



Timing Matters?
Members ask.



What are
Franchise Fees?



Excavators:
Know Before
You Dig!

AUGUST 2023

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



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, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

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



ELECTRICAL SAFETY: DID YOU KNOW?

- Outdoor light fixtures without an electrical box and outdoor receptacles with an improper weatherproof cover may fail inspection.
- Avoid nailing or drilling above a receptacle or light switch when hanging pictures. Electrical wiring is often present in these locations.

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.

Person 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.intakeusda.gov.

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



Q • Is Reducing Power Use During the Peak of 4 PM to 9 PM Even Possible?

In our recent "Timing Matters" article, we noted that power use during the peak period of 4 PM to 9 PM costs the cooperative four times as much as power used at other times during the day. ...but what does that mean?

If we want to save energy and money, can we still:

- ...cook dinner?
- ...watch television?
- ...use the internet?

In today's advanced society, aren't there technological solutions that can help us save money and the environment without sacrificing an essential part of our modern lifestyle?



We believe that workable solutions exist.

While reducing peak period operations like cooking dinner, or using the internet may not be realistic, our buildings' current peak period power use may include demands that can be delayed. Will water in a water heater stay acceptably hot with less input from electric resistance elements for a few hours? Will food stay cold in a well-insulated refrigerator/freezer with less energy draw? Can an electric vehicle recharge while its owners are sleeping? These are the sorts of questions that can lead to reasonable solutions that maintain lifestyle, while easing pressure on electric rates and on the beautiful environment we all share.

See other side for items that can help consumers and the cooperative utility in managing usage during the peak.

TIMING MATTERS...CONTINUED

Potential Solutions for Demand Shifting

FREE:

- Timers on dishwashers (most come with delay features)
- Do laundry “off-peak”
- Set EVs to charge off-peak (Usually included with EV)
- Turn thermostats down a few degrees during peak (can turn the up a few right before to pre-heat as well) Smart Thermostats can be programmed to do this automatically.
- Charge outdoor power equipment batteries, e-bike batteries off-peak

INVESTMENT REQUIRED:

- Timers on water heaters (tank type)
- Timers for heat tape and snow melt
- Smart thermostats
- “Smart” plugs
- Timers on stock tank heaters/dog bowls
- Education for consumers about timing of usage. Managing peaks on the grid helps
- Retail rate structures, such as Time-of-Use (Utility Level)
- Demand Side Management programs that include above listed timers and “smart” devices. (Utility Level)

MORE EXPENSIVE:

- Home battery systems
- ETS (electric thermal storage) heaters
- Distribution level battery energy storage systems (BESS) (Utility Level)
- Micro-grid implementation (Utility Level)

We value your feedback, and we look forward to working with you more as we explore potential retail rate changes and the move into the new energy future.



Professional Excavators!

Are you planning to dig within the SMPA service territory? Make sure to follow these steps:



NOTIFY

Call 811 or make an online request at least 2-3 days before work begins.



WAIT

2 days not including the day of notice.



CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and located accurately.



RESPECT

Respect the utility marks (paint or flags).



DIG CAREFULLY

Dig carefully. State laws generally prohibit the use of mechanized equipment within 18-24” on all sides of a marked utility.

Learn more at Call811.com/Start-Here/Excavators

What are Franchise Fees?

Municipalities can assess franchise fees on utilities by establishing a legal framework that allows them to collect fees from utility providers operating within their jurisdiction.

The idea behind a franchise agreement is that SMPA negotiates with the town for a blanket easement to put utilities in town property--usually streets, alleyways, the like. In exchange for that, the town collects a franchise fee from SMPA, which SMPA bills to the residents of that town.

The franchise agreement is a legally binding contract between SMPA and the Town. The town determines the method

for calculating the franchise fees. This can be based on a percentage of the utility provider’s gross revenues, a fixed amount per customer, or other agreed-upon formulas. Many municipalities assess a zero dollar amount in order to incentivize beneficial electrification to help reduce carbon emissions.

Agreement and Collection: Once the terms are agreed upon, the municipality and the utility provider sign a franchise agreement. The utility provider then begins collecting the franchise fees from its customers on behalf of the municipality and remits the fees to the municipality at regular intervals.

By following this process, municipalities can assess franchise fees on utilities to generate revenue that can be used for public services and infrastructure development within their jurisdiction.



Heat Pumps: Superstar of Home Energy Efficiency

Looking to comfortably heat and cool your home while being more efficient, environmentally friendly, and still save money? Consider a high efficiency heat pump!

As the name implies, heat pumps transfer heat energy between inside and outside spaces, heating or cooling as desired. So, in the winter they move heat indoors and in the summer they move heat outside. Heat pumps eliminate the need to have two separate systems to perform heating and cooling, thereby consolidating your current HVAC system.

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month’s Puzzle:
G HI PEEP I M CI FANCY HEF HUT
 Hint... For year-round comfort.

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

EnergyWise
 PO Box 1150
 Ridgway, CO 81432



Our offices will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

Basic services are always available at smpa.smarthub.coop