

# *enchantment*

The Voice of New Mexico's Rural Electric Cooperatives

**SAFETY,**  
a Top Priority  
for Co-ops

October 2017

# Daylight Savings Time and Time of Use Rates

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5, 2017, at 2:00 a.m. Members who are on any of our Time of Use rates should note that the On-Peak hours during Standard Time will change to 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This means that the electricity used during those hours are charged at a higher rate than during Off-Peak hours. Here are some tips for ways you can move a substantial portion of your residential electricity use from On-Peak to Off-Peak hours:

- Electric Water Heater: Have a timer installed on your electric water heater. Set the timer to turn on and off based on your morning routine or late night routine (be sure it is set to turn off from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.).
- Electrically heated spa, hot tub or pool: Install timers that limit hot tub, spa or pool heating to off-peak hours.
- Central Air Conditioner: Limit use during on-peak hours and cool during off-peak hours. Air conditioning can account for up to 50 percent of your summer electricity bill so try to use it only when necessary to remain comfortable, especially during summer on-peak hours from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Electric heat (furnace, electric resistance type heating): Try using electric heat as little as possible during on-peak

hours. Install a programmable thermostat and take on-peak and off-peak time periods into consideration when you program it.

- If your home has a secondary source of heat that is non-electric (for example a wood stove or fireplace), consider using it during on-peak time periods, and use the electric heat during the less-expensive off-peak time periods. In the winter, take advantage of the sun's natural rays to heat your home during the day by opening blinds and drapes.
- Shifting the times you use high wattage appliances, like an electric clothes dryer, electric range/oven, dehumidifier and space heater, from on-peak hours to off-peak hours can help you save money on your electric bill.
- Keep in mind appliances like refrigerators and freezers use electricity around the clock. Did you know an older refrigerator uses nearly twice as much energy as a new Energy Star refrigerator?
- Other electronics continue to use small amounts of electricity when they're plugged in, but not in use—we call this phantom loads. Devices like computers, printers, clock radios and microwaves are all examples. The biggest phantom load culprit is the DVR or TiVo. They can use up to 37 watts even when turned off—at our current energy rate, that could be about \$46 a year for each DVR or TiVo device you own.

## Our History, Our Future

### OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



George Santayana said, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation's 30,000 cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month in October, it is a great time to take a look back—and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op. Sierra Electric Cooperative was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn't generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative. Once established, annual meetings were the "must attend" event of the year. The co-op—on behalf of the member-owners—committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today—and tomorrow. Sierra Electric Cooperative currently serves 3,167 members. We have returned nearly \$1,268,495 to our members in patronage capital credits in the last five years alone!

We understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not.

Although we started out to provide electricity, our impact (with your support) has grown.

As we continue to look toward the future, you can be confident that Sierra Electric Cooperative will commit to explore new ways to help our members and our community.

Over the years, as we've listened to you and your fellow co-op member-owners, we know that we have to keep pace as technology and consumer tastes evolve. As always, we welcome your participation as we plan for the future.



## ELECTRIC CO-OPS

BUILD

## COMMUNITY



Board of Trustees			
John Bokich	President	Elephant Butte	District 2
Darryl Sullivan	Vice President	Monticello	District 3
Oscar Lee Wood	Secretary	Elephant Butte	District 2
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Charles McMath	Trustee	Elephant Butte	District 2
Judy Smith	Trustee	Caballo	District 1
Thomas Stroup	Trustee	Elephant Butte	District 2
Board Meeting			
The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the cooperative boardroom.			



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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### Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (M-F)