

# LPEA's rate change questions and answers

BY DAN HARMS | MANAGER OF RATES, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY POLICY | DHARMS@LPEA.COOP

LPEA has new rates going into effect on April 1, 2020. In last month's Colorado Country Life magazine, we discussed how a new Peak-Power Charge would be added to the General Service rate tariff to heighten member awareness to when LPEA pays a premium for the electric we purchase from Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc. The article generated several questions and left some members confused regarding the new Peak-Power Charge. With this article, we will take a closer look into some of the most frequently asked questions regarding the new rate tariffs.

### Is the new Peak-Power Charge applied to all LPEA's rates?

No. The Peak-Power Charge is only applied to the General Service rate tariff, which is LPEA's default residential and single-phase small commercial rate. All of LPEA's other commonly used rates already have a Peak Charge associated with them so there was no need to add a Peak-Power Charge to these rate tariffs. For instance, LPEA's Time-of-Use rates already have an On-Peak Energy Charge.

### If the General Service rate tariff was the only rate to receive the new Peak-Power Charge, are LPEA's other rates increasing on April 1?

Yes. LPEA's other rates will see a similar increase to their respective peak charges. Time-of-Use rates will see an increase to the On-Peak Energy Charge and commercial rate tariffs will see an increase to their Peak Demand Charge.

### How exactly is the Peak-Power Charge calculated on the General Service rate tariff?

The Peak-Power Charge is applied to the single highest hourly kilowatt (kW) usage recorded between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. during the monthly billing period. For example, take the hourly profile shown in the graph below. The hourly intervals

between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. are highlighted in orange. The Peak-Power Charge uses the highest interval in orange shown by the red arrow. In this example, 1.7 kW was used on average during the 5 p.m. hour on December 12, 2019. The Peak-Power Charge for the entire month would be \$2.55 ( $\$1.50/\text{kW} \times 1.7 \text{ kW} = \$2.55$ ). The average peak power requirement for LPEA's General Service members is 3.2 kW which would result in a \$4.80 charge.

### What can I do to minimize the Peak-Power Charge?

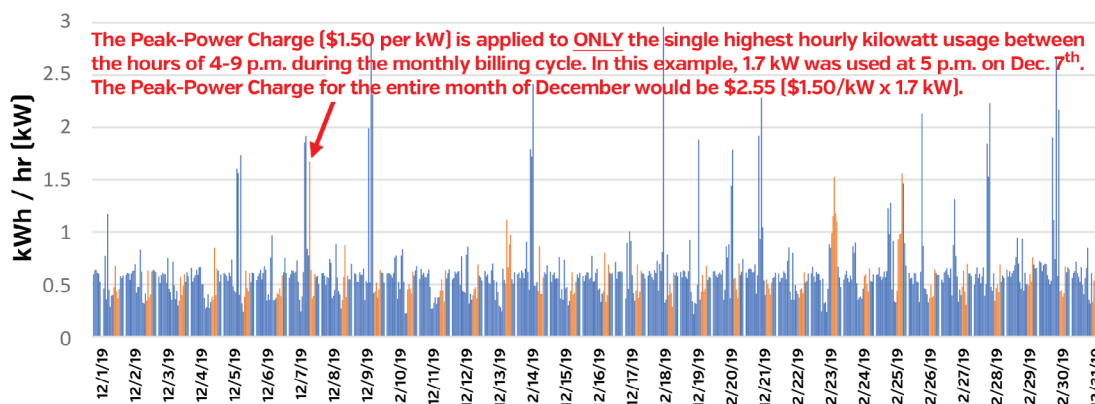
To keep your Peak-Power Charge to a minimum, think about electrical usage that you can routinely and conveniently move to non-peak hours. Running the dish washer and doing laundry are easy tasks to do outside of peak hours. More people are charging electric vehicles (EV) at home today and that is certainly usage that can be scheduled during non-peak hours. In fact, if you have one of LPEA's no-cost home EV chargers, they come pre-programmed to save your money. SmartHub is available for computers, tablets and smartphones at [lpea.smarthub.com](http://lpea.smarthub.com). With SmartHub, you can view your hourly electricity usage and see which appliances are impacting your peak-power energy usage the most.

### Are there other ways I can save money on my electric bill?

LPEA also provides an optional Time-of-Use rate where the Off-Peak energy rate is half the price of the standard General Service rate. More than 90% of LPEA members could save a few dollars simply by switching rates. After that, the more energy-consuming jobs you perform during Off-Peak hours, the more you will save. If you have an electric water heater, a timer could be added to it to save a bundle.

If you would like to know which rate, General Service or Time-of-Use, would work best for you, contact your LPEA Customer Service Representatives at (970) 247-5786.

## Peak-Power Charge Example – Monthly Energy Usage



# What's it like being a lineman?

## Here is a look at a day in the life of an LPEA lineman

The smartphone on the nightstand comes to life as the screen casts a blueish hue light and the sound of the ringtone awakens La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) working foreman Clinton Peak from his sleep. It's 1:15 a.m. and LPEA dispatcher Aaron Renner is contacting linemen on-call to respond to a power outage in La Plata County. Peak is awake well before the sunrise, checks his phone for outage location information, fills his thermos with steaming coffee, and silently kisses his wife and three children goodbye before he walks out the front door.

1:45 a.m. Peak inspects the area identified through LPEA's Outage Management System (OMS) as the possible location of the outage. Twenty minutes later the searchlight reveals the cause of the power outage. Peak radios to dispatch that a large tree has fallen into the power lines and the added weight and force of the falling tree snapped the closest utility pole at its base. Additional line crew members and equipment are requested to begin LPEA's power restoration effort.

2:30 a.m. Journeyman linemen Michael Juliano and Evan Moore, apprentice linemen Dalton Hotter and Westly Moore arrive at the LPEA office in Durango and meet with Renner. He provides the line crew with the details relating to the outage and the necessary equipment requested by Peak.

3:00 a.m. After loading the replacement utility pole on the digger derrick truck and additional equipment needed for repairs the line crews climb into their trucks and head out into the cold dark night. LPEA line crews form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity to our cooperative members. But this job can change dramatically when rough weather moves into southwestern Colorado.

4:45 a.m. The sound of the truck's engine and hydraulic system used to control the boom, winch and pole claws leave Peak using hand signals to communicate with Moore on the placement of the new utility pole. After the pole is set the guy-wire is attached to secure and anchor the pole in position, linemen Juliano and Moore use the bucket to ascend through the falling snow to the crossarms to begin their process of transferring and attaching the electric distribution lines to the insulators. Hotter climbs the pole to work on making secondary connections to the transformer bank as Peak watches over and directs his line crew from 40 feet below.

6:50 a.m. Peak contacts Renner and confirms the work has been completed and all line crew members are in the clear and the system is ready to be re-energized. Within minutes the electric distribution system is re-energized, and lights begin to illuminate the homes and streets.

7:30 a.m. The line crews safely return to the LPEA office in Durango and meet with dispatch and LPEA Operations Manager Justin Talbot to discuss the power outage and restoration effort. Peak and the line crew members receive their daily job assignments, and after a bite to eat and refilling their thermos with coffee they head back out into the cold to perform customer job maintenance projects and system upgrades until their shift is over at 5:15 p.m.

5:45 p.m. Clinton Peak pulls into his driveway, gets out of his truck and is greeted at his home's front door by his wife and three children. Clinton's wife asks "So, how was your day?"

We often take electricity — and the men and women who provide it — for granted. Take a moment and think about what it's like to stand in their boots. Linemen must work safely, smart, and efficiently — at times 40 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves. On a typical day, line workers maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses in Colorado. They have a lot of responsibility on their mind 24 hours a day, but when our dispatch center calls line crews with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineman's to-do list. These brave men and women are always on call. We have line crews standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or before the sun rises, weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine receiving a call like the one described above at 1:15 a.m. requiring you to work outside in 12-degree temperatures during a snowstorm? Not many people are willing to work in this environment and put their life on the line to serve those who own the cooperative. LPEA line crews face tough elements daily, all to serve you.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen are highly trained. At La Plata Electric Association linemen go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment gets tested regularly, too. These highly skilled men and women light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Today (and every day), please take a moment to thank them. Our line crews are the heart of your power.



La Plata Electric Association, Inc. (LPEA) working foreman Clinton Peak, journeyman lineman Michael Juliano, apprentice lineman Dalton Hotter, journeyman lineman Evan Moore and apprentice lineman Westly Moore are a part of the LPEA team responsible for providing your electricity.

# Students selected to represent LPEA in Washington D.C. at Youth Tour

Local high school students Savannah Atole of Pagosa Springs H.S., Caitlyn Chapman of Ignacio H.S., Hunter Anderson of Bayfield H.S., Trevor Harms of Animas H.S., and Aiden Quayle of Durango H.S. were selected from more than 50 applicants to represent La Plata Electric Association, Inc. (LPEA) as part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington D.C., scheduled for June 17-25, 2020.

“As someone who worked for a US Senator in Congress, this is an excellent opportunity for high-school juniors to experience the nation’s capital,” said LPEA Chief Executive Officer Jessica Matlock. “Annually, LPEA and our statewide cooperatives select and sponsor high school juniors for this all-expenses paid experience. We are pleased to be able to further their education and enhance their leadership characteristics.”

LPEA’s student representatives will travel to Washington D.C. as part of the Colorado Youth Tour delegation, and they will join more than 1,900 juniors from across the nation for an exclusive look at the nation’s Capital. The students will meet and spend time with Congressional representatives at the United States Capitol.

“The Youth Tour students from Colorado always demonstrate a true passion for learning about democracy and government. They ask some tough questions on everything from education-related bills, health care to climate change legislation. It’s great to see high school students eager to learn and gain leadership skills. Building strong leaders out of today’s young people is essential to our nation’s future,” said U.S. Senator Michael Bennet.

The students will also visit historic monuments, memorials and museums in and around Washington D.C. and attend the Broadway hit show “Hamilton” at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. Students will travel to Pennsylvania to visit the Gettysburg National Battlefield and review one of the greatest speeches in American history, the Gettysburg Address, delivered by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

The opportunity to participate in the Youth Tour was open to all current high school juniors, including home-schooled students, who receive their electric power from LPEA. Students completed an application and penned a 500-word essay covering an aspect of the electric industry. Applications for the 2021 Washington D.C. Youth Tour will be available in November 2021 at LPEA’s offices in Durango and Pagosa Springs, through area high school counselors, or on the web, [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop).



Colorado’s Youth Tour delegates, shown here while visiting the U.S. Capitol in 2019, will pass the torch of leadership to a new group of high school juniors this spring. La Plata Electric Association, Inc. will send five students to Washington D.C. to participate in the 2020 National Rural Electric Youth Tour.



Savannah Atole



Caitlyn Chapman



Hunter Anderson



Trevor Harms



Aiden Quayle

## LIVE WIRES

### Board meeting Mar. 18, 9a.m.

The next meeting of the LPEA Board of Directors is set for Wednesday, March 18. The agenda will be posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop).

All members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting shortly after 9 a.m. LPEA provides live streaming of the meetings. Log on to [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop) to connect via our website or other social media platforms.

### Scholarship deadline

Deadline to submit applications for LPEA scholarships is Monday, March 2. Scholarship applications are available at <https://lpea.coop/scholarships>.

### Save the date

Individuals interested in running for a seat on the LPEA Board of Directors must return completed petitions to either LPEA office by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 13.

### Annual Meeting

The LPEA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2020 at the Pagosa Springs High School. Registration is at 9 a.m. and Business Meeting at 10:30 a.m. Plan to join us!

### Golf Tournament

The IBEW 111 Brotherhood LPEA Annual Benefit Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 20, at the Pagosa Springs Golf Course. Proceeds will benefit Rise Above Violence. Event details will be published in future Colorado Country Life issues. Stay tuned!



# We are keeping up to 'speed' on electric vehicles (EVs)

BY NANCY ANDREWS | ENERGY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR | NANDREWS@LPEA.COOP

Thinking about buying an electric vehicle (EV) this year or in the near future? You're not alone.

Since 2011, the number of EVs on the road in the U.S. has grown from almost none to more than 1.1 million. That's a relatively small number today compared to more than 270 million cars registered in the United States, but EV sales rose 81 percent in 2018 compared to 2017 according to the Edison Electric Institute. EVs are expected to make up 55 percent of car sales by 2040.

Car makers like Tesla have made a splash in the auto industry with EVs, but now major car dealers such as Audi, BMW, Chevrolet, Ford, Honda, Nissan and Volkswagen have jumped into the fray with their own EV models. Even pickup trucks are getting an EV option, with electric models built by Ford, GM, Rivian and Tesla expected to be available by 2022. Consumers are increasingly flocking to cars they feel are environmentally friendly and cheaper to drive compared to gas-powered vehicles.

What does this mean for La Plata Electric Association (LPEA)? As driving preferences change, so do the requirements of Colorado's energy grid to meet the demands of EV charging throughout the state. For LPEA and its wholesale energy provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, these facts present a new opportunity to meet the energy needs of members.

LPEA installed and currently operates EV charging stations

in Durango and Pagosa Springs to assist EV owners with their charging needs, and we are scheduled to add an EV charging station in Bayfield this spring. To date, LPEA has provided more than 2,250 EV charges at the Durango charging station and more than 375 EV charges in Pagosa Springs.

From EV workshops to providing free Level 2 ChargePoint plug-in home chargers and rebates up to \$500 for equipment and installation at the owner's home, we are keeping up to "speed" on the latest EV technology and trends.

LPEA's residential EV charging program provides financial incentives to cooperative members for the installation of an electric vehicle charging station in their home. Members must have purchased or leased their EV after January 1, 2019. LPEA will provide a free Level 2 ChargePoint plug-in charger for home use (typically retails for \$600) and up to \$500 rebate for costs incurred for wiring the 40A 240V outlet required for the charger (not to exceed 50 percent of material costs).

The infrastructure of EVs across the U.S. is still in its infancy, but the addition of more EVs on the road and an increase in fast-charging stations means that the energy grid will soon have to adjust to changing energy demands. You can count on La Plata Electric to stay on top of these developments to ensure you continue to receive safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

For EV program information contact Nancy Andrews at (970) 382-7775 or visit [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop).



La Plata Electric Association's office in Durango features four ChargePoint Level 2 charging stations at 45 Stewart Street (Bodo Park), Durango, CO 81302.



Two ChargePoint Level 2 charging stations are available at the Geothermal Greenhouse Project on the San Juan River Walk at 80 South 5th Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

# LPEA

La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

### Mission Statement:

La Plata Electric Association provides its members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

### Mailing Address:

PO Box 2750  
Durango, CO  
81302-2750

### Street Address:

45 Stewart St.  
Durango, CO 81303  
603 S. 8th St.  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

(970) 247-5786 | [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop)

### Board of Directors:

Bob Lynch, President (District 1)  
Britt Bassett, Vice President (District 3)  
Guinn Unger, Secretary (District 4)  
Tim Wheeler, Treasurer (District 4)  
Dan Huntington (District 2)  
Rachel Landis (District 3)  
Joe Lewandowski (District 3)  
Kohler McInnis (District 2)  
Holly Metzler (District 1)  
Davin Montoya (District 2)  
Kirsten Skeeahan (District 1)  
Jack Turner (District 4)

### Chief Executive Officer:

Jessica Matlock

### Social Media:

La Plata Electric Association is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

