

# THE PowerLines REPORT

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September 2019

## What's Next with Power Supply

Message from your CEO, Jasen Bronec

I am pleased and excited to have the opportunity to talk to you about our recent progress on power supply.

This summer DMEA and Tri-State agreed on a settlement that achieves our goal of exiting Tri-State under fair terms. Under the settlement we will terminate our 2040 wholesale power contract with Tri-State early and officially withdraw by May 1, 2020.

Of course, the number one question that I have received since the settlement is: what is the exit charge? Through the settlement negotiations, Tri-State requested that the exit charge and the numbers associated with capital credits and transmission be kept confidential until our actual withdrawal. We are respecting Tri-State's request. Once we can share those numbers, we will do so.

While I can't share the exit number yet, I can explain how our members will benefit from this important transition in power supply. The main driver behind DMEA's request to exit Tri-State has always been to offer as much rate stability as possible. DMEA's board would not have agreed to a settlement with Tri-State unless it positioned DMEA to accomplish the goal of rate stabilization.

Under our contract with Tri-State we do not have a fixed rate and Tri-State can raise rates as it needs. We have been watching the upward trend in our wholesale costs over the past 20 years and have projected that trend will continue. One of the key factors in our new power supply contract with Guzman Energy is that Guzman will be selling us less expensive wholesale power than what we

currently purchase. In addition to it being lower than what we currently pay, the rate is fixed for the term of the contract (we are currently targeting a 10-year term).

Okay, so DMEA will save money on wholesale power costs, but how will DMEA pay for the exit charge in the Tri-State settlement? The answer is that Guzman Energy will be paying that exit charge, and it will do so while still offering DMEA fixed-price, less expensive wholesale power. We expect this will result in DMEA savings tens of millions of dollars over the coming decade. This is one of the many examples of why Guzman Energy is a good partner for DMEA.

The foundation of our partnership with Guzman Energy is a shared vision of the future of the electric industry. Last year DMEA celebrated its 80th year of serving our members. This settlement helps DMEA pivot to serve future generations in western Colorado while advancing our goals of stable rates, more local generation, and flexibility to respond to the ever-changing needs of our communities.

We still have a lot of work to do before our exit is complete and before all the details of our new power supply agreement are final. We will strive to keep you all informed throughout this process. We will be hosting a series of town hall style events this fall where you can come and learn more about the advancements we are making in power supply and what it will mean to you and the future of our communities. Keep an eye on your newsletter, our website, and on Facebook for more information about these meetings.

# SAVE THE DATE

**DMEA Member Appreciation Days**

**Wednesday, October 2  
Read Office**

21191 H 75 Rd., Delta

**Friday, October 4  
Montrose Office**

11925 6300 Rd., Montrose

**9AM - 11AM**

We want to say thank you to our members! Come see us at one of our open houses listed above for great local coffee, sweet treats, and good conversation.

Chat with DMEA staff and board members about what's on your mind. Come and go as you please.





**“We love the service. No more pixelating on the TV; no more death spiral or buffering on the TV. We can stream 4K videos immediately. There’s no more downtime—it’s amazing. Plus, I can upload huge photograph files, bigger than 3 gigabytes, in 30 seconds or less.”**

**- Will H., Montrose, CO**

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# Change a little. **Save a lot.**

You hear a lot about how upgrading your furnace or replacing all your appliances with Energy Star models can reduce your energy use and ultimately save you money. But those big changes also come with big price tags and are often out of reach for the average DMEA member. So, what can you do to save energy without breaking the bank? Check out these low and no cost tips.

Reduce the temperature setting on your water heater to no more than 120° F—in fact for homes with 1 or 2 people, 115° F works just fine.

Don't let the water run while you're brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing dishes.

Wash the majority of your laundry in cold water. Save the hot for only your dirtiest loads.

Use your bath towels more than once before washing them—try using your towel for a week.

Make sure your dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer so no hot air escapes and that your hose isn't kinked or clogged with lint.

Skip the dryer all together and line dry when weather permits.

Recycle that old fridge in the garage that you're using just for sodas and beer. It's an energy hog.

Only run your dishwasher if it is fully loaded and air-dry your dishes instead of using the heat-dry cycle.

Turn off lights. Don't leave lights on outside or inside if you're not actually using them.

Turn off your computers and laptops when you're not using them. Sleep and standby mode still use energy, so be sure to go full shutdown mode.

Use an extra blanket instead of an electric blanket on your bed.

Same goes for your thermostat—set it no warmer than 68 degrees in the winter and no cooler than 78 degrees in the summer.

Make sure your heat tape is off when it's not needed. Heat tapes will continue to run regardless of the air temperature.

Unplug your battery chargers for phones, tablets, cameras, and the like when they aren't in use.

Close your shades and drapes during the day in the summer to keep the sun from heating up your home. In the winter, keep them closed at night to keep the heat from escaping through your windows.

Caulk around your windows, doors, and all plumbing and electrical penetrations to prevent air flow in and out of your home.

Try to cut down your shower time to 7 minutes or less.

As your light bulbs burn out, replace them with LEDs (and remember, we have a rebate for \$8/bulb!)

Schedule a free home energy audit with us so you can find out more ways to save energy - 877-687-3632.

## Photo Contest Winner



Rena Collins

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!





# Keeping Your Power Lines Clear

## Trees and Power Lines Don't Mix

Trees beautify our communities, provide habitat for wildlife, offer shade, and help keep our environment clean. But, trees that grow too close or into DMEA's power lines can result in power outages and pose a safety risk. That's why DMEA operates an aggressive vegetation management program that keeps our power lines clear of trees and ensures the following:

### ► Safety

Trees are excellent conductors of electricity and if they grow into power lines or even just too close, they become a major safety hazard. Electricity can travel through the tree and severely injure or kill individuals who may be working or playing on or near the tree.

### ► Reliability

Maintaining a proper clearance of at least 25 feet between our power lines and trees minimizes the impact trees have of your electric service. This buffer helps prevent wind, snow, and ice from breaking off tree limbs and sending them into power lines.

### ► Affordability

By maintaining clear rights-of-way around our power lines, we prevent the need to repair and replace power lines, poles, and other equipment that may be damaged by trees during storms. The upfront cost to our vegetation management program is outweighed by significant savings from reduced outages and equipment maintenance.

## Tree Removal and Trimming

DMEA's first priority is to remove trees that are within our power line rights-of-way in order to maintain a safe and reliable system. We recognize that while we have the legal authority to remove these trees, it can be frustrating or upsetting for you, our members.

You have the option to tell us that you do not want your tree(s) removed. In this instance, DMEA will provide one complimentary trim. After that, you will be charged every time we must trim your tree. Depending on the species and growth rate of your tree, this could result in substantial costs to you. In the event we determine your tree only needs to be trimmed, we will follow standards set by the National Arborist Association.

## Your phone, the TV remote



Did you know that you have a TV remote around you nearly all the time? That's right, your smart phone can become a TV remote with the right apps. Most apps are specific to various brands of TVs or operating systems. Here are some of the best apps for giving your smart phone one more tool you can use.

- 1. Samsung Smart View.** If your smart TV is a Samsung, you can probably use the Samsung Smart View remote to control your TV from your phone. You can also put videos, pictures, and music from your phone onto the TV.
- 2. Panasonic TV Remote 2 and LG TV Remote.** If you use a Panasonic smart TV or LG smart TV, respectively, these two apps are simple and straightforward.
- 3. Apple TV Remote.** If you're on the Apple system and use Apple TV to play content on your TV, this app is made for you. It even works with Siri!

If you're the sort of person who's often asking, "Where's the remote?", you might find one of these apps useful. If you don't see your brand on the list above, Phillips, Android, and others also offer TV remote apps. Happy viewing!







A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

### Montrose Office

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

### Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632 | [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) |    

### Read Office

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

### Your Board of Directors:

*Bill Patterson, District 1*     *Kyle Martinez, District 2*  
*Brad Harding, District 3*     *Ken Watson, District 4*  
*Chris Hauck, District 5*     *Damon Lockhart, District 6*  
*Mark Eckhart, District 7*     *Stacia Cannon, North*  
*Jock Fleming, South*

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) 240-1209 within 60 days.





# Can You Dig It?



An underground utility line is damaged once every 9 minutes because someone didn't call 811.



Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least 2 business days prior to digging.



811 locators do not detect underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.



Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, utilities can shift, so it's best to call before starting a new project.



Once all of your utilities have been located, then you can start your digging project!



Before every digging project, call 811 and get your underground utilities marked. You will prevent costly and dangerous mistakes.

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# HOME COOKING



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## EASY MICROWAVE FUDGE

*MaryAnn Langley, Montrose*

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup butter
- 5 oz can evaporated milk
- 12 oz package chocolate chips  
(I use half milk chocolate and half semi-sweet)
- 7 oz jar marshmallow creme
- 1 cup chopped nuts, your preference
- 1 tsp vanilla

### Directions:

Combine sugar, butter, and milk in a 4-quart glass mixing bowl. Microwave on high for 9 to 10 1/2 minutes or until sugar is dissolved, stirring twice. Add remaining ingredients and stir until chocolate pieces are melted. Pour into a greased 13" x 9" baking dish. Cool and cut into squares.

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## KID'S BANANA ROLL-UP

*Becky Mashburn, Montrose*

### Ingredients:

- Flour tortilla, size of your choice
- Peanut butter
- Semi-sweet chocolate chips (minis work best)
- Banana, halved lengthwise

### Directions:

Spread peanut butter all over tortilla. Sprinkle with mini chocolate chips. Lay a banana half on one edge of tortilla and roll. This makes an easy snack for school lunches. Change it up by rotating your kids' favorite spreads, fruits, dried fruits, and nuts - like Nutella, dried cherries, and apples.

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

If we print your recipe, you win a \$25 gift card.