

THE PowerLines REPORT



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OCTOBER 2022

Honoring our Past this National Cooperative Month

Kent Blackwell, Interim CEO and Chief Technology Officer



Every October, cooperatives across the country, including DMEA, take time to celebrate National Cooperative Month. It's an opportunity for us to honor who we are and, more importantly, the members we serve. Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses because we exist to serve. And it was the lack of service

that spurred not only DMEA's origin but that of hundreds of electric cooperatives across the nation. In celebration of National Cooperative Month and in honor of those who paved the way for us 84 years ago, let's look back at some of DMEA's most significant milestones.

1930

Americans struggled through The Great Depression, and rural areas were quickly left behind. Nine out of ten rural homes went without electric service.

1933

President Franklin D. Roosevelt established The New Deal, a plan to re-energize the American people and economy.

1935

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was established by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 7037 to bring electricity to rural communities like ours and stimulate the rural economy. The REA provided low-interest loans and technical assistance to cooperatives.

1938

Farmers and ranchers of the Uncompahgre Valley banded together and applied for an REA loan. It was successful, and the cooperative, originally named Delta-Montrose Rural Power Lines Association, was established in August 1938.

1939

Electricity first flowed through our system in May 1939 to approximately 250 members in the Pea Green area. Soon after, members in Delta, Hotchkiss, and Paonia were added to the system.

1971

The Public Utilities Commission ordered an exchange of customers between Delta-Montrose Rural Power Lines and Western Colorado Power Company (WCPC) because our lines frequently ran parallel to one another. Two thousand new members joined the cooperative.

1975

The co-op purchased a portion of WCPC's territory, adding approximately 10,000 new members and 730 miles of line to our system. With this addition, we dropped the "Rural Power Lines" and became Delta-Montrose Electric Association.

1991

DMEA's wholesale power supplier, Colorado-Ute Electric Association, was bought out by PacifiCorp, Public Service Co. of Colorado, and Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association. Tri-State assumed DMEA's power supply needs, and the co-op joined the Association's membership.

2015

After years of limited internet options, slow speeds, unreliable service, and prohibitively high prices, DMEA members approached the cooperative for an internet solution. In December 2015, DMEA's Board of Directors unanimously voted to move forward with a fiber to the premises internet company.

2016

In June 2016, DMEA officially launched Elevate Internet, establishing the first and only 100% fiber internet service provider on the Western Slope. The first customer was connected by October.

2020

DMEA successfully negotiated an agreement with Tri-State, exiting our power supply agreement and Tri-State's membership in July. We also successfully negotiated a wholesale power purchase agreement with Denver-based Guzman Energy – a major step toward rate stabilization for our members.

2021

Elevate surpassed 10,000 customers, and 63% of DMEA's members had access to Elevate's 1 Gig internet.

2022

Elevate launched multi-gig internet, offering 2 Gig (2,000 Mbps) and 6 Gig (6,000 Mbps) services. And the Delta County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved a limited use permit to build and operate the 80-megawatt agrivoltaic solar array, Garnet Mesa Solar.



WORK



PLAY



LEARN

DO IT ALL WITH ELEVATE

And yes, we mean all of it – at the same time. Stream without buffering, video chat without freezing, and download without timing out. With more than enough bandwidth to go around, everyone in your home will have an internet connection they can count on.

Fast internet

per month

150 Mbps \$54.95

1,000 Mbps (1 Gig) \$79.95

NEW

Even faster internet*

2,000 Mbps (2 Gig) \$124.95

6,000 Mbps (6 Gig) \$189.95

Simple TV

Locals (20+ channels) \$40.95

Expanded (70+ channels) \$109.95

Extreme (120+ channels) \$129.95

Reliable Home Phone

Unlimited local & long distance \$30.00

ELEVATE™

FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)

www.elevateinternet.com • 844-386-8744

Available in live service areas only. Installation is zero money down and \$10/mo., for 10 months or \$100 upfront. Initial 12-month contract required. Internet service is required for TV and phone. Speeds are up to 6 Gig and subject to wireless limitations. Prices subject to change. *Multi-gig internet packages require initial consultation with Elevate tech support.

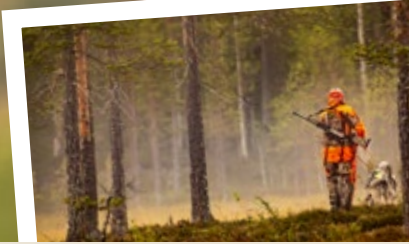
GUNS AND ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX



DMEA's rights-of-way can provide attractive hunting grounds and easy passage, but they also contain our power lines, substations, and workers, day and night. Accidentally shooting and damaging our electric lines and equipment is dangerous for you, our workers, and other hunters. It can also lead to outages and expensive repairs.

PRACTICE HUNTER SAFETY

- Never place a deer stand on a power pole.
- Never use electrical equipment for target practice.
- Always be certain of your target and what lies beyond it before you take the shot.
- Always treat your firearm as if it is loaded, keep the safety on, and keep your finger off the trigger and outside the guard until you are ready to shoot.
- Always tell someone where you will be hunting.
- Report any damage to electrical equipment you may come upon to DMEA immediately by calling 877-687-3632.



Learn more about hunter safety at cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/hunt.aspx.

MAKE REAL CHANGE With Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up is an easy and convenient way for DMEA members to make a real difference in their communities. Last year, DMEA gave back \$55,000 to help those in need.

Monthly electric bills of participating members are automatically rounded up to the nearest dollar, plus any additional amount they wish to designate. This money is deposited into the Operation Round Up fund and distributed monthly to local families in need and charitable organizations.

▶ Start rounding up today at
dmea.com/operation-round



DMEA *Destinations*

Seasonal adventures,
right in your backyard.

LOCAL HARVEST

Fall is in the air and it's that time of year: pumpkin patches, U-Pick produce, and all things Autumn!

Paonia

Orchard Valley Farms

Orchard Valley Farms is the go-to produce market in the North Fork. U-pick fresh cherries, peaches, pears, apples, pumpkins, and vegetables, or purchase from their Farm Market. Then enjoy a day by the river and samples from Black Bridge Wines.

Cedaredge

Uncle John's Garden

Orchards in Cedaredge are ripe with fresh produce. Pick peaches, blackberries, elderberries, grapes, plums, and apples to your heart's delight. There's a fruit for every palate at Uncle John's.

Montrose

Covered Bridge

The Covered Bridge Ranch in Montrose is fall fun at its finest! Bring the whole family to pick pumpkins, enjoy hayrides or the farm animal barrel train, get lost in the hay bale maze, and get their fingers sticky with s'mores!

What's your local go-to for fun? Submit your suggestions to communications@dmea.com

HOLIDAY *Office Closures*

Thanksgiving

**Closed Thursday, November 24
and Friday, November 25**

Christmas

**Closed Monday, December 26
and Tuesday, December 27**

New Year's

Closed Monday, January 2

MONTHLY *Reminders*

DMEA & Elevate's offices are closed the second Tuesday of the month starting at noon.

DMEA Board of Directors Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month starting at 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Agendas and meeting details are available at www.dmea.com/meeting-events.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION (DMEA) is dedicated to the principles of equal employment opportunity. DMEA prohibits unlawful discrimination against applicants or employees based on age 40 and over, race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability, military status, genetic information, or any other status protected by applicable state or local law. This prohibition includes unlawful harassment based on any of these protected classes. This policy applies to all employees, including managers, supervisors, co-workers, and nonemployees such as customers, clients, vendors, consultants, etc.

ADA and Religious Accommodation

DMEA will make reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with known disabilities and employees whose work requirements interfere with a religious belief unless doing so would result in an undue hardship to DMEA or cause a direct threat to health or safety.

Pregnancy Accommodation

Employees have the right to be free from discriminatory or unfair employment practices because of pregnancy, a health condition related to pregnancy, or the physical recovery from childbirth.

Employees who are otherwise qualified for a position may request a reasonable accommodation related to pregnancy, a health condition related to pregnancy or the physical recovery from childbirth. If an employee requests an accommodation, DMEA will engage in a timely, good-faith, and interactive process with the employee to determine whether there is an effective, reasonable accommodation that will enable the employee to perform the essential functions of her position. A reasonable accommodation will be provided unless it imposes an undue hardship on DMEA's business operations. DMEA may require that an employee provide a note from her health care provider detailing the medical advisability of the reasonable accommodation. Employees who have questions about this policy or who wish to request a reasonable accommodation under this policy should contact a DMEA Human Resources Representative.

DMEA will not deny employment opportunities or retaliate against an employee because of an employee's request for a reasonable accommodation related to pregnancy, a health condition related to pregnancy, or the physical recovery from childbirth. An employee will not be required to take leave or accept an accommodation that is unnecessary for the employee to perform the essential functions of the job.



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

Lead Office
21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
W; 8:00am-5:00pm

Contact Us:
1-877-687-3632 | www.dmea.com |    

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1 *Kyle Martinez, District 2*
Jacob Gray, District 3 *Ken Watson, District 4*
Kevin Williams, 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 USDA 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.instate@usda.gov.