

# SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

JULY 2024



## MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 521  
La Junta, CO 81050-0521



## STREET ADDRESS

27850 Harris Road  
La Junta, CO 81050



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facebook.com/secpaonline

**Our primary mission** is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO  
POWER ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND  
EMPLOYER



# 10 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT POWER RESTORATION

BY KEVIN BRANDON CEO | KEVINB@SECPA.COM



KEVIN BRANDON

As the CEO of Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA), I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

- 1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out.
- 2. Our employees might be affected too.** Because SECPA is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors, friends, and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be too.
- 3. It's a team effort.** Every one of SECPA's employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying the damage, our crews are clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
- 4. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- 5. Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.
- 6. Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for weather elements, falling trees, and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)
- 7. Blinking lights can be a good thing.** Some folks mistake blinking lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.
- 8. You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan—remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take.
- 9. Our employees have to work safely and rest.** Our employees work very long

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# NOTICE OF RATE ADJUSTMENT

On February 21st, 2024, the Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) Board of Directors approved an increase in rates and charges affecting prices for the electric service that you receive. The increase will go into effect on August 1, 2024. The bill you receive in September will be the first bill to include the new rates.

The adjustment will consist of a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) that will pass through the 2024 rate increase from our wholesale power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission, as well as a 2.00% overall increase in our base rates. The PCA will add a line item to your electric bill and the charge shown on that line item will only recover the fluctuations in wholesale power cost with no additional margin. Overall, the increase in SECPA rates with the PCA will result in an average increase across all rate classes of 5.16%. Individual rate class increases range from 2.99% to 6.49%. The effect of the increase on your bill will vary depending on the type and extent of your usage. For example, the average residential member's bill will increase by 5.95% or \$8.38 per month.

We never like increasing rates to our members, however, continued price increases of materials and other expenses, as well as an increase in wholesale power cost have made it necessary to implement this modest rate increase. SECPA's last increase was nine

years ago in January 2015. As a cooperative, SECPA does not set rates to make a profit, but rather to recover our costs and provide capital for system improvements and maintenance to maintain a safe and reliable electric system.

Below is a summary of rates showing the existing rates, the new rates, and the difference between the two.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634.

Sincerely,



Truman Wright  
Board President



Kevin Brandon  
Chief Executive Officer

## Summary of Rates Effective August 1, 2024

	Existing	Proposed	Change
PCA Factor, per kWh sold <b>PCA charge will be added to the per kWh price shown for all rates.</b>	\$0.000000	\$0.004630	\$0.004630
<b>Farm &amp; Home - Rate FH</b>			
Customer Charge	\$ 29.25	\$ 31.25	\$ 2.00
Energy Charge, per kWh	\$0.127390	\$0.130050	\$0.002660
<b>Residential Time of Day ETS - Rate TD</b>			
Customer Charge	\$ 29.25	\$ 31.25	\$ 2.00
Energy Charge, per kWh			
October thru April:			
On-Peak	\$0.127349	\$0.130000	\$0.002651
Off-Peak	\$0.075139	\$0.077500	\$0.002361
May thru September:			
First 1000 kWh per month	\$0.127349	\$0.130000	\$0.002651
Over 1000 kWh per month	\$0.107349	\$0.097500	(\$0.009849)
<b>Heating &amp; Water Heating - Rate HH</b>			
Customer Charge	\$ 29.25	\$ 31.25	\$ 2.00
Energy Charge, per kWh			
First 1000 kWh per month	\$0.127349	\$0.129700	\$0.002351
Over 1000 kWh per month	\$0.107349	\$0.109700	\$0.002351
<b>Small Service - Rate SS</b>			
Customer Charge	\$ 29.50	\$ 33.75	\$ 4.25
Energy Charge, per kWh	\$0.127383	\$0.123300	(\$0.004083)
<b>General Service - Rate GS</b>			
Customer Charge	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 0.00
Energy Charge, per kWh	\$0.149524	\$0.150350	\$0.000826
<b>General Service Demand - Rate GD</b>			
Customer Charge	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 0.00
Demand, On-Peak	\$ 6.86	\$ 8.35	\$ 1.49
Energy Charge, per kWh	\$0.120526	\$0.115910	(\$0.004616)

	Existing	Proposed	Change	
<b>Irrigation Demand - Rate ID</b>				
Customer Charge	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Installed Horsepower	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.45	\$ 0.10	
Demand kW				
kW - November - March	\$ 9.41	\$ 10.16	\$0.750000	
kW - April - October	\$ 14.41	\$ 15.16	\$0.750000	
Energy Charge, per kWh	\$0.049640	\$0.047120	(\$0.002520)	
<b>Irrigation - Rate IR</b>				
Minimum Charge	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Installed Horsepower	\$ 2.86	\$ 2.96	\$ 0.10	
kWh - November thru March				
First 100 kWh/HP	\$0.114321	\$0.115160	\$0.000839	
Excess	\$0.074321	\$0.075160	\$0.000839	
kWh - April thru October				
First 100 kWh/HP	\$0.126861	\$0.127710	\$0.000849	
Next 150 kWh/HP	\$0.096861	\$0.097710	\$0.000849	
Excess	\$0.081861	\$0.082710	\$0.000849	
<b>Large Power - Rate LP</b>				
Customer Charge	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 0.00	
Demand kW	\$ 14.67	\$ 16.67	\$ 2.00	
Energy Charge, per kWh	\$0.076690	\$0.074090	(\$0.002600)	
Primary Discount	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
<b>Utility Scale Renewable Power (NEW)</b>				
Customer Charge	\$ -	\$ 550.00	\$ -	
Demand kW	\$ -	\$ 14.67	\$ -	
Energy Charge, per kWh		\$0.069480		
<b>Area Lighting</b>				
100 Watts HPS	36 kWh/Mo	\$ 16.61	\$ 17.44	\$ 0.83
175 Watts MV	63 kWh/Mo	\$ 16.61	\$ 17.44	\$ 0.83
250 Watt Security Light	90 kWh/Mo	\$ 23.75	\$ 24.94	\$ 1.19
400 Watt Security Light	144 kWh/Mo	\$ 38.10	\$ 40.01	\$ 1.91
1000 Watt Security Light	360 kWh/Mo	\$ 95.02	\$ 99.77	\$ 4.75
48 Watt LED	17 kWh/Mo	\$ 16.61	\$ 17.44	\$ 0.83

# Power Restoration [continued from page 7]

hours during major outage restoration, but the safety of our employees is our number one priority, and we do send crews home for rest periods when needed throughout major extended outages. Even if you don't see crews out working during this time, it's likely that our Operations Management team is still hard at work procuring materials and making plans for the quickest restoration possible.

10. **Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system,

we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by reporting it at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634. While it might be easy to comment on social media that you have an outage, calling us is always the best method, as we do not have staff available 24/7 to monitor all social media sources. WIN\* Juan Padilla acct 1921xxxxxx

## COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

### WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

### CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.

### Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

### ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.

## YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN\* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719.384.2551 or 800.332.8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill.

# “ON THE ROAD” IN SOUTHEAST COLORADO

BY JULIE WORLEY YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECT

Have you ever wanted to run a rural town – and maybe be the banker, or the newspaper editor, or the nurse in the medical center – or maybe even the Mayor? Students in Southeast Colorado had that opportunity recently.

The first two weeks in March, 2024, the *Young AmeriTowne On the Road* project was set up in the La Junta National Guard Armory, and each day a student group from a different school was present to run the Towne. Almost 300 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students from ten different Southeast Colorado schools participated.

“On the Road” is the flagship project of the Young Americans Center for Financial Education in Denver, and is a mobile, hands-on innovative, enrichment activity wherein the students are actively engaged in operating the businesses in the simulated rural town. In the process, they learned business and fiscal principles, in addition to their work assignments. This is the second year that the “On the Road” project has been held in the Southeast Colorado area.

Through the generous support of Southeast Colorado Power Association and SECOM, students were able to enjoy a hands-on, financial enrichment activity that provided learning in a fun environment. WIN\* Jeff Wittman acct 1320xxxxxx

*Stream music for these guys in the barn!*



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. Here’s an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature, reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: [homesandgardens.com](http://homesandgardens.com)



SECPA WILL BE CLOSED ON  
THURSDAY, JULY 4 IN OBSERVANCE  
OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

HAPPY  
4th of  
JULY!