

POWERLINES

YOUR CO-OP MEMBER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2007

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DMEA Declines Tri-State Contract Extension

Dan McClendon, General Manager

You may have already seen news coverage regarding

regarding the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board's vote not to sign a contract extension requested by Tri-State Generation and Transmission, our wholesale power provider. Tri-State asked for a 10-year extension of the current all-requirements wholesale power contract with DMEA, continuing its provisions from 2040-2050.

Our board's unanimous vote at their December 19, 2006, meeting not to sign this extension was made in the belief and considered judgment that Tri-State's request was not in the best interests of DMEA's member-owners.

As our board noted in a press release explaining their decision, Tri-State has been an excellent provider of reliable wholesale power over the years. We expect Tri-State to remain so through the duration of the current contract. Tri-State has many excellent employees and dedicated directors. However, our vision of how the energy industry will change by 2040 differs substantially from their current board's view.

DMEA believes there are growing opportunities to produce a significant portion of the

energy we'll need by 2040 locally. Whenever economically feasible, we believe it's in our members' interests to generate electricity and create jobs and income here in our own service territory.

We've been encouraging Tri-State to allow its member cooperatives more flexibility to develop local power generation from renew-

"...we believe it's in our members' interests to generate electricity and create jobs and income here in our own service territory."

able sources, to pursue a greater mix of renewable energy resources, and to aggressively promote energy efficiency programs. The DMEA board remains open to working with Tri-State in the hope of finding common ground.

Tri-State is going down a path of constructing increasingly expensive, massive coal-fired power plants with an estimated price tag of \$5 billion. In a world of increasing pressure on carbon emissions, new technologies that can save large amounts of electricity, and declining renewable energy costs trends, we see Tri-State's path as extremely risky.

(cont'd. on page 2)

DMEA Declines Tri-State Contract Extension

(cont'd. from page 1)

Please also note that much of the perceived need for additional, costly coal-fired power plants is being driven by the very profitable natural gas industry. Large electric-powered compressors used to transport natural gas from the Rockies to lucrative east and west coast markets are driving a large component of the planned new electric generating capacity by Tri-State.

DMEA does not feel it equitable for residential, small commercial, and other ratepayers to bear the cost of developing electric generating capacity for the very profitable natural gas industry. The natural gas industry should bear the cost and risk of generating the power they require.

Learn more about this issue by visiting our web site, www.dmea.com.

I encourage all DMEA members to learn more about this issue by visiting our web site, www.dmea.com, where we've posted a "Question and Answer Sheet" to provide additional details on DMEA's decision regarding the all-requirements contract with Tri-State.

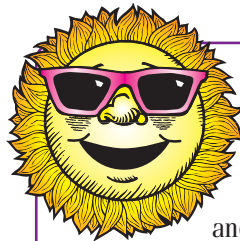
WIN* Ward Creek, Cedaredge



Proposed Discounted Capital Credit Policy

"I will encourage my friends and associates to vote for a discounted capital credits policy. I think it would benefit people who need their money sooner rather than later. It's the right thing to do."

- Don Stoutt, Montrose



Important Note for "Time-of-Use" Customers!

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed the starting and ending dates of daylight-saving time from 2007 onward. To incorporate the changes in starting/ending time into your meter, DMEA will modify your meter by March 10, 2007.

Please also note that you will need to modify any timers that govern your electric use to match the new daylight-saving hours. For more information go to "*Shedding Some Light on Daylight-Saving Time Changes*" at www.dmea.com.



Mark Your Calendars for our Annual Meeting - Thursday, June 14th

DMEA's annual meeting has been set for Thursday, June 14, 2007, coinciding with Flag Day.

Registration and voting take place from 8-9 a.m.; the business meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

Board Election: Eligible members residing in DMEA districts 1, 2, and 3 can run for the board in 2007. **Details: 240-1245 or 874-8081x245.**



Learn How to Lower Your Home Heating Bills!

Architect Doug Rye Returns to the Western Slope March 16 and 17!

Architect Doug Rye is a nationally acclaimed energy efficiency expert helping people from New York to L.A. lower their utility bills by as much as 50 percent. Doug, known nationally as the *"The King of Caulk and Talk"* due to the success of his syndicated radio talk show, is heard Saturday mornings from 8-9 a.m. on KNZZ Newsradio1100.

Doug has agreed to present two seminars for Delta-Montrose electric Association (DMEA) members and guests in March:

Friday, March 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Seminar for architects, builders, contractors, developers, and other building industry professionals.

Co-sponsored by the Homebuilders Association of Northwestern Colorado (HBA), this in-depth seminar is designed to help industry professionals build more comfortable, energy efficient homes for the growing number

of home buyers concerned about high energy bills.

Location: The Bridges Golf and Country Club, 2500 Bridges Drive, Montrose, CO. Cost: \$99 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, refreshments). Discount for HBA members and early bird registrants. Details: 240-1273.

Saturday, March 17, 3-5 p.m.: Seminar for homeowners

What questions should you ask your contractor if you're building a new home in 2007? Doug can help you save thousands of dollars on your home's operating costs. You'll be much more comfortable too!

Doug also teaches about home energy improvements in your existing home that can "pay for themselves" in a very entertaining, humorous style.

Location: Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue, Delta, CO. Directions available at both DMEA offices. Details: 240-1273.



ENERGY STAR® Tip: Make Sure Your Ducts are Sealed Properly!

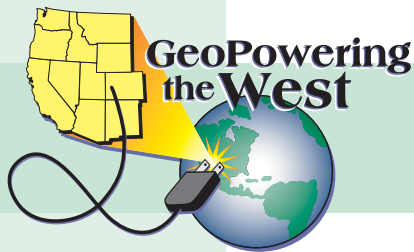
In houses with forced-air heating and cooling systems, ducts are used to distribute conditioned air throughout the house. In a typical house, however, about 20 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks and poorly sealed connections. The result is higher utility bills and difficulty keeping the house comfortable, no matter how the thermostat is set.

Because some ducts are concealed in walls and between floors, repairing them can be difficult. However,

exposed ducts in attics, basements, crawlspaces, and garages can be repaired by sealing the leaks with duct sealant (also called duct mastic). In addition, insulating ducts that run through spaces that get hot in summer or cold in winter (like attics, garages, or crawlspaces) can save significant energy.

For more ways to save energy and money, go to www.energystar.gov or call DMEA's Energy Services Department at 249-4572 or 874-8081.

WIN* Jill Lesperance, Montrose



DMEA Helps Colorado Plug Into Renewable Earth Energy

Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), working under contract to the **Governor's Office of Energy Management (OEMC)** through funding provided by the **US Department of Energy**, is putting together a working group to better coordinate the exploration and development of Colorado's geothermal energy potential. Industry leaders, state and federal government officials, utilities, public advocacy groups, and other interested persons are invited to participate.

The new working group will

address topics on how to use the Earth's energy including:

- *producing electricity from steam*
- *drying farm products like grains*
- *heating greenhouses to grow food and flowers*
- *heating water for aquaculture purposes*
- *using ground-coupled heat pumps to heat and cool buildings (GeoExchange)*

The working group will appoint a

steering committee with the responsibility of developing a strategic plan for the OEMC detailing how to best research, develop, and utilize this vast renewable energy resource for the benefit of Colorado's citizens.

Geothermal energy is totally renewable and produces no pollution or greenhouse gases. DMEA is proud to play an important role in these exciting energy technologies.

If you are interested in participating in the **"Geo-Powering the West - Colorado State Working Group,"** contact **Mike Rubala** at **901-1070** or via e-mail, mike.rubala@dmea.com.

DMEA Supports "The Plan for Colorado's New Energy Future"

"The time has come for Colorado to put its technological know-how and natural advantages to work to create a new energy future. By investing in renewable energy such as solar, wind, biofuels, and energy efficiency measures, we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil, reinvigorate our economy, create good new jobs, protect consumers, and protect our environment."

DMEA is the first electric co-op in Colorado to endorse this plan

explained in detail at www.environmentcolorado.org.

"The Plan for Colorado's New Energy Future" is one of several topics presented at the **"Renewable Energy for Rural Prosperity"** conference DMEA will host on March 8, 2007; schedule below:

"Renewable Energy for Rural Prosperity"

8:30 a.m.-noon

Topics to include:

- the "25x'25 Initiative"

- "The Plan for Colorado's Energy Future"
- "Renewable Energy Development Across the West"
- "Green Heat"

Fueling with Biodiesel, Pumping Up the Rural Economy

1:30-4:30 p.m.

Both of these free seminars will be held at DMEA's Montrose building, 11925 6300 Rd. Space is limited. Call 249-4572 or 874-8081 to register and ensure seating availability.

home cookin'



Best Ever Vanilla Caramels

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1/2 cup condensed milk
- 1/4 cup cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix together all the ingredients, except the vanilla. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly. Mixture will reach the consistency of a chewy, soft ball. Pour mixture into pan, flatten, and allow it to cool. Cut into one-inch squares. Enjoy!

- Jeanne Cooper, Montrose, CO

Pickled Pumpkin

- 1 medium pumpkin, peeled and cut into 3/4 - 1 inch cubes
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1-1 1/2 cups sugar
- Several cinnamon sticks
- 1 tablespoon whole cloves

In a large pot, combine the vinegar, sugar, cinnamon and cloves. Cook the pumpkin cubes in this broth on low heat until pumpkin is "glassy" - neither raw nor mushy, but with a bit of a crunch. Don't crowd the cubes; stir occasionally. Fill glass jars with pumpkin and sauce. Let marinate for a couple of weeks in refrigerator.

- Catherine Isabel, Montrose, CO



Pecan Pie

- 1 nine-inch unbaked pie shell
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 3 eggs
- 1 12-ounce jar Smuckers caramel topping
- 1 1/2 cup pecan halves

In a large mixing bowl beat eggs and then add sugar. Stir until dissolved. Stir in caramel topping and butter. Fold in pecans. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes. Cool completely before serving.

- Becky Kiefer, Hotchkiss, CO

bright ideas

Use bacon grease on your mousetraps' bait holders. We used to use pieces of raw bacon, but the mice often managed to get the bacon before the mousetrap caught them. We started using bacon grease in our traps and have caught about eight mice this month.

- Al and Ann Soehrmann, Eckert, CO

If you find your coffee is bitter, just add a sprinkle of cinnamon on the coffee grounds before you brew it. Makes all the difference in the world.

- Melba Paul, Montrose, CO

To keep your mushrooms fresh, put the package of mushrooms in a brown paper sack and store it in the refrigerator. The mushrooms keep much fresher and longer that way.

- Bess Sprankle, Montrose, CO

WIN* Everett Webb, Hotchkiss

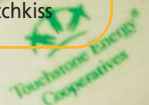


Win a Small Appliance!

Find Your Name (Win* name, city) in this newsletter, or send your favorite recipe or bright idea (include your name and city) to:

**DMEA Newsletter • P.O. Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402
or e-mail ryan.henn@dmea.com**

When your name is selected, or your recipe/bright idea is used, you win a small appliance! Call 249-4572 or 874-8081.





Touchstone Energy Co-ops' Scholarships Brighten Future For New Grads

Three Touchstone Energy cooperatives – **Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative** – are once again

offering scholarships to local students.

Through DMEA's *Unclaimed Capital Credits Fund*, there are a number of \$1,000 scholarships available to students including:

- *One for a graduate from each area high school*
- *One per county for non-traditional schools such as home school, Christian Academy, VISION, VISTA, and charter schools*
- *One each directly to Mesa State College's Montrose Campus and the Delta-Montrose Technical College to be awarded according to their respective criteria*

In addition, Tri-State and Basin Electric Power offer three additional scholarships for local students.

Students must be enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in a college, university or vocational/technical school. All schools must be accredited, and courses of study can be two or four-year programs. Economic need will be taken into consideration for non-traditional school scholarships.

Applicants must be citizens of the U.S. They must also be DMEA members or dependents of DMEA member families.

Application packets are available at all six high school guidance offices in Montrose and Delta counties and at either of DMEA's offices located at 21191 H 75 Road in Read and 11925 6300 Road in Montrose.

February 23, 2007 is the deadline for DMEA, Tri-State, and Basin Electric scholarship applications to be turned in to high school guidance counselors and for applications from non-traditional schools or current college students to be returned to either DMEA office.

Additionally, the **Rocky Mountain Electrical League (RMEL)**

Foundation, a utility service organization with members in several western states, offers scholarships. While separate from DMEA's review process, applications and instructions for submitting them directly to RMEL are included with application packets.

For additional information, or to request an application packet by mail, please contact **Ryan Henn** at **240-1210** or **874-8081x210** or via e-mail to **ryan.henn@dmea.com**.

DMEA Supports 4-H Fundraiser

DMEA was a proud supporter of the Montrose 4-H Foundation's "4-H Showcase" fund-raiser. DMEA donated \$300 to help ensure the event's success.

DMEA, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is committed to the community it serves.



Photo: 4-H Foundation Chair-elect Janelle Hollister (far left), Tri-River Area Youth Extension agent Trent Hollister (left), board members J.R. Jones (right), and Glen Jones (far right) are welcomed to DMEA's Montrose office by Ryan Henn (center), DMEA public relations administrator.

photo of meter reader on cover courtesy of NH Electric Co-op/Studio One ©2001

DMEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Paul Gottlieb, District #1; Ed Marston, District #2; Charles Klaseen, District #3; Gary Richardson, District #4; Brent Hines, District #5; Marshall Collins, District #6; Les Renfrow, District #7; Ken Norris, District #8; Nancy Hovde, District #9, At Large

BOARD MEETINGS: DMEA Board Meetings are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend.

Call 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times and locations.

DMEA MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 910 Montrose, CO 81402 • **WEBSITE:** WWW.DMEA.COM

LOCATIONS: 11925 6300 Road, Montrose - (970) 249-4572 • 21191 H75 Road, Delta - (970) 874-8081

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plugging into our communities