

LPEA cautions customers of another, new fraud attempt
Latest phone scammer threatens electricity cut-off if money is not paid

DURANGO, Colo. – La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is once again cautioning its members to not be fooled by impersonators claiming to be from LPEA and threatening disconnection for lack of payment.

“Every time we turn around, there’s a new twist,” said Steve Gregg, LPEA chief operating officer. “Today’s effort involves a threat that the business must pay \$500 to the so-called ‘meter man’ who will arrive on site within the hour, otherwise the electricity will be shut off because they’re claiming the account is delinquent.”

One key signal of fraud is that the caller claims the meter man en route to the business is scheduled to install a new “GPS meter” – something that does not exist. The caller provides 800 phone numbers and theoretical new work order and meter numbers, all of which are false.

When an account is past due, LPEA customers receive a series of notices and are given adequate time to settle their bills before any disconnect would take place. If in doubt about a supposed billing department phone call from LPEA or authorized agent, customers are asked to politely end the conversation and call the LPEA Customer Service Department, 970.247.5786 or 888.839.5732, to clarify any billing questions. If the call is blatantly fraudulent, members should also call the local authorities.

“This current scammer is claiming that they will be on-site at the location to pick up funds,” said Gregg. “We definitely want to caution our members about confronting this person, or persons on your own, as you don’t know who you’re dealing with.”

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 is an equal opportunity provider and employer M/F/Disability/Veteran. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call [\(866\) 632-9992](tel:8666329992) to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax [\(202\) 690-7442](tel:2026907442) or email at program.intake@usda.gov.