

# Electro NEWS



P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., Dodge City, KS 67801 • (620) 227-2139 • [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net)

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## Manager's Message... Energy and the Legislative Session

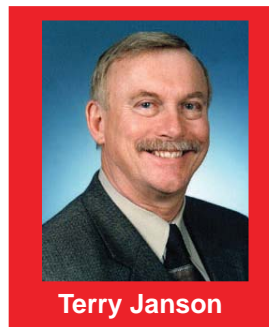
The holiday season has come to a close, and the 2009 Kansas legislative session is quickly approaching.

No doubt the Sunflower Holcomb coal plant expansion will be a key issue

this session. Some may ask, aren't there other forms of electricity we can produce and why is it that this expansion is so important?

The answer is yes, there are various other ways to produce electricity including natural gas, wind, nuclear, and solar. But what is important to understand is that in this time of economic hardships, coal is the cheapest way to produce electricity and keep your electric bills affordable.

According to a recent poll, Kansans are most concerned about the current state of the economy, health care, education and energy. With the economy in a slump and prices of food, gas, bills, health care and other needs on the rise, the public perspective and positive opinions of coal have increased. In a dramatic shift from last year,



**Terry Janson**

more Kansans indicate that ensuring reliable and affordable energy is more important than protecting the environment.

But the environment is big part of the Holcomb expansion. Various reduction methods were

designed to dramatically reduce emissions, which will make it one of the cleanest and most efficient coal plants in the US.

At a recent meeting, I asked Rod Bremby, Kansas Secretary of Health and Environment, to explain the denial of an air permit for the Holcomb expansion. The expansion project is designed to be energy efficient with the implementation of clean coal technology, while power plants in other areas of the state are contaminating the environment.

If you remember, Secretary Bremby was the one who denied the air permit in October 2007, stalling the plans to add significant base load energy to western Kansas.

Bremby's response was vague  
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## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar Scheduled

The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., would like to announce the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar.

The seminar will be held on Feb. 6, 2009, at Victory Electric's office located at 3230 N. 14<sup>th</sup> in Dodge City.

This meeting is for irrigators or anyone who has an interest in irrigation and irrigation technology on Victory Electric's system.

We will be sending invitations to the meeting to those member irrigators in late December and early January.

If you are not an irrigator but have interest in attending, please contact Victory Electric to be added to the invitation list.

Please feel free to come out and listen to the great lineup of guest speakers and also visit with the exhibitors.

If you have any questions, please call 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915 and ask for Jerry King or Josh Schmidt.

## Victory Electric's Building Expansion Expected to be Complete in the Spring



Pictured above: The expansion to Victory Electric's warehouse and offices in Dodge City. This includes a new 150 ft by 210 ft metal warehouse and a new two-story office addition.

The construction at The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., is progressing and we are expecting to occupy the new building in the spring of 2009.

The first floor of the new two-story addition will be the new lobby and customer service area for members to pay bills and visit with customer service representatives. It also includes public rest rooms and two offices.

Upstairs will include the general manager's office and the new board/meeting room.

The new warehouse has a mezzanine that will house offices upstairs and storage below, including a break room, meter tech room, electrician room and line room.

"We are especially excited about the amount of room we will have in the new warehouse," said Mike Clark, construction manager for Victory Electric. "We will be able to house all 48 line trucks and vehicles."

The construction process has taken about a year, and we look forward to our spring move-in.

"Moving into new offices will be a huge benefit for our members and employees," said Terry Jansen, general manager. "With the addition of more offices and facilities, we will be more efficient and better able to serve you, our member."

## CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL"!

And the lucky winners are ... Adam Klien, Chris Gulick, Don Irons, Levita Garcia, Pedro A. Hernandez, and Jesus Erives. Come by Victory Electric and get your free compact fluorescent light (CFL).

Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs.

CFLs use 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times

longer. You save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over a bulb's lifetime and CFLs produce about 75 percent less heat, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

Congratulations winners!



## Tips for Back-Up Generator Safety

In recent years, Dodge City and the surrounding areas have had several serious ice storms. Many residents have started installing back-up generators to provide power when the power goes out, and during these long-term power outages many rely heavily on portable generators for emergency power. The growing popularity of portable electric generators has resulted in millions being placed in homes and small businesses across the nation. But it's estimated only a small percentage are hooked up correctly. The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. urges members to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.

"A qualified vendor or electrical professional can help you select the best equipment for your situation or needs," advises Josh Schmidt, manager of member services at Victory Electric. "A reliable vendor will know existing safety codes and your utility's safety requirements. Installed and operated correctly, use of a standby or portable electric generator poses little danger, but improper installation or use could be dangerous to you and threaten the lives of your family, friends, neighbors and electric utility crews trying to restore power."

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric gen-

erator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and repair crews from 'back feed.' Back feed occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. It is **your** responsibility to take necessary steps to prevent the injury of anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.



"Safety for the operators and users of a generating system in the home and utility crews cannot be over-emphasized," says Schmidt. "A qualified electrician should be consulted to ensure proper installation and electrical grounding requirements, circuit overload protections and local codes are met."

Some homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Victory Electric offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

Victory Electric suggests these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and near the generator. For more generator safety tips, visit our Web site at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net).

## Manager's Message: Cont. from pg 16-A

because he could not talk about pending litigation, but he did say, "It's kind of like apples and oranges, if you look," he said. "Existing plants are different than plants to be constructed, or permits. What I saw was a construction permit."

Clean-coal plants, like Holcomb, create far less pollution than the older plants where emissions are estimated and not measured. Holcomb emissions will be closely monitored and be more environmentally friendly.

Victory and the five other co-ops that make up Sunflower are continuing to do everything we can to get Bremby's decision to deny the air permit overturned before western Kansas experiences a shortage of power.

The current Sunflower generation portfolio is capable of producing approximately 1260 MW of electricity (of which 360 MW is coal) and last summer we reached 1048 MW, which doesn't allow for much more growth or the increasing consumer demand in western Kansas. We are dangerously close to reaching our generation capacity, and that is why we need the Holcomb expansion's additional generation.

It is important that when you see your legislators that you let them know you are concerned about the power situation in western Kansas. All of us at Victory Electric are working hard to find solutions to help you, the member, stabilize your cost of energy.

*Til Next Time, TJ*

# Victory Electric Sponsors Parade of Lights and Chili Contest

The Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest was held on Dec. 1, 2008, in Dodge City.

Sponsored by *The Dodge City Globe*, Victory Electric and Western Beverage, the events attracted hundreds of visitors to downtown Dodge City.

The Chili Contest had an impressive 34 entries.

The lucky winners in the Judges Choice category were Black Hills Energy, first place; Rocking M Radio, second place; and Shade Tree Commission, third place.

The winners in the People Choice category were Shade Tree Commission, first place; Miss Kitty's,

second place; and Leon Feldt, third place.

All winners received a plaque sponsored by Victory Electric.

The parade sported 24 entries, ranging from an old fire truck, to pets, to floats and trucks decked out in Christmas light.

Thanks to all who attended. and we hope to see you next year!



Photos from the Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off in Dodge.

