

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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K.C. ELECTRIC STAFF

David Churchwell
General Manager
dchurchwell@kcelectric.coop

Bo Randolph
Office Manager and CFO
brandolph@kcelectric.coop

Darren Fox
Operations Manager
dfox@kcelectric.coop

George Ehlers
Member Services Specialist and
IT Manager
gehlers@kcelectric.coop



ph 719-743-2431
tf 800-700-3123
fax 719-743-2396
web kcelectric.coop

Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

CHANGES ARE COMING

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER

In 2018 and 2019 I wrote a couple of articles in *Colorado County Life* about the “Winds of Change” and the “Changing Landscape” when several utility scale wind farms were being constructed in K.C. Electric Association’s service territory.

Currently, K.C. Electric has seven wind farms operating across its service territory, one slated to be on line later this year, and more projects are expected in the next few years. According to the internet, a 1-megawatt wind turbine will produce approximately 2,190,000 kilowatt-hours annually. Below are a few details about each of our current wind farms.

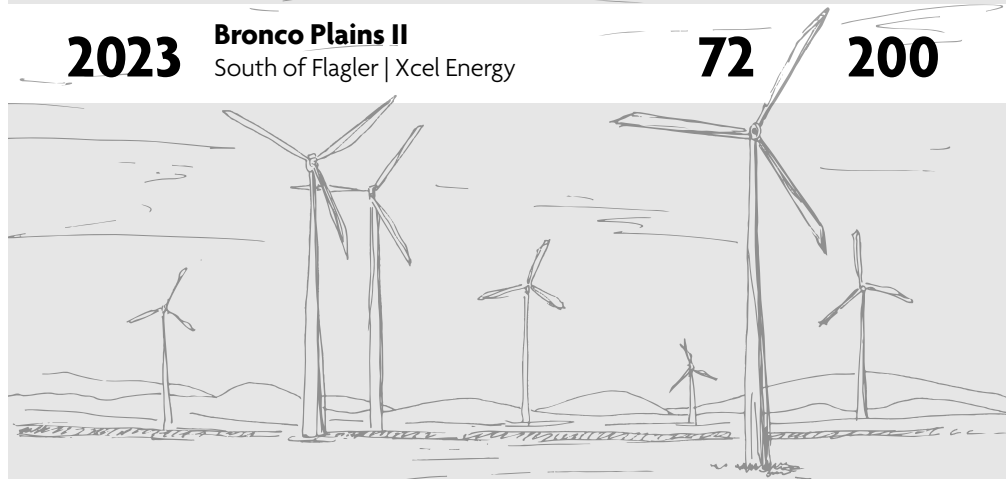
DAVID CHURCHWELL



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UTILITY SCALE WIND FARMS IN K.C. ELECTRIC'S SERVICE TERRITORY

YEAR ESTABLISHED	LOCATION & OWNER	NUMBER OF TURBINES	MEGAWATT NAMEPLATE CAPACITY
2010	Kit Carson North of Burlington Tri-State G&T	34	51
2015	Carousel North of Burlington Tri-State G&T	81	150
2018	Rush Creek II East of Hugo Xcel Energy FACT: A 345,000-volt transmission line was built from east of Hugo to Deer Trail so the output from this wind farm can be integrated into Xcel's grid and provide power to the Front Range.	100	200
2020	Bronco Plains South of Flagler Xcel Energy	98	300
2020	Cheyenne Ridge East & West North of Cheyenne Wells Xcel Energy	229	500
2021	Crossing Trails South of Siebert Tri-State G&T FACT: Crossing Trails has some of the tallest turbines in Colorado at a height of 345 feet combined with a blade length of 240 feet.	20	104
2023	Bronco Plains II South of Flagler Xcel Energy	72	200



CHANGES ARE COMING (CONTINUED)

This is a tremendous amount of renewable generation, and you might be asking, “Who will use all of this power?” This brings me to the next big project to be built in eastern Colorado. Xcel Energy is in the beginning stages of constructing over 550 miles of 345,000-volt transmission line that will encompass eastern Colorado and will transmit all this generation (and probably much more) to the front range. Xcel will essentially be building a transmission line from Pueblo, east to Lamar, north to Cheyenne Wells, northwest to Fort Morgan, and then onto northern Colorado and back south to Pueblo. The power pathway will create a 345,000-volt transmission system that loops around most of eastern Colorado.

This project will take many years to complete, but one of the first stages of construction is a section from north of Cheyenne Wells to Fort Morgan. This section will be constructed throughout K.C. Electric’s service territory. Once the entire 550 mile project is close to completion, you can expect many new renewable generation projects on the eastern plains of Colorado. These projects will likely include wind farms, solar farms, and possibly battery storage. The construction of these projects will bring a large number of workers and equipment into our local communities.

In addition, later this year, or early next year, Tri-State will construct a 230,000-volt transmission line from Lamar to Burlington, which will connect into existing transmission lines that traverse north and west. This will allow Tri-State to move more power north and south throughout its territory.

As the Colorado-mandated transformation to carbon reduction continues, one thing is certain: Renewable energy developers will be out in droves as they try to lease or purchase land for their proposed projects. And the landscape and views we have grown up with will be changed forever.



Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric Association members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431 and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

Darrell Bogart, Flagler — 541700002

Brett Legg, Cheyenne Wells — 1106500001

Troy Tagtmeyer- Stratton — 1118350000

Russell Heater, Flagler — 538650003

In June, four consumers called to claim their savings: Leigh Andersen, Arriba; Kendall Will, Flagler; Allison Brown, Arapahoe; and Pam Walter, Cheyenne Wells.

FARM SAFETY: EQUIPMENT REACH



Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around electricity. Utilize these safety tips for you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm.

- Know the dimensions of any far-reaching equipment, such as chemical sprayers, tillage equipment, other extensions or augers.
- Machinery extension dimensions include length when extended horizontally and upright for transport.
- Always use the lowest (shortest) setting for extensions when moving loads.
- These power-line safety principles also apply to arms, booms, truck beds, ladders and other items or mechanisms that extend, lift, or are far reaching.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

SafeElectricity.org

FARM SAFETY

POWER SOURCES

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around power transmission. This includes you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm. Keep in mind:

- Bigger equipment allows farmers to cover more ground in less time; however, this can be a hazard when electrical infrastructures are nearby.
- Inexperienced, fatigued or distracted operators are more likely to come in contact with a power line or pole.
- Sources of electricity include power lines, electrical boxes, and damaged (non-grounded) guy wires.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



 Safe Electricity.org

Board Members Recognized for Ongoing and Dedicated Service



▲ K.C. Electric Association Board President Kevin Penny (left) presents Wayne Parrish with a Director Gold certificate at a recent board meeting. Wayne completed the coursework through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to earn this certification.



▲ Tri-State Generation and Transmission Board of Directors Vice Chairman Don Keairns (right) presents K.C. Electric Board Member Bob Bledsoe (left) with a plaque recognizing his 25 years of service on the Tri-State board.

THANK YOU

HAY IS FOR HORSES



USE IT WITH CARE NEAR POWER LINES

Using hay on the ranch or farm is like using water and feed — it is essential. However, be careful near overhead power lines. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

- Be aware of overhead power lines when moving bales of hay.
- Do not store hay bales underneath power lines.
- Bales could get close to or contact a power line, pole or guy wire.



IN ADDITION:

- Tarps that cover hay can come loose in heavy winds.
- The tarp can then whip in the wind.
- The unruly tarp could contact a power line and cause an outage.

Learn more:

 Safe
Electricity.org®

