

NEWS



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DATE: May 17, 2004

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SUNFLOWER PRESIDENT AND CEO TO RETIRE

HAYS, KS—Charles Ayers, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation's Chairman of the Board, announced recently that the utility's President and Chief Executive Officer, Chris Hauck will retire effective June 1.

Looking back on Hauck's tenure, Chairman Ayers wrote in Sunflower's most recent annual report, "Chris recognized the importance of the corporate culture and pursued the intentional design of a workplace rooted in faith, trust, consideration, honesty, cooperation and mutual affirmation. He has indeed been a faithful servant to the company and the interests it represents."

Hauck began his service to Sunflower in May 1988 shortly after the completion of a debt restructuring process that lasted for nearly three years. He completed a KCC-ordered business plan for Sunflower by July and has steadily worked to implement that plan for the last 16 years.

Under his leadership, Sunflower's sales of power to its Member Systems increased by 152%, while the rates Sunflower charges its Member Systems declined by 41%. In the same period power sales to non-Members increased by 96%.

These positive changes have been possible because of renegotiated coal and rail contracts, further reorganizations of Sunflower's debt structure and the aggressive marketing of Sunflower's production capacities. However, Hauck points to these achievements and credits the diligence and perseverance of Sunflower's Board of Directors and its employees for the success Sunflower has enjoyed in the last 16 years.

"The corporate culture we've created together is the reason we've been able to accomplish so much for the cooperatives that own Sunflower." He added, "Without the cooperation of the Board and the relentless pursuit of excellence by our employees, Sunflower may well have been only a distant memory."

He continued, "The dedication of all who are associated with Sunflower will allow us to serve the people of western Kansas for many years into the future." Hauck said, "We're actively working to build the next coal plant at Holcomb and we believe our involvement in the Sunflower Electric Wind Farm will contribute greatly to the continuing economic well-being of the 34 counties we serve in western Kansas."

Retirement will not cause Hauck to simply sit in his rocking chair. He is quite active in prison ministry and he expects to continue this work with his wife Rita who is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean in the College of Education and Technology at Fort Hays State University.

Hauck's sons, Les and Christian, are graduates of Hays High and the United States Air Force Academy. Both are on active duty with the Air force, where Les is a Captain and Chris is a First Lieutenant. Les recently returned from the Persian Gulf and has just been assigned to Luke AFB in Phoenix, Ariz. as an F-16 Instructor Pilot.

Christian is a hospital facilities engineer based in Atlanta, Ga., and is a member of the United States Combined Armed Forces Rugby team. Shortly after his retirement, Hauck plans to travel as videographer with the U.S. team on its tenth biannual international tour to compete with the allied rugby teams in several European venues.

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation is a regional wholesale power supplier that owns and operates a 595 MW system of gas and coal-fired generating plants and a 1,200-mile transmission system for the needs of its six member cooperatives who serve 120,000 people spread throughout a 21,000 square mile area in western Kansas. Sunflower also provides power to regional utilities in western Kansas and in ten states.