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MARCH 2019

# ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION  
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](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 to  
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

[energywise@smpa.com](mailto:energywise@smpa.com)  
(970) 626-5549 x212

## SAFETY TIPS

Small children are  
curious. Never let them  
play with plugs or foreign  
objects near electrical  
outlets. Consider  
installing child-proof  
outlet safety covers.

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(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](mailto:program.intakeusda.gov).

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

## A Real Life-Saver... SMPA Donates AED Defibrillator to Ridgway Secondary School

**"The ability of these devices to save lives is amazing," said Ridgway Schools Superintendent, Susan Lacy about the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).**

The AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. According to the Red Cross, the national average response time for first responders once 9-1-1 is called is 8-12 minutes, and for each minute defibrillation is delayed, the odds of survival are reduced by approximately 10%. Because of this, more and more organizations are putting AEDs in their common rooms and hallways.

Ridgway Secondary School is one such organization. School Principal, Jeremy Voytko explained, "We have one AED on campus, but adding another will double our options for emergency access."

Amazing as it is, the AED is not cheap. Fortunately, the school staff was aware of SMPA's practice of community support through corporate donations. The school applied, and the Board approved a donation, including



matching funds from cooperative partner, Basin Electric to cover the full cost of another AED for the school. "The new AED will be located in the intersection of the classroom hallways, the admin offices and the soccer fields," says Voytko.

## Tri-State Announces 104 MW Crossing Trails Wind Farm



Last month, SMPA's wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, (Tri-State) announced plans to invest in the building of its fifth wind-energy project, called the "Crossing Trails Wind Farm." The 104 megaWatt (MW) system will be located near the town of Seibert, Colorado and will provide enough emissions-free energy to power more than 47,000 average rural homes.

The announcement follows Tri-State's January announcement that it would be investing in the 100 MW solar array, called "Spanish Peaks Solar" near Trinidad, Colorado. The combination of these renewable energy projects will contribute to the quickly-growing emissions-free portion of Tri-State's energy mix.

*A wind turbine at Tri-State's Carousel Wind Farm is constructed in the service territory of KC Electric which will also host the Crossing Trails wind farm.*

## West End Reliability Work Continues: Line Upgrades Ahead

SMPA Engineers are constantly looking for ways to improve service reliability. That means not only preventing outages, but also providing options for re-routing power during outages that inevitably occur in our rugged service territory. One prime opportunity for this kind of grid improvement exists between our substation in Nucla and the one in Norwood.

SMPA Service Planning Supervisor, Jeremy Fox explains, "With a higher-capacity line between them, these two substations could serve as backup for each other. This could greatly reduce the amount of outage time members would experience in case of a substation failure." With this long-term goal in mind, SMPA planned a three-stage project to upgrade the connection.

Stage 1, which upgraded the conductor from Norwood to Redvale was completed in 2013. The next stage of upgrades, projected to start in the summer of this year, connects to Nucla and will run from West Naturita and East along the river valley. It will be made ready to connect to a central stage, which is in the permitting process and will be planned for some time between 2022 & 2025.

**”** *Ultimately, this project is about giving our members a more flexible and resilient system in order to provide power even when outages due to the unknown occur.*—JEREMY FOX, SMPA SERVICE PLANNING SUPERVISOR

## SMPA Rebate Programs



We offer a number of rebate programs to help you pay the initial costs to make your home or business more energy efficient. Get the facts at [www.smpa.com/content/rebate-programs](http://www.smpa.com/content/rebate-programs)

## Wishing you a Happy Retirement, Fran!

Last year, Member Service Representative, Fran Graybeal ended a 26-year career at SMPA. We'll miss Fran's friendly smile around the office, but we wish her the happy days ahead! Happy Retirement, Fran!



SMPA CEO, Brad Zaporski thanks Fran for 26 years of service.

Remember! If you live in Telluride, you may be eligible to run for the position available on SMPA's Board of Directors.

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SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## 2019 ELECTION REMINDERS

### ★ Notice of Right to Nominate Directors

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (Cooperative) will hold its Annual Election of Directors to be concluded on **Thursday, June 6, 2019**. One director from Board District No. 2 including parts of San Miguel and Ouray Counties including most of the town of Telluride will be elected.

Nominations may be made only by petition, which must be signed by fifteen (15) or more members certified from the district in which the election is being held.

For your complete Notice of Right to Nominate Directors, please visit [www.smpa.com/content/elections](http://www.smpa.com/content/elections).

### ★ Petitions DUE April 22<sup>nd</sup>

To those interested in running for a seat on our Board of Directors: Petition Packets are available in our offices this month. Completed packets are DUE April 22.

**Helpful Hint:** Get more than the minimum 15 signatures and bring in your packet early, so we can verify them.

### ★ Ballot Addressing

Ballots are mailed to your member mailing address. This may differ from your billing address.

Please call us to ensure your membership contact information is up-to-date.

## Election Schedule

- **Mid-March:** Nomination packets available for pick up at SMPA Offices.
- **April 22, 2019:** Nomination Packets (Petitions with 15 or more valid member signatures) DUE.
- **April 22, 2019:** Date of Record (Members who join or who make changes to primary account after this date not eligible to vote in 2019.)
- **Before May 17, 2019:** Completed petitions posted in both Ridgway & Nucla offices.
- **Mid-May:** Ballots mailed to members in District No.2.
- **June 5, 2019:** Mail-in ballot deadline. Must be RECEIVED by close of business on this date.
- ★ **June 6, 2019:** ANNUAL MEETING  
720 N. Railroad St.  
Ridgway, Colorado

# SMPA POWER PLAY

**This Month's Puzzle: K, CUTR TECK BUS**  
**Hint: They carry our line workers out... and up.**

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

**EnergyWise**  
**PO Box 1150**  
**Ridgway, CO 81432**