



A New Reality:
Moving to the Future



2019 Annual
Report Released!



What's In a
Power Pole?

SEPTEMBER 2020

ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION



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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 x212

SAFETY TIPS

FALL ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Check cold weather tools, such as leaf and snow blowers, along with their power cords, for unusual wear and tear.
- Keep dry leaves swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.
- Make sure the power cords of electric blankets are in good repair.

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.

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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.intake@usda.gov.

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

“Welcome to the New Reality”

That's a phrase we're beginning to hear a lot these days. Whether it's in reference to a global pandemic, a rapidly changing industry or an increasingly fragile economy, it's a sentiment that seems foreboding and grim. But as we look back at the year that preceded—perhaps—the greatest upheaval in modern history, we can see the story of a dynamic people, moving into the future with purpose.

Even before the global threat of the coronavirus, 2019 offered financial challenges to San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) and its communities. SMPA announced plans to move forward with the single most expensive system reliability upgrade in its eighty-year history—the Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project. Designed to address unceasing attacks by mother nature on aging electrical infrastructure serving our fastest-growing communities in Ouray County, the Red Mountain project will take advantage of the land rather than combat it.

SMPA's wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State), was impacted by prospects of new oversight and by state legislation (HB19-1261) dictating that statewide greenhouse gas emissions were to be reduced by 26% in 2025, by 50% in 2030, and by 90% in 2050. Tri-State revealed their Responsible Energy Plan which included the closure of all coal-burning generation resources in Colorado, as well as plans to install new renewable generation facilities across the state.

Our communities on the West End of Montrose county experienced job losses due to the closure of the Nucla Power Station and nearby coal mine. SMPA engaged plant-owner, Tri-State and expressed its expectation that Tri-State would be a partner in the transition that these communities are going through.

Through all of this, SMPA's own financial position remained strong. The pressure on

SMPA's fixed costs continues to build and rate adjustments may be necessary in the future but, as a non-profit cooperative, SMPA is steadfast in its commitment to maintain rates that are affordable and a rate structure that is fair.

In accordance with its strategic objectives, SMPA published a Request for Proposals from potential future power suppliers. Current provider, Tri-State was included in all communications. Although the process is extremely involved, our Board is committed to see it through because when it is finished, there will be no doubt that the winning provider will be the best choice for providing safe, reliable, cost-effective and environmentally-responsible electricity.

When COVID-19 hit the SMPA service territory, SMPA responded, first, to protect the health and safety of its members and its employees, and then, to stabilize its own economic security and that of its most vulnerable members. During the public health crisis, SMPA serves its members by connecting those in need with organizations dedicated to help and by working with its members to keep the lights on throughout difficult circumstances.

So what is SMPA's strategic focus as it faces the new reality of 2020 and beyond? It is the same as it has been from the beginning; to serve our members, and to partner with our communities as they adapt to whatever challenges come their way.

What About the Elections?

In the election for District #1 (Parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Dolores Counties including Basin, Bedrock, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, Redvale and Slick Rock). Incumbent, Doylene Garvey ran unopposed and was deemed elected by an independent election monitor.

In the election for District #4 (Parts of Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties including Colona and portions of Log Hill Village and Telluride.). Candidate Tobin Brown ran unopposed and was deemed elected by an independent election monitor.

These results were also announced in the May newsletter.



Our 2019 Annual Report: A New Reality

Those of you who follow SMPA via this newsletter or through other means, probably noticed that we did not hold an Annual Meeting this summer as we usually do. Not surprisingly, this gathering was cancelled over concerns about the spread of infectious disease, as were so many other events during this time of global pandemic. However, our responsibility to communicate to our members continues despite these unprecedented circumstances.

To help you keep up with SMPA, we published the CEO and Board President Message to Members on page 1 of this newsletter. It is also available in video format and in the printed or online Annual Report. (Please see sidebar to access this expanded content.)

We know it's not the same as being there in person but, if you take a look at the video and the Annual Report, you should come away with a good understanding of what took place in 2019, and what your cooperative Board and staff are doing to accomplish the mission of providing safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electric power to you, our members, during this 'new reality.' You can also ask questions by emailing our CEO directly at brad@smpa.com.



SMPA CEO, Brad Zaporski and Board President, Rube Felicelli.



View & Read your copy of the Message to Members and Annual Report

This year's Annual Report contains a review of SMPA's activities and financials in 2019, as well as strategic plans for future issues like COVID-19, our future power supply and the Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement project

ORDER YOUR FREE COPY by clicking the banner at the top of our home page, www.smpa.com.

WATCH THE VIDEO by clicking on the Annual Report banner on our home page at www.smpa.com.

GOOD TO KNOW

HUNTING SAFETY

Stay safe around power lines this hunting season.

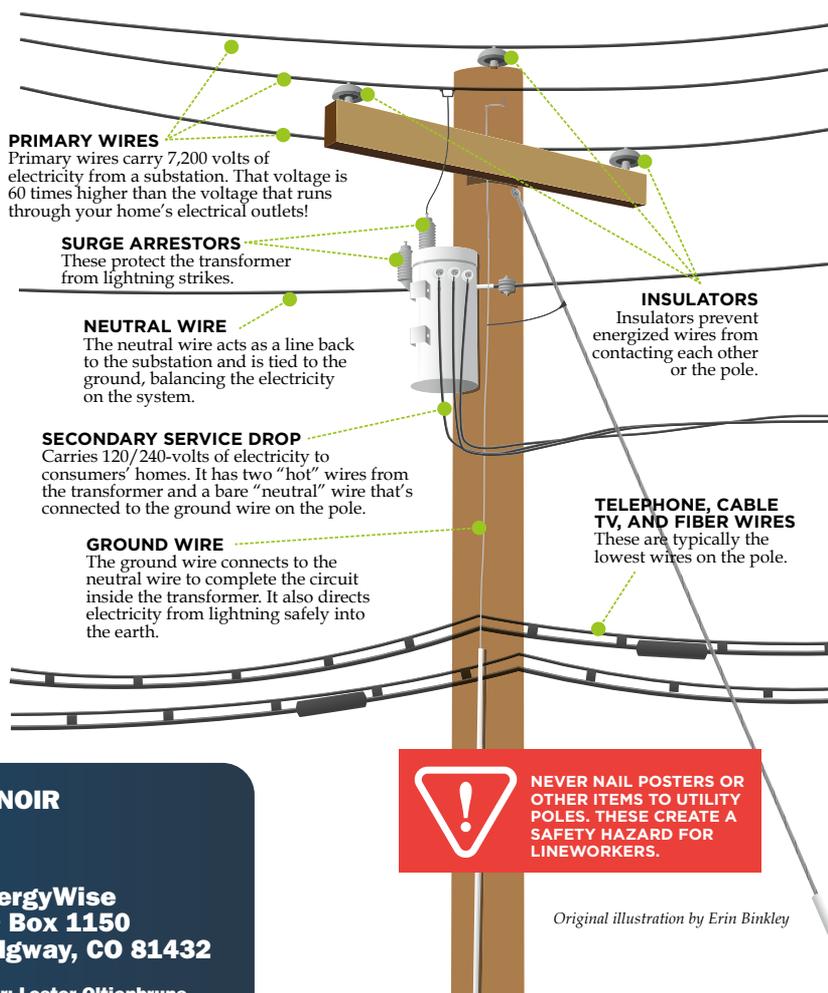
- Make yourself visible.
- Pack a safety kit.
- Never shoot near or toward power lines, poles, insulators, or stations.
- Know your target and surroundings before shooting.
- Watch for utility workers, vehicles, and equipment.
- Watch for wires, poles, and other structures that pose hazards to ATV riders.
- Obey all signs near power stations and lines.
- Always be prepared for an emergency.

See damaged electrical equipment or downed power lines? Stay away and report it by calling 911 or Hydro at 1-833-737-1296.

Have you changed your phone # or email?
Let us know at 1-877-864-7311.

! THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



NEVER NAIL POSTERS OR OTHER ITEMS TO UTILITY POLES. THESE CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR LINEMEN.

Original illustration by Erin Binkley

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: WE DUG R NOIR

Hint: It's where the neutral wire leads.

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

Last Month's Scramble Answer: FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT Last Month's Winner: Lester Oltjenbruns