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MEDIA ADVISORY

Helicopter Operations Scheduled Near Purgatory Ski Resort as Part of LPEA Reliability Project

Durango, CO – (July 1, 2025) - La Plata Electric Association, (LPEA) is informing the public about an upcoming project in the Silver Pick area near Purgatory Ski Resort, scheduled to begin construction in July. This work involves installing new poles and wire to improve reliability for LPEA members in this area, especially during high wind events. We anticipate this phase of the project to last approximately four weeks.

WHAT:

LPEA will begin infrastructure upgrades in the Silver Pick area near Purgatory Ski Resort in July. The project involves installing new electric poles and wire to improve reliability for local members—especially during high-wind events.

A critical phase of this project includes **helicopter operations** to set electric service poles.

WHEN:

- **Primary Dates:** July 7 or 8 and July 23 or 24 (weather dependent)
- **Duration:** Approximately 3–4 hours each day

WHERE:

- Silver Pick area near Purgatory Ski Resort

DETAILS:

- Helicopter crews will be flying at **low altitudes** during operations.
- Temporary noise increases and potential **brief traffic disruptions** are expected.
- Crews and equipment will be active throughout the area during the month-long construction period.

SAFETY ADVISORY FOR RESIDENTS:

- Remain indoors during helicopter operations when possible
- Supervise children and pets
- Stay clear of helicopters and work zones

Residents will receive **72 hours advance notice** of any planned power outages.

NOTE: Utility locate flags and markings will be placed in advance and residents are asked **not to remove them**, as this may delay project progress.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit: [Neighborhood Project webpage](#)
- Email: memberservices@lpea.coop
- Call: (970) 247-5786 | Monday–Thursday, 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

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About LPEA

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta counties, 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 37,300 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.