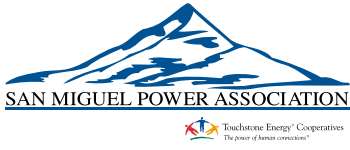


ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

Nucla
170 W. 10th Ave.
P.O. Box 817
Nucla, CO 81424
(970) 864-7311
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Ridgway
720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Both Offices Open:
M - TH • 7:00am – 5:30pm

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office to reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x2120

SAFETY TIPS

Assembling supplies for ice storms and winter power outages?
Remember:

- Flashlights with fresh batteries.
- First aid kit, prescription medicines, and baby supplies.
- Bottled drinking water.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

FEATURE STORY

Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project Completes First Construction Phase

The electrical transmission power line that traverses Red Mountain Pass along US 550, is being re-built in order to continue to serve as backup power source for consumers in the communities of Ouray County.

In 2022 and 2023, SMPA contractors conducted vegetation removal which cleared the work zone while mitigating fire risk in the area. This year, contract crews re-constructed 4.5 miles of 44kV transmission line between the Idarado and Red Mountain electrical substations. The work included the replacement of existing line / structures with new, environmentally-tailored structures that will improve system reliability.

Thanks to contractors, PAR electric and ESC Engineering for completing this phase of construction. Next year, some areas of Red Mountain line section 1, from Ouray to the Red Mountain Substation are tentatively scheduled to take place.



Timing Matters: SMPA Board to Consider Time-of-Use Rate this Month

At their October 22nd meeting, the SMPA Board of Directors will hear a staff proposal for a membership-wide time-of-use rate with an opt-out option. The proposal will likely point to the benefits of more closely aligning retail rates with their wholesale components.

If the Board decides to move ahead, a time-of-use rate including a higher energy rate between 4 PM & 9 PM and a lower energy rate during the remaining 19 hours of the day may be applied to member bills as soon as 1-1-25. Member feedback may be emailed to comments@smpa.com, and the board meeting will include a member comment period soon after 9 AM.

Learn more about the benefits of a time-based-rate at www.smpa.com/timing-matters.



For Convenience, Pay Your Power Bill at the Family Dollar.

We're continuously seeking faster, more convenient ways to meet your needs. SMPA offers cash bill-pay service at participating retail stores, so you can pay your power bill while running errands. Find out more on the SMPA SmartHub app or call our office to learn more.

The majority of these participating locations will accept cash payments up to a maximum of \$500

DOLLAR GENERAL

CVS pharmacy

FAMILY DOLLAR

Speedway

7 ELEVEN

Kum & Go

stripes



GIVE BLOOD |

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA

vitalant.org

Tri-State Rate Increase to be Partially Covered with Rate Stabilization Funds; SMPA to Consider Access Fee Increase

“As our wholesale power costs from Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) continue to increase, we are working on several strategies to lessen the impact to our membership,” said SMPA Chief Executive Officer, Brad Zaporski.

The announcement of a 6.2% increase in wholesale power costs came last month with an effective date of Aug. 1, 2024. The SMPA Board of Directors had anticipated the increase and had deferred revenue from previous years to help cover the extra expense while softening the pressure on current retail rates. “The use of deferred revenue for rate stabilization this year, and likely the next, will help SMPA avoid rate shock to our members and still allow us to meet all of our obligations,” stated Zaporski.

Rather than using up all Rate Stabilization funds, the SMPA Board will consider a measured rate increase (typically, realized as an increase to the fixed access charge on the monthly electric bill) to help cover the rest of the increased wholesale rate from Tri-State. SMPA’s access charge remains one of the lowest in the state, and a gradual increase in this fixed charge has been recommended by rate consultants.

Following the Tri-State rate increase, they announced their selection to receive USDA New ERA grant funding for their Responsible Energy Plan and transition from Colorado Coal to lower carbon-emitting sources of energy. One of Tri-State’s stated goals is to “...reduce the revenue required from members through rates by \$422 million over 20 years.” “Tri-State’s winning of USDA New Era funding for the energy transition is great news for Tri-State, SMPA and our members,” said Zaporski. As national conditions continually shift, SMPA’s primary focus will be the safety, reliability, cost-effectiveness and environmental responsibility of electricity for the member-consumers of SMPA.




There is no greater gift for a child than the gift of learning from their own books.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, a book-gifting program administered by the Dollywood Foundation, mails one book each month to children from birth to age five at no cost to the families who register.

At SMPA, we believe every child should have the opportunity to grow up in homes filled with books that inspire a passion for reading and lifelong learning.

Please scan here to check availability in your area.






Time to Clean House




Bring your un-needed documents to our Nucla office (12 PM - 2 PM) on **October 10th** for **Shred Day**.

Food Drive



Throughout October, SMPA will match your food donation, can for can.



-  **Moving?**
-  **Changing Email Address?**
-  **Changing Phone Number?**

Be sure to let us know. We’ll keep you up-to-date on your account information, member dividends status and any emergency alerts. Don’t forget!

Call (970) 626-5549 or (970) 864-7311

SmartHub users can change their contact information under ‘Settings.’ (the gear icon).

SMPA POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH’S PUZZLE:
NOT T RAISE LAZI BAIT
Hint...Easing into it.

Last Month’s Answer: EARLY DETECTION

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

