

# NEWS



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## Thunderstorm Brings Damages to Holcomb Station



Hays, KS—August 21—A violent storm descended on Sunflower’s Holcomb Station power plant last evening causing what is expected to be more than \$1 million in damages.

“Thankfully, all of our people are safe, but we have experienced significant damage to our coal stacker, the main boiler roof, our cooling towers and several smaller roofs and doors,” said Kyle Nelson, Vice President, Power Production.

“Even through all of this chaos, the plant stayed in service and remains stable this morning as we begin the process of repairing these damages,” Nelson said.

In addition to the power plant facilities, the Sunflower Integrated Bioenergy Center algae growth test stands were severely damaged. Fortunately, the majority of the Phase 1 testing is complete, but it is unclear how this damage may affect the completion of the final report of the initial growth tests.



While the plant’s ability to make electricity is not impeded, the damage to the traveling coal stacker will require temporary repairs that are expected to take 7-10 days to complete.

During this repair period, large bulldozers will be used to push the coal from the dead storage pile onto the coal conveyor system. The dead storage pile currently

contains a 25-day supply of coal when the plant is operating at full load.

This preliminary information is based on Sunflower's initial inspections immediately following the storm. More detailed repair estimates won't be available until emergency repair crews are mobilized to the site.

Photo credit: Brian Litzenberger

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**About Sunflower—**

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation is a regional wholesale power supplier that operates a 1,203 MW system of wind, gas, and coal-based generating plants and a 2,300-mile transmission system for the needs of its six member cooperatives who serve more than 124,000 customers living in central and western Kansas. Visit Sunflower's website at <http://www.sunflower.net>

Sunflower's member cooperatives include Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Dighton; Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Ulysses; Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Norton; Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Dodge City; Western Cooperative Electric Association, WaKeeney; and Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Scott City, Kansas.