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# NEWS

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## **LPEA Announces Graham Smith Appointed Interim CEO**

DURANGO, CO – La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) announces the appointment of Graham Smith as the interim CEO to replace Jessica Matlock, who has accepted the CEO position at PNGC Power, after serving almost five years as LPEA’s CEO. This change will be effective after Matlock leaves on March 16, 2024.

Smith, who serves as LPEA's General Counsel, was appointed by the LPEA Board of Directors and steps into this dual role with much experience and a deep understanding of the current opportunities and challenges the cooperative is facing.

"We are proud that LPEA’s leadership team can rise to the challenge and support the Board of Directors in this time of change," said Ted Compton, Board President of LPEA. "Graham is the obvious choice because he currently partners closely with Jessica on all decisions and strategy and will create a consistent and smooth transition."

As interim CEO, Smith will work closely with LPEA's Board of Directors and leadership team to ensure continuity of operations and strategic planning.

"Stepping into the role of interim CEO is both a privilege and a responsibility. I am deeply committed to guiding LPEA through this transitional period."

The LPEA Board of Directors will conduct a comprehensive, nationwide search for a permanent CEO.

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### **About LPEA**

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata

and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 36,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (97) 247-5786 or visit [lpea.coop](http://lpea.coop).