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NEWS

LPEA announces appointments in Operations Department *Riggs named Apprentice Dispatcher; Buffalo new Equipment Operator*

DURANGO, Colo. – La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) has announced additions to its Operations Department, welcoming Dusti Riggs as Apprentice Dispatcher and Trey Buffalo as Equipment Operator.

Dusti Riggs, who has served as a Meter Reader Collector for LPEA since 2006, has entered the two-year intensive Apprentice Dispatcher program that includes text and on-the-job training. Riggs is part of the Dispatch team, which oversees LPEA's system operations. Dispatchers monitor power flows and voltage, field calls when problems occur within LPEA's service area, trouble-shoot outages and dispatch crews to restore power.

Riggs has been involved with the electric utility business since her junior year in high school in Pahrump, Nev. She worked part time for the cooperative Valley Electric Association and when she graduated from high school was offered a full time job as an apparatus and testing specialist. After five years in this position, she moved on to purchasing, learning that aspect of the industry.

“After nine years as a meter reader collector, I wanted to learn more and have a greater challenge in my job,” said Riggs, whose understanding of electrical equipment as well as LPEA's service territory from her meter reader position is assisting in the Dispatch apprenticeship. “It is interesting to me and I'm looking to the future.”

Having worked in construction with heavy equipment for the past nearly eight years, new Equipment Operator Trey Buffalo comes to LPEA from Crossfire LLC, provider of oil and gas construction services. Born and raised in Salida, Colo., he is also an auctioneer and avid rodeo team roper.

As Equipment Operator, Buffalo works with the line crews in La Plata County, assisting in construction and repair of LPEA's lines in the field.

“Everyone I’m working with is great,” said Buffalo. “I’m new to the electric end of construction, but if I have questions, the crews are more than happy to answer them. The safety culture here is outstanding. I’m happy to be here.”

LPEA, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative established in 1939, provides to its more than 30,000 members, with in excess of 42,000 meters, safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost, while being environmentally responsible.

LPEA offers a variety of apprenticeships and employment opportunities. To explore employment, or for additional information, visit www.lpea.coop.

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