

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

SPRING SAFETY TIPS:

- Vacuum coils behind the refrigerator to prevent overheating.
- Watch for overhead power lines when using ladders or carrying long tools.
- Do not overload outlets or extension cords.

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.intake@usda.gov.

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

FEATURE STORY

What We're Doing to Keep the Grid Reliable

KEEPING YOUR LIGHTS ON HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR PRIORITY — and today, grid reliability is more important than ever. Across the country, electric systems are facing new challenges: surging demand from large industrial loads like data centers, hotter-than-normal temperatures, and growing reliance on weather-dependent resources. Add historic winter storms and other extreme weather events, and the need for a resilient grid is clear.

At San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), we work closely with our wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State), to strengthen every layer of the system — from high-voltage transmission lines to the local distribution lines that serve your home or business.

Transmission System: The Backbone of the Grid

Transmission lines carry electricity long distances from power plants to substations, where it enters the distribution system. Tri-State maintains our transmission system and is conducting significant vegetation management across SMPA territory to reduce outages caused by trees and branches contacting power lines. SMPA greatly appreciates this proactive work which improves safety and helps prevent disruptions before they occur.



Distribution System: Strengthening the Local Grid

On our local system, SMPA is focused on “grid hardening” — upgrading infrastructure to better withstand extreme weather, wildfires, and other hazards while recovering more quickly from outages.

Advanced fault protection devices, including “trip savers,” detect and isolate problems within seconds and often restore service automatically. We are also replacing aging lines with more resilient materials and deploying mobile substation equipment to maintain consistent voltage for members.

Another key strategy is power feed redundancy — creating multiple pathways for electricity to reach critical areas. Major projects supporting this effort include:

Telluride / Mountain Village Reliability Project:

A heavy distribution line now connects the Telluride and Sunshine substations, allowing each to pick up the load of the other in case of a substation outage.

Nucla-to-Norwood Tie Line: In similar fashion, this recently-completed pathway creates a reliable tie between the Nucla and Norwood substations, improving flexibility during outages or maintenance.

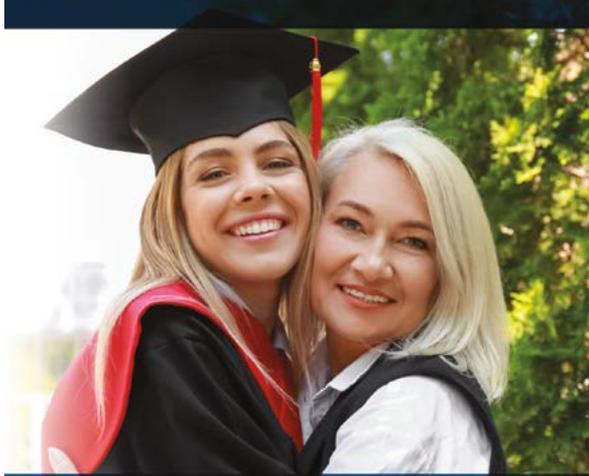
Red Mountain Electrical Reliability & Broadband Improvement Project: When completed, this new line engineered with modern design practices will be safer, more resilient, and easier to maintain in challenging terrain.

Together, these investments strengthen the grid today and prepare it for tomorrow's energy challenges — ensuring reliable, affordable power for the communities we proudly serve.

What are Member Dividends?

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due—to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through member dividends. Because SMPA operates at cost, we give cash back (over time) to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

...READING THIS BEFORE MARCH 9th?



TELL A COLLEGE-SEEKER TO APPLY!



\$ 3,000 College and Vocational Scholarships are still available for graduating seniors throughout the territory.



www.smpa.com/content/scholarships



1

We track your business with us (energy use and paid bills) each month.



2

We pay operating expenses throughout the year & set aside any leftover revenue.



3

When financial conditions allow, the board votes to retire (pay) member dividends to members.



4

We send your allocation (share) of member dividends as a bill credit or check.

What's a Co-op?

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Priorities



Energy Reliability



Energy Innovation



Community-Focused

As a consumer-controlled cooperative, we're focused on our members' energy needs—not only for today but for the long haul.

MARCH IS
LADDER SAFETY MONTH



THIS TOTALLY WORKS.

Our Ouray Hydroelectric Plant was providing electric power to the local area back in the 1890s. Today, thanks to voluntary participation of Totally Green members, it's still working!

Totally Green contributions bolster SMPA's Green Fund which promotes energy efficiency, beneficial electrification and **local** renewable energy.



Don't Lose Contact!

Have you changed your Phone Number or Email Address since signing up for service with SMPA?

Be sure to let us know. We'll keep you up-to-date on your account information, member dividends status and any emergency alerts.

Here's How:



1. Call 1-877-864-7311 between 7:30 AM & 5:30 PM, Monday through Thursday



2. ...in your SmartHub mobile app, tap "...more" » "Settings"

SMPA
POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:
IT DESTROYS BUT MINIS

Hint: In the neighborhood.

Last Month's Answer: MOUNTAIN BIKING
Last Month's Winner: CHERYL GIBSON, OURAY

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432



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