

NEWS



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HOLCOMB STATION MAINTENANCE OUTAGE COMPLETED

HOLCOMB, KS—Sunflower Electric's Holcomb Station Unit 1 recently completed an annual maintenance outage and was returned to commercial service on May 8. The annual outage is planned for the purpose of performing major maintenance activities that cannot be completed while the unit is running.

The plant was taken out of service for a brief period of time after being restarted to repair an unexpected leak in a boiler tube, however, the generation staff was able to quickly repair the damage and bring the unit back online.

Steve Moss, Sunflower's Manager, Production Operations and Maintenance, remarked, "Some people may not realize that this machine runs 24 hours each day of the year. After running night and day for a year, it needs to have improvements made to some systems and others have to be replaced so we can continue to make sure the lights shine bright all over western Kansas."

The outage began April 23 and involved 15 contractors who employed nearly 150 workers who assisted Sunflower's generation staff during the 15-day period when the unit was shut down. Significant improvements and repairs were made to the rotary rail car dumper, boiler, baghouse and cooling tower systems. Twelve large motors were repaired and 113 bags were replaced in the environmental control systems.

Brad Schimke, Sunflower's Senior Manger, Power Production said, "This outage went as smoothly as any I've been involved in since the plant first came online in 1983. This can only be attributed to the quality of our generation staff and those who supported them in this \$3 million project. I'm very thankful we have this caliber of employees at Sunflower—they make all the difference."

While the plant was out of service, Sunflower's system control department used other Sunflower generators and purchased power from the regional market to replace the energy that would have been produced

at Holcomb.

Bill Nolte, Sunflower's System Operations Supervisor, said, "Our other generating units ran very well during the outage and our system operators were able to find the power we needed to serve the needs of our Member Systems."

The next scheduled outage for the Holcomb plant will be in May 2005. The machine will run for more than 8,700 consecutive hours until it is stopped for its next repair.

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.