

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2022



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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**



NEW WAYS TO USE ELECTRICITY

BY KEVIN BRANDON CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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KEVIN BRANDON

If you listen carefully, you can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power, coupled with decreasing costs, are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter, better for the environment, and often less expensive to operate, especially now that gas prices have risen so dramatically.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether you have a traditional electric stove or an induction cooktop, both are significantly more efficient than a gas appliance. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy. Gas cooktops are only 32% efficient. Resistance heating cooktops are 75% efficient. Electric induction stoves, which cook food without a flame, reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove.

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer than in the past and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their

most popular products including drills, saws, sanders and other tools. In addition to standard offerings, companies offer a wider array of specialty tools that plug in such as power inverters, air inflators and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League, notes that, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited: electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

"There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes — even airplanes and boats," Dennis says. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

A case in point is the increased use of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emission lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance; often the biggest task is keeping tools charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can, which is something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon,

autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces. WIN* Gary Aughenbaugh acct 134201.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increased renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact. Quite a hat trick: improving efficiency, quality of life and helping the environment.

SECPA offices closed July 4
in observance of
Independence Day

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YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill. **Last month's winner was Marki Laughlin.**

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Make sure that any lighting equipment in your pool is up to code and regularly examined by a professional. To change or repair a light, ensure the electricity to the pool is first turned off at the circuit breaker.

*If you are in the water and feel electric current, which can cause a tingling sensation, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. **Do not use a metal ladder to exit the pool.***

*Remember, water and electricity are a dangerous mix, even outside the pool. **Never touch any electrical appliances or outlets when you are wet or standing in water.***

Learn more at

CONGRATULATIONS 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

SECPA Scholarships



ANNA BECKETT
McClave High School
Parents: Shaun & Terri Beckett



ROCHELLE CASEY
Walsh High School
Parents: Donnie & Maegen Casey

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Scholarships



MAGGIE CHASE
McClave High School
Parents: Del & Lori Chase



RHEALIE RITTGERS
Eads High School
Parents: Robert & Jackie Rittgers



CONNOR FRANTZ
Rocky Ford High school
Parents: Alan & Peggy Frantz



TRENT JOHNSTON
La Junta High School
Parents: Todd & Jennifer Johnston



KADENCE KUNSELMAN
Walsh High School
Parents: Cameron & Kristi Kunselman



JAMI QUICK
Pritchett High School
Parents: J.J. & Bobbi Quick



KYRA SHERIDAN
Eads High School
Parents: Casey & Lindsey Sheridan



TY WILSON
Eads High School
Parents: Jay & Sharon Wilson



ALEA WITTLER
Vilas High School
Parents: John & Trina Wittler



JUSTIN WRIGHT
Walsh High School
Parents: Truman & Angie Wright



SAFETY TIPS FOR BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE STORM

BY ABBY BERRY

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes — they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds of over 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That’s why it’s so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.

Before the Storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, such as a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: When you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate — having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items such as water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a first-aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts, either on the TV, your smartphone, or weather radio, and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials such as blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and only texting others to let them know you are safe.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property.

Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

2021 SECPA FINAL FINANCIALS		
CONDENSED OPERATING STATEMENT		
	2021	2020
OPERATING REVENUES	\$35,115,614	\$34,255,576
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Power Cost	\$20,289,383	\$20,514,846
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	\$5,410,349	\$4,847,922
Customer Expenses	\$837,515	\$876,053
Administrative & General Expenses	\$2,328,048	\$2,051,826
Depreciation	\$3,958,505	\$3,701,965
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$32,823,800	\$31,992,612
MARGINS		
Margins from Operations	\$2,291,814	\$2,262,964
Non-Operating Margins (Expense)	\$345,404	\$(1,004,845)
Capital Credits from Other Org.	\$682,763	\$738,391
Subsidiary Income (Loss)	\$1,002,787	\$(70,292)
NET MARGINS	\$4,322,768	\$1,926,218
2021 CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET		
	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Total Utility Plant	\$124,349,836	\$121,908,897
Less: Accumulated Depr.	\$(55,846,553)	\$(53,731,864)
Net Utility Plant	\$68,503,283	\$68,177,033
Other Assets	\$34,826,361	\$33,379,329
Current Assets	\$5,321,688	\$5,556,082
TOTAL ASSETS	\$108,651,332	\$107,112,444
Member's Equity	\$62,392,988	\$58,166,966
Long-Term Debt	\$40,314,029	\$42,686,920
Current Liabilities	\$5,880,694	\$6,258,558
Other Liabilities	\$63,621	\$-
TOTAL LIABILITIES & MEMBER'S EQUITY	\$108,651,332	\$107,112,444