

ENERGY WISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguel Power

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

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

January is the Deadliest Month for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Don't use a generator, camp stove or other gas or charcoal-burning device in the home
- Don't heat a house with a gas oven
- Don't let a vehicle idle in the garage.

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.

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San Miguel Power Scores High on Safety

Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program Review Highlights Improvements

A Colorado electric utility workplace safety review panel has awarded San Miguel Power Association high marks for its superior practices and internal culture of safety. The SMPA safety team presented these results to the Board of Directors at its November 28, 2017 regular monthly meeting at the SMPA Ridgway center.

The evaluation panel from other Colorado electric cooperative associations conducted a formal assessment at SMPA in October of 2017. This "Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program" (RESAP) review is conducted on a three-year cycle.

The SMPA safety team presented charts comparing 2014 and 2017 results. The 2017 RESAP score showed significant improvement.

Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) administers RESAP. The program encourages a continual focus on safety among its participating cooperatives through use of the Safety Improvement Plan which is a disciplined continuous improvement plan based upon the needs of the co-op, evaluated and assessed annually.



SMPA Board President, Rube Felicelli presents the RESAP award to SMPA Safety Coordinator, Paul Enstrom. "What really matters," said Enstrom, "is what this award represents for our work crews and their families."

The Annual Safety Improvement Plan engages all levels of leadership and employees in taking "ownership" of the safety systems and processes. It promotes internal assessment of current work practices and past performance, and it is built using resources including benchmarks and standards on the national and statewide levels.

This story reprinted with permission from member, Allyn Svoboda of Rico. See more at www.linecurrents.live.

Board Approves Rate Increase for 2018

Most Residential, Commercial Accounts to see \$2/mo. Maximum Increase

At its December meeting, the SMPA Board of Directors elected to implement an overall 1.2% increase in the annual revenue requirement that is required to run your cooperative. For about 90% of the nearly 13,500 accounts served by SMPA, this will result in an increase of \$2 per month to the monthly access charge, with no change to the kWh energy rate. The decision came after an extensive review of the current rate structure, as well as extensive long and short term financial forecasting, costing, and budgeting.

Before the board voted, they heard from members who commented on the proposal. Many expressed their recommendation that SMPA should raise the necessary revenue through an increase to the per

kWh energy charge rather than through the fixed access charge in order to further incentivize energy efficiency.

"Our board understands and appreciates this viewpoint," said Board President, Rube Felicelli. "...and we want to continue to promote energy efficiency among our members. We have been very successful with our energy efficiency programs, which are leading the way for SMPA to sell less energy or kWh. By putting the rate increase into the access charge, we can continue to champion energy efficiency in a way that doesn't put the cooperative as a whole out of business."

The desire for greater financial stability seemed to drive a number of other board members, who noted that they were in favor

of raising the access charge despite the fact that they, as owners of multiple meters, would see their own monthly power bills increase significantly as a result.

To further explain, CEO, Brad Zaporski showed how SMPA's current rates recover operations and maintenance costs through the energy charge. "Bringing a better balance to the energy and access charge will improve our financial stability while taking away the economic pressure to sell ever larger quantities of energy" said Zaporski. "When we (SMPA) talk about a 1.2% increase, members should realize that we are talking about the Cooperative as

a whole. It is important to know that this will have a different percentage impact to every single members' bill, depending on which rate class you are in and how much energy you use. While the percentage will vary, it is an increase of \$2 a month for the majority of our membership, and this will appear on the first bill that you receive in 2018."

It should also be noted that SMPA will still have a significantly lower access charge than any of the surrounding electric cooperatives.

For a complete listing of the 2018 rates, visit www.smpa.com → About us → Rates

Questions? Call (970) 626-7311.

Find Your Rate Class

Look toward the upper-right of your power bill. You'll see a rate code.



Next, go to www.smpa.com → About us → Rates. You'll see a table that shows which rate class corresponds to your code. In this table, you can see how that class is affected by the rate increase.

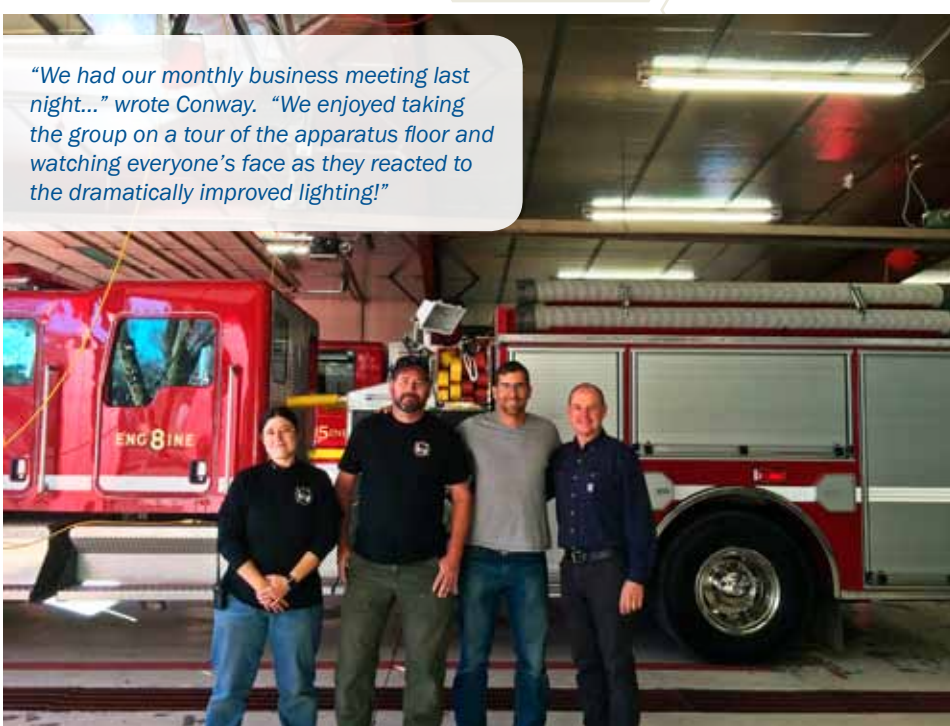
Major Rate Class	# of Accounts
Single Phase, Non-demand	12,584
Single Phase, Demand	217
Three Phase, Non-demand	444
Three Phase, Demand	221
Total	13,466

SMPA Helps Norwood Fire Department Brighten the Bays

There have been some changes at the Norwood Fire station. To make the station more energy efficient, Fire Chief, Joe Conway used SMPA expertise and rebates to upgrade the lighting of three truck bays, several personnel offices and a meeting/training room which is also used by the community.

Until an early-November volunteer work session, these spaces were outfitted with forty-year-old lighting technology. Now, the spaces receive better quality light and they cost significantly less to run.

The lighting project will reduce the energy requirement by 15,000 kWh a year and reduce the annual bill by approximately \$2000. This project will pay back in less than one year with the SMPA rebate. Learn more about rebates at www.smpa.com



"We had our monthly business meeting last night..." wrote Conway. "We enjoyed taking the group on a tour of the apparatus floor and watching everyone's face as they reacted to the dramatically improved lighting!"

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Know a student who needs money for college?

Online Application:
www.smpa.com
→community→youth programs

Deadline:
February 5, 2018

Telluride / Mtn. Village Reliability Loop Feed Energized

The Telluride / Mountain Village Reliability Project has reached a new milestone: It was energized (for testing purposes only) last month. "The testing went like clockwork," said SMPA Engineering Manager, Bill Riley.

SMPA expects to receive equipment—later this month—that will allow the project to be put into ongoing service.

The new line provides a vital backup pathway for power to reach Telluride / Mountain Village residents in cases like the 23-hour outage, caused by a falling boulder, over President's Day weekend in 2016.

Power Play TRIVIA: The National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) was formed in 1942 and led by what CEO?

To be entered into a drawing for a fun prize, send correct answers to: EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432