



Media Contact
Amanda Anderson
Strategic Communications Officer
T: (970) 946-4022
E: aanderson@lpea.coop

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LPEA Announces Arrival of New Transformer for Pagosa Springs
A Strategic Investment in Today's Reliability and Tomorrow's Growth

Pagosa Springs, Colo. – (December 17, 2024) – La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) has announced the arrival of its new transformer to be used in its first new substation since 2008, a critical infrastructure investment aimed at increasing reliability and strengthening the electric grid for the Pagosa Springs community. The new substation will increase grid reliability, reduce service disruptions, and ensure LPEA can meet growing energy demands while maintaining its system. This represents a \$6.5 million investment and is expected to significantly improve LPEA's operational flexibility, while providing redundancy to reduce the impact of potential power outages in the region.

"The new substation is part of our long-term strategy to invest in critical infrastructure that strengthens the reliability and resiliency of our electric grid," said Chris Hansen, LPEA CEO. "We are committed to ensuring the Pagosa Springs community continues to receive the reliable service they depend on, while planning for future needs."

As rural areas modernize and incorporate more advanced technologies like electric vehicles, renewable energy (e.g., solar and wind), and smart grid systems, substations are critical in upgrading and expanding the electrical infrastructure. They allow for the integration of renewable energy sources, better monitoring of system performance, and quicker responses to any grid issues. With this new substation, LPEA is well-positioned to meet these emerging energy demands while continuing to provide reliable service.

"This addition will help us better manage the grid and strengthen our ability to serve members, no matter where they are located. While it's not online yet, this substation will significantly enhance our reliability and capacity once it is operational, further demonstrating our commitment to investing in the future of our rural communities," added Hansen.

LPEA is working to finalize the substation's location within the Pagosa Springs area. Pending final location confirmation, construction is slated to begin in spring of 2025, with anticipated completion by 2026. The new substation is one of several ongoing capital projects designed to modernize LPEA's electric infrastructure and better serve its growing membership. For more

information about LPEA's projects and initiatives, please visit lpea.coop.

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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.