

Park's rail service holds up

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Mar 17, 2020



Workers move the Great Plains Industrial Park entrance sign at 24000 and Scott roads on Monday. The sign had to be relocated to allow TP&L trucks to make the turn out of the park with wind turbine parts. TP&L operates a lay down yard in the park. The parts are delivered by railroad, where TP&L unloads and stores them until they truck them to two wind energy sites.

Jamie Willey/Sun photo

OSWEGO — Labette County commissioners on Monday received a brief update on Great Plains Industrial Park, focusing on its rail service.

Tim Peoples, Great Plains property manager, and Brad Reams, Great Plains director, met with commissioners.

Peoples said the newly refurbished rail in the park has had three trains on it delivering wind turbine parts to TP&L's storage yard at Great Plains. The company stores and maintains the parts before they are shipped to wind farm developments for assembly. Nacelles were recently brought into the yard.

The nacelle is the large housing that contains the turbine's generating components and to which the blades are attached. A nacelle can weigh 130,000 pounds.

Peoples said the tracks needed some repacking of the rock base after the heavy wind turbine parts came through.

"It's holding up very well," Peoples said of the rail.

He said the Great Plains sign at 24000 and Scott roads was moved Monday. TP&L and LaForge and Budd Construction is working on moving the sign, which was in the middle of the roadway and needs moved so trucks carrying wind turbine parts from TP&L can make the turn onto 24000 Road easier.

Reams and Peoples said they also let Kansas Department of Transportation know of their support for funding to improve Scott Road north of Great Plains so trucks could travel north out of Great Plains and turn onto U.S. 400. The county is applying for cost-share funding for the road improvement.

Reams also said Great Plains is seeking another economic development prospect through the Kansas Department of Commerce for buildings 203 and 920. The out-of-state company works with plastic injection moldings. TP&L's presence in the park helps, along with the improved rail.