

THE PowerLines REPORT

1 | The Tough Stuff

2 | It's Go Time

3 | Scholarship Recipients

4 | Fee Changes

June 2019

Tri-State Power Costs To Push DMEA Rates Higher Again



Jasen Bronec, CEO

There are times when I get to talk to you about how the programs we offer can help you save money or how we're working to improve the quality of life in our communities. Then, there are times like today when I have to discuss the tough stuff. In this case, it's a rate increase, which DMEA will be proposing a rate increase this fall.

Over the past 5 years, DMEA has experienced continued increases in what we pay Tri-State for wholesale electricity. This is not something we can simply weather by tightening our belts. Wholesale power costs account for nearly 64% of DMEA's entire operating expenses—**the power we purchase and deliver to your home is the number one item impacting your bill.** Although we have been able to hold rates steady since January 2017, we are at a point where we must incrementally increase your rates to remain a financially healthy cooperative.

Currently, your DMEA Board of Directors and management are reviewing the results of a cost-of-service study to determine what changes need to be made in each rate class. When we have the specific proposed changes, I'll communicate them

with you through this newsletter and in our local newspapers. The timeline for implementing the new rates is as follows:

June - July: The Board will review proposed rate change options and will determine what they plan to implement in September during their committee meetings and the regular board meetings on June 25, 2019, and July 23, 2019.

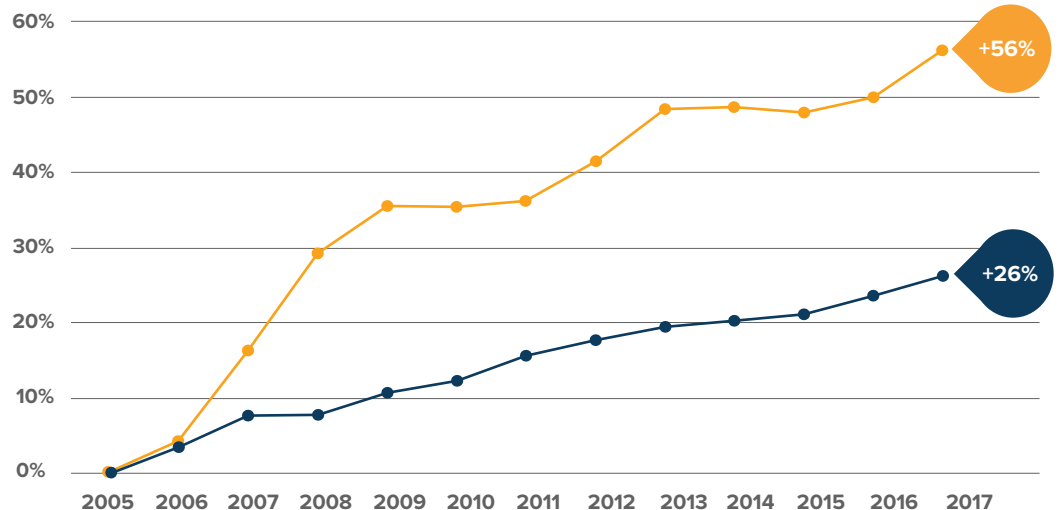
August: The Board will hold a rate hearing at their regular board meeting on August 27, and take member comments at 5 PM. At this meeting, they will also vote on the proposed increases.

September: If the board approves the proposed increases in August, the new rates will go into effect for all energy consumed beginning September 1, 2019.

While we are considering this rate increase due to the continued upward trend of our wholesale power supply from Tri-State, DMEA isn't just sitting back and accepting Tri-State's rates. You, me, your neighbors, your family, and your friends should not be held hostage by Tri-State's high rates. This latest need to bump rates higher—again due to wholesale power costs—is exactly why DMEA is fighting to buy out of our Tri-State contract at a fair price. We are working to secure more competitive energy rates and a power supply that is flexible—all in an effort to stabilize your rates.

How Much Have Tri-State's Rates Increased?




Tri-State Average Member Rate
Consumer Price Index





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Honoring Outstanding Students: 2019 Scholarship Recipients

This year, DMEA awarded \$43,000 in scholarships; all to local students pursuing a higher education. This was made possible through DMEA's unclaimed capital credits fund. As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, DMEA is unique in that if we collect excess revenue, above and beyond what it takes to operate the co-op, we give it back to our members, as capital credits. In some cases, members can't be reached to receive their capital credits. That money then goes into the unclaimed capital credits fund.

These scholarships are just one method that DMEA uses to make sure that even unclaimed capital credits go back into our communities. Additional funding for these scholarships is also made possible by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Join us in congratulating these students and their families.



Congratulations to the 2019 scholarship recipients.

- High School Scholarships**
 - HHS - William Ela
 - CHS - Abigail Williams
 - OHS - Karsen Henwood
 - PHS - Ethan Bartlett
 - DHS - Reagan Clay
 - DHS - Lauren Davey
 - MHS - Taylor Ullman
 - MHS - Abigail Rizzo
 - MHS - Angela Comstock
 - MHS - Paul Burke
 - Montrose non-trad. - Samuel Green
 - Delta non-trad. - Sheldon Peterson
 - Employee Dependent - Tristeon Plumb
- Technical College of the Rockies & CMU-Montrose**
 - Nancy Duarte
 - Johnna Fachel
 - Kadin Dunham
 - Sonja Lopez
 - Amy Wellington
 - Kassadee Morris
- Continuing Education**
 - Emma Cooper
 - Allison Burwell
 - Sara Tullis
 - McKenna Terell
- Basin Electric**
 - Addison Saunders

2019 Scholarship Recipients

Photo Contest Winner



Damon Whitaker

My name is Damon Whitaker and I am in the business of telling stories. Telling the stories of people, places, and things that have a much deeper meaning than their surface-level appearance. I have been photographing for the last decade and am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Photography from the Academy of Art University. I also provide photography, editing, and printing services to the Western Slope of Colorado. My goal is that one day I can open a gallery displaying fine art photographs while also traveling the world and photographing the amazing people and places that I encounter. Initially, I was drawn to photography because I enjoyed traveling and capturing the world around me. It gave me something to look back on, and I was drawn to the idea of helping people to capture a point in time that brings them joy. In a world where everyone carries a camera with them, I strive to reevaluate photography as a visual language. To not only use it to document the moment in front of me but to capture the story of the subject and then share that story with the world. I want to take the viewer on an emotional journey with the photographs that I make.



Notice of DMEA Fee Changes

Fee changes effective July 1, 2019

After reviewing our current fees for items like disconnection due to non-pay or a bounced check, DMEA has determined that our current fees do not cover our actual cost of doing business and we need to increase them. As a result, DMEA is making the following changes effective July 1, 2019:

DMEA Fee	Current	New
1st Late Payment	\$10	\$20
Nonsufficient Funds	\$20	\$30 or 2% of the past due amount (lesser of the two)
Service Transfer	\$20	\$30
Connect/Reconnect (requiring a truck roll during business hours)	\$50	\$100
Connect/Reconnect - After Hours (requiring a truck roll after business hours)	\$100	\$200
Paper Statement Fee	\$0	\$2

3 WAYS YOU CAN AVOID FEES

1. Go paperless and don't pay that \$2 to get your bill in the mail every month. Call 877-687-3632 or visit www.dmea.com/gopaperless.
2. Sign up for autopay and you'll never have to worry about forgetting to pay your bill again. Call 877-687-3632 or visit www.dmea.com/autopay.
3. Avoid ALL FEES by signing up for My Choice, DMEA's prepay program. Pay for electricity before you use it! To sign up you, call 877-687-3632 or stop by your local office.



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 |

DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Introducing smart appliances



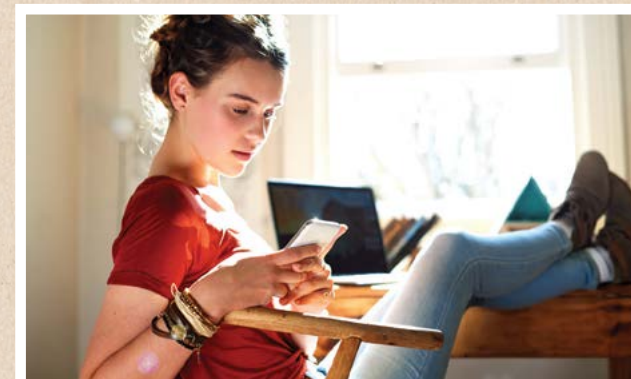
These days, it's not just computers and cell phones that are connected to your internet. Manufacturers have introduced all kinds of smart appliances that connect to the internet via your Elevate service, and most of them are controlled using your smartphone.

The list of smart appliances is vast, but they all aim for the same thing—making your life easier, whether that's by saving you time, money, or offering convenience. Check out the short list of our favorite smart appliances below:

- Thermostat systems, like the Nest, so you can auto-program heating and cooling
- Washers and dryers that send you notifications when your laundry is done
- Smart plugs and switches, like Wemo, that let you automatically turn off appliances and lights throughout your house
- Smart sprinkler controllers so you only water when you need to
- Refrigerators that show you what's inside via a camera and alert you if the door is left open

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

MONITORING APPS FOR TEENS



When your children have their own phones, it can be hard to know which apps are harmless and which aren't. Here are some tips on how to monitor the apps your kids use:

1. Turn on parental controls.

Your cellular provider can help you turn on parental controls that won't let your children install apps unless you approve them. When your kids want an app, they have to request it from you, allowing you to approve or deny it.

2. Check out apps for ratings and reviews.

Look at the rating and the reviews of the apps your children request. Ratings are offered by age, indicating the appropriate age and maturity for users. Reviews give you a sense of the quality of the app—a well-reviewed app is usually better and safer than a poorly-reviewed app.

3. Be wary of anything with a chat function.

Many apps allow messages to be sent back and forth between users or let users chat by voice (like a group phone call). Your children might be chatting with people they know, or—especially common with games—chatting with anyone around the world. In some cases, apps (like the popular Snapchat) automatically delete messages after a certain time, leaving no record of the messages that were exchanged.

4. Talk to your kids.

When your child requests an app, talk to them about it: why do they want this app? What interests them about it? How do they plan to use it? Communication, rather than punishment, can go a long way.

When you're a parent, knowing how to navigate the online world of your children can be a challenge, to say the least. These tips will help guide the way.

HOME COOKING

RATATOUILLE PIZZA

Karen Fogelquist, Montrose

Even people who hate eggplant will love this pizza. I make this every summer with home-grown Oriental eggplant, zucchini, Roma tomato, and fresh garlic and basil. The pre-baked Boboli crust makes it easy to prepare, and no pizza sauce is needed. Traditional Ratatouille is a hearty stew from the Provence region of France with seasonal vegetables, garlic, and olive oil.

Ingredients:

- 1 Boboli (pre-baked 12" round pizza crust)
- 2 medium Japanese eggplants, sliced lengthwise, about 1/4" thick (Oriental eggplant is shaped like a banana, unlike the rounded Italian type. Use a potato peeler to peel off any brown or damaged skin, but leave skin on)
- 2 Tbsp. (or more) olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups grated mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 medium zucchini, thinly sliced into 1/8" thick rounds (like thick pepperoni)
- 3/4 pound Italian Roma tomatoes, chopped (not peeled; about 3)
- 3 oz. Feta cheese, coarsely crumbled
- 3 garlic cloves, minced or pressed in a garlic press
- 6 thinly sliced fresh basil leaves (stack flat, roll up like a cigar, and then slice)
- Fresh ground black pepper and kosher salt to taste

Directions:

Preheat broiler on low (500°F). Place eggplant slices on large baking sheet. Brush olive oil over both sides of eggplant. Sprinkle both sides with salt and pepper. Broil until eggplant is tender and just begins to brown, turning once, about 3 minutes on each side. Cool.

Place pizza pan or large cookie sheet in oven and preheat to 475°F. Sprinkle 1 cup mozzarella cheese over Boboli crust. Arrange eggplant slices like spokes on a wagon wheel. Fill in the gaps and top with the sliced zucchini rounds. Chop the tomatoes, toss in a medium bowl with the minced garlic and sliced basil, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and spoon over eggplant and zucchini slices. Top pizza with crumbled Feta cheese. Sprinkle remaining 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese over all. Place pizza on preheated baking pan and put in oven. Bake until cheese melts and pizza edge is brown and crisp, about 12 minutes. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes. Remove from pan, cut into wedges and serve with your favorite tossed salad. Serves 2 to 4.