

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

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SDCEA HOSTS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MANAGERS

BY PAUL ERICKSON CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



PAUL ERICKSON

Electric cooperative managers from the four-state region served by Tri-State Generation and Transmission met in July at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort for a meeting that was hosted by Sangre de Cristo Electric Association.

Tri-State supplies wholesale power to 43 electric cooperatives in Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska and Wyoming.

SDCEA purchases its wholesale power supply from Tri-State. Electric cooperatives like SDCEA enter long-term contracts with wholesale power suppliers so those wholesale suppliers may plan, finance and build the infrastructure necessary to deliver power over many years — for the foreseeable future. That infrastructure includes the development of power plants, renewable energy facilities, transmission lines and other infrastructure. Tri-State's forecasting creates a long-term plan to meet the power demands of consumers in the future.

Tri-State's newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer Duane Highley kicked off the two-day meeting with a report

addressing a number of items that have been at the forefront of energy and environmental news coverage about Tri-State in recent months.

Highley's remarks included a discussion of Tri-State's bid to be regulated federally in lieu of balancing a patchwork of different regulatory requirements from the four states in which it operates.

Other topics covered during the meeting included how long-term contracts may be changed so SDCEA may provide renewable energy through more of its own local projects. Battery storage, Tri-State's Responsible Cooperative Energy Plan, legislative processes, future environmental regulations and affordable clean energy were also addressed.

Solar Panel Options For SDCEA Consumers

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association consumers interested in cutting their power bill by installing solar panels, please call our office first. We want you to be an informed consumer before you buy a photovoltaic system, and we certainly want you to know all of your options and costs before you install a system.

We're happy to answer your questions. Know what you are buying before you buy. Please be wary of door-to-door or third-party salespeople using their interpretation of SDCEA's policies and information as a pitch for you to buy a product from them.

Call us at 719-395-2412 and ask to speak with our energy use advisor about your solar proposal. Or get in touch with us via email at communications@myelectric.coop.



Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Your Community Electric Cooperative



CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION MATCHING

We have some exciting news. Sangre de Cristo Electric Association wants to help you support charitable organizations. If you are a member of SDCEA, when you make a financial contribution to a qualified non-profit organization, SDCEA may match your donation.

You can find the program guidelines and the matching grant application on our website at myelectric.coop/community/matching-grant-program. The instructions for completing and submitting the application are included on the first page of the application.

If you have any questions, contact SDCEA at 719-395-2412 or send an email to communications@myelectric.coop.

2020 YOUTH TOUR SCHEDULED: APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE SOON

The 2020 Electric Cooperative Washington D.C. Youth Tour is scheduled for June 18-25, 2020.

Current high school sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for the all-expense-paid trip. Applications will be accepted beginning this fall. Watch for an update on SDCEA's website—myelectric.coop—when the application is made available.

See an Animal Stranded High Up on a Power Pole? Call Us!

My cat (or another animal) is stuck high on a power pole. Now what?

Never, ever attempt to climb the pole to reach the cat or attempt to lure the cat down by climbing the pole or using a ladder. Energized lines on a pole carry more than enough electricity to kill a person and the cat. Do not think you will avoid contact with electricity by only climbing part way or using something to coax the animal down. The ONLY person who should EVER go up a power pole under any circumstance is a trained lineworker.

Call Sangre de Cristo Electric's dispatch, 1-844-395-2412 or 719-395-2412 to report the issue. Dispatch will contact a line crew to respond to the situation. Once on scene, lineworkers will determine whether or not they can safely retrieve the cat. Lineworkers are highly-trained specialists who can assess the specific power configuration of the pole, which will be considered as part of a potential rescue plan.

The safety of our lineworkers is paramount in this situation. If a crew feels like they can safely retrieve the cat, they will. If they feel they cannot safely retrieve the cat, they will likely wait to take action.

Happily, the vast majority of cats on power poles make their way back down on

their own without help or injury. Most of the time a cat has been chased up a pole by a predator or another cat. The cat on the pole is agitated or scared. Crowds may further upset the cat, causing it to climb higher and put itself in more danger. Giving the cat time to calm down makes it more likely it will come down safely on its own.

The difficulty for pet owners can be waiting for the cat to come down, which can take minutes to hours to days. Understandably, people who love their pets grow increasingly worried about their animal as time goes by, but patience and communication with SDCEA lineworkers is key to a good resolution to the issue.

Why can't lineworkers just cut power to the pole, go up and get the cat?

Electrical lines are connected to other power lines. If one pole's power is cut, it impacts other services on that line. Cutting power to one line can impact nine, 100 or maybe even thousands of other people, depending on its characteristics.

Because people rely on power for everything from completing an important application or project on their computer, to running a business or for the delivery of life-saving oxygen or other essential medical services, this is not a simple response to a problem.

NEW PHONE/EMAIL

If you have changed your phone number or email address since taking service with Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, please update your information with us.

Go to our website, myelectric.coop to create an account with updated information, or update information if you already have an account.

You may also call us 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.

OUTAGES

Do you have an outage to report? Don't hesitate to call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412. A live operator will assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

DO NOT email your outage information or post your outage information on social media. SDCEA cannot monitor that information effectively, especially after hours. The only way to be sure we know you have an outage is to phone it in.

MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT POWER LINES

Have you ever wondered why a bird can sit on a live wire or what you should do if a power line is on the ground? Here are some questions and answers to some common misconceptions concerning power lines, birds on a wire and other conundrums:

Q: What do I do if I see a downed power line?

A: Vacate the area and call 911 to report it. Do not return to the area until you are given the go-ahead by authorities.

Q: Can I tell from looking or listening if a downed power line is still live?

A: Absolutely not. Although it's possible you could see or hear signs that the power line is live, a live wire may not spark or arc and it may not make any noise at all.

Q: Where might downed power lines be?

A: A downed power line might be in the street, ditch or field after a bad storm or car accident. It could also be lurking in flood-water or under debris, trees or other objects after a severe storm. Once a line is on the ground, it is not automatically dead, even if the power is off in your area. There's a good chance the line is still energized, which not only means you should not touch it, it also means the surrounding ground and any metal objects nearby could be energized and extremely dangerous, even deadly.

REBATES

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Inc. and its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated water heaters and Energy Star-rated appliances.

Want to learn more? Go to our website, myelectric.coop, click on Save Energy & Money and head to the rebates tab.



Q: Why might a power line be down or damaged?

A: A car accident may cause a line to be hanging down or on the ground; severe weather could damage a pole or line; or, in some cases, it's caused by another unforeseeable reason, such as a storm-damaged tree or hungry squirrel.

Q: Why can a bird sit on a power line and not be hurt? Doesn't that mean the line is insulated?

A: No. Lines are sometimes coated for protection against the elements but are still deadly on contact. A bird or other critter can sit on a power line because there is no path to ground. If the animal comes in contact with the utility pole or other grounded source, it will be electrocuted, just as a person would be under the same circumstances.

Q: Do different kinds of utility lines look different?

A: Perhaps, but, for the most part, the nonutility professional cannot know what kind of line it is and what it carries

— electricity, phone service, cable television and so on — just by looking. You also can't tell how much voltage it is carrying by its appearance.

Q: What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

A: Do not get out and do not try to drive over it. Call 911 and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If you smell gas or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump, landing on both feet (but don't touch the car at the same time) and do not walk, but rather shuffle away without lifting your feet.

Q: Can I help someone who is in an accident involving a downed power line?

A: No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so. Although our first instinct is often to help, a person running near an energized area could get electrocuted.

Contact Sangre de Cristo Electric Association at 719-395-2412 with any questions about downed lines. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

COLORADO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES SPONSOR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE AT STATE FAIR

More than \$500,000 went to rural young people who brought championship livestock to the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo in August. The annual Junior Livestock Sale, sponsored by Colorado's Electric Cooperatives, is the largest event of its kind in Colorado and the championship event for the state's 4-H and FFA youth. According to state fair officials, the 2019 sale included the record \$66,000 sale of the grand champion market beef raised by Shae Stone of Eaton.

The sale is sponsored each year by Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, *Colorado Country Life*, the Colorado Rural

Electric Association, the Colorado Rural Electric Member Services group, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and 18 other electric co-ops in Colorado. The young exhibitors who won champion; reserve champion; and first, second and third place in their livestock divisions have the opportunity to auction their animals at this sale. All proceeds from the sale go directly to the education funds of the youth exhibitors.

"The electric cooperatives in Colorado are honored to sponsor this event, especially since most of the exhibitors live in electric co-op territory," Paul Erickson, SDCEA CEO said.

For the last 39 years, gross sales have totaled more than \$10.8 million, all of which went directly to the agricultural youth who raised the animals.

This year's entrants in the sale from the SDCEA service territory included three representatives from Custer County: Benjamin Stafford, who entered a first-place market steer; Emma Rusk, who entered a second-place market steer; and Kenna Ingram, who entered a second-place middleweight blackface market lamb in the sale.



Benjamin Stafford with his first-place market steer.



Emma Rusk with her second-place market steer.



Kenna Ingram with her second-place middleweight blackface market lamb.

COO PAT BERNHARDT RETIRES



Dot and Pat Bernhardt.

Longtime employee Pat Bernhardt retired from Sangre de Cristo Electric Association at the end of the summer. Pat rose through the ranks at SDCEA, beginning his career as an apprentice lineman in the 1980s. In 2011, he became chief operations officer, the position from which he retired.

"Pat dedicated his entire career to the consumers of SDCEA. He took serving our consumers very seriously," Chief Executive Officer Paul Erickson said, noting Pat was a highly-trusted member of the management team. **"SDCEA is better for Pat having served it."**



MEMBERS ONLY

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association posts rates, policies, board meeting information, annual reports, board contacts and more for our consumer-members to access at any time. To view these items, create an account on our website at myelectric.coop. Sign in and find this information under the **Members Only** section. If you have any questions about how to access this information, call our office. 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.