



# THE PowerLines REPORT

1 | ★ DMEA Cares About You

2 |  Elevate - Tell Your Neighbors

3 |  The Backbone of DMEA

4 |  Annual Meeting Time!

April 2019

## You Don't Have to Care About Your Power. We Care for You.

*A message from your CEO, Jasen Bronec*

You might not give a second thought to what's behind your light switch when you flip it on. Or how the electricity that brews your morning coffee gets to your home. In fact, you probably rarely think about electricity or DMEA . . . unless the power goes out. We get it. For most of us, reliable electricity is a given. Why bother thinking about how electricity is generated or delivered to your home when you're busy juggling work and your kids' soccer, school, and dance lessons?

You don't have time to worry about where your power comes from. That's OK. It's our job to do that for you. And it's also our job to make sure that the electricity keeping your shower hot, your beer cold, and your electric vehicle charged is affordable and reliable.

As I've mentioned a few times in this column recently (okay, for even those just barely paying attention, you know it's been more than a few), the cost of the wholesale electricity DMEA purchases and delivers to your home has the biggest impact on your electricity bill. It's 64% of every single dollar you pay us. If our cost for wholesale power goes up, your rates aren't far behind. Unfortunately, it is also the hardest cost for DMEA to address. That is, until now.

We're fighting for the right to make sure your power costs stay as reasonable as possible. And that means pushing for a reasonable and non-discriminatory exit charge from our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

Since 2001, Tri-State's average rates have increased almost 5% every year. What that means now is that each year we shell out more than \$40 million to Tri-State for electricity. And until we exit, that upward pricing pressure will only continue. There are better options. That's why we've asked the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to require Tri-State to honor its promise of voluntary membership and let us pay a fair charge to exit, so we can get our electricity from someone focused on reliability and cost.

... Continued on page 3

### KEY MILESTONES

**December 6, 2018:** DMEA filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) asking it to exercise authority over Tri-State and give DMEA a fair exit charge.

**January – February 2019:** Supporters of DMEA submitted filings, public comments, and letters in support of DMEA's right to get a fair exit charge. This included 61 members of the Colorado General Assembly, the Colorado Energy Office (on behalf of Gov. Polis), the largest Tri-State member co-op (United Power), La Plata Electric Association, and more than 50 DMEA members.

**January 17, 2019:** Tri-State filed a lawsuit against DMEA in Adams County Court, arguing the PUC has no jurisdiction to decide the issue.

**February 14, 2019:** The PUC confirmed it has jurisdiction to rule on DMEA's exit charge from Tri-State and denied Tri-State's motion to dismiss.

**February 22, 2019:** The Colorado Attorney General's office, on behalf of the PUC, filed a motion to intervene and dismiss Tri-State's Adams County lawsuit.

**February 26, 2019:** DMEA filed a separate motion to dismiss Tri-State's Adams County lawsuit.

**March 15 – May 29, 2019:** The PUC will review testimony and evidence from DMEA and Tri-State about the exit charge.

**June 17 – 21, 2019:** The PUC will hold an evidentiary hearing about the exit charge.

**August 19, 2019:** The PUC will issue its decision on the exit charge.

**September 9, 2019:** Application for rehearing, re-arguments, or reconsideration is due for any party believing the PUC's decision is wrong.

**October 9, 2019:** The PUC issues a final decision, if necessary.



# SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT



Refer your friends to Elevate and you'll get \$25 off your bill when they sign up. Plus, they'll save \$25 off their first bill too!



Fast internet and powerful WiFi so your whole family can stream, work, or game at the same time. **Starts at \$49.95/mo.**



A simple TV alternative to cable packages that includes all your must-haves: free DVR, thousands of movies on demand, and channels like CBS, Fox News, and Hallmark. **Starts at \$29.95/mo.**



Reliable home phone that gives you the peace of mind you can't get with spotty cell service. **First line \$30.00/mo.**

Now that you can get it all with Elevate, tell a friend or neighbor. For every person you refer, you save \$25 and they do too. Now that's something to talk about!

[elevateinternet.com](http://elevateinternet.com) / 844-386-8744 /

Live service not available in all areas. Referral incentives limited to zones with live service. Preregistration goals must be in met your zone before service can be made available. Installation is zero money down and \$10/month for 10 months or \$100 upfront. An initial 12-month contract is required. Internet service is required for TV and phone. Internet speeds are up to 1 Gig. Other terms may apply.

"I am so pleased that I can get internet from Elevate. Your installers were very efficient and professional. It gave me great pleasure to call my previous provider and cancel service which has been poor at best over the years. So again, I thank you and appreciate what you are doing for our area."  
—Rex S.



... message from your CEO continued from page 1

Our post-exit plan includes buying power from Guzman Energy at rates significantly less than Tri-State's. This means that although we'll pay a fair exit charge to Tri-State, the reduced cost of power from Guzman provides enough savings to make the exit both economical and the right thing to do for you. We expect the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to give us that fair exit number later this year, so stay tuned.

But what's really the point of all this work? In a nutshell, it's DMEA working to make smarter wholesale power purchases and have the ability to develop local renewable energy—all in an effort to stabilize your electric rates.



Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary linemen who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Twenty-seven linemen maintain 3,800 miles of line in DMEA's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark. Join us this month as we say thank you to our linemen. Send in a note to PO Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or visit our Facebook page and leave a comment [www.facebook.com/DeltaMontroseElectricAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/DeltaMontroseElectricAssociation).



## March Photo Contest Winner

Rena Collins, Crawford



As a lifetime resident of the North Fork Valley, I found my passion for photography when my sons were small. Colorado is a photographer's paradise, and living on the family ranch so close to the mountains makes my love for photography a daily opportunity. My favorite subjects are my two grandkids and wildlife.

After years of trial and error, my practice has paid off! My hobbies include photography, cooking, gardening, fishing, 4-wheeling, and crocheting. Along with my husband, sons, daughter-in-laws, and grandkids, we're always ready for a great outdoor adventure!





# Newer Settle

Good Company



Great Food



Business Meeting



Celebrate your cooperative membership, learn about new technologies, and find out what's next for DMEA.

## WHEN

Thursday, June 20  
4:30 – 8PM

## WHERE

Hotchkiss High School  
438 Bulldog St.

- State of the co-op report •
- Brauts and pie •
- Elevate Internet •
- Family Fun •
- Meet your board representatives •
- Vote in the board election •
- Prizes •

## Are You Ready to Serve?

District 3, District 4, and South Region up for election.

Pick up your nomination petition packet starting April 5, 2019, at a DMEA office during regular business hours. Complete the packet and return all required documents, including 15 member signatures supporting your candidacy, no later than 4:00 pm, Monday, May 6, 2019. Petitions must be returned during normal business hours to a DMEA office. If all qualifications have been met, you will be notified of your candidacy within one week.

## Key Dates

**Friday, April 5** - Nomination petition packets available from DMEA.

**Monday, May 6** - Deadline to return nomination petition packets.

**Tuesday, May 28** - Ballots and candidate backgrounds mailed to DMEA members.

**Friday, June 14** - Postmark deadline for mail-in ballots.

**Thursday, June 20** - DMEA Annual Meeting of Members.

## Water Just Got Smarter



How smart is your water? Technology is helping farmers, ranchers, and homeowners save money and use water resources more carefully. Here are a few examples of the new systems on the market that can improve your water IQ:

### Smart irrigation systems

Keep track of soil conditions, evaporation rates, weather, and plant water use even when you're miles from your fields. Your web-based system will let you check in on your crops and soil so drought or overwatering don't become an issue. Some available systems include Toro Evolution, Growlink, and Rainbird.

### Stock tank monitoring

Use GPS and mobile technology to make sure your stock tanks never run dry. Get reports on water levels, dangerous temperatures, and other information sent straight to your smart phone or computer. A few options are Barn Owl, 360 Tanks, and Tank Scan.

There are many ways to make sure your water usage is as smart as can be. Technology is helping us keep everyone—people, plants, and animals—hydrated and healthy.

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

## HOME COOKING



## Citrus Baked Ham

Recipe from Bill McMonigle, Montrose

### Ingredients:

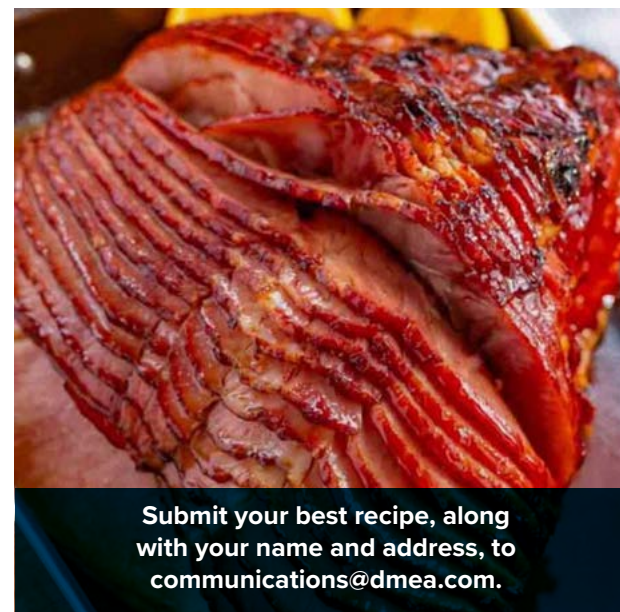
- 1 (14-16 lbs) fully cooked ham on the bone
- 6 garlic cloves
- 8 1/2 oz orange marmalade
- 1/2 cup dijon mustard
- 1 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1 orange, zested
- 1 lime, zested
- 1 peeled lime
- 1 peeled orange
- 1 orange, sliced (optional)
- 1 lime sliced (optional)

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place ham in heavy roasting pan. Make a few cuts in the ham, alternate stuffing them with lime and orange slices.

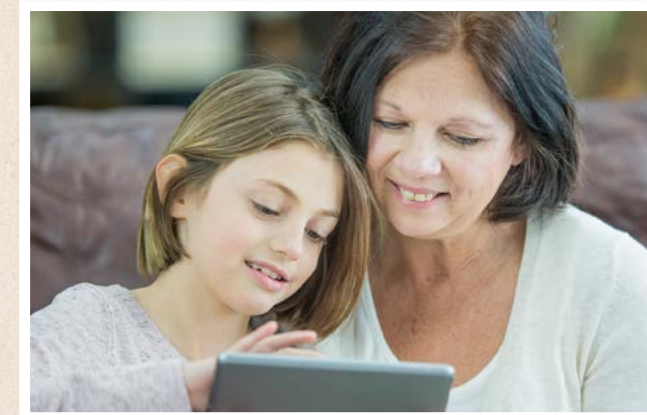
Mince the garlic in a food processor. Add the marmalade, mustard, brown sugar, orange zest, lime zest, peeled orange, peeled lime, and orange juice. Process until smooth.

Pour the glaze over the ham and bake for about 15 minutes per pound, until the ham is fully heated and the glaze is well browned. Serve hot or at room temperature.



Submit your best recipe, along with your name and address, to [communications@dmea.com](mailto:communications@dmea.com).

## KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE ONLINE



When you think about exposing your children or grandchildren to the internet, you're probably just as scared as us. How do you keep them safe online? How do you make sure they aren't watching shows you don't want them to? Here are a few helpful tips:

### On the internet

There are many different ways to block access to websites. Subscription services like Qustodio, Net Nanny, and Norton Family Premier, let you limit your child's access to websites based on content. These services are particularly designed to prevent children from stumbling upon pornography. Also, don't forget to restrict your computer with passwords and set your browser so it won't open certain websites.

### On the TV

Every TV larger than 13" made since 2000, includes a V-Chip that lets parents block inappropriate content on the TV. To set up your V-Chip, go to your TV's setup. Each brand of TV is different, but in general, you can select the show rating (PG, G, MA, etc.) you want limit your child's viewing to. Also, most streaming services, like Netflix, and even Elevate TV, allow you set up additional parental controls.

**What's the next step? Get involved in their digital world. The more you understand and know about what sites, social channels, and games your kids use, the better able you are to have conversations with your kids that can help them make the right decisions.**



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](http://www.dmea.com) |

### Your Board of Directors:

<i>Bill Patterson, District 1</i>	<i>Kyle Martinez, District 2</i>
<i>Brad Harding, District 3</i>	<i>Ken Watson, District 4</i>
<i>Chris Hauck, District 5</i>	<i>Damon Lockhart, District 6</i>
<i>Mark Eckhart, District 7</i>	<i>Vacant, North</i>
<i>Tony Prendergast, South</i>	

DMEA Board Meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday monthly beginning at 3PM with the public comment period at 5PM. Call 970-240-1212 to confirm date, time, and location.

### 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](mailto:communications@dmea.com).

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1207 within 60 days.