is highly contagious, and for most of 2020, there was no vaccine to combat it.

In the spring of 2020, people across the globe worked to mitigate the virus by employing the same tactics implemented a century ago: social distancing, wearing masks, limiting the number of people gathered, and stressing personal hygiene. These basic, crucial steps have been implemented at electric utilities across the country, including Sunflower, allowing utilities to keep the lights on during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When COVID-19 swept across the nation in the second quarter of 2020, Sunflower responded quickly to keep electricity flowing. Sunflower implemented basic changes in work procedures to best protect more than 400 Sunflower staff whose daily mission is to provide wholesale generation and transmission services to our members and the thousands of Kansans they serve.

Social distancing, virtual meetings, required masks, limited travel, temperature testing, self-quarantines, and increased sanitization continue to be part of work expectations. Approximately 48 percent of Sunflower's staff are able to work remotely, and under Sunflower's current pandemic protocols, only 25 percent of a facility's remote staff are allowed to work on site. System control centers, facilities where the flow of energy is monitored 24-7, are professionally sanitized, and operators remain isolated to ensure healthy crews.

Basic changes don't equate to easy changes. These changes have required concerted efforts by leadership and staff to ensure the correct measures are in place and supported. While approximately 16 percent of Sunflower's staff have contracted the virus (due to non-work contacts), the measures in place have limited the spread of the virus internally.



Dawsena Miller, administrative services supervisor at the Holcomb Office (left), represents the new norm – more than 100 years later. Safety for employees is a primary focus at Sunflower. Masks, social distancing and cleaning work areas daily are required during Phase 1 of the pandemic protocol that is still in effect.

Sunflower remains in Phase 1 of our four-phase Return-to-Work Plan, with each phase gradually easing restrictions put in place to combat the spread of the pandemic. Sunflower leadership continually evaluates pandemic statistics to make necessary adjustments to the Plan. Those statistics, as well as recommendations from federal and state agencies, will also be used to determine when to move from one phase of the Plan to the next.

"When we implemented our Return-to-Work Plan last June, we certainly didn't anticipate we would still be operating under Phase 1 guidelines 10 months later," said Stuart Lowry, Sunflower's president and CEO. "We, like everyone, are anticipating a time when pandemic restrictions can be lifted, but we are committed to keeping them in place as long as necessary. These protocols are essential to keeping our staff as healthy as possible so they can continue supplying essential, reliable energy services to our members."

1 1918 Pandemic (H1N1 Virus). (2021, Feb. 12). Center for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/pandemic-timeline-1918.htm

2 1918 Pandemic (H1N1 Virus). (2021, Feb. 12). Center for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-pandemic-h1n1.html

3 Flu Epidemic of 1918. (2021, Feb. 12). Kansapedia. https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/flu-epidemic-of-1918/17805.

Member Memo

. . . energy done right

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Social distancing will be maintained at each meeting

APRIL 14

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC
Great Bend Events Center
3111 10th St, Great Bend, KS

- Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.
- Meeting starts at Noon

APRIL 20

VICTORY ELECTRIC
Western State Bank Expo
11333 Highway 283, Dodge City, KS
5:30 p.m. Registration
6:00 p.m. Meeting

- No meal will be provided.
- *This will be an abbreviated meeting, no more than 30 minutes.*

MAY 04

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC
14935 US Highway 36, Norton, KS

- Meeting 2:00 p.m.
- No meal will be served this year
- Live streamed to the American Legion in Concordia

MAY 12

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC
Western Cooperative Electric
635 S. 13th St, WaKeeney, KS

- Registration 11 a.m.
- Lunch at Noon
- Meeting 1 p.m.
- Video of the meeting will be available online

JULY 20

LANE-SCOTT ELECTRIC
Lane County 4H Building
Fairgrounds Road, Dighton, KS

- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Meeting

SEPT 09

PIONEER ELECTRIC
Grant County Civic Center Shop
1000 W. Patterson Ave, Ulysses, KS

- Meal will be served

April 12:

Thank a Lineworker

By Anne Prince, NRECA

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Sunflower or your local distribution cooperative, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure co-op members receive reliable energy.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often do their work 40 feet in the air, sometimes carrying heaving equipment to get the job done.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at your electric co-op, it's important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take calls and questions, and our generation experts keep our units ready for disptach. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring the system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure you have the electric service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to communities.

Our dedicated lineworkers are proud to represent Sunflower and your distribution cooperative, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, we hope you'll join in thanking them for their exceptional service. we also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

Our Members

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative
Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.
The Victory Electric Cooperative Assoc., Inc.
Western Cooperative Electric
Wheatland Electric — Delivering Energy for Life
Pioneer electric cooperative, inc.
SouthernPioneer Electric Company — A Not-For-Profit Utility

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