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NEWS

La Plata Electric Association lowers Time-of-Use “off peak” rate *Adjusted rate makes saving energy with TOU more viable*

DURANGO, Colo. – La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) will lower the cost for members using electricity in “off-peak” periods as part of the Time-of-Use (TOU) program, effective Mar. 1, 2016. The action comes after concerted negotiations with LPEA’s primary power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission.

The “off-peak” rate for those signed up for the TOU program will drop 7.7 percent, from 6.5¢ per kWh to 5.9¢ per kWh, to help encourage members to shift their electricity usage to “off-peak” periods. The “on-peak” rate of 16.8¢ per kWh will remain the same, as will the base charge of \$21.50 per month to cover LPEA’s fixed costs.

“Lowering the ‘off-peak’ rate truly goes far to re-invigorate our Time-of-Use program,” said Dan Harms, manager of rates, technology and energy policy. “One of the goals we have in managing electricity distribution is to level off usage and not experience ‘spikes’ in demand for power. Through the Time-of-Use program our members can help us, and we want to financially reward our members for shifting energy use to ‘off-peak’ periods.”

Because of a dramatic change in rate structure from Tri-State Generation and Transmission (LPEA’s primary power provider) in 2013, LPEA’s Time-of-Use program proved no longer viable for many members previously participating, according to Harms.

“We’ve now come to a better agreement with Tri-State,” said Harms. “And that will benefit our Time-of-Use members.”

Going forward, LPEA will no longer delineate between regular TOU participants and those who have ETS (Electric Thermal Storage) heaters. (ETS Advantage was a special program that was spawned by the 2013 Tri-State rate change.) All TOU participants will now realize lower, “off-peak” rates 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., plus all day Sunday and Thanksgiving and Christmas.

“It shouldn’t take much effort to now realize savings on the Time-of-Use rate by shifting heavy use of electricity to the off-peak hours,” said Energy Management Advisor Suzy Bynum. “We encourage members to once again take a look at the program and give us a call to understand how they might benefit.”

Contact Bynum at 970.382.3506 or sbynum@lpea.coop. View the change of rate notice at www.lpea.coop.

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

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