

THE PowerLines REPORT

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March 2019

Major Win for DMEA Members



Jasen Bronec, CEO

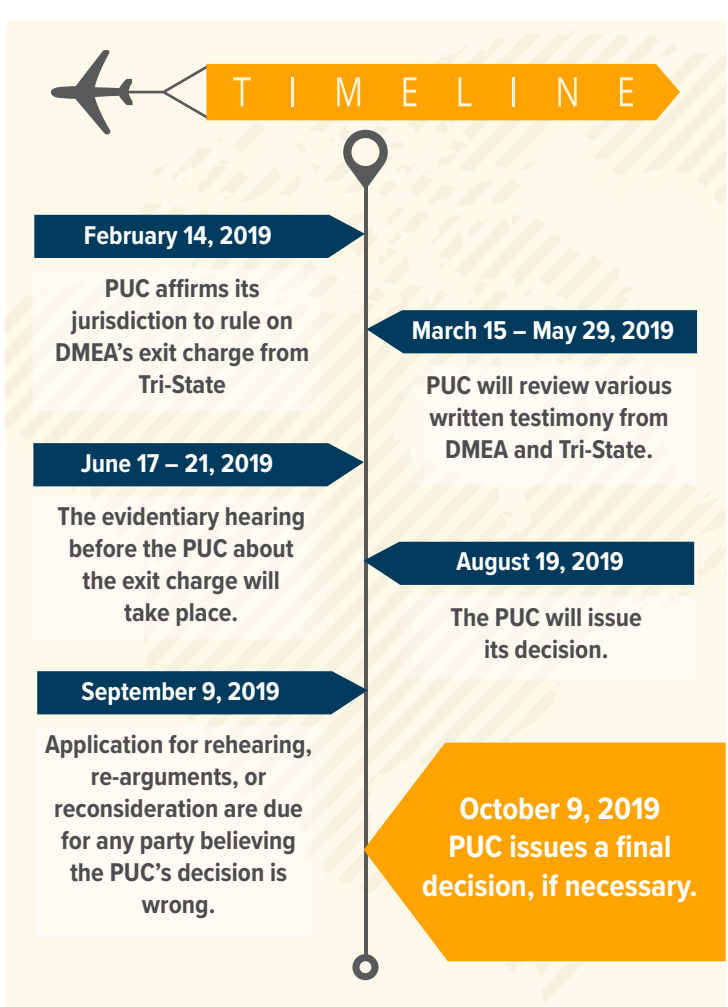
Last month, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) confirmed that they have jurisdiction to rule on DMEA's exit charge from Tri-State. This is a win for you and DMEA. The PUC is charged with protecting the public interest and they are exercising that authority over Tri-State. We are now one step closer to securing a fair exit charge.

DMEA's decision to bring our complaint against Tri-State before the PUC was not rushed or reactionary. We worked with Tri-State for more than 10 years to stabilize electric rates and pursue more local generation, all without success. We also spent two years negotiating a reasonable exit charge from Tri-State, also without success. That's why we asked the PUC in December 2018 to exercise its authority over Tri-State and set a reasonable exit charge.

Now that the PUC has affirmed it does indeed have jurisdiction over Tri-State, our complaint will move forward. The commission will hear expert testimony and ultimately determine what our exit charge from Tri-State will be. This year will prove historic for DMEA and its members.

Since submitting our complaint to the PUC, we have received a slew of support from organizations, political officials, other Colorado co-ops, and citizens alike. Our supporters include more than 60 of your state legislators, the Colorado Energy Office, the Coalition of Ratepayers (a prominent Colorado Libertarian think-tank), the Sierra Club, United Power (Brighton, CO), La Plata Electric (Durango, CO), and Colorado Ski County. I also want to extend a sincere thanks to our many members who submitted their personal notes of support to the PUC. It is your voice that is most powerful.

As momentum continues to build, I commit to you that DMEA will remain focused on the true purpose of these efforts. All of this work is being done to stabilize your electric rates, support local energy generation and economic development, and remain fair to our fellow cooperative members. We will not settle for anything less.



GIG WORTHY



Ever wonder why you might need a Gig? We don't. Yeah, we're tech-lovers, but so are most Americans. Studies show that most homes have 13 internet connected devices and that number just keeps going up. Check out some of the hot products showcased at this year's Consumer Electronics Show and you'll know just why you'd want a Gig—or maybe even more.



BETTER WEARABLES, LONGER CHARGE

Withings Move ECG is a very affordable fitness watch that comes with an advanced sensor to monitor your heartbeat and electro cardiogram. The Move ECG will last one whole year on a single battery. Matrix PowerWatch 2 is a smart watch that runs on a solar cell to generate its power—no more batteries!



REMOVE BLEMISHES LIKE MAGIC

Procter & Gamble may be a 181-year-old brand, but its new division, P&G Ventures, is showing off new technologies for personal care. Their soon to be released handheld wand captures images of your skin as it moves over your body. The wand detects changes in tone (such as freckles or blemishes) and prints makeup on those precise spots.



VIRTUAL REALITY FROM FACEBOOK

Oculus Quest is a standalone virtual reality system coming later this year from Facebook. With full movement and game console level graphics, the Quest is by far the most amazing VR tech to come. The cost will be just \$400 and no other products will come close to its quality.



SMALLER, LIGHTER LAPTOPS

As gaming laptops were getting bigger, mainstream laptops were getting smaller. The Acer Swift 7 is again the winner for smaller laptop options. The 2018 super-thin model was notable, and the 2019 version is even more light and compact.



ROBOTS BUDDIES

Groove X Lovot is a unique robot designed to make you smile. The bot is the size of a toddler and comes covered in fur. Lovot includes sensors and it responds to stimulation and interaction, e.g. it laughs when you tickle it. Want a ping pong partner? Omron's ping pong-playing Forpheus bot can play ping pong at a variety of skill levels. But will Forpheus let you cheat? Probably not.

Maybe gadgets aren't your thing? We don't blame you. There's not much better than a day at your secret fishing spot or finishing that last switchback. At the end of the day, when you kick your feet up and do spend some time online, Elevate will make sure it's fast, reliable, and frustration-free. Get Gig speeds today at elevateinternet.com or 844-386-8744.

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Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this! There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.



Make the Most of Your Water Heater.

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater can save 7 to 16% annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation. Purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees.

Seal Air Leaks with Caulk.

Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing prevents air from leaking in and out of your home. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack. Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk. Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.



Weather Strip Exterior Doors.

Another way to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides. Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy and money while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.



February Photo Contest Winner

Joseph Gonzales, Montrose



I am a New Mexico native who grew up on a working family cattle ranch. I discovered my passion for photography in 2010 and learned from trial and error. My experiences and background have led to a passion for the outdoors that has developed into a career as a professional forester. My profession has allowed me the unique opportunity to explore the Rocky Mountains. This was my drive to document my life journey. I carry with me a respect for nature and endeavor to capture images that reflect unique perspectives in landscape and wildlife photography.

I have traveled throughout the United States and internationally to Canada and Iceland to capture beautiful vistas and moments through the lens. As a resident of Montrose, Colorado and a public land manager, a focus of my work is on beautiful western Colorado and sharing its stunning scenery.



Operation Round Up: Your Small Change Can Change Lives



You may think your spare change can't buy much. But, when combined with the spare change of more than 10,000 other DMEA members through Operation Round Up, it can truly change lives. Each month, Operation Round Up participants choose to round their electric bill up to the nearest dollar. Those extra cents are put into a charitable account. The pennies, nickels, and dimes deposited in that account are pooled together to help our local communities. Health and rescue organizations, food banks, educational projects, youth programs, and individuals and families in need are just a few of the people and places that receive support through Operation Round Up.

How does Operation Round Up Work?

If you choose to participate, your bill is automatically rounded up to the next nearest dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$75.21, it will be rounded up to \$76. The rounded up portion is deposited in the charitable account. Each month, your Operation Round Up amount is noted on your bill. On average, you'll contribute less than \$7 per year.

Where does the money go?

DMEA has established an independent Operation Round Up Charitable Trust that oversees the funds and grants donations. This nine-member board is made up of local volunteers from across the service territory. They meet monthly to review applications and grant donations. Every penny contributed to Operation Round Up is distributed within the service territory. Your donations stay local!

How can I participate?

Consider giving today! Operation Round Up provides an easy and affordable way to help the worthwhile organizations and families in need in your community. Sign up online at www.dmea.com/content/operation-roundup or call DMEA at 877-687-3632.

Cook Up Some Energy Savings



with a smart oven or cooktop

Whether you're cooking Beef Wellington or flipping a grilled cheese sandwich, your oven or cooktop gets a daily workout. Combine the new energy efficient ovens and cooktops with WiFi and voilà, you have a set up that saves time and energy.

Tips for using your smart-oven:

Cook multiple dishes at the same time: With smart ovens, you can preheat, turn off, and even adjust the temperature of your oven straight from your phone. Cook same-temperature dishes together and quickly adjust for the next dish so you don't lose residual heat.

Don't peek: Once you've popped your dish in the oven, keep the door closed. An open door lets heat escape and your oven has to work harder to stay up to temp. Some smart ovens allow you to monitor meat doneness via a connected thermometer. Just select your meat type, doneness level, and let the oven determine your cook time.

Get peace of mind: Made your famous dish for the church potluck, but can't remember if you turned off the oven in the rush out the door? Worry no more. Smart ovens let you turn off (and on) the oven remotely and alert you to issues.

A tasty combo of time-savings and energy efficiency

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

Old Electric Blankets Should Get the Old Heave-Ho



If your electric blanket has seen its better days, especially if it's a decade old or more, it's time to replace it. Throw it out and don't donate it, as it could be a fire hazard. Older electric blankets are more apt to be worn through or damaged, and they account for thousands of injuries and deaths worldwide each year.

Inspect your electric blanket frequently, regardless of its age. Occasionally, a newer blanket or even one that's fresh out of the bag could have a wiring issue, so always test your blanket before using it the first time and once you start using it, inspect it often.

When inspecting your plug-in blanket, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Division recommends looking for cracks or breaks in wiring, plugs, and connectors. Also look for dark, charred or frayed spots on either side of the blanket. If your electric blanket has any of these characteristics, throw it away, as it may be a potential fire hazard.

Even if your electric blanket is in good shape, it still requires a little extra care compared to a traditional blanket:

- Don't allow anything on top of the blanket when in use, like a comforter, bedspread or even pets. It may cause the blanket to overheat. In addition, pet claws can cause rips and tears, which may expose the wiring and create shock and fire hazards.
- Do not use an electric blanket that is wet, soiled or wrinkled.
- Do not tuck in an electric blanket, which can cause excessive heat build-up.
- Don't store the blanket folded; instead, roll it for storage, which puts less stress on the internal wires.
- Do not leave any heating appliance unattended.
- Don't wash it often. Repeated washings can damage the electrical circuitry. (Follow proper instructions when washing; usually the spin cycle is not recommended.)
- Do not sleep or lounge on top of the electric blanket.

Learn more about heated appliance safety and other safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.

HOME COOKING



Jalapeño Wonton Poppers

Recipe from Heidi Hill, Montrose

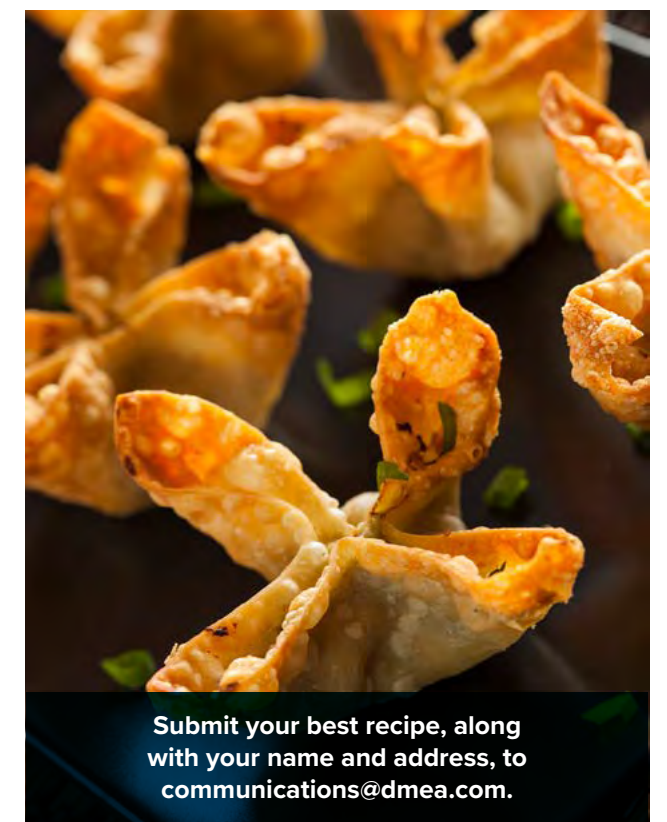
Ingredients:

- 12 wonton wrappers
- 4 oz cream cheese
- 12 oz. cooked & crumbled bacon
- 1 C shredded cheese (your preference)
- 4 jalapeños seeded & diced

Directions:

Preheat over to 350 degrees and spray inside muffin pans with cooking spray. Place one wonton wrapper in each cup and bake approximately 8 minutes.

Mix all other ingredients while they are cooking. Let wrappers cool then fill with topping and bake for an additional 8-10 minutes. Serve as a great appetizer.



Submit your best recipe, along with your name and address, to communications@dmea.com.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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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

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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.