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NEWS

Jake Wills, P.E. promoted to Systems Engineer at LPEA *Former staff engineer integral in designing and maintaining LPEA's system*

DURANGO, Colo. – Jake Wills has been promoted to Systems Engineer at La Plata Electric Association (LPEA). Wills previously served as a Staff Engineer at the cooperative.

In his position as Systems Engineer, Wills is responsible for monitoring LPEA's system, including planning plant improvements, and conducting engineering reviews for new construction and solar installations. He also oversees system overcurrent protection and helps in the design of new substations.

"I look forward to the new challenges presented as Systems Engineer," said Wills. "The electric industry continues to evolve presenting new and varying issues as more renewable and distributed generation comes on to our system."

Originally from Pagosa Springs and now a resident of Bayfield, Wills launched his career at LPEA in 2000 as a summer intern while earning his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. A recipient of LPEA's four-year scholarship, he graduated from Colorado State University, Fort Collins in 2004 and joined LPEA, then earned his Professional Engineering designation in 2008.

Wills, who has followed his father, Pagosa Springs Line Superintendent Jerry Wills into the local rural electric cooperative employment arena, learned a variety of aspects of the business during his internship, serving in the meter shop and warehouse. He also spent time in the field, garnering valuable experience as a groundman, working with the line crews.

"This extensive on-the-job-training, which he began while in college, has helped make Jake a very valuable employee for the cooperative," said Ron Meier, LPEA manager of engineering.

An avid hunter and outdoorsman, Wills also enjoys spending time with his family, wife Roxanna and children Easton (5), and Austin (3).

Wills fills the position vacated by the promotion of former Systems Engineer Dan Harms to manager of rates, technology and energy policy.

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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