

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

FALL SAFETY TIPS:

- ✓ *Make sure electric blankets are certified and in good repair.*
- ✓ *Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities.*
- ✓ *Unplug and safely store battery chargers that won't be in use again until spring.*

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, 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.wasdc.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and bring the form to a 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, DC 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

Rate Adjustments being Considered to Keep Pace with Rising Costs

FOR SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION (SMPA), ADJUSTING RATES IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE COOPERATIVE CAN CONTINUE PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR YEARS TO COME.

For San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), adjusting rates is sometimes necessary to continue providing safe, reliable and cost-effective electric service.

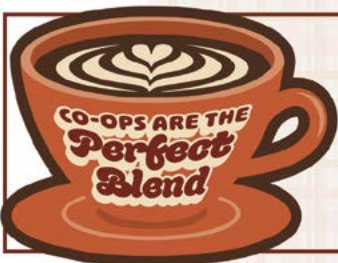
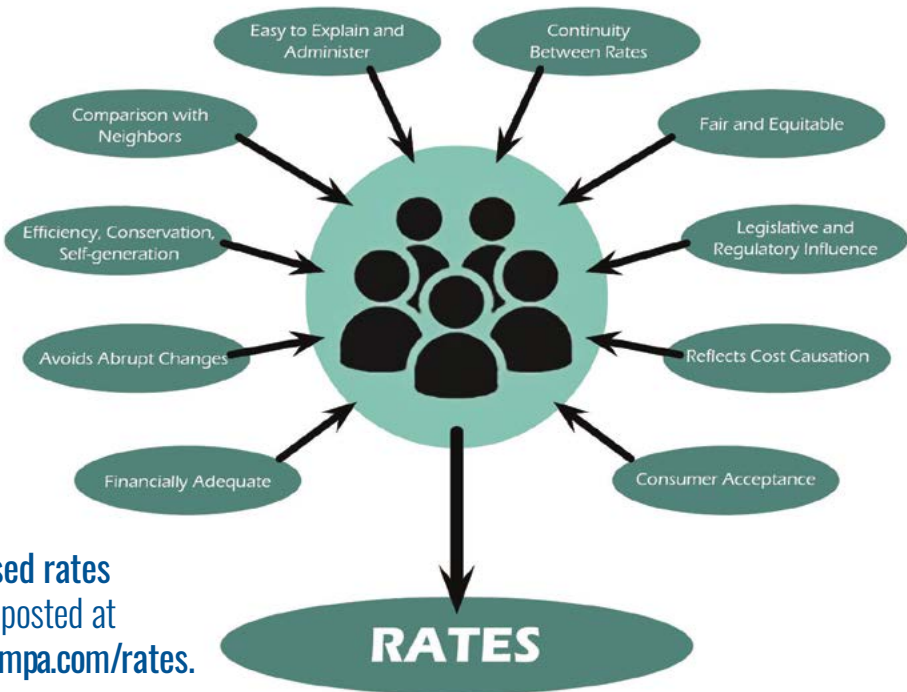
Like many organizations, SMPA is facing rising costs. One of its largest expenses is wholesale power purchased from Tri-State Generation and Transmission, which is expected to increase another 6%–8% in 2027. SMPA is also experiencing higher costs for materials, labor, insurance, vegetation management, wildfire mitigation and other essential services.

At the same time, SMPA must continue investing in the infrastructure that delivers electricity to members. Maintaining and upgrading poles, wires, substations and other equipment is essential to reliability, particularly in Western Colorado's challenging terrain and changing weather conditions.

SMPA is also investing in grid modernization and technology to support changing energy needs, including electrification and distributed energy resources such as local solar and battery storage.

As a member-owned cooperative, SMPA does not raise rates to generate profits for outside investors. Rates are designed to recover the actual cost of providing electric service while maintaining the financial strength needed for reliable operations and long-term investments.

Ultimately, rate adjustments help SMPA keep pace with the real-world cost of serving members while building a stronger, more resilient electric system for our communities. Considering all these factors, the SMPA board will soon see a proposal for a rate increase.



October is Co-op Month

Just like a good cup of joe energizes your morning, co-ops energize the community so that together, we can build something strong and robust.

 **GIVE BLOOD |**
vitalant.org

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA

A Big Job in a Small Space: Maintaining Ouray's Substation

In September, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) completed important maintenance and upgrades at the Ouray Substation, helping ensure safe, reliable electric service for the community for years to come.

Substations convert high-voltage electricity into lower-voltage power suitable for delivery to homes, businesses and community institutions. Like all major electrical infrastructure, they require regular maintenance and upgrades.

In Ouray, that work presented unique challenges. Steep terrain and the substation's compact footprint limited available space and the substation design made it impossible to service without mobile equipment typically deployed during major substation projects.

SMPA developed a creative solution using a spare trailer-mounted transformer, regulators and custom engineering to create a mobile substation specifically suited to the site. The equipment is divided between two smaller trailers, allowing it to be positioned around the existing substation.

The solution was more than five years in the making, involving planning, purchasing, engineering and construction. The September project marked the culmination of that effort and allowed SMPA to complete critical work while maintaining reliable service.

SMPA now owns the custom mobile substation. Once the Ouray upgrades are complete, it will be housed at the Ridgway office, ready to support future maintenance projects or emergencies.

It's a practical example of how SMPA adapts to challenging conditions to keep our local electric system reliable.



Pictured is the regulator of the Ouray mobile substation. This piece of core equipment, used to distribute electricity to Ouray, is mounted on a large truck-drawn trailer, along with its counterpart transformer [not shown]. Both components provide a secondary system we can rely on while we continue to maintain and upgrade our existing substation.

What Is an Energy Emergency Alert?

We expect electricity to be available whenever we flip a switch. But maintaining a reliable electric system requires balancing electricity supply with demand every second. During rare, extreme conditions, that balance can become difficult to maintain.

An Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) is a notification that the electric grid is experiencing—or is at risk of experiencing—a shortage of available electricity. An EEA does not necessarily mean your power will go out. Grid operators and utilities may first ask customers to voluntarily reduce electricity use and take other steps to relieve the strain.

If conditions become more severe, utilities may need to implement controlled, temporary outages to protect the larger electric system. If SMPA is required to take such measures, members may experience an interruption in service. Restoration will occur as soon as conditions allow.

Energy emergencies are uncommon, but being prepared helps strengthen our community's resilience. If an EEA occurs, SMPA will work with regional grid operators to maintain reliability and communicate important information to members. When electricity is in short supply, every kilowatt-hour saved can help.

HOW CAN YOU PREPARE?

A few simple steps can help:

- Keep flashlights, batteries and portable phone chargers readily available.
- If you rely on electricity for medical equipment, have a backup plan.
- Know how to manually operate equipment such as garage doors and gates.
- When asked to conserve, delay energy-intensive activities such as laundry or dishwashing and turn off unnecessary lights and electronics.
- Make sure your contact information is current with SMPA so you can receive important notifications.
- Never use generators, grills or other fuel-burning equipment indoors because of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

