

THE PowerLines REPORT

1 |  Proposed Rate Changes

2 |  2019 Annual Meeting

3 |  Photo Winner

4 |  Rates Continued

July 2019

DMEA Proposing Rate Increase For This Fall

Over the past few months, I've been communicating with you about DMEA's need to increase rates. While there are many elements that impact what you pay DMEA for electricity, the most substantial item is power supply—a.k.a. what we pay Tri-State for wholesale electricity. Power supply accounts for 64% of DMEA's operational expenses, so holding that cost steady would allow us to, in turn, hold your rates steady. Unfortunately, this is not the case today.

Over the last 5 years, DMEA has experienced more than a 7% increase in our power supply costs. As a result, we passed along a rate increase in 2017 to our members and have spent the last two years working to control internal costs. And we've made progress, but it's not enough.

Just like your cost of living continues to increase, so does DMEA's overall cost of doing business. These increases, like fuel, supplies, vehicles, or computer software, directly impact the access fee on your bill. And, ultimately, controllable costs only make up a small percentage of DMEA's overall expenses, just 20%.

We can no longer absorb the upward pricing pressure from Tri-State nor the increased cost of doing business. As a result, your DMEA Board of Directors and management staff are recommending a rate increase to take effect in September 2019. The proposed rates are listed in this newsletter and online at www.dmea.com.

I encourage you to review the proposal. You'll see changes in almost every rate class, from residential (homeowners) to industrial, as well as in both the energy charge and the access fee. It is never an easy decision for DMEA to implement a rate increase, nor an easy adjustment for you to make. I want you to know, even with this proposed increase, DMEA's rates remain at the median for our state and among the lowest in Western Colorado. In fact, compared to other Tri-State Colorado co-ops, we currently have the 5th lowest member rates; 14 of our fellow Tri-State Colorado co-op's come in higher, including our all of our neighbors in Western Colorado.

...continued on page 4.

Rate Class	Charges on the Bill	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Residential	Access Fee – Single Phase	\$27.50	\$29.50
	Access Fee – Three Phase	\$30.50	\$32.75
	Energy Charge	\$0.10450	\$0.10950
	Idle Service - Single Phase	\$0.00	\$14.75
	Idle Service - Three Phase	\$0.00	\$16.38
Optional Seasonal Time-of-Use <i>On-peak hours are Mon. - Sat., 12pm - 10pm</i>	Access Fee – Single Phase	\$27.50	\$29.50
	Access Fee – Three Phase	\$30.50	\$32.75
	On-Peak Energy Charge	\$0.16300	\$0.17070
	Off-Peak Energy Charge	\$0.06550	\$0.06240
	Idle Service - Single Phase	\$0.00	\$14.75
	Idle Service - Three Phase	\$0.00	\$16.38
Small Commercial	Access Fee – Single Phase	\$28.00	\$30.00
	Access Fee – Three Phase	\$38.00	\$40.75
	Energy Charge	\$0.10850	\$0.11100
	Idle Service - Single Phase	\$0.00	\$15.00
	Idle Service - Three Phase	\$0.00	\$20.38
Optional Small Commercial Time-of-Use <i>On-peak hours are Mon. - Sat., 12pm - 10pm</i>	Access Fee – Single Phase	\$28.00	\$30.00
	Access Fee – Three Phase	\$38.00	\$40.75
	On-Peak Energy Charge	\$0.16300	\$0.17070
	Off-Peak Energy Charge	\$0.06700	\$0.06380
	Idle Service - Single Phase	\$0.00	\$15.00
	Idle Service - Three Phase	\$0.00	\$20.38
General Municipal Service	Access Fee – Single Phase	\$28.50	\$30.50
	Access Fee – Three Phase	\$38.00	\$40.75
	Energy Charge	\$0.11300	\$0.11840
	Idle Service - Single Phase	\$0.00	\$15.25
	Idle Service - Three Phase	\$0.00	\$20.38
Large Commercial	Access Fee	\$140.00	\$150.00
	Energy Charge	\$0.05900	\$0.0625
	Member Demand Charge	\$12.15	\$12.88
	Idle Service Charge	\$0.00	\$75.00
Large Commercial Coincidental Peak	Access Fee	\$140.00	\$150.00
	Energy Charge	\$0.04204	\$0.04456
	Member Demand Charge	\$5.25	\$5.57
	TSGT Peak Demand	\$19.34	No change
	Idle Service Charge	\$0.00	\$75.00

Community Comes Together at DMEA Annual Meeting

It was an annual meeting with a bit of a twist and from the looks of it, you, our members, approved. On June 20, we invited you to join us for a night of true family fun—live music, a magic show, carnival games, dinner, and the like. It was a night to celebrate all that DMEA accomplished last year and the great things to come. But mostly, it was a night to celebrate our members and what it means to be part of a rural electric cooperative. Thank you for coming out to support us last month.



Ty Gallenbeck wows members during dinner with his mind-blowing magic.

Members line up to get the latest on Elevate Internet and share recent experiences with their new internet. To date, Elevate has over 6,200 live customers.



We are humbled by the exceptional turn-out and wide spread support shown to our entire team. Thank you, Delta and Montrose counties, for showing up for us, and we will continue to show up for you, our members.



“This was my 18th Annual Meeting, the 5th at DMEA. You’d think by now, I’d be used to it. But it never fails, every year, I’m humbled by the members’ support and passion. They take time out their lives to come learn about their cooperative and get to know their board and myself. And it’s because of the members that DMEA has been able to achieve some truly great things for our communities.”

- Jasen Bronec, CEO



2019 Annual Meeting Highlights

- 400+ members took over Hotchkiss High for the evening to celebrate with DMEA
- Election results: Brad Harding ran unopposed and was re-elected in District 3, Ken Watson won District 4 with 73.6% of 4,612 ballots cast, a over challenger David White and Jock Fleming won South Region with 61.3% of the vote, defeating Kenneth Otto
- CEO, Jasen Bronec, discussed the work underway to secure a reliable, more affordable, and cleaner power supply
- Members asked great questions about the rate increase, fees, power supply, and renewable energy
- Magician Ty Gallenbeck stunned the audience with his unbelievable magic tricks
- Members stepped into the world of virtual reality at the Elevate booth and tested out new streaming devices
- Neon Sky treated members to live classic bluegrass, southern rock, and country tunes
- Kids enjoyed endless rounds of carnival games and won prizes like stick ponies, coloring kits, fishing poles, and even battery-powered Polaris riders

Photo Contest Winner



Susan Humphrey

The beauty of Colorado is my spirit! For someone to enjoy my photos, is like looking into my heart and sharing something that is so personal, I keep it guarded at times. I use my photography as a record of the history, as well as the awesome beauty of the area. I remember all of the family stories about moving cattle around the area, the wildlife seen and the accidental rodeos along the way. I love the way that you can stand in the high alpine and see the desert adobes in the distance. The more photos I take, the more amazing detail I see. I especially like to capture the landscapes and ranch life; I have also become fascinated with the mustangs in Sand Wash Basin in Northwestern Colorado.

I also use my photography to create what I call, Artistic Expression. I digitally paint using the photos as the base. Please visit my website to see all of my work. www.fineartwesternpaintings.com. I was born in Montrose and have lived my whole life here. I spent my childhood on Bostwick Park on my family’s ranch and now live in the Pea Green area on our farm.



...Continued from page 1, Proposed 2019 Rate Changes

DMEA's Board of Directors will take comments on the proposed rates during the rate hearing at our regular August meeting:

DMEA Rate Hearing | Tues., August 27 @ 5PM
DMEA Montrose office, 11925 6300 Rd.

If you are unable to attend the rate hearing, you may send your comments to be reviewed by your board representatives. Send your written comments to DMEA Rate Comments, PO Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or email comments to virginia.harman@dmea.com.

After reviewing member comments, and discussion at the hearing, the board will also vote on the proposed increases. If approved, the rate changes will go into effect September 1, 2019. If you have questions about how these changes may affect your account or what steps you might be able to take to consume less energy, please contact our energy services team at 970-240-1258.

Be a smarter pet owner

Everyone is busy, but that doesn't mean you have to neglect your pets. These days, all kinds of smart technology will help you take care of your pets, even when you're not home. Here are two smart pet owner tools:

1. **The smart pet feeder.** You know the terrible feeling of forgetting to feed your pet, or worrying that they might be overeating? Smart pet feeders put those concerns to rest. These automated machines connect to your internet at home, let you dispense food or water from an app on your cell phone, and receive notifications when they eat. It'll even track their calories! Some smart pet feeders have extra features like webcams or speakers.

2. **Pet cams.** Speaking of webcams, many products (like Petcube) let you put a camera (or many cameras) in your home so you can check in on your pet on your smartphone or other internet-connected device while you're away.

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

Industrial - Distribution Voltage 12kV	Access Fee	\$140.00	\$150.00
	Energy Charge	\$0.04204	\$0.04456
	Member Demand Charge	\$6.65	\$7.05
	Demand – TSGT Coincident Peak	\$19.34	No change
	Idle Service Charge	\$0.00	\$75.00
Transmission 46kV & 115kV	Access Fee	\$140.00	\$150.00
	Energy Charge	\$0.04400	\$0.04665
	Member Demand Charge	\$2.65	\$2.80
	Demand – TSGT Coincident Peak	\$19.34	No change
	Idle Service Charge	\$0.00	\$75.00
Agriculture Small Irrigation	Access Fee - Single Phase	\$40.00	\$42.75
	Energy Charge	\$0.08100	\$0.08550
	Member Demand Charge	\$4.60	\$4.80
	Idle Service Charge	\$0.00	\$21.38
Agriculture Large Irrigation	Access Fee - Three Phase	\$140.00	\$150.00
	Energy Charge	\$0.08400	\$0.08870
	Member Demand Charge	\$8.25	\$8.66
	Idle Service Charge	\$0.00	\$75.00
Security Area Lighting	Mercury Vapor - 175W	\$14.99	\$15.74
	Mercury Vapor - 400W	\$28.45	\$29.87
	High P Sodium - 100W	\$12.04	\$13.02
	High P Sodium - 250W	\$21.36	\$22.43
Street Lighting (DMEA-Owned)	Mercury Vapor - 100W	\$12.21	\$12.82
	Mercury Vapor - 175W	\$17.09	\$17.94
	Mercury Vapor - 250W	\$23.04	\$24.19
	Mercury Vapor - 400W	\$32.39	\$34.01
	High P Sodium - 70W	\$11.31	\$11.88
	High P Sodium - 100W	\$13.73	\$14.42
	High P Sodium - 150W	\$17.04	\$17.89
	High P Sodium - 250W	\$24.32	\$25.54
	LED <75W	\$6.87	\$7.21
LED >75W	\$12.16	12.77	
Net Metering	Residential Energy Credits	\$0.10450	\$0.10950
	Small Comm. Energy Credit	\$0.10850	\$0.11100
	Large Comm. Energy Credit	\$0.05900	\$0.06250
	Municipal Energy Credit	\$0.00	\$0.11840
Community Solar Array	Energy Charge per kWh (credit)	\$0.10450	\$0.10950

I'd Never Do That

Would you test out your own homemade bulletproof vest? Eat a puffer fish? Jump out of a plane without a parachute? Of course not! These are things you'd never do, we hope. We also want to remind you to add touching power lines—overhead or underground—to that list. We all know that touching power lines (or other electrical equipment) is dangerous. It can lead to life-changing injuries, electrocution, and death in mere seconds. So, here a few reminders to be safe around power lines.

- **Call 811 before you dig.** Planting a tree? Building a fence? Call 811 before you start digging and they'll locate any underground power lines and other utilities.
- **Look up and look out.** Before you lean your ladder up on the house so you can clean the gutters, look up for overhead power lines. And keep clear—stay at least 10 feet from any overhead line.
- **Call DMEA.** If you see a downed power line or come upon an underground line while excavating, STOP and call DMEA immediately at 877-687-3632. Don't move it, touch it, or, say, cut through it with a hand saw.

Always assume power lines are live!



While excavating, a member hit an underground DMEA power line and then proceeded to saw through the line with a handsaw. This individual is extremely lucky to have escaped with their life. Our line shorted out when it was hit by the heavy equipment, but that's not always the case. Remember, treat every power line as if it is live, even if it looks damaged, is on the ground, or buried. High voltage electricity is pumping through our lines 24/7 and touching any power line is dangerous and deadly.

Always call before you dig – 811 or 1-800-922-1987.

HOME COOKING



Grilled Mexican-Style Corn Salad

Elizabeth Buckingham, Cedaredge

Ingredients:

- 4 ears corn, husked
- 2 oz. cotija or queso fresco, crumbled
- 1 large shallot, sliced into thin rings
- 1 bunch cilantro, roughly chopped
- ½ small red chile, such as Holland or Fresno, sliced into thin rings (or to taste)
- ¼ cup fresh lime juice
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- Vegetable or olive oil, as needed
- Chile powder, for garnish (optional)
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

Directions:

Preheat grill. Slice kernels from one ear of corn and toss with shallot, chile and lime juice in large bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Brush remaining 3 ears of corn with oil and grill, turning occasionally, until charred and tender, about 10 minutes. Let cool. Slice kernels from grilled cobs and add to reserved corn salad with cheese, cilantro and additional oil, if desired. Add tomatoes. Toss to combine and taste again for seasoning. Sprinkle with chile powder if desired and serve at room temperature.



WE'RE IN NEED OF YOUR RECIPES!
 Submit your best recipe, along with your name, address and photo of your dish, to communications@dmea.com
 If we print your recipe, you win a \$25 gift card.



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 |

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1
Brad Harding, District 3
Chris Hauck, District 5
Mark Eckhart, District 7
Jock Fleming, South

Kyle Martinez, District 2
Ken Watson, District 4
Damon Lockhart, District 6
Stacia Cannon, North

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.

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