

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2021



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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO
POWER ASSOCIATION IS
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

**OFFICES CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 6
IN OBSERVANCE OF
LABOR DAY**



OUR “LIGHT” BILLS

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO | JACKJ@SECPA.COM



JACK JOHNSTON

Through the many casual conversations I have around our communities, I still hear people referencing their “light” bill. Even before I was an electric utility manager, that reference stood out because my family always talked about our “electric” bill. Since joining SECPA, I’ve had the opportunity to hear first-hand stories about when the REA powered the first lightbulb in their home and, even though it was up to eight decades after that moment, the personal impact and emotion are still so vivid. From those shared memories, I now really enjoy hearing “light” mentioned because it reminds me so much of why SECPA has been such an important part of southeastern Colorado.

Nowadays, we use electricity, either directly or indirectly, almost all the time. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it’s easy to take it for granted. According to the Energy Information Administration, the typical U.S. household now uses more electricity than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it’s no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. It shows how far we’ve evolved from being just a “light” bill.

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home — appliances, water heater and HVAC system — to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than just the light switch we flip.

The demand for electricity is greater than ever before. At home, school and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing. Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, such as cable or other favorite items. However, that’s not true with electricity. Let’s take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the nationwide cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2% — but the cost of electricity only increased 1%. **In the case of SECPA, it’s been 0%!** Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value. So, the next time you’re enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity — it’s a necessity. That’s why we will continue working hard to power your life safely, reliably and affordably.

MEET THE LEADERSHIP SERIES CRAIG MCBRAIN CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Not all, but much of our business is somehow translated into numbers. Clearly some of the most important figures we generate are financial. We have a significant fiduciary responsibility to accurately account for the monetary and nonmonetary transactions of our operations. When you have both a

nonprofit cooperative and for-profit subsidiary, that responsibility is only greater. This means Craig has some of the most highly visible duties of the entire staff. For SECPA, he has plant and payable accountants to support the unique reporting requirements of both a cooperative and nonprofit business model. For SECOM, he is supported by an accounting supervisor and equivalent plant and payable accountants, which have more complex and numerous transactions along with everything related to tax liability status. Craig, himself, handles all the finance realms along with budget preparation, forecasting and being the principal liaison to our auditing firm. His knowledge and expertise is valuable in overall organizational decision-making.

Impressively, Craig began his electric cooperative career over 22 years



▲ Craig McBrain, Chief Financial Officer

ago as a fleet mechanic and then right-of-way maintenance technician (aka tree trimmer). While still working, he earned his B.S. in Accounting from Oklahoma State University, which led to his first accountant position and later a management role at Kay Electric. That led to his first CFO position at

Choctaw Electric before a larger CFO role at Central Electric. Along the way he also earned his M.B.A. from Cameron University. He is currently working toward becoming a certified public accountant. Prior to joining us, Craig had been a lifelong Oklahoman but spent quite a bit of time in Colorado due to his passion for hunting. His wife, Tiffany, is a teacher in the Swink School District and his daughters — Riley, Harper, Kinley — range from age 3 to 9 years old. The family enjoys camping, hiking and fishing together. Current and past hobbies include boating, old 4x4 restorations, ATVing and college sports. His favorite activity is watching his kids' sporting events. In just a short time, Craig has truly proven himself to be a highly-skilled subject matter expert and overall great contributor to our team. (WIN* Marvin Clark acct 312320000)

UNCLAIMED & UNCASHED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

Contact us if your name is listed. If you recognize a name, contact them and ask them to contact us at 719-384-2551.

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STEELE, EDWARD F	TECKLENBURG, FRANK	THORNTON, WILLIAM A	VIGIL, CHARLEY	WATKINS, EDNA	WHITE, DONNA	WINEGARNER, HERBERT L
STEELE, EDWARD F	TEEHEE, TOMMIE	THORNTON, WILLIAM A	VIGIL, LAURENCE	WATKINS, JAMES W	WHITE, ENOS	WINEGARNER, HOWARD C
STEELE, EDWARD F	TEETER, OPAL	THORNTON, WILLIAM A	VIGIL ESTATE, MARCUS	WATSON, ANNA	WHITE, EUGENE	WINEGARNER, VIRGIL
STEELE, EDWARD F	TEETER, OPAL	THORNTON, WILLIAM A	VILAS DINNETTE	WATSON, ELVIN	WHITE, LAWRENCE	WINKELBAUER, ALBERT J JR
STEELE, EDWARD F	TEETER, OPAL	THORNTON, WILLIAM A	VILAS FRIENDS CHURCH	WATSON, GEORGE	WHITE, OREN A	WINKELBAUER, BETTY L
STEELE, EDWARD F	TEETER, OPAL	THORNTON, WILLIAM A	VILAS GRAIN CO	WATSON, H K	WHITE, THURMANO	WINTERDOWD, W S
STEELE, EDWARD F	TEETER, OPAL	THORNTON, WILLIAM A	VILAS LIQUOR STORE	WATSON, J J M	WHITE, W J	WINTERS, FRANK C
STEELE, EDWARD F	TEETER, OPAL	THORNTON, WILLIAM A	TRUAX, JACK	WATSON, R B	WHITE COMMUNITY BLDG	WINTERS, GLEN
STEELE, EDWARD F	TEETER, OPAL	THORNTON, WILLIAM A		WATSON, ROY	WHITLEY, J C	

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WINTERS, LON	WOODARD, FRANK	WREN, LEATHA	WYCKOFF, HAROLD
WIRTH, W F	WOODARD, L R	WREN, LEROY	WYLES, AD
WISEMAN, BAIN W	WOODHOUSE, JESSE L	WREN, SHERLEA J	X Y RANCH CO
WISNER, B A	WOODRING, E J	WRIGHT, CARL	YAGAMI, MARY
WISSEL, PAUL	WOODROW SCHOOL	WRIGHT, CHARLES A	YAGAMI, MITSUO
WISTHOFF, GEORGE F	DIST 018	WRIGHT, CLARENCE L	YAGAMI, T
WITT, HENRY J SR	WOODS, DOROTHYS	WRIGHT, D E	YOCAM, CLARENCE B
WITTMAN, HOWARD L	WOODSON, ETHEL	WRIGHT, D H U	YODER, HARLEY B
WOHLFORD, A E	WOOKEY, DALE E	WRIGHT, G S	YOUNG, AL
WOLF, MELVIN	WOOKEY ESTATE, GEORGE H	WRIGHT, GLENN	YOUNG, BRUCE
WOLF, RAY	WOOLEY, RALPH	WRIGHT, JESS M	YOUNG, OTTO D
WOLLERT, DAVID R	WOOLEY, FRED	WRIGHT, JOE J	YOUNGBLOOD, C F
WOLLERT, REINERT JR	WOOLEY ESTATE, DOYLE	WRIGHT, LELA L	YOUNGMAN, GENE
WOLLERT, REINHART SR	WOOLUM, WAYNE	WRIGHT, NOY	YOUNGMAN, GEO
WOLLERT, RUBEN	WORM, A J	WRIGHT, R F	ZAMORA, JOE
WOLLERT, RUBEN R	WORM, A J JR	WRIGHT, ROY	ZEIGLER, LEWIS
WOLLERT, SAM	WORSTER, ERNEST J	WRIGHT, S E	ZEPHYR ELEC AND
WOMACK, H K	WRAY, CECIL I	WRIGHT, T R	HOWRE CO
WOMACK, LA VERNE	WREN, CLYDE	WRIGHT, THELMA T	ZIMMERMAN, WM W
WOMACK, NELA B	WREN, ED D	WUNSCH, HENRY	ZWICK, RAY
WOMACK, TOML	WREN, JIMMIE	WUNSCH BROTHERS	ZYGMUNT, PAUL

FARMERS: Rest Up for Harvest Safety

For many farmers, fall requires long days in the field and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible, combined with fatigue and looming deadlines, increases the risk of injury. In fact, most injuries occur during the spring and fall when stress and fatigue are common among farmers.

The safety and health of workers, including making time for sleep, should be a priority when considering a farm's productivity, according to Josie Rudolphi, University of Illinois Extension associate research scientist. "Rushing and cutting corners can lead to injury, which no one has time for, especially during the harvest," Rudolphi says.

Rudolphi grew up on a farm and understands the pressures of harvest season. She says that getting proper rest can make a huge difference in staying safe, but during the time crunch of harvest season, farmers sacrifice sleep to work late into the night.

"Sleep deficiency has been associated with increased injury, reduced reaction time and reduced concentration," Rudolphi says, "all of which could impact health and safety, as well as productivity."

The demands of harvest are stressful, and a lack of sleep can intensify that and lead to errors in the fields or even on the roads.

To improve sleep, Rudolphi advises farmers to go to bed and wake up at regular times when possible. They can use rainy days to catch up on sleep. Other sleep health tips include:

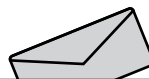
- Create a bedroom environment that encourages sleep; keep it quiet, dark and cool.
- Limit electronic device use.
- Avoid large meals, caffeine and alcohol before bedtime.

In addition to improving sleep, managing stress is an important component to injury prevention, health and safety, according to Rudolphi. "By using the 'Four A' Method of avoid (planning ahead), adapt (changing expectations), alter (changing the situation when you can) and accept (acknowledging that a situation is what it is), farmers can successfully manage the stress of long hours and unpredictability," she adds.

"FOUR A" METHOD TO MANAGE STRESS:

- **AVOID** (plan ahead)
- **ADAPT** (change expectations)
- **ALTER** (change a situation when you can)
- **ACCEPT** (realize a situation is what it is)

For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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