



THE PowerLines REPORT

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August 2018

This is Why We Need Your Vote. It Involves Your Rates. - *Jasen Bronec, CEO*

Over the past several years, DMEA's board and management team have been seeking solutions to help soften the blow of our ever-increasing wholesale power supply costs from Tri-State G&T and to best position your cooperative for the future. To that end, we have developed as much local renewable generation as Tri-State will allow, saving more than a million dollars in power costs annually. Despite the limitations set by Tri-State, we sought rulings from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on our obligation and right to purchase power from local renewable generation sources. After receiving favorable rulings from FERC, we partnered to purchase even more renewable power from the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users - at prices lower than our rates with Tri-State. Finally, we asked Tri-State what it will cost to buy out of our wholesale power supply contract so that we can have the freedom to purchase power from more affordable and flexible suppliers. Now, we've come to a turning point, and we need member support to take the next step.

As part of our efforts to buy out of Tri-State and position DMEA for the future, the DMEA Board has recommended that DMEA's Articles of Incorporation be amended and restated to, among other things, let DMEA operate under a law called the Colorado Cooperative Act. The Colorado Cooperative Act gives DMEA the operational and financial flexibility necessary to reach future goals, including a potential buy out from Tri-State G&T. For example, the law provides a structure that allows electric cooperatives, like DMEA, to issue capital stock to non-members. The issuance of capital stock is a way for DMEA to access funding more quickly than through member-retained earnings, and with more flexibility than a traditional loan.

By voting yes, you are giving DMEA critical financial flexibility as we seek to exit Tri-State with the goal of stabilizing your long-term rates. The proposed changes will also modernize certain terms of the Articles of Incorporation to allow DMEA to take advantage of the benefits of being a cooperative under the Colorado Cooperative Act.

Be assured, our cooperative status and member control will remain the same if our membership votes in favor of these changes. DMEA has served the people of Delta and Montrose counties for 80 years now. We have and will continue to grow and change to meet the present and future needs of our communities. These revisions will help us do just that and serve you, your family, friends, and neighbors for the next 80 years!

Because the proposed changes require member approval, all members will receive a more detailed information sheet, a ballot, and notification of a member meeting in the fall asking you to vote on the recommended revisions to the Articles of Incorporation. Please read these materials and give them consideration when deciding your vote. Members may also vote in person at our special meeting, Tuesday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m. at the DMEA headquarters in Montrose, 11925 6300 Rd.

Your Board of Directors has approved the DMEA Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and recommends you **VOTE YES** for the future of your co-op.

Learn More

Join us at one of our Town Hall Meetings

- September 10 at The Grand Mesa Art Center, 195 West Main St., Cedaredge | Presentation starts at 5 p.m.
- September 11 at the DMEA Read Service Center, 21191 H 75 Rd., Delta | Presentation starts at 1 p.m.
- September 11 at Diamond Joe's Café and Saloon, 277 Hwy 92, Crawford | Presentation starts at 5 p.m.
- September 12 at Delicious Orchard, 39126 HW 133, Hotchkiss | Presentation starts at 5 p.m.
- September 13 at Orchard City Town Hall, 9661 2100 Rd., Austin | Presentation starts at 5 p.m.
- September 14 at DMEA Headquarters, 11925 6300 Road, Montrose | Presentation starts at 5 p.m.

VA

FAST INTERNET (for real)

Get the most out of your home's WiFi.

Your home's WiFi performance includes more than your internet connection, router, and wireless devices. Here are some tips to understanding your WiFi:

- The speed of your connection over WiFi will be slower than a wired connection
- Most WiFi networks have two frequencies or networks, 2.4GHz and 5GHz
- 5GHz should be used when you are closer to the router and need faster speeds
- 2.4GHz should be used for devices located furthest from the router
- Having your router centrally placed in your home will ensure your WiFi reaches the most places

Create a strong network in your home with our 100 Mbps starter package. If your family has device overload, we also have a 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) package. Work from home, download HD movies, upload and transfer data, game online, all at incredible speed.

Direct Wired Connection



5GHz. Wireless



2.4GHz. Wireless



What are you waiting for? Contact us today—our friendly, local team is ready for you to stop by or to give us a call, 877-687-3632.

Add on our Worry Free WiFi plan and get the most out of your installation:

- Learn how to monitor your network and set up guest networks
- Have our technician help connect all of your wireless devices
- Get access to increased support with free technician visits after install

DMEA EMBRACES RENEWABLE ENERGY

Powering lives with solar and hydro

It's no secret: our members love renewable energy. But really, what's not to love about energy produced right here at home, at an affordable price, from a renewable resource? DMEA is proud to embrace renewable energy, and, as members, you get to enjoy the benefits.

Community Solar Arrays

DMEA has two community solar arrays – one at each DMEA office. Members can lease a portion of the array and receive a credit on their monthly bill for the amount of power their portion produced. The arrays were built in 2011 and sold out almost immediately. Recently, in 2016, we added a new section to the Montrose array dedicated to families in need. Thanks to support from the Colorado Energy Office and the non-profit, Grid Alternatives, 45 families are cutting their energy costs in half using solar power.

Small Hydro

Montrose and Delta counties are rich with hydropower resources and thanks to our partnerships with organizations like the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users, DMEA is currently generating more than 30 million kilowatt hours of electricity from our local hydro plants. That amounts to an annual saving in power supply costs of more than 1 million dollars. Plus, the hydro plants along our irrigation canals are considered run-of-river systems and have little impact on the surrounding environment.

Member-owned systems

There are many local qualified solar and small hydro system installers in our area. With their help, you can determine what system may work best for your home, the appropriate size, and how to safely connect to DMEA's grid. We'll hook you up with a net meter that will measure the amount of power you put back onto our system when you're overproducing and the amount of power you consume in the event you need a little extra boost. Plus, we'll credit you back for any excess power once a year. To date, DMEA has 415 members taking advantage of this program.

Qualifying Facilities

DMEA is continually looking for ways to bolster our local renewable resources. To do this, we need to purchase local power from Qualifying Facilities (QFs) – a class of small energy generation facilities that meet federal regulations. To date, we've connected just one QF along the South Canal near Montrose, which supplies the annual electricity needs for approximately 1000 homes. The hydropower we purchase from local suppliers is approximately 20% cheaper than the power we purchase from Tri-State.



Electric Vehicles Gaining Momentum

Maybe you've noticed them; typically small, compact and energy efficient, electric vehicles (EVs) are hitting the roadways in greater numbers every day. But before we get too far into this transportation evolution, a quick history lesson about EVs is in order.

The first known electric car was developed in 1837 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Early variants were powered by galvanic cells rather than rechargeable batteries. The lead-acid battery was invented in France in 1859, and manufacturing of these batteries began on an industrial scale in the early 1880s. This allowed a rechargeable battery to be installed on the vehicle.

Soon, manufacturers were selling a wide array of EVs ranging from trams to trolleys, to cars, and even locomotives. Interest in electric vehicles blossomed in the late 1890s and early 1900s. As roads improved and became more extensive, demand for greater range emerged. A variety of solutions were put forth including the first battery exchanges by an electric utility in Connecticut in 1910 and the first hybrid automobile in 1911. It would not be long until America led the world in the number of EVs on the road.

But the rapid expansion of the country and the limitation of electricity to major cities and towns spelled the end of the electric car. The world wanted to be mobile, and EVs simply did not have the range required. Enter Henry Ford, and the mass-produced, affordable internal combustion engine, and the EV's fate was sealed.

Fast forward to modern times and EVs are once again dominating the automotive news. While many drawbacks of EVs are gone, there is still a major concern limiting EV growth, dubbed "range anxiety." This stems from the persistent limited range of all EVs. The lack of a rapid-charging infrastructure is also an ongoing impediment. Just like their 20th-century predecessors, pure EVs are great "city cars."

Fortunately, advances in battery technology are hammering away at the range issue. At the same time, more companies, local governments, and utilities, like DMEA, are installing efficient charging stations at their places of business and in popular public locations.

We think EVs have a bright future. Prices are dropping and range is expanding so owners can confidently drive nearly everywhere with a little bit of planning. If you do purchase an EV, be sure to let us know. The service to your home is sized to meet the demands of your house as they existed when service was connected. Adding the EV charger creates a risk of overloading the wires and transformers powering your home. Overloaded services can fail and leave you in the dark with an uncharged EV.



DMEA

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Montrose Office

11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M - F; 8:00am-5:00pm

Read Office

21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M & W; 9:00am-4:00pm

Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632 | www.dmea.com | [f](#) [v](#)

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email at program.intake@usda.gov.

SMART HOME & ENERGY SAVINGS

with WiFi water sensors.

A water leak can not only cause damage but without notification can cause a high water usage bill as well. There are multiple solutions on the market that help you monitor areas for leaks and even more advanced options that help you monitor how much water you use and can help you save money.

The Zircon smart electronic water detector connects to your WiFi and will send alerts via email or text message when even the slightest amount of water is detected. This solution does not require a smart hub, so it is easy to install and set up. Check it out on Amazon to learn more.

Flo is an example of an option that also helps you monitor use. This solution is more expensive, but once installed, it monitors (runs tests daily to ensure efficiency), detects, alerts (has an app), and will even shut off your valve when it detects water. Flo received an Innovation Honoree Award at this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES). Learn more at meetflo.com.

DMEA and Elevate Fiber, harnessing today's technology to help you manage your energy use.

Recipes Info:

Submit recipes, including your name, address, and phone number to:

DMEA Newsletter
PO Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402

Or email your information to communications@dmea.com.

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.



PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER

Tips for malware prevention.

Malware (malicious software) can have many effects, including unwanted pop-up ads, stealing confidential information, or stopping your computer from running—most of the time before you know it has happened. So, it is extremely important to have anti-malware and anti-virus software installed and to make sure it regularly scans your machine. In addition to having that software, it is highly recommended to run updates on your computer/operating system regularly, have a secure WiFi network, and to not click on any ad/article/email that looks suspicious.

There are numerous prevention software solutions on the market, but here are a few of our recommendations:

- » **Malwareby:** offers a free option and as long as you run it regularly it can help protect your machine. Malwareby also offers paid options.
- » **Avast:** offers a basic antivirus solution that is free of charge. This paired with Malwareby gives your computer or laptop good protection.
- » **ESET:** offers a total protection package and has a few levels to choose from. This is a paid subscription but is top rated by a lot of IT gurus and gamers.

DMEA and Elevate Fiber; together we're looking out for your best interests.

Home COOKING

Roasted Sweet Corn Risotto

Ingredients:

- 5 cups chicken stock or canned broth
- 3 Tbsp. sweet butter
- 3 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 3 Tbsp. white onion - finely chopped
- 2- 2 1/2 cups risotto rice
- 1/2 cup roasted sweet corn fresh off the cobb
- 2 Tsp. chopped parsley
- Fresh ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- Kosher salt to taste

Directions:

Bring chicken stock to a low simmer. In a large pot with a thick bottom, add oil and chopped onion. Cook and stir onions until translucent over a medium heat. Add rice and stir until all grains are coated.

Add 1 cup of stock, and cook until evaporated, stirring all the time. Continue this process until all the stock has been used up. This should take 15-20 minutes. Remove from heat and added roasted corn.

Stir in black pepper, parsley, and cheese. Stir in the sweet butter until rice looks rich and smooth. Salt to taste.

- Gloria Slaker, Montrose

