

# ENERGY WISE

April 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**  
**www.facebook.com/SanMiguel Power**

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**  
**(970) 626-5549 x212**

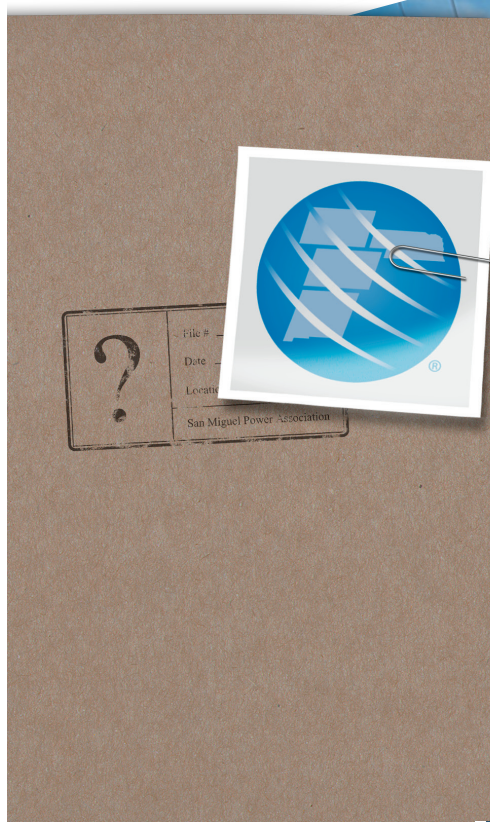
## SAFETY TIPS

**Spring weather can knock down  
power lines. If you see a downed  
power line, STAY AWAY FROM IT. Call  
us at (970) 626-5549.**

**Check out [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)  
for more safety tips.**

San Miguel Power Association is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer. If you  
wish to file a Civil Rights program com-  
plaint 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 re-  
quested 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).

## Who is Tri-State?



## Power, Renewables and our Twenty-Five-Year-Old Relationship

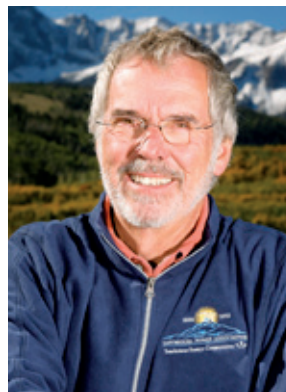
You may have heard or even participated  
in one of many recent conversations about  
our wholesale power provider, Tri-State  
Generation and Transmission Association  
(Tri-State), but how much do you know  
about this Westminster-based electric  
generation and transmission cooperative?  
Here are some facts to acquaint you with  
the folks who supply the power you're  
probably using right now:

Tri-State was founded by its member  
cooperatives and public power districts  
in three states to combine their buying  
power to negotiate better prices back in  
1952, when power was in short supply  
and high demand. SMPA became a  
member of Tri-State in 1992, when Tri-  
State acquired assets of Colorado-Ute, a  
G&T headquartered in Montrose.

Presently, SMPA is one of 43 distribution  
cooperatives that distribute power from  
Tri-State. Just as you, as a member,  
have a representative on our Board of  
Directors, so do we have a representative

on Tri-State's Board. Currently, that's  
Director Jack Sibold of District #4. (See  
[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com) for a map of Board  
Districts.)

Tri-State and each of its members, including  
SMPA, have agreed to a wholesale power  
contract. Under that contract, Tri-State  
is required to plan for and supply all of  
the power needs of its members, and  
the members are obligated to purchase  
their power from Tri-State, except for the  
energy members self-generate. The power



**SMPA's District  
#4 Board  
Representative,  
Jack Sibold  
serves as SMPA's  
representative on  
Tri-State's Board  
of Directors along  
with directors from  
42 other electric  
cooperatives from  
four western states.**

see TRI-STATE cont. on page 2



## TRI-STATE cont. from page 1

plants, transmission lines and other infrastructures that Tri-State builds have long lives, so the contracts are long term.

SMPA also has the right and responsibility to purchase power from any Qualifying Facility (QF) that utilizes renewable sources. This opens up the possibility that more small, local, renewable projects may soon be adding power to the SMPA distribution grid as well. A study on the possible engineering procedures necessary to make this happen is currently under way.

Although electric generation from renewable sources is generally intermittent, it does offer the ability to generate power without emissions and by utilizing the west's plentiful resources.

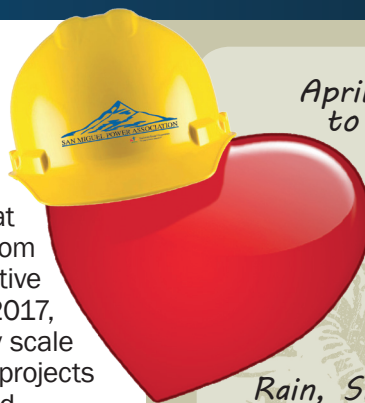
For these reasons, Tri-State has been steadily adding more renewables. Tri-State has taken prudent steps to develop cost effective utility-scale renewable resources, at the lowest cost, and as prices have dropped, more resources have been added to the association's portfolio.

In 2016, about 26% of the energy Tri-State and its members provided at the end of the line came from emissions-free, cost effective renewable resources. In 2017, about 125 MW of new utility scale and distributed generation projects are expected to be completed.

Tri-State is one of the top solar G&Ts in the U.S. and was the U.S. Department of Energy's largest wind cooperative of the year in 2014.

Tri-State also provides resources to help members use less energy in the first place. In 2016, Tri-State provided over \$113,500 in energy-efficiency rebates to SMPA through SMPA's Appliances and LEDs rebate program.

Tri-State also aggressively pursues research, development and demonstration of new technologies. Technology is constantly changing, which means that Tri-State must keep an eye on innovations that could bring benefits to its members—keeping costs down and reliability up.



April 18<sup>th</sup> is our chance to say how much we

## LOVE LINEMEN (and woman)

*Rain, Sleet or Snow, these highly-trained professionals don their gear and get the job done so we can enjoy reliable electricity.*

*Stop into one of our offices and sign the card that will let our linemen know how much their service means to us!*

## 2017 Knowledge Bowl!

*Here are some candids from the regional championships, sponsored by SMPA.*



## 3 Steps ...to offset your energy use with LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY



- 1 learn** about SMPA's "Green Blocks" program.
- 2 decide** how much of your energy to offset.
- 3 sign up** at [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com) → Renewable Energy → Green Cents / Green Blocks.

The San Miguel Power Association  
Annual Meeting

Save the Date:  
**June 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Ridgway, CO



THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

## REMINDER

Last year, over President's Day weekend, Telluride and Mountain Village were without power. We're making sure that doesn't happen again by building a redundant underground line. This construction will cause delays and closures on Illium Road and the Galloping Goose trail from the **2nd week of April until mid-October**. The road and trail will be open on weekends and during major festivals. Call (970) 626-5549 ext. 212 for more info.

**Want to run for the Board?**

**REMEMBER:**  
Petition Packets  
are **DUE April 24.**

See [smpa.com](http://smpa.com) → About Us → Annual Meeting

