

# NEWS



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## **Sunflower to continue efforts to expand Holcomb Station**

Hays, KS—May 1—Sunflower Electric President and CEO Earl Watkins vowed to continue efforts to expand Holcomb Station and thanked the majority of Kansas legislators who support comprehensive energy legislation.

“On behalf of our 400,000 consumer-owners, I want to thank the legislature for their support,” said Watkins. “The majority of legislators recognize our project will be among the cleanest and most efficient coal plants in the nation and will provide affordable and reliable power to thousands of Kansas families.”

The comprehensive energy legislation received strong support from a broad section of the state’s most prominent business, agriculture and labor groups, which worked tirelessly to help return confidence in the state’s regulatory climate.

“Sunflower is thankful for the efforts of Kansas and national business, industry, agriculture and labor organizations that support the energy legislation,” said Watkins.

Legislators from each of the state’s 105 counties voted for comprehensive energy legislation that supports reliable and affordable electricity and promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency, job growth and investment and regulatory certainty.

“We continue to have strong bipartisan support in the legislature,” Watkins said. “In addition to legislative efforts, we will continue to seek remedies through administrative processes and the courts.”

The legislation passed by both chambers makes clear the understanding of the legislature regarding the limitations on the emergency powers of the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

“The legislature sent a clear message that current law does not allow the Secretary to use his emergency powers in the air permitting process,” said Watkins. “We firmly believe that the KDHE Secretary’s decision was flawed and we will pursue every avenue of appeal.”

In suits filed in the Kansas Court of Appeals and transferred to the Supreme Court, the cooperatives argue that KDHE and the Secretary had no authority under the law to apply K.S.A. § 65-3012 to the Holcomb Station expansion air permitting process.

The Secretary’s denial order set aside KDHE professional staff’s recommendation to issue the Holcomb Station air permit and disregarded their extensive and exhaustive work to ensure that public health and the environment were protected, public concerns were addressed, and strict state and federal laws were followed.

### **Media Contact**

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### **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.