

# NEWS



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## Sunflower Enters Biomass Fuel Agreement

Hays, Kan.—February 2, 2008—Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and the Prairie Fire Bioenergy Cooperative of Healy have signed an agreement to evaluate the potential for burning a biomass product produced by Prairie Fire at Sunflower's coal-fired plant near Holcomb, Kansas.

The first step in this process, which will be completed by Sunflower's engineering group, is to complete a preliminary evaluation of operational impacts associated with burning the fuel in a power plant boiler.

Kyle Nelson, Sunflower's vice president, power production, said, "I have directed the generation engineering group to proceed with this project because I believe it has potential and because we want to support Prairie Fire in their efforts to develop this exciting new fuel source."

After the preliminary evaluation is completed, a sample of biomass from Prairie Fire will be fired in a small-scale test facility. During this step, a chemical analysis of the biomass will be completed to determine how well it would burn when combined with other fuels in a larger boiler.

"This effort is exciting for Sunflower," Nelson said, "especially if we can find a way to supplement our coal and natural gas supplies with biomass produced in Kansas."

It is anticipated that the initial effort will provide the partners with the base information needed for subsequent phases of the project. Those future phases might include detailed computer modeling and large-scale test burns in the Holcomb boiler or other existing units.

Brad Applegarth, Prairie Fire's board president, is excited about Sunflower's willingness to further develop their product for power plants. "We are anxious to continue this exploration of the feasibility of using Prairie Fire's biosolid fuel for Sunflower's needs. Our board is convinced of the potential from our partnership with each other, and we are anxious to get this project underway."

Sunflower expects to incorporate the information gleaned from this evaluation with the ongoing work of its Next Generation Resources study

group, which recently engaged Burns and McDonnell, an engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting solutions firm, to assist in Sunflower's long-term generation planning.

### **About Sunflower—**

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation is a regional wholesale power supplier that operates a 1,257 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 400,000 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.

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### **About Prairie Fire—**

Prairie Fire BioEnergy Cooperative of Healy, Kansas is a non-profit, producer owned, cooperative founded to support the development of renewable biomass energy sources in western Kansas. Prairie Fire will manufacture a biomass fuel for use in industrial furnace and electrical power generation. Ingredients in their biosolid fuel are renewable biomass inputs such as baled hay, out of condition hay, seed hulls, crop stubble, and other products. Visit Prairie Fire's website at: <http://www.prairiefirecoop.com/>

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