

# ENERGY WISE

MARCH 2017

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Nucla**  
 170 W. 10th Ave.  
 P.O. Box 817  
 Nucla, CO 81424  
 (970) 864-7311  
 Toll Free: 1-877-864-7311

**Ridgway**  
 720 N. Railroad St.  
 P.O. Box 1150  
 Ridgway, CO 81432  
 (970) 626-5549  
 Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

**Both Offices Open:**  
 M - TH, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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

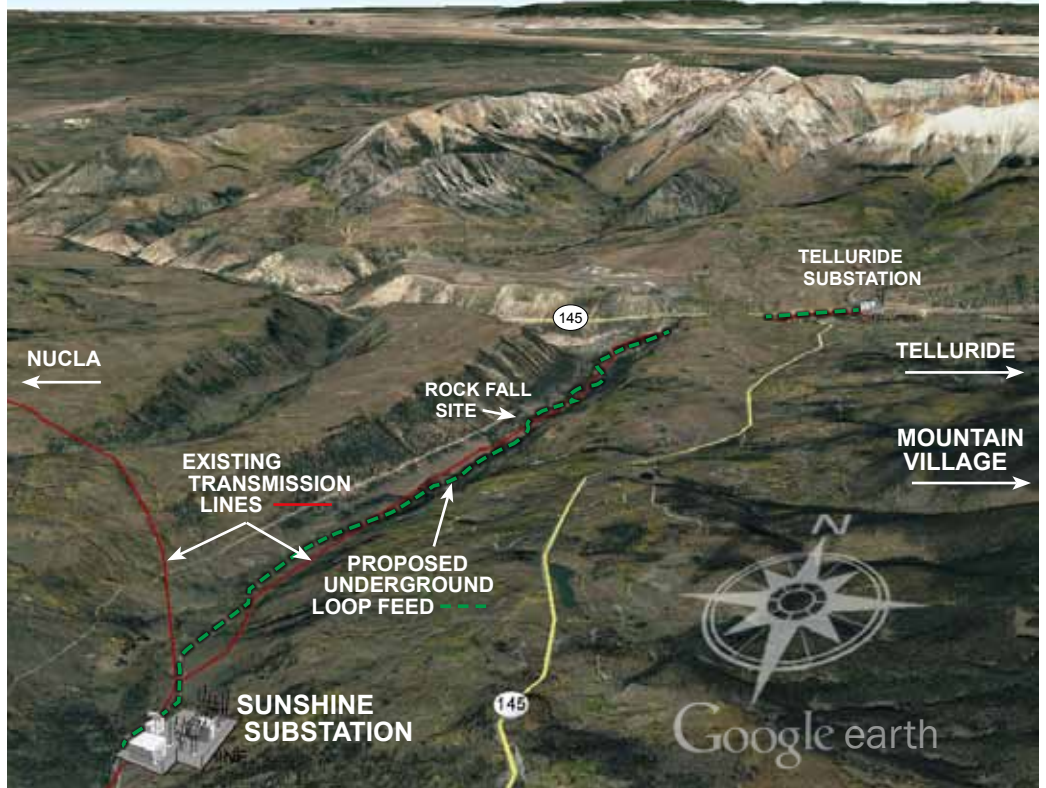
In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you will be able to automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.

## 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

## Green Light! Telluride/Mountain Village Reliability Project a Go

Loop Feed to bring Better Service Reliability to Mountain Communities



## SAFETY TIPS

Never use water on an electrical fire, you could get shocked. If the fire is small, turn the power off and use a multi-purpose (ABC) dry-chemical extinguisher.

If you can't turn the power off, or the fire is large, evacuate your home and dial 9-1-1 from a safe phone.

San Miguel Power Association 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).

If you happened to be in Telluride or Mountain Village over President's Day weekend last year, you'll probably remember the power outage. An electric transmission power pole in Illium Valley was destroyed by a falling rock, and the transmission and distribution lines were broken.

Because the damaged lines comprised what engineers call a "radial feed," there was no backup. Therefore, residents and businesses had to wait 23+ hours while crews from Tri-State and SMPA worked through the night to re-install the power pole, lines and components.

The event brought renewed attention to an SMPA proposal called the "Telluride / Mountain Village Reliability Project." This project proposed to bury heavy distribution lines capable of backing up the transmission line between the Sunshine and the Telluride substations. This redundant feed would allow one

substation to cover the load of the other in case of failure. Moreover, because the new line would be buried underground it would be invisible and invulnerable to such events as the infamous rockslide.

In order to proceed, SMPA needed to obtain permits from several entities and

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Last year, this rock tumbled from the canyon wall, approximately 800 feet above, striking a power pole. Power to most of the Telluride area, including parts of Mountain Village and outlying communities was out for nearly 24 hours.

# Become a Candidate for the Board

SMPA District #5 & #7 Seats up for Election this Year

Two four-year positions on San Miguel Power's Board of Directors will be up for election this year. SMPA encourages members residing in districts five and seven, who are interested in taking a more active role in the oversight of their cooperative, to pick up a petition packet at either our Ridgway office during regular business hours.

District five includes Mountain

Village and Lawson Hill. District seven includes Silverton and Ouray.

Petitions are due on April 24. Ballots are mailed to members in the above districts in mid-May and must be received by June 7. Voters may also cast their votes in person at the Annual Meeting, from 4:30 - 5:30 pm on June 8 at our Ridgway office.

## SCAM ALERT



**Members, be aware.** We have received reports of scam activity in our area.

Please note: San Miguel Power will not call members and threaten immediate disconnection. Typically, written notices are sent, followed by phone calls from a San Miguel Power Association customer service representative to delinquent accounts prior to disconnection. We do not disconnect services out of normal business hours. Your San Miguel Power Association service will not be disconnected on nights, weekends or holidays.

San Miguel Power Association stresses that members who receive any calls or visits regarding immediate payment of a bill should contact San Miguel Power Association directly. Demands may include a prepaid debit/credit card, wiring money or demands of cash.

If uncertain, locate our contact information on your bill or other reliable form of information. Call us directly to be confident you are dealing with an authorized representative of San Miguel Power Association.

## ELECTION

★ ★ 2017 ★ ★

### How to Run for the SMPA Board of Directors:

**All Candidates** must meet the qualification requirements outlined at [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com) → About Us → Annual Meeting → Elections

**Mid-March:** Pick up nomination packets at Ridgway office (720 North Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado)

Get petition signed by 15 or more registered members from the district in which you are seeking election.

**April 24, 2017:** Petitions must be received during regular business hours at the SMPA Office.

**Mid-May:** Ballots mailed to members in District No.5 and No. 7.

**June 7, 2017:** Mail-in ballot deadline. Ballots must be RECEIVED by this date.

**June 8, 2017:** ANNUAL MEETING - SMPA Office, Ridgway  
 - Member Registration / Voting: 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
 - Business Meeting: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



## YOUTH TOUR

Meet our 2017 designee to the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, Jessica Padgett of Norwood High School. Congratulations Jessica!



## Does it really matter if the power company has my correct contact information?

**Don't be left out of the loop...** Having your most current phone numbers and/or email address allows us to communicate with you about important issues, like:

- payments
- account activities
- power outages
- emergencies

Call (970) 626-5549 to update your contact information today!

### RELIABILITY cont. from page 1

regulatory authorities. After submitting and revising the project plan, the necessary permits were finally issued toward the end of last month.

Next, SMPA put the project out to bid and selected a private contractor to construct the new distribution line. Now, a construction schedule is being set.

The work will require road and trail closures, and residents will

be provided notice on variable message boards, temporary signs, public service announcements via newspaper and radio and postings at each Galloping Goose trailhead. No construction activities will take place during festivals or on weekends.

The mountain towns were very supportive of operations crews during the long outage; now, with a little more patience, they can feel assured that any future outages will likely be much, much shorter.



Laura Des Palmes, organizer of Silverton Skijoring, joins Jim Harper, owner of the Grand Imperial hotel; Alex Shelley of SMPA, and event organizers, Gwen Williams, and Pete Maisel at last month's Skijoring pre-registration party in Silverton.