



Member Cities Highlights

▶ CITY OF ANTHONY HOSTS COUNTRY MUSIC VIDEO



(L-R) Chief Kenny Hodson, Parker McCollum, Deputy Chief Nate Houston, Officer Alex Ledezma



Last fall, the City of Anthony welcomed country music star Parker McCollum for the filming of his latest music video, “What Kinda Man.” Known for his roots in Austin, Texas, Parker released his first single in 2013, followed by his debut album in 2015. His hit song “What Kinda Man” even climbed to #44 on the Country Music Billboard charts.

Parker chose Anthony for its personal significance—he has strong ties to the area through a local hunting lodge he frequents. The City’s charm and his connection to the community made it the perfect backdrop for the video shoot.

The City played an essential role in making the shoot possible. They helped secure permits to use the highway through town and ensured traffic safety and crowd control during outdoor scenes. Even Harper County pitched in, providing extra police cars for the production.

City Administrator Cyndra Kastens shared a memorable behind-the-scenes moment. During one retake, the producer counted down, “5, 4, 3, 2, 1... Go Parker!” Seconds later, he unexpectedly added, “Okay, GO POLICE, chase HIM!” The officers quickly scrambled into their cars, turning the impromptu direction into an exciting part of the shoot. It seems Anthony left its mark on Parker, just as Parker left his on the town!

Watch the music video for Parker McCollum’s “What Kind of Man” by clicking [HERE!](#)

BY CYNDRA KASTENS (CITY OF ANTHONY) AND TYSON MCGREER (KMEA)



(L-R) Cyndra Kastens (City Administrator), Parker McCollum, and Emmerly Kastens

► NINNESCAH FLATS, KMEA'S FIRST SOLAR PROJECT



Over the past couple of years, KMEA staff has been diligently working to bring a large-scale solar project to our Members. In the fourth quarter of 2024, 34 KMEA Members contracted for 78.6 MW of the 200 MW NextEra Energy Renewables solar project, Ninnescah Flats, located west of Wichita in Pratt County, KS. KMEA and its Members signed a 30-year Purchase Power Agreement (PPA). The other two off-takers from the project are Kansas entities: Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCO) contracted for 25 MW, and KCBPU contracted for the remaining 96.4 MW of the solar farm. This project is scheduled to have a Commercial Operation Date (COD) in the fourth quarter of 2026.

BY NEAL DANNEY (KMEA)

► GARDEN CITY TAKES INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO WATER

The City of Garden City relies entirely on groundwater from the Ogallala and Dakota aquifers for its water supply. As a result of a continuing decline in the aquifer, the City of Garden City began studying ways to reclaim water to reduce groundwater usage and preserve the City's water source. The project started with several studies funded partly by the Bureau of Reclamation to determine the feasibility of several potential solutions ranging from using reclaimed water for park irrigation to direct potable reuse. The City has reclaimed water supplies from their wastewater treatment facility and the neighboring Dairy Farmers of America facility, which treats water removed from milk.

For Garden City's community, the most cost-effective method of reuse was Managed Aquifer Recharge. This method seeks to offset water use by providing an alternate source of water to water users in the vicinity of the City's water supply. In 2023, the City received \$19.1 million in Congressionally designated spending to construct a reuse project to store and transmit water to a large farming operation adjacent to the City's Sandhills



Wellfield. The project will continue a long-standing reuse agreement between the City and Wheatland Electric Cooperative. Circle Land and Cattle and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks have worked with the City to develop this concept.

Once constructed, the project will be able to transmit 2,600 acre-feet of water to the farm site, and that water will offset groundwater production currently used to irrigate that area. The exchange aims to eliminate continued aquifer declines for the City's Sandhills Wellfield. The infrastructure will also allow the City, in a future phase, to construct an infiltration basin for groundwater recharge utilizing the naturally sandy soils in the area to treat the water as it is returned to the aquifer.

BY FRED JONES (CITY OF GARDEN CITY) AND TYSON MCGREER (KMEA)

▶ MEMBERS HONORED WITH RP3 DESIGNATION BY APPA



American Public Power Association

On April 1, 2025, the American Public Power Association (APPA) honored the Cities of Coffeyville, Gardner, and Winfield at the 2025 Engineering & Operations Conference in Sacramento, CA. These cities received the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation for their dependable electric services to their communities. Gardner and Winfield achieved the Gold Level, while Coffeyville attained the Platinum Level RP3 designation.

The RP3 designation, valid for three years, acknowledges public power utilities that excel in four key areas: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. The criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to the safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

BY KATIA MITCHELL (KMEA)

Coffeyville, Gardner, and Winfield are now among over 250 public power utilities nationwide that have earned the RP3 designation. Below is a list of member cities that currently have the RP3 designation:

KCBPU - Diamond Level - 2024
 Augusta - Platinum Level - 2024
 Ottawa - Platinum Level - 2024
 Garden City - Platinum Level - 2023
 Wellington - Platinum Level - 2023
 Winfield - Gold Level - 2022



General Manager's Report

▶ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

First of all, I want to give kudos to Tyson and Katia for reviving a quarterly newsletter - Power Factor - for our two agencies. We hope you get some value out of hearing from our staff and some of the highlights of what is happening within our membership. Thanks Tyson and Katia!

My wife, Susie and I, went and saw the new Bob Dylan movie, A Complete Unknown. Side note - for you folksong lovers - this is a great movie! One of the song titles from the soundtrack couldn't be more appropriate for the electric utility industry - The Times They are A-Changin'. One could mark the beginning of these changes with the pandemic in 2020 but probably more impactful, the winter storm in 2021. Winter Storm Uri put a bright spotlight on the preparation and performance (or lack thereof) of the existing generation fleet during extreme cold weather. Regionwide rolling brownouts were experienced in the Southwest Power Pool for the first time caused by the lack of generation to meet load. One could point to the lack of natural gas supply, variability of wind generation, freezing issues at plants to name of few, but nonetheless, this event triggered

many new requirements at SPP including performance-based accreditation and higher reserve margins.

More recently, the rapid growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has brought on incredible demand for electricity throughout the country. Experts are predicting double digit growth over the coming years. The question that comes to my mind is how we are going to meet this demand with ongoing retirements of fossil-fueled generation, long interconnection study processes, transmission siting difficulties and integration of renewable energy. In this newsletter, you will see some of the things that KMEA and our members are doing to ensure reliable, affordable and eco-friendly power supply for our customers. We will continue to work on behalf of our members to keep up with the changes...For the times they are a changin'!



Paul Mahlberg

BY PAUL MAHLBERG (KMEA)

Legislative and Regulatory

▶ STORM URI UPDATE

Probably one of the biggest developments in Kansas within the energy arena over the past several months has been the dismissal of the various Winter Storm Uri lawsuits that were pending in federal and district courts.

On February 10, 2025, the Kansas Attorney General (AG) dismissed its federal lawsuit against Macquarie Energy for violations of the Commodities Exchange Act and the Kansas False Claims Act. In exchange for the dismissal, Macquarie agreed to pay \$400,000 to the Salvation Army. As part of the settlement, Macquarie admitted to no wrongdoing, and the case was dismissed with prejudice, meaning that the AG cannot bring additional claims against Macquarie relating to Winter Storm Uri.

Additionally, a federal court dismissed with prejudice all five class action cases that a local law firm brought against various natural gas suppliers for alleged

violations of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act during Winter Storm Uri. The Court noted that because wholesale natural gas prices are solely regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and these consolidated cases attack the wholesale price of natural gas during Uri, the cases must be dismissed due to field preemption. Field preemption is a type of federal preemption that exists where Congress has left no room for state regulation in an area (with the “area” in this case being the wholesale price of natural gas). And because federal field preemption applies, the state claims brought by the plaintiffs must be dismissed.



Terri Pemberton

BY TERRI PEMBERTON (KMEA)

Electric Operations

▶ ADJUSTING THE SAILS: ENSURING RELIABLE AND ECONOMIC POWER SUPPLY



City of Wamego's Power Plant

Prior to the 1980s, many of our cities were the primary generators of the energy their residents consumed. This required economic generators with a constant fuel supply and staff to bring it all together year-round.

More recently, until the 2020s, we saw our internal generators' reliability and staffing devalued due to a reliable and economic grid with excess generation. The summer season was the primary focus of our generation accreditation, but even the summer season was not stressed for reliability concerns other than internal or interconnection reliability issues.

BY TOM SAITTA (KMEA)

Today, we have large data center loads cropping up all over the grid, creating a shortage and soaring prices in the forward market for capacity and energy. Reliability issues have been exacerbated by all “non-dispatchable” resources (wind) on the grid and what seem like more volatile weather patterns. Accreditation values of all generators are being scrutinized to ensure that the bulk electric system is dependable. Our internal units are expected to provide a reliable supply when called upon and an economic hedge, a ceiling for a potentially uncapped market price.

Our goal has always been the same: “serve load in a reliable and economic manner that meets our customers' needs.” We have had to “adjust the sails” many times over the years. We are now at another inflection point where we need to invest in our power plants, creating plants that can be staffed and operated to meet our needs today.

“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.”

William Arthur Ward.

KMGA Report

► KMGA REGIONAL MEETINGS IN 2025



For the past three years, KMGA has hosted regional meetings across the footprint of our membership. These meetings have proven to be beneficial to both KMGA members as well as KMGA staff. The small group setting provides opportunities to meet and build relationships with personnel from KMGA member cities.

We will be holding 4 regional meetings during the month

BY DIXIE RIEDEL (KMGA)

of May this year. Meetings will begin at 10:30 am with lunch being provided. At each meeting we will be reviewing 2024, providing updates on pricing, gas supply, legal, and industry news. Meetings are informal and “round-table discussions” are encouraged.

City staff as well as council/commission members are invited and encouraged to attend one of this year’s regional meetings.

Below are the dates and locations for each meeting:

Date	Location
May 7 th	City of Osage City
May 12 th	City of Cheney
May 15 th	City of Humboldt
May 19 th	City of Moundridge

[Click HERE to register for the meeting!](#)

Mid-States

► KMEA COLLABORATES WITH NEODESHA FOR POLE REPLACEMENT



The KMEA Mid-States line crew is working on a project in Neodesha with Kwikom Company to ensure adequate clearance height for Kwikom’s new fiber infrastructure. Planning began last fall, initially targeting the replacement of 123 poles and 98 Power Make Ready points. Olsson Engineering revised the plan to replace 109 poles, ranging from 35 to 55 feet in height.

This is the largest line project in KMEA Mid-States’ history and involves cooperation with Neodesha’s line crews. It also serves as a valuable training opportunity for KMEA apprentices and interns. The project started in mid-December and aims to be completed by the end of April.

“The City of Neodesha extends its sincere gratitude to Kwikom and KMEA for their invaluable contributions to improving our community’s broadband infrastructure. This much-needed upgrade will significantly enhance access to high-speed internet throughout the city, ensuring that all residents can stay connected with reliable and efficient service. Expanding broadband access is essential for fostering economic growth, supporting education,

and improving overall quality of life. With this project, Neodesha is taking a vital step toward bridging the digital divide, allowing businesses, students, and families to benefit from faster and more dependable internet connectivity. We appreciate the dedication and investment of Kwikom and KMEA in helping to create a stronger, more connected community,” says City Manager, Brogan Jones.

KMEA remains committed to enhancing utilities and improving the lives of community members in Neodesha and beyond.

BY DAN WHITE (KMEA MID-STATES) AND TYSON MCGREER (KMEA)



APRIL 18TH NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY!

We would like to recognize our dedicated lineworkers for their hard work and commitment to keeping our communities powered. Thank you for everything you do!



PLATINUM PARTNERS



SUNBELT SOLOMON
UNPARALLELED POWER SOLUTIONS



WASHINGTON ENERGY LAW | LLP



April 23, 2025
KMEA Board of Directors Meeting

May 1, 2025
KMGA Board of Directors Meeting

May 7, 12, 15, 19, 2025
KMGA Regional Meetings

June 24-25, 2025
Joint EMP Meeting

November 13-14, 2025
KMEA Annual Conference