

KEA Wins National Award and International Recognition

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Diana Gish/KMXT

Over 6,000 people attended the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 68th annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia last week. Representing the Kodiak Electric Association were K-E-A board president Cliff Davidson and CEO Darron Scott. The two were there to take part in the national conference and to accept the "2009 Wind Cooperative of the Year Award" on behalf of K-E-A, Incorporated.

The award is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program, the Wind Powering America program, and the N-R-E-C-A. The distinction recognizes electric cooperatives that demonstrate strong leadership in advancing wind power in the U.S.. A panel of wind industry, government, national laboratory and cooperative experts selected KEA for the award.

Speaking from Denver, Scott offered his response to the honor:

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... its overwhelming.)

"It's wonderful!

The NRECA annual meeting is held for staff and local directors of the nation's cooperative electric utilities. This year's event commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Rural

Electrification Administration. The conference featured presentations by actor Ed Asner, news analyst David Gergen and Finance guru Steve Forbes among others.

The Kodiak delegation was busy attending meetings during the event and by the time motivational speaker and television host John Walsh gave the closing speech; Scott was on his way to yet another wind-power gathering; this time in Denver where he was one of the presenters at the "Energy Development in Islanded Nations: or "EDIN"(Eden) conference.

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Virgin ...in between.")

"The U.S.

The Kodiak wind project is of interest to many around the world because it features the first mega-watt class turbine used in Alaska and it combines hydro power and wind power on an "islanded grid".

Scott said he considers the wind energy meetings a great opportunity for sharing knowledge in order to address the common goal of breaking dependency on diesel and fossil fuels.

The CEO of Kodiak Electric stressed that the national award that he and Davidson accepted in Atlanta belongs to KEA's board and staff, the co-op members and the community of Kodiak for the support given to the Pillar mountain wind project.

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really their ... on the cake.")

"It's

Scott said
he thinks that the award will help earn continued outside support as Kodiak
moves forward with future renewable energy plans.