

April 2007



Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative

LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High St., Dighton, KS 67839

Phone 620-397-5327

Letter from the Manager

Aquila Acquisition

The Aquila acquisition that has been in progress since September 2005 when the group of Sunflower Cooperatives (MKEC) were the successful bidders, will be finalized April 1, 2007.

With this acquisition, Lane-Scott service territory will be expanded into Rush County and will include the towns of Ness City, Ransom, Arnold, Utica, Bazine, Brownell, Alexander and McCracken.

Lane-Scott Electric will acquire approximately 2,500 new customers and 330 miles of distribution line.

The existing four linemen in Ness City will be located at the Lane-Scott outpost in Ness City. Lane-Scott will also have a drop off point for payments in Ness City.

We look forward to having our neighbors to the east as part of our electric cooperative.

Ice Storm Cleanup

The New Year's ice storm will not soon be forgotten by all of our members.

The storm left some members without electricity for up to



Earl Steffens
Manager

18 days. This "100 year" storm caused extensive damage that Lane-Scott will need to rebuild. Though the process may take many years, our plant will one day be back to the way it was before the storm. The good news is that many communities and neighbors pulled

together to make the best of a difficult situation. Without a doubt this is the significant happening of 2006.

I have had a few phone calls and questions as to when Lane-Scott is going to be picking up the broken poles and material, especially from the wheat fields and pastures.

Lane-Scott will have crews go out and do the cleanup when it gets dry enough. In the meantime, if you want to get the broken poles off your wheat fields, pasture, or any of your property; please pile them in one area so we can pick them up conveniently. It is important to us that if you clean up an area, please clean it up completely. Our crews may not realize that part of it is still left in the field.

When it comes to the broken poles, contact the crews in the

continued on page 16-B

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Newsletter

Telephone (620) 397-5327 or
(800)-407-2217

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P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High St.
Dighton, KS 67839

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In Case of Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 1-800-407-2217. Office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and standby personnel.

24-Hour Electrician Emergency 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.

Letter from the Manager, continued from page 16-A

area during cleanup, and they will have the authority to get them to the landowner with their cooperation.

Thanks again for your patience, and remember there are energized wires above you as you are moving the damaged material.

2006 Highlights

Lane-Scott had a very good year overall and below you will see some of the more satisfying events for your cooperative in 2006.

- Lane-Scott Electric employees have worked 327,588 hours with “No Lost Time Accidents”.
- Lane-Scott financial statistics are listed below:
 - Patronage capital or margins = \$249,906.
 - TIER (Times Interest Earned Ratio) = 1.87.
 - Equity Level = 41 %.
 - Lane-Scott paid \$152,772 in estates and patronage capital back to the members.
 - Resale department had good earnings and showed a profit of \$62,854 and provided a valuable ser-

vice to our members and the community.

- The Board of Trustees and management staff participated in a one-day strategic planning session in Garden City in mid November. Just when we had our plan in place for 2007-2008, the ice storm hit.
- The operations department added 126 new services. Many of these were oil wells or irrigation conversions from gas to electricity.
- GIS System has been completed, but will be an on going process as we keep up with new services. Line segment numbers have been completed and are turning out to be a valuable asset to Peak Power, as they do our engineering study and prepare our work plan
- We are making significant progress on our 2006-2007 construction work plan, and we are well over half done with the two-year plan.
- Automatic meter reading (AMR) has been completed on all our single-phase meters, and we continue to

upgrade the signal to give us better performance in all areas of our service territory.

- The Junior Board of Trustees met with Vic Torson and our line department to review the operations area of Lane-Scott Electric.
 - Marit Ehmke and Colby Hagans attended the “Government in Action” Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Tyrel George attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp at Steamboat Springs, CO.
 - The Board of Trustees and Lane-Scott Electric have made the move to a paperless Board report.
 - High Line Services, LLC, had profitable year showing \$89,340. High Line Services has three five-man-crews working for Kansas cooperatives.
- Lane-Scott’s quality employees help bring reliable service, safety, personal service, economic benefit and integrity to the cooperative membership. This was never more evident than in the ice storm this year—a big thank you to all Lane-Scott employees.

Lane-Scott Electric Encourages Mem

When Lane-Scott provides electrical service to you, our member, each highly trained journeyman lineman works hard to provide you with high quality, reliable, dependable electricity.

To make the electricity ready to use in your home, it requires properly trained technicians, capacity rated conductors, and strategically located equipment including transformers, capacitors, voltage regulators, switches, and oil circuit

reclosers. And in addition to that special equipment, there are wires, insulators, jumpers, cut-outs, and hundreds of other “ordinary” equipment necessary to bring you electricity you can use.

With all these components, maintenance is a daily task. Thousands of work hours go into preparing for the electricity to be delivered. Even if a section of Lane-Scott’s line has been idle for a period of time, checks and inspections are made

before energizing, just conditions, equipment, and

If a power outage use a standby generator own source of power. planning or preparation before energizing the you might notice unwa

Some of these co working properly, out electrical wire burnin

Be Prepared for Severe Storms and Dangers Left in Their Wake

The arrival of spring and warmer weather also brings the potential for severe thunderstorms and tornados. As part of Severe Storm Preparedness Week, Lane-Scott Electric advises everyone to be prepared for these storms and the electrical hazards they can leave behind.

"Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlight and radio," Bob Venters, Member Services at Lane-Scott Electric, said. "Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes your electric cooperative. Be prepared for the possibility of a prolonged outage due to power line and electric equipment damage."

Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand. Keep a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand-operated opener for canned food.

During an outage, switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period. Know important

safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside!

If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used, or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator.

This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

When venturing outside after a severe storm, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact us so we can have our trained crews fix the problem.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to



Severe storms can cause electrical poles to break causing danger outside your home.

stay away and contact emergency personnel or your electric cooperative. Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

Steps to Prepare and Plan for Outages

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picture.

Why would you want to jeopardize the integrity of wiring in your home, not to mention damage sensitive electronic appliances, without preparing and planning ahead of time?

What load and size is required, and how much output does the generator provide?

Perhaps an un-interruptable power supply with power filters and condition-

ers is needed. Perhaps correct and safe connections, such as correctly installed double throw switches, need to be added.

Lane-Scott encourages you to please prepare and plan ahead of time! To help you prepare call the Lane-Scott Cooperative Electric Electrician Wiring Services.

Planning ahead by using experienced, trained individuals and completing proper installation is important for safe, quality, reliable, and dependable electricity.

The Importance of Vegetation Management

Vegetation management, commonly referred to as right-of-way maintenance, is essential in providing safe and reliable electric service. Your electric cooperative works hard to ensure that rights of way are regularly cleared of trees and brush to help reduce potential outages and hazards. Trees and branches growing in or near power lines can cause interruptions in service. Uncontrolled brush can impede access to utility structures.

Keeping Safety First

Trees and branches pose significant safety concerns when they are too close to power lines. Children climbing trees in this situation could be severely injured or even killed if they contact an energized line. Adults are also at risk. Pruning trees near power lines should be left to qualified vegetation management professionals.

Additionally, trees can fall into power lines due to strong wind and inclement weather. Not only can power lines be knocked over, but power poles and towers can break and fall as well. Although all weather-related outages cannot be prevented, vegetation management definitely minimizes damage, injury and outages.

Reducing the Likelihood for Power Outages

In August 2003, approximately 40 million people lost power for roughly two days in the northeastern United States. The root cause for this massive blackout was overgrown trees that contacted high-voltage power lines.



Before beginning yard landscaping projects this spring, remember the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from power lines, and to seek help in choosing and planting trees and bushes that won't grow to interfere with their electric supply.

The importance of vegetation management cannot be stressed enough. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) has established mandatory requirements for transmission vegetation management.

The new standards apply to transmission lines operating at 200 kilovolts and above. Transmission lines are used to carry bulk electricity from a generating plant to a substation. Currently voluntary, these new requirements will likely become mandatory by June 2007 and will establish formal transmission

vegetation management programs that define the following:

- Regular schedules for clearing,
- Clearances between vegetation and transmission lines, and
- Quarterly reporting systems for transmission outages caused by vegetation.

Vegetation management for distribution lines is addressed through the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). Distribution lines deliver electric energy to cooperative members. Although there are no specific requirements, NESC states, "Vegetation that may damage ungrounded supply lines should be pruned or removed." Some electric cooperatives are also regulated by state commissions to address right-of-way cycles.

In addition to safety concerns and outage prevention, vegetation management is necessary to reduce unexpected costs to electric cooperatives. By keeping rights of way clear, co-op crews are able to restore power more quickly, improve reliability and prevent expensive repairs to systems damaged by fallen trees or neglected vegetation.

Electric cooperatives do a good job of right-of-way vegetation management. In general, vegetation management is performed at electric cooperatives every two and a half to five years, depending on the service territory and terrain. Should you notice any trees or brush that need attention, please contact Lane-Scott. This will help ensure cooperative efforts to deliver safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost.