

# ENERGY WISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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**MARCH  
2015**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Nucla**  
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 P.O. Box 817  
 Nucla, CO 81424  
 (970) 864-7311  
 M - TH, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 Toll Free: 1-877-864-7311

**Ridgway**  
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 P.O. Box 1150  
 Ridgway, CO 81432  
 (970) 626-5549  
 T - F, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

**www.smpa.com**  
[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](https://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower)

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you will be able to automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Send your questions or suggestions for the editors of EnergyWise to:  
[energywise@smpa.com](mailto:energywise@smpa.com)  
 (970) 626-5549 x212

## SAFETY TIP

**Discourage pets from sleeping near or behind electronics. Many pets are attracted to the warmth, but this is a potential fire hazard.**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

## NOTABLES: Major Upgrades Planned for Nucla Substation



**Nucla Substation:** Located just southwest of the town of Nucla, the Nucla Substation will soon see major upgrades as SMPA kicks off the West End Reliability project. Improvements include the installation of a new transformer and modern breakers and protective devices. The project will boost power reliability for SMPA members in the region.

*Photo by Terry Daley, Manager of Engineering*



**Kevin Ritter**  
 SMPA General Manager

### A message from your General Manager, Kevin Ritter

San Miguel Power is preparing to embark on the West End Reliability project where we will make a series of important upgrades at the Nucla Substation in order to improve power reliability for our members in the West End. SMPA is rooted in the West End. It is where we were born. Needless to say, some of our equipment in that region is showing its age, and it's time to modernize.

The West End Reliability Project will include a transformer replacement and the installation of new breakers and protective devices. One of the most important components of our project is installing a new transformer

in the Nucla Substation. In the summer of 2013 a lightning strike destroyed the original transformer, cutting power to the West End for almost 17 hours. In order to keep power flowing to the region, we were forced to install an older transformer from a substation that had been recently removed. This was a temporary solution. The new transformer, along with an identical spare were delivered last month.

In addition to the new transformer, we will also be installing modern breakers and relays – important protective devices. This will give us more options for keeping the lights on during maintenance activities. It will also allow our equipment to coordinate with the Nucla Power Plant. Currently, SMPA's breakers and relays in the Nucla Substation and

*WEST END RELIABILITY PROJECT cont. on page 2*

# 2015 ELECTION

## Nominations Petitions for District Two Board Seat Due April 27

SMPA members residing in District Two who are interested in running for SMPA's board of directors can pick up a nomination petition at either office in Ridgway or Nucla, CO. The petition requires at least 15 signatures of support from registered members within District Two. Petitions must be returned to SMPA by close of business (5:30 p.m.) on April 27.

For more information or a copy of the nomination petition, contact Toni, [toni@smpa.com](mailto:toni@smpa.com), (970) 626-5549 x210.

## Norwood Students Selected to Represent SMPA at Summer Leadership Programs



Amber Padgett

**Amber Padgett** has been selected to attend the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C. on June 12 - 19, 2015. Padgett, along with students from across the nation, will tour our nation's capital and learn about the electric cooperative industry. Padgett is a sophomore at Norwood High School. She participates in volleyball, basketball, and track. In her free time she also volunteers for local youth programs such as little league and enjoys creative writing, photography, and reading.



Devyn Rummel

**Devyn Rummel** has been selected to attend the Colorado Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Clark, CO on July 12 - 17, 2015. Rummel will join students from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and Kansas for a week of hands-on leadership training in the mountains near Steamboat Springs. Rummel is a sophomore at Norwood High School and is involved in varsity sports, youth rotary, and knowledge bowl. He also volunteers to remove snow for senior citizens and for local youth programs in town. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time with friends and family.

Visit [www.smpa.com/content/youth-programs](http://www.smpa.com/content/youth-programs) for more information about the programs.

## RELIGHT Mountain Village Round Two

Mountain Village is re-launching Relight Mountain Village, an energy-savings program that offers LED bulbs up to 75 percent off to residents and businesses in the town. All orders must be made online at [greenlivingtown.com](http://greenlivingtown.com).

The program is a cooperative effort between the town of Mountain Village, San Miguel Power, and Cooperative Business Lighting Partners. Participants must be residents and/or business owners in Mountain Village and are limited to 50 LEDs per SMPA meter.

**WHEN YOU CAN ORDER**  
March 1 - April 15

**WHERE YOU CAN ORDER**  
[greenlivingtown.com](http://greenlivingtown.com)



**New Nucla Transformer:** The new transformer bound for the Nucla Substation, along with an identical spare unit, were delivered in mid-February. The original transformer was damaged in a lightning strike in the summer of 2013. The spare unit will serve as a dedicated backup transformer for the West End.

Photo by Scott Reed, Substation Tech

**DON'T FORGET!**

**We want to hear from you! Send your questions to [energywise@smpa.com](mailto:energywise@smpa.com). We'll answer them in upcoming newsletters!**

## WEST END RELIABILITY PROJECT

*NOTABLES cont. from page 1*

the breakers located at the Nucla Power Plant do not work well together. The modern equipment to be installed will be able to interact with the equipment located at the power plant. This means faults on the lines can be more easily located and sectionalized, minimizing the impact of a power outage.

It's a big project, with big results, but it won't come without growing pains. Numerous and sometimes lengthy planned power outages will be needed in order to complete the work. In some cases, all member accounts from Nucla and Naturita west to the Utah border will be without power. At other times, SMPA will be able to minimize the outage to a particular area. I'm asking for your patience, understanding, and support as we work through these outages.

We are currently in the process of solidifying design plans and procuring a BLM permit. Some excavation and cement work may take place in early spring, but we anticipate that the planned outages will not occur until late spring and early summer. We'll continue to put updates in this newsletter, release public service announcements to the local paper and radio stations, and utilize our phone system to make automated calls. I also recommend visiting our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](http://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower), because we'll be posting outage alerts and reminders there as well.