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**NEWS**

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### **LPEA Chosen for a National Study to Understand and Strengthen Electric Infrastructure in the Face of Climate Challenges**

**Durango, CO** – La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is proud to announce that it has been selected to participate in a United States Department of Energy (DOE)-funded technical assistance study in partnership with the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) and Baringa, a global consulting firm. The study, slated to begin in January 2025, is called the “Grid Resilience and Climate Change Impact (GRACI) Analysis” and will feature eleven utilities chosen from across the western United States. Baringa will analyze how well-equipped these utilities are to respond to and withstand foreseeable climate threats and will provide crucial insights into the performance, investment strategies, and future climate risks for the electric grid.

"We are excited to collaborate with Baringa, the DOE and other stakeholders in this important study," said Dan Harms, LPEA's Executive VP of Grid Solutions and Special Projects. "This analysis will give us valuable insights to prepare for future challenges posed by extreme weather events and improve service reliability for our members."

LPEA was chosen to participate based on its commitment to improving resilience and its exposure to weather-related challenges, making it an ideal candidate for this groundbreaking study. Baringa's research will leverage public data sources as well as information provided by the chosen utilities.

The results of the study will ultimately help LPEA by:

- **Analyzing Historical & Current Performance:** This will give LPEA a clearer understanding of how it has performed in response to past extreme weather events and similar challenges.
- **Assessing Investment Strategies:** This will include considerations on the potential impact of regulatory policies and of climate risk in future planning. LPEA can use this assessment to look critically at their plans and determine now how best to optimize their future investments in grid resilience.

- **Evaluating Capital Spend:** This study will assess the effectiveness of capital spend on addressing climate risks and provide insight on ways to improve investment efficiency on the network.
- **Exploring Climate Risk Methodologies:** Baringa will provide LPEA with insights and tools to better anticipate and mitigate future weather and climate risks through effective planning and infrastructure investments.

“A resilient power grid is essential to delivering reliable and affordable clean electricity to Coloradans as we electrify our cars, homes, and businesses to meet our ambitious climate goals,” said Will Toor, Executive Director of the Colorado Energy Office. “This study will not only help LPEA plan for stronger grid infrastructure, but will also offer valuable insights on how we can improve grid resilience and energy security statewide in the face of increasing climate-related challenges.”

As part of its participation, LPEA will engage in working sessions to share its resilience goals and concerns, provide its most recent grid and investment plans for review, and attend educational webinars on prioritizing resilience investments.

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### **About LPEA**

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 36,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit [lpea.coop](http://lpea.coop).

### **About the Colorado Energy Office**

The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) develops programs and promotes energy policies to fight climate change, improve air quality, and save Coloradans money. CEO plays a central role in building an equitable, clean energy economy. We advance a clean energy agenda, provide funding and technical assistance, and ensure the benefits of the clean energy transition are shared statewide.

### **About Baringa**

Baringa is a global management consultancy operating across sectors including energy, financial services, consumer products and services and government. We set out to build the world’s most trusted consulting firm – creating lasting impact for clients and pioneering a positive, people-first way of working. We work with everyone from FTSE 100 names to bright new start-ups, in every sector. We have hubs in Europe, the US, Asia and Australia, and we can work all around the

world – from a wind farm in Wyoming to a boardroom in Berlin. Find us wherever there's a challenge to be tackled and an impact to be made.