



July 11, 2014

NEWS

Cochrane named Safety/Regulatory Compliance Superintendent *LPEA Serviceman fills position vacated by retiring John Stephenson*

DURANGO, Colo. – Bret Cochrane, serviceman at La Plata Electric Association (LPEA), has been promoted to Safety and Regulatory Compliance Superintendent. Cochrane fills the position vacated by John Stephenson, who retired in early July.

In his new position, Cochrane will be responsible for overseeing LPEA's safety "culture," helping ensure that safety is embraced as a core value at all levels of the cooperative. He also will oversee regulatory compliance and loss control at the cooperative, monitoring LPEA's operations to continue to meet all industry regulations, as well as avoid workplace accidents.

"It's going to be a challenge, but that's a good thing," said Cochrane, who assures that "safety" is a passion for him as well as everyone at LPEA.

A native of southwest Kansas and 24-year veteran of the electric utility industry, Cochrane joined LPEA in 2000 from Pioneer Electric Cooperative, where he apprenticed and earned his Journeyman Lineman. He worked the line crews at LPEA until December 2013 when he became a Serviceman, working more closely with members.

"All of our retirements are allowing our younger Operations employees to move up the proverbial ladder," said Steve Gregg, manager of operations. "As a result, we will soon be hiring more apprentices to come in at entry level. It's all succession planning."

LPEA, celebrating 75 years in 2014, provides to its more than 30,000 members, with nearly 41,000 meters, safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost, while being environmentally responsible. For additional information, contact LPEA at 970.247.5786. For further information, visit www.lpea.coop.

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