



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LPEA Promotes Dan Harms, a Longtime Durango Resident, to Chief Operating Officer

Durango, Colo. (February 2, 2026)— La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) today announced the promotion of Dan Harms, P.E., to Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective February 2, 2026. Harms brings more than 30 years of experience at LPEA, beginning his career as an engineering intern and advancing through technical and executive leadership roles.

Harms joined LPEA in 1990 after earning a degree in electrical engineering from Colorado State University. He later became a staff engineer, building a deep technical foundation before moving into senior leadership. His career spans nearly every aspect of LPEA’s operations, giving him comprehensive institutional knowledge and a reputation for steady, trusted leadership.

“Dan’s promotion reflects his operational expertise and his commitment to cooperative values,” said LPEA CEO Chris Hansen. “He has played a critical role in our power supply transition and understands this organization at every level, which will be invaluable as LPEA continues to evolve.”

Most recently, Harms served as Chief Strategy Officer, where he oversaw power system planning and engineering, secured power supply contracts, led rate design, and prepared LPEA for participation in a regional transmission organization, Southwest Power Pool (SPP). He also oversaw the Sunnyside Community Solar program, expanding access to locally generated renewable energy for LPEA members.

As Chief Operating Officer, Harms will oversee LPEA’s operational departments, with a focus on safety, reliability, and execution of strategic priorities in a rapidly changing energy environment.

A Durango resident since 1986, Harms was a longstanding member of local search and rescue efforts, has been involved in youth STEM programs including LEGO League, and enjoys outdoor recreation, creating at the MakerLab, and homebrewing in his spare time.

“LPEA has shaped my career, and I’m honored to continue serving our members in this role,” Harms said. “I’m proud of our team and excited to help lead the cooperative forward.”

###

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 37,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.