

Cooperation among cooperatives

December windstorm summons need for mutual aid

Hurricane-strength winds across the southern San Luis Valley took out power to approximately 275 accounts in Costilla County on Wednesday, Dec. 15 and downed 58 transmission and 70 distribution poles near San Acacio.

As SLVREC crews worked to assess the damage, outside help was called in for mutual aid. With the Valley's frigid temperatures, restoring power to the homes as quickly as possible was of the utmost importance. Crews from Gunnison County Electric Association, La Plata Electric Association, National Powerline and Tri-State came to assist.

In addition, limited supply issues led REC to reach out to neighboring cooperatives and utilities to obtain needed supplies and poles.

An emergency shelter for those impacted— without access to heat and special needs— was established at the Blanca-Ft. Garland Community Center by Costilla County Emergency Management and the Red Cross.

By Saturday morning (Dec. 18), most services had been restored. REC crews remained onsite continuing repairs throughout the weekend, while Tri-State and National Power crews worked on transmission poles, and Gunnison and La Plata crews headed home.

The assistance and cooperation from all outside entities was incredible. One of our core principles—cooperation among cooperatives— was clearly evident. We couldn't have restored power as quickly as we did without the help of the other crews. In addition,

See **STORM** continued on Page 4



Photo by Alec Higel



Drone Photo by Kevin McCarroll



Photo by Peter Dustrud

Top: Costilla County Road 12, south of County Road X, was closed after multiple power poles toppled over in hurricane strength winds on Dec. 15.

Middle: Crews from La Plata Electric Association joined REC crews in making repairs.

Bottom: More than 125 poles were destroyed during the storm.

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2022 Rates

Effective April 1, 2022



Rate Name	Charge Type	Total	Total
A-Single Phase Residential Rates 01,02,04,05,07,15	Customer Charge	\$ 35.40	\$ 36.90
	Demand Charge	\$ 1.03	\$ 1.50
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.117	\$ 0.111
A-Single Phase Commercial Rates 41,45,47	Customer Charge	\$ 35.40	\$ 36.90
	Demand Charge	\$ 1.03	\$ 1.50
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.117	\$ 0.096
A-TOD Time of Day Rates 08, 09	Customer Charge	\$ 39.40	\$ 40.00
	Purchased Power Demand	\$ 0.80	\$ -
	Distribution Demand	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.50
	On-Peak kWh 5 PM to 10 PM	\$ 0.090	\$ 0.206
	Off-Peak kWh 10 PM to 5 PM next day	\$ 0.090	\$ 0.064
A2-TOD Time of Day Rates 18, 19 will go to 8,9	Customer Charge	\$ 39.40	\$ 40.00
	Purchased Power Demand	\$ 0.80	\$ -
	Distribution Demand	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.50
	On-Peak kWh 5 PM to 10 PM	\$ 0.156	\$ 0.206
	Off-Peak kWh 10 PM to 5 PM next day	\$ 0.068	\$ 0.064
B -Three Phase Rates 03,06	Customer Charge	\$ 47.00	\$ 52.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 6.93	\$ 6.43
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.088	\$ 0.088
B- Three Phase Time of Day Rates 10,11	Customer Charge	\$ 47.15	\$ 52.00
	Purchased Power Demand	\$ 0.80	\$ -
	Distribution Demand	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.50
	On-Peak kWh 5 PM to 10 PM	\$ 0.090	\$ 0.206
	Off-Peak kWh 10 PM to 5 PM next day	\$ 0.090	\$ 0.064
I - Irrigation Rates 60,62,63,65 Rates 80,82,83,85	Customer Charge	\$ 35.00	\$ 40.00
	Fallowing Customer Charge	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00
	Purchased Power Demand (Highest demand from 12PM TO 10 PM)	\$ 10.03	\$ 10.40
	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in last 12 months)	\$ 5.31	\$ 5.17
	Fallowing Demand Charge (minimum of 5 kW)	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.75
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.046	\$ 0.047
LP-A Large Power Less than 500 kW Rates 50, 55	Customer Charge	\$ 80.00	\$ 85.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 10.67	\$ 12.17
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.076	\$ 0.070
LP-A Time of Day Less than 500 kW Rates 54,56	Customer Charge	\$ 80.00	\$ 85.00
	Purchased Power Demand (Highest demand from 12PM TO 10 PM Mon-Sat)	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.75
	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in month)	\$ 10.83	\$ 10.00
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.046	\$ 0.047
LP-B Large Power Greater than 500 kW Rate 51, 52, 53	Customer Charge	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 20.86	\$ 20.12
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.0430	\$ 0.0470
YL Yard Light	Non-Metered	\$ 12.77	\$ 12.77
	Metered	\$ 6.10	\$ 6.10
Renewable Resource Surcharge	Per 100 kWh block, per month	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.40

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source:
Dept. of Energy



ciello Connecting our neighbors

"Got Cielo on September 2, 2021. First time ever I could get Disney+, Netflix and will be able to watch my granddaughter's hockey games via Internet this year. After the first day, I knew I hadn't made a mistake by getting Cielo over the other guy."

-Tina Sanchez, Saguache

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Cielo, Powered by REC, is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in upcoming issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to jalonzo@slvrec.com to be featured.

By Loren Howard

Distributed Energy Resource (DER) application process changes

Applications for distributed energy resource (DER) projects continue to increase. Almost daily, REC receives a new application for a DER or as it is more commonly known – a net meter project. Here in the San Luis Valley, most net meter projects are using solar to provide the energy. With this increase in applications, the impact on REC’s electric distribution system and new state requirements likely in the near future, REC is changing the application process for DER applications. The implementation of this new process will not start until July, 2022 to allow time for thorough communication with all members and the known DER installers servicing the San Luis Valley.



While the final application process has not been finalized, starting to introduce a brief outline of the future application process will help REC members plan for their future projects. This new process for residential applications should normally take less than eight working days to complete. Commercial DER applications will be subject to a more complete engineering analysis and should be able to be completed within four weeks.

The first step in the new process will be an “Inquiry” by the member. This inquiry will consist of a brief form describing the desired project – member name, location, size, timeline, etc. This

first step must be completed to ensure, at an early stage, that the proposed project meets REC rules and regulations.

Once REC reviews the inquiry and ensures the project is within REC rules and regulations, a DER application will be prepared by REC and returned to the member for an electronic signature. Electronic signatures will be the only method of filing a DER application.

Once the DER application and application fee are received by REC, a final review of the project will be completed and the member will receive a letter approving the project or a letter indicating the project is not approved and what must be changed to receive approval.

Once the member’s DER project is complete and 1) a state electrical inspection report is received by REC and 2) the required metering fee is received, REC will schedule a final inspection by REC’s metering personnel. Once this final REC inspection is complete and accepted, a letter authorizing operation of the DER facility will be sent to the REC member.

As the DER application process continues to be finalized, information will be sent to all members with more detailed information available to REC members contemplating a DER project.

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Your email will be forwarded based on the direction you provide in your subject line.

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Attention Members who Opt Out of AMI metering

Following an analysis of the actual cost to read and process the non-standard digital meter readings, it has been determined that the monthly charge will be increased to \$30.00. This change will go into effect on your Feb. 14, 2022 statement.

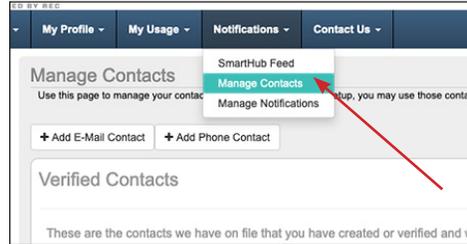
If you would like to switch to an automated meter with remote reading capability and avoid this monthly meter reading fee, please call customer service at 719-852-3538.

ENROLLING IN TEXT OR EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS IN SMARTHUB

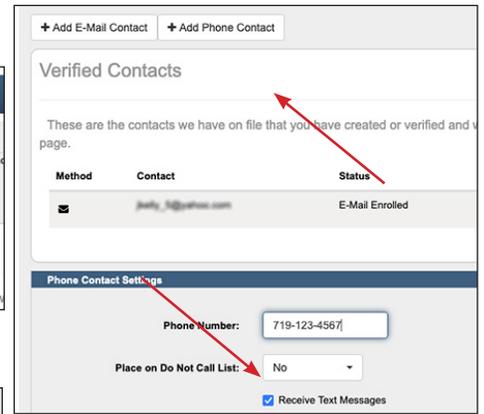
1. If you're already a registered user, sign in using your e-mail address and password.



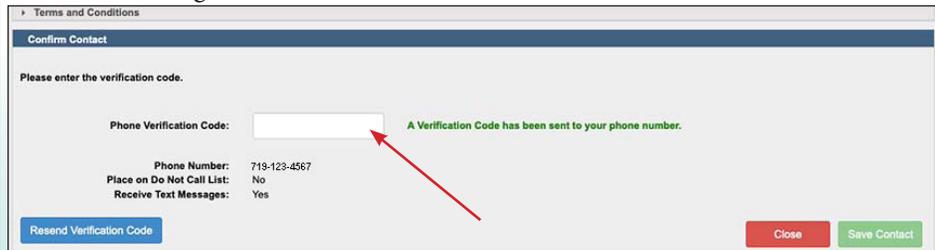
2. Once logged into your account, be sure you have a cell phone & email listed under "Manage Contacts" (this can be found under "Notifications.")



3. Add phone/email contact and agree to terms & conditions.



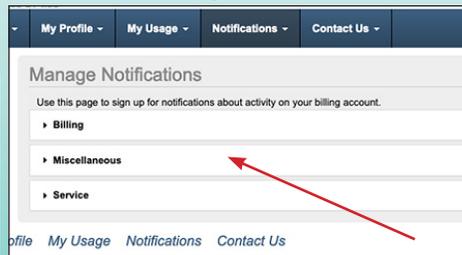
4. After adding the number/email, you will receive a validation/verification code text/email message. Enter the code and save contact.



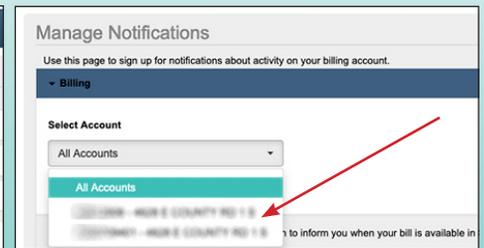
5. Once your contact information has been verified, choose "Manage Notifications" under the Notifications tab.



6. Choose "Billing," "Misc." or "Service."



7. Choose which account.



8. Enroll in the notifications of your choice by selecting the phone/email under each alert. Save settings. You should now be signed up for the notifications

Alert Type	Description	Text Message	E-Mail
Marker Event	This is a notification to inform you when a marker is added, modified, removed to/from MDM.	719-123-4567	YourEmail@address...
Planned Power Outage	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage is planned.	719-123-4567	YourEmail@address...
Power Outage	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage has occurred.	719-123-4567	YourEmail@address...
Power Outage Restored	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage has been restored.	719-123-4567	YourEmail@address...
Power Outage Update	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage update has occurred.	719-123-4567	YourEmail@address...

For app instructions or to register your account, go online to slvrec.com/smarthub

STORM

continued from page 1

REC members were patient, appreciative and respectful to all working to restore the power.

"One of the truly unique aspects of this effort was the response from SLVREC's consumer-members to the restoration effort," said Ruth Mark, Tri-State vice president for transmission maintenance. "Often times the repair work takes place in very remote locations, but families brought our crews food and drinks, and thanks for the effort."

Cody Hale, Tri-State westline maintenance superintendent, agreed. "It was really powerful for our crews to experience first-hand the cooperative spirit that is at the core of what we do, and it was gratifying to have local member owners of REC thanking all of us for our efforts," Hale said.

We truly appreciate the patience from our members and all the great community support we received during this outage.



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound elbow macaroni
- Kosher salt
- 1 12-oz. can evaporated milk
- 3 T. unsalted butter
- 3 c. shredded mild or medium cheddar

**Historical Happenings
will return next month.**

5-INGREDIENT INSTANT POT MAC & CHEESE

1. Combine the macaroni, 4 cups water and 1 tablespoon salt in a 6- or 8-quart Instant Pot® multi-cooker (see Cook's Note). Follow the manufacturer's guide for locking the lid and preparing to cook. Set to pressure cook on high for 4 minutes.
2. After the pressure cook cycle is complete follow the manufacturer's guide for quick release and wait until the cycle is complete. Being careful of any remaining steam, unlock and remove the lid and switch to the low saute setting.
3. Stir in the evaporated milk, butter and 1/4 cup water. Then add the cheddar, a little at time, while constantly stirring, until the cheese is completely melted. Serve hot.

Settings may vary on your Instant Pot® depending on the model. Please refer to the manufacturer's guide.

Recipe by FoodNetwork.com

Member info

Understanding load factor

What is Load Factor?

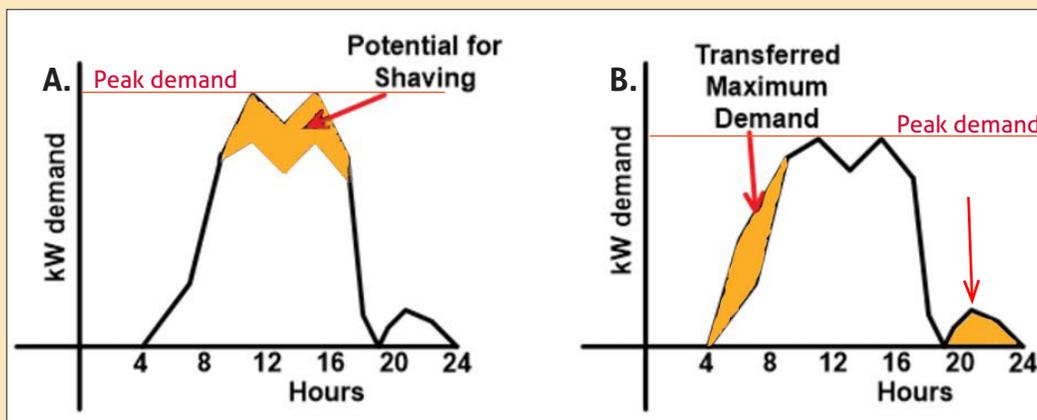
Load factor is a measurement of the efficiency of your household's electrical energy usage. It is calculated by taking the total electricity (kWh) used in the month, divided by your peak demand (kW) multiplied by the number of days in the billing cycle and the total hours in a day. The result is a ratio between zero and one, and the higher the ratio or percentage, the more efficient your household is using electricity.

Why is Load Factor important?

SLV REC must be able to meet members' peak demand for electricity at all times. A demand rate structure, like REC's, automatically rewards members for improving their load factor.

How can we improve Load Factor?

Lower your peak demand by delaying or staggering usage instead of running all your appliances at once.



From the A graph, we can conclude that the load demand is very high during the period 8-16. If we shift some load during below average load period like 4-8 or 20-24, as shown in the B graph, then the maximum demand will be reduced, improving the Load Factor. This helps to reduce the demand charge billed.

source: electric4u.com



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February 2022

Annual Meeting update

SLVREC's annual business meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 7 p.m.** at Ski Hi Events Center.*

Petition packets will be available online by Feb. 15, 2022 at slvrec.com/annual-meeting. Ballots will be mailed on May 12, 2022.

**Location subject to change*

CONGRATS ON YOUR MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES! 2021



Yvonne Barnes
5 Years



Terry Daley
5 Years



Loren Howard
10 Years



Blain Decker
15 Years



Kurt Taffin
15 Years



Erin Dowers
20 Years



Shawn McKibbin
20 Years



Ross Coombs
20 Years



Randy Magnuson
25 Years



Ruben Heredia
30 Years

POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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www.energyoutreach.org

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Cooperative

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

