

THE PowerLines REPORT

1 |  Fire Season

2 |  Business Grant Highlights

3 |  Vegetation Removal

4 |  Senate Bill 72

AUGUST 2021

Fire Season and What it Means for Your Power

Every summer, DMEA monitors weather conditions, moisture levels, and vegetation status in order to reduce the risk of our lines and equipment sparking a fire. With the extremely hot and dry weather hitting earlier than usual this summer, DMEA chose to transition to fire prevention mode in June.

These precautionary measures rely more heavily on fieldwork by operations personnel and less on the use of DMEA's automated and remotely controlled equipment. While this special mode of operation greatly reduces the risk of a fire being started by our electrical equipment, it will impact your electric service. Minor blinks may turn into longer outages, outages may last longer than you're used to, and it might seem like there are more outages than usual.

Why? Under normal circumstances, DMEA can troubleshoot, reconnect, and adjust equipment remotely from our office. In fire prevention mode, we require our crew members to have eyes on the equipment before any attempt at restoration. This reduces our fire risk but does take more time.

It's also especially important for members to report any issues or damage to DMEA immediately. In many cases, a single phone call can save hours of searching by helping our crews narrow their focus and pinpoint the cause of an outage. If you see anything that seems out of the ordinary concerning power lines or power equipment, report it immediately by calling DMEA at 877-687-3632. Never report outages or issues via email and social media.

DMEA will return to normal operating procedures when the fire danger rating decreases to a safe level. Thank you for your patience and assistance as we reduce our fire risk.

HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE



Call DMEA at **877-687-3632** any time day or night. Never report outages by email or social media.



Be ready to provide your name, address, and how long you've been without power.



Tell us about what you may have seen or heard on or near your property or DMEA equipment when the outage occurred.



Stay clear of downed lines or damaged equipment and warn others right away—you cannot tell if high-voltage electricity is still flowing.

Powering Connections Grant Recipients

To ensure the utmost safety of our members, DMEA's Annual Meeting was held virtually this year. As 2020 was an exceedingly difficult year for our local businesses, DMEA created the Powering Connections Business Grants from its 2021 Annual Meeting budget.

DMEA's Board of Directors selected the following businesses from more than 80 applicants. The recipients were announced at the 2021 Annual Meeting on Jun 17, 2021. Please join us in congratulating the following businesses.

Black Canyon Motel, Montrose



"For over 50 years, we've served our local community, as well as people from around the world by providing clean and comfortable lodging at an affordable price."

Business owners:
Nevil & Shefali Pravasi

How will you utilize your grant funds?
Help retain our current employees and cover the cost of operating expenses.

Ollie's Ice Cream, Paonia



We are a small-town ice cream shop in downtown Paonia. We strive to be a hub of the community, a place that brings people together.

Business owners:
John & Susie Coombe

How will you utilize your grant funds?
Hiring more employees and/or paying them more, purchasing new equipment, local advertising, and operating expenses.

Ladybugs Daycare, Montrose



We provide in-home childcare to help care for children whose parents are essential workers.

Business owner:
Anna Carpenter

How will you utilize your grant funds?
To replace flooring with waterproof laminate.

Paonia Laundromat, Paonia



We are a mostly self-serve laundromat that also offers laundry service for miners, the elderly or others that may need assistance. We also offer a studio for people to do dance, yoga, and other gatherings.

Business owner:
Gia Fanelli

How will you utilize your grant funds?
Funds will be utilized for operating expenses and other business-related bills.

Fox Cinema Center, Montrose



The theater has been in our family since the mid 1960s and we have been owners since 1985. We provide a fun, family-friendly service for Montrose and the surrounding area.

Business owners:
Michael & Meredine Hunter

How will you utilize your grant funds?
Insurance and general expenses to stay in operation.

Creative Corner, Montrose



We are an artist's cooperative that provides opportunities for local artists to display and sell their products.

Business owner:
Barbara Krebs

How will you utilize your grant funds?
We would use the bulk of the funds for advertising and promotions. We also plan to bring attention to our quarterly drawings for hand crafted items donated by our artists.

Pioneer Town, Cedaredge



Our mission is to maintain and improve an accurate repository for the preservation of the history of Surface Creek Valley and operate Pioneer Town Museum, Welcome Center, Chapel of the Cross, Stolte Shed, and Charlie Baker Arboretum.

Business owner:
Surface Creek Valley Historical Society

How will you utilize your grant funds?
Adding lighting to the main parking lot. Entertainment, vendors, and an ice skating rink for our holiday market.

Guru's Restaurant, Montrose



We are a locally owned business serving unique Indian and Nepalese food to our community.

Business owners:
Bishnu & Juntara Chaudhary

How will you utilize your grant funds?
My employees have been working with us for 9 years, so I would like to keep providing them with stable jobs for many more years.

Olathe True Value Hardware, Olathe



We are a retail hardware business selling everything from the usual plumbing, electrical, hardware, and houseware items to specialized farming and agriculture products.

Business owners:
Paul & Marsha Gottlieb and Steven & Michelle Gottlieb

How will you utilize your grant funds?
Give extra compensation to the employees that have struggled this past year.



Aggressive Vegetation Removal On Hwy 133

Over the next few months, DMEA's vegetation management contractor will be working to clear hazardous brush and trees from our power line rights-of-way along Highway 133, between Paonia Reservoir and the base of McClure Pass. They will be clearing away hazardous fuel brush, such as juniper and oak brush, as well as trimming and removing trees that are growing into our power lines. Maintaining clear rights-of-ways and proper clearance around our power lines is critical to providing safe and reliable electric service.

DMEA Supports Senate Bill 72

Public Utilities Commission Modernize Electric Transmission Infrastructure

While SB21-072 might not mean much to you, it has a big impact on the reliability of your future energy independence. DMEA was proud to support this bill and in June, DMEA's acting CEO, Virginia Harman, was on site at the State Capitol for the official signing. Among other things, the bill moves Colorado utilities toward becoming a part of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO).

Why is this important to DMEA? With the co-op located in a geographically isolated part of the state, sufficient and affordable transmission options can be a challenge. Harman testified in support of the bill, stating, "As our cooperative looks to the future, we predict growth in distributed renewable generation and the need for more affordable, and thoughtfully planned transmission. We also understand and appreciate the potential cost savings that will likely come from being part of an organized market."

Being part of an organized market, like an RTO, allows Colorado utilities to benefit from efficiencies and potential cost savings when addressing their transmission needs.



Acting CEO, Virginia Harman testified in support of SB21-072 and was invited to attend the bill signing in Denver on June 24. To read the full bill visit <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-072>



Montrose Office
11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

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 *Kyle Martinez, District 2*
Brad Harding, District 3 *Ken Watson, District 4*
Chris Hauck, District 5 *Damon Lockhart, District 6*
Enno Heuscher, 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.

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 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, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.instake@usda.gov.



DMEA COOKS!

Featuring favorite recipes from our DMEA family

Butter Cookies

Kate Larmouth, Customer Service Representative



Ingredients:

2 c all-purpose flour
2 sticks salted butter, softened
½ c powdered sugar
2 tsp vanilla

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix softened butter, powdered sugar, and vanilla together. Stir in flour. Chill dough for 20-30 min. Scoop dough into balls. Flatten with the bottom of a glass to ½ inch thick. Bake 12-15 minutes.

Garlic Pretzels

Margaret Davey, Grant and Regulatory Compliance Analyst



Ingredients:

2 16 oz packages pretzels
½ c butter
1 tbsp garlic powder
3 oz grated parmesan cheese

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325°. Melt butter and toss with pretzels in a large bowl. Transfer mixture to roasting or broiling pan. Sprinkle with garlic powder and parmesan cheese. Bake 15 minutes, stirring occasionally to coat all pretzels.



WIN A TRAMPOLINE PARTY!

Participate in DMEA's all-new safety program, PLAY IT SAFE. The contest is open to kids in K through 5th grade. Each month, DMEA will announce a new electrical safety problem that your student can research and resolve. The best submission wins, and the prizes are awesome!

AUGUST SAFETY DILEMMA

What are three lightning safety tips that can help protect you from lightning strikes?

What to submit:

This month, your submissions must be in the form of a video. Videos can be submitted at www.dmea.com/safety-competition.

When to submit:

Entry period is August 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021.

Who can participate:

Kids in grades K-5th

What you can win:

This month's prize is a \$200 gift card to Get Air Trampoline Park in Grand Junction!

