

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress.” – Kofi Annan

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFO ABOUT THE STATUS OF MY ELECTRIC SERVICE?

BY MARK JOHNSTON GENERAL MANAGER

In Colorado’s high country, the avian population and cold weather systems (often marked by snow, ice and wind) can cause outages. This past winter and spring, a few such outages occurred in our neck of the woods.



Several of you raised the topic of power outages in our recent online survey.

One comment read: *“Please be more cognizant of the way power outages can occur in remote areas, like where we live, so they occur more rarely.”*

Rarity is our aim. Mountain Parks Electric crews inspect power lines and poles each year to maintain system integrity. MPE also has an extensive vegetation management program to mitigate “danger” trees — a tree that might come in contact with power lines due to high winds or heavy snow. And you can help us do even better by contacting us when you see trees that are coming close to power lines.

Kofi Annan, the Ghanian diplomat, one famously said, “Education is the premise of progress.” In practicing this principle, MPE has taken steps to help you better understand the real-time status of your electric service. Our website now displays a map (ebill.mpei.com/maps/OutageWebMap) that indicates the general area where power outages are occurring. It also provides an approximate number of consumer-members affected. Additional information about larger outages is also often provided on our Facebook page.

Another survey comment referenced outages with a more specific request: *“Send an alert to second homeowners when an outage affects their property.”*

I am happy to report that MPE now offers this option as well, through our free SmartHub app. SmartHub allows you to track your usage or pay a bill. And now, after our recent upgrade, it provides you with direct communication — a text or an email — notifying you when electric service is interrupted. To receive this service, you must download the app (see instructions in blue box at right), then select this service in the settings.

Although we can’t eliminate every outage, SmartHub will help you track them better than ever before.



MARK JOHNSTON

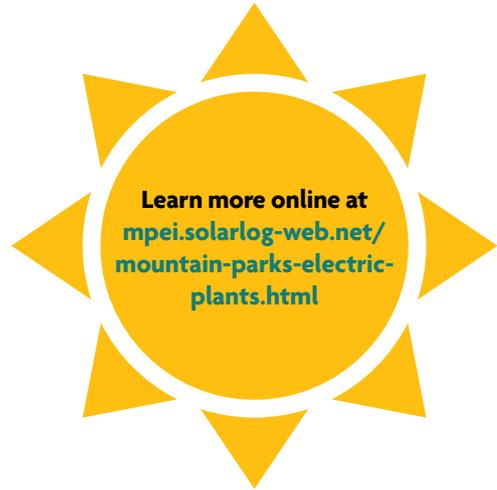
We also hope to interact with you next month, the old-fashioned way: in person. Last year, due to COVID restrictions, MPE was unable to host a traditional annual meeting. Instead, we conducted an online virtual town hall. This year on June 12, we hope you will join us at the Kremmling

fairgrounds for our first ever drive-in annual meeting. We will provide a free breakfast and goodie bags and draw names for prizes — eight quarters of beef and an electric lawn mower. The drive-in aspect will allow you to listen to our meeting reports simply by tuning in on your car radio. Now if that isn’t an old-fashioned way to get information, I don’t know what is. We hope to see you there.

How to set up notifications through SmartHub:

1. REGISTER/LOGIN to SMARTHUB (mpei.com/smarthub-instructions)
2. Select NOTIFICATIONS, MANAGE CONTACTS
3. Select EMAIL or PHONE contact
4. Enter the verification code (after you receive it), SAVE, ENTER your contact information (on the registration screen), then AGREE to the terms
5. Select MANAGE NOTIFICATIONS
6. Select notification preferences (review this section to see the available options); NOTE: Limit of one contact per notification
7. Select your contact from the DROP DOWN BOX ON THE RIGHT
8. Select SAVE SETTINGS
9. Select the next settings section and repeat the process (if needed)

Vitaliy Grabchenko, ACCT 1024638



How Much Power are MPE’s Fraser and Walden Solar Arrays Generating?

It’s been a little over a year since Mountain Parks Electric (MPE) brought its two commercial solar arrays online – one in Walden and one in Fraser. To date, cumulatively, the 3,600-panel arrays have generated more than 4 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. “That’s about \$300,000 worth of local green power that we generated locally,” said MPE General Manager Mark Johnston.

The arrays’ solar production offsets approximately 2,800 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, the equivalent of removing 600 gasoline-powered cars from the road.

“These projects are key additions to Mountain Parks Electric’s renewable portfolio,” said Johnston. “They increase the amount of green power we are delivering to our consumers.” MPE also purchases

renewable energy generated from the Granby Dam, the Town of Grand Lake’s micro-hydro recovery project and 200 local net-metered and large solar distributed generation projects.

Also noteworthy: The power cost savings from MPE’s large solar arrays increases over time. Similar to paying off a car loan, the annual operating costs of the solar arrays decrease after the initial investment is financed (in 2032). “Although cost savings for these projects are smaller in the first few years, over their 30-year expected life, we anticipate they will generate significant savings,” Johnston said. “This helps us manage power costs for our consumers while greening up the local power supply.” Ren Fengfeng, ACCT 1022576

WEST GRAND HIGH SCHOOL 2021 SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

MPE is a proud sponsor of local science fairs



Best Energy-Related Project: Ollie Bergman and Wyatt Shearer, *How Far Will Electricity Travel Through Salt Water?*



Best Overall Project: Wendy Eller, *Does Benford's Law Apply to Tap Dancing?*

MPE Helps Bring the First Electric School Bus to Colorado's High Country

In a growing number of communities, parents are driving the demand for electric school buses. They want their kids to ride in clean and quiet vehicles. Schools are beginning to respond, especially after learning that financial support for going electric is available.

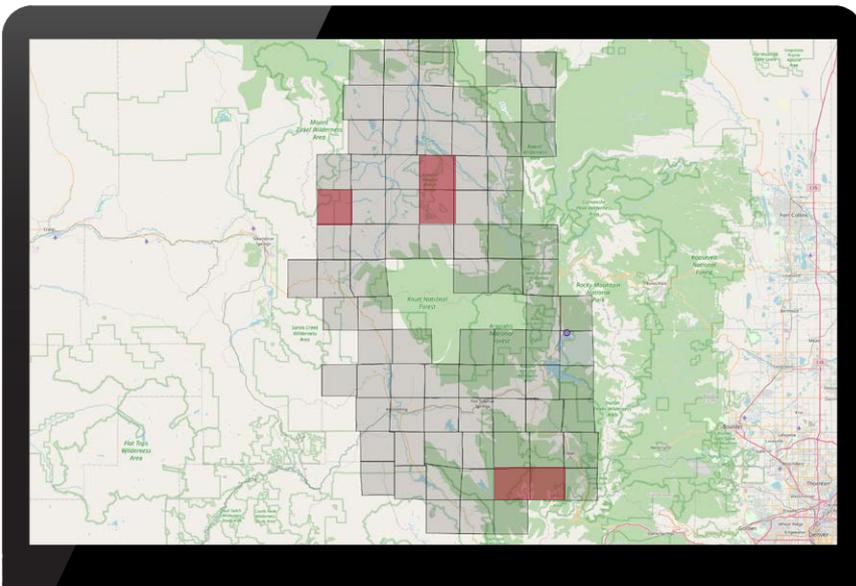
In Colorado, the state used its \$67.5 million Volkswagen settlement for electric and natural gas alternate-fuel projects, such as the new electric school bus at West Grand School District in Kremmling, the first of its kind in Colorado's high country. Mountain Parks Electric and its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, provided additional funding so the district received the bus at no cost. MPE's contribution did not come from retail electric rates, but from unclaimed patronage from past consumers.

"This electric bus is clearly a win for our community," said MPE General Manager Mark Johnston. "It means clean air and reduced operating costs for the school."

Mountain Parks Electric was delighted to financially contribute. We think this is the future of transportation."



Students and representatives from MPE, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, CREA and West Grand School District attend the ribbon cutting for the new, electric school bus.



Is the Power Out at My House?

Now you can access MPE's outage map using the URL below.

And to get even more information about your electric service by downloading MPE's free SmartHub app at www.mpei.com/smarthub-instructions.

ebill.mpei.com/maps/OutageWebMap



WAYS TO \$AVE

BY LINDSAY MCCANN
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE SUPERVISOR

TIME TO TURN OFF & SAVE Energy-Saving Tips

Before summer arrives, remember to turn off:

- Heat tape on your roof or pipes
- Electric space heaters
- Water tank heaters for livestock



Find Your Name Win \$5

If you find your name in this magazine, contact Mountain Parks Electric to receive a \$5 credit on your power bill. Winners must contact MPE within one month of the date of issue.



PET OF THE MONTH

JAX

Jax is a 3-year-old yellow Lab. He loves, loves, loves playing fetch but also likes hikes and swimming at the reservoir.
Owner: Tami Burkett

Email your pet photos and pet bio to rtaylor@mpei.com



Chef Brandon Biederman

Local Chef SPOTLIGHT

RESTAURANT: **DEBBIE'S DRIVE-IN**
663 W. Agate Ave.
Granby, CO 80446
www.debbiesdriveindiner.com
970-557-3370

HOURS: **Monday - Saturday:** 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS

When cooking at home, make sure beef is at room temperature before cooking it. This maximizes flavor!