

Energy

WISE



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Notables: Telluride Surcharge to Drop by 50%



Kevin Ritter
SMPA General Manager

It's not often that I get to announce a decrease on your electric bills, but if all goes as planned, as of November 1, 2014 members in the Telluride region who are subject to the Nucla-Telluride transmission line surcharge will see a decrease in the surcharge from 7.474% to 3.5%. I've discussed the Nucla-Telluride transmission line many times in this newsletter. You'll remember that after years of dispute and litigation we were able to move forward with project through the true spirit of cooperation.

SMPA, the towns of Telluride and Mountain Village, San Miguel County, and the Coalition of Concerned San Miguel County Homeowners worked together to move the project forward. Telluride and Mountain Village passed ordinances authorizing a surcharge on SMPA electric bills in order to provide funding for placing a portion of the project underground. San Miguel County passed a similar resolution. This resolved the litigation between all involved parties, including the San Miguel County Board of County Commissioners, the Coalition, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Tri-State, and SMPA.

As a result, members in the greater Telluride region began paying a 7.474% surcharge on their electric bills each month. The surcharge is assessed as a percent of revenue of a member's total monthly bill. Construction on the Nucla-Telluride transmission line upgrade took approximately three years and concluded last summer. During that time, we were collecting the surcharge and holding it in an escrow account. In all, \$3,475,583.06 was collected.

Those funds were used to pay down the capital cost of the project prior to obtaining long-term financing. It was initially estimated that the member surcharge would finance approximately a \$10 million loan at 8.19% interest. But after finalizing all of the project's costs and paying down the capital, only a \$7.5 million loan was needed at 3.217% interest. These reduced numbers allowed SMPA to reduce the surcharge percentage. We'll continue to pay down the principle of that loan when excess surcharge funds are collected due to an increase in SMPA revenue – the ultimate goal being to pay the debt off early.

The surcharge area includes 5,767 accounts in Telluride, Mountain Village, Ophir, Sawpit, and eastern portions of San Miguel County from the top of Lizard Head Pass through Trout Lake/San Bernardo area, the Telluride region and down valley through Placerville to Specie Creek Bridge, Illium Valley and Specie, Wilson, and Sunshine mesas.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY 101

Downed power lines, stray wires, and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay clear of fallen power lines and damaged areas that could hide a hazard.

Contact Us:

Nucla
170 W. 10th Ave.
P.O. Box 817
Nucla, CO 81424
(970) 864-7311
Monday - Thursday; 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Toll Free: 1-877-864-7311

Ridgway
720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Tuesday - Friday; 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

www.smpa.com

In the case of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you can automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.

Questions or comments?

Contact:
Becky Mashburn
Communications Executive
(970) 626-5549 ext. 212
energywise@smpa.com



San Miguel Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



ABOUT THE LINE

The upgraded 115kV line replaced an aging and too small 69kV line. It provides more capacity, more power, and more backup support for the greater Telluride region.

The 50-mile line transmits electricity from the Nucla substation to the Sunshine substation near Telluride. Approximately 10 miles of the new line was placed underground on Specie and Wilson mesas.

In this photo, the conduit for the new line is being placed and cemented in the underground trench on Specie Mesa.

High Voltage Safety Demo Available for Public Education

Did you know that San Miguel Power has a traveling high voltage electricity safety demonstration? We can provide educational safety programs for all ages, from kindergarten classes to first responders. And we'll do it free of charge.

What's our goal? To educate our members and keep them safe! Electricity has become such an essential part of our daily lives that it is easy to forget about the risks it can pose. Do you know what to do if you're in a car accident involving a power pole? Do you know how electrical burns differ from regular burns? Do you know why ground circuit fault interrupter (GCFI) outlets are used in bathrooms and kitchens?

These are just a few of the safety items we can cover in our demonstration, but it can also be tailored for specific age groups or organizations. Contact us today to schedule training for your employees, your coworkers, or your classroom. Contact Paul Enstrom, (970) 864-7133 ext. 119, penstrom@smpa.com.



Above: Using a grapefruit to represent the head and a hot dog to represent the heart, SMPA's High Voltage Safety Demonstration simulates the effects on the human body when it comes in contact with a power line.

Renewable Rebate Fund Replenished with \$100K

San Miguel Power's popular renewable rebate fund again sold out early this year, but the co-op has managed to replenish the fund with \$100,000. SMPA leveraged \$50,000 from their member-supported renewable energy fund, also called the Green Fund, to secure a matching \$50,000 grant from the Clean Energy Collective (CEC). The additional rebate funds are available to both residential and commercial members, with CEC's portion dedicated to purchases in the SMPA Community Solar Array. Funds will go quickly. Reserve your rebate today!

2014 RENEWABLE ENERGY REBATES:

- Solar PV Residential: \$0.75 per watt up to 3kW or \$2,250
- Solar PV Commercial: \$0.75 per watt up to 10kW or \$7,500
- Small Wind Residential: \$0.75 per watt up to 3kW or \$2,250
- Solar Domestic Hot Water - Electric Backup: \$1,500

For more information about SMPA's renewable energy or efficiency rebates visit www.smpa.com or contact the co-op at rebates@smpa.com.

WHAT IS THE RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND?

SMPA's renewable energy fund is supported through the co-op's Green Cents and Green Blocks programs in which members voluntarily participate by rounding up their bill or purchasing renewable energy offsets. The dollars collected through these programs are deposited directly into the renewable energy fund and are used for SMPA's renewable rebate program and other local energy projects. All this is done without impacting SMPA's electricity rates, because renewable energy program costs are kept separate from the co-op's general operating expenses.

We go together like
coffee
 AND
donuts

Co-ops and their members that is!
 Join us to celebrate National
 Cooperative Month during our

member
 APPRECIATION DAYS

Stop in for free baked goods,
 refreshments and a coffee mug*.

Oct. 7, 8 & 9

8:00am - 4:00pm
 SMPA offices in Ridgway & Nucla

**One mug per member, while supplies last.*



Have you liked us on Facebook yet?
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower