

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2022



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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO
POWER ASSOCIATION IS
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



TRANSMISSION & RENEWABLES IN OUR AREA

BY KEVIN BRANDON CEO
KEVINB@SECPA.COM



KEVIN BRANDON

ately I have been getting a lot of questions about the various transmission line and renewable energy projects that have been rumored to be coming to southeast Colorado, so I want to give an update on what I have heard and what I know.

The first project, and the most widely advertised, is Xcel Energy's Power Pathway project. This project includes 560-650 miles of new double-circuit, high-voltage 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines along with several new substations and the expansion of some existing substations. The final path has not been decided, but generally speaking, this project will start north of Denver near Longmont, heading east to the Fort Morgan area, then heading southeast and then south through Kiowa, Prowers, and Baca Counties ending near the town of Two Buttes.

Once built, this project would have the capacity to connect and carry substantial amounts of locally generated renewable energy from wind and solar. This would create some benefit to landowners who wish to sell or lease land to renewable developers, and additional tax revenue wherever these renewable projects are built. In my previous discussions with Xcel personnel, they confirmed that this portion of the project will not connect to their existing North Lamar Substation and therefore will provide no real reliability benefits to the southeast corner of the state.

The second project we are hearing about right now is Grid United's Three Corners Connector project. This project proposes to build a roughly 300-mile, 525-kV, high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line that would enter the state in the extreme southeast corner, coming from

Oklahoma, then traveling northwest and end near Pueblo. This line would connect to the Eastern power grid in Oklahoma and to the Western power grid in Pueblo. The East and West grids are not synchronized, so any time a connection is made between the two, the power must be converted from alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) and then back to AC on the other grid. The company plans to convert the power to DC, so HVDC transmission line can be used. This would provide some efficiency and reliability benefits over standard AC transmission lines. The downside to the HVDC line is that it is more costly to connect to since an additional AC to DC conversion would be necessary. The benefit I see with this line is that it brings another source of power into southern Colorado which could be helpful, especially with the planned accelerated closure of Xcel's Comanche power plant in Pueblo.

The last project in the area is Tri-State Generation and Transmission's Eastern Colorado Transmission upgrade plan. This project will build a new 230-kV transmission line from Burlington to Lamar, connecting to the North Lamar Substation. This project will improve capacity for renewable projects in the area, but more importantly for us, this new line will greatly improve the electric system reliability in southeast Colorado and more specifically, it will improve the reliability and power quality to the members of Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA). Currently, there is a 115-kV line and a 230-kV line that feed this corner of

the state. Over the past couple of years, there have been several failures on the existing 230-kV line. Whenever those failures occur, the 115-kV line is forced to supply electricity for all the needs of the area, and in peak summer usage times the demand in this area has grown to the point that the 115-kV line struggles to carry all the load and maintain good voltage. Having the second 230-kV line from Burlington will fix the reliability problem and allow for continued growth in this area. Of all these plans, it is easy to see why we are most excited about the Tri-State upgrades that will play a direct role in SECPA's mission of providing reliable and affordable electricity to our members.

Speaking of reliable and affordable electricity, I know much of what I talked about as benefits of the plans outlined above was the extra capacity for local renewable energy projects. While adding more renewable energy does play a significant role in Colorado's energy future, I want to stress that wind and solar should only be part of the mix. We need to make sure that we continue to have reliable baseload generation as part of the energy supply, and as more coal plants face early closure, it seems very likely that additional natural gas-fired plants will be necessary to provide that baseload generation. Please join us in talking to your legislators about a commonsense approach to Colorado's future energy supply, because as we all saw in February 2021, there are times when the sun doesn't shine, and the wind doesn't blow across large swaths of the country.

**TIME FOR
TURKEY,
TOUCHDOWNS, AND TECH**

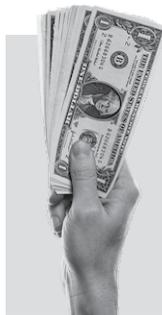
**CALL 719-383-1349
NOW FOR FASTER
INTERNET**

Happy Thanksgiving!
Our office will be
closed November
24th-25th.



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La Junta, CO 81050
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YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill.

Last month's winner was Micky Clements.

Save the Date!

You're Invited to SECPA's
Annual Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

Eads Community Building
Eads, CO 81036

Registration 5 p.m.

Dinner 6 p.m.

Meeting 6:45 p.m.

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

SECPA Board positions up for election in 2023 are:

- District 4: Western Baca County & Eastern Las Animas County (incumbent is Director Randy Phillips)
- District 5: Otero County (incumbent is Director Kevin Karney)
- District 7: Crowley County (incumbent is Director Clint Anderson)

Cash prize drawings throughout the meeting!



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Win a Trip to Washington, D.C., or a week at Leadership Camp at Glen Eden Resort

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington D.C. Youth Tour is June 12-18, 2023. High school students who are 16 by June 1 AND, whose families are Southeast Colorado Power Association members are eligible to apply to go on the trip. The tour provides students with an eight-day adventure that offers in-depth exposure to the electric cooperative network while exploring our nation's capital.

The selected student's expenses, including airfare, lodging, meals and all tour admission fees, are paid by your local cooperative, Southeast Colorado Power. Activities during the trip include tours of the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, war memorials (Vietnam, Iwo Jima), Arlington National Cemetery, the National Archives, the White House and Smithsonian museums; a Potomac River dinner and dance cruise; visits with Colorado's U.S. Senators and representatives; an NRECA Town Hall Meeting; and the chance to connect with students nationwide.

If you're not chosen to attend the Washington, D.C., trip, you may be the recipient of a trip to Leadership Camp held at Glen Eden Resort, located just outside Steamboat Springs. July 15-20, 2023, students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming will gather at a beautiful resort on the Elk River and spend the week at an outstanding leadership camp. Students will participate in activities to improve leadership skills and get an inside view of the state and national legislatures. There is plenty of time for swim parties, barbecues, dances and banquets during the week. Many of the attendees call this camp a "life-changing experience." WIN*Patty Schmeiser acct 1924120000

For more information and to apply, go to our website at <http://secpa.com/related-links/youth-camps/> or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314 or Anne Boswell at 719-363-1432.

Applications must be received or postmarked by December 30, 2022, to ATTN: Debbie Howard or Anne Boswell, SECPA, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.



ACCEPTING PETITIONS FOR SECPA BOARD DIRECTOR POSITIONS

SECPA Board positions up for election in 2023 are District 4 – Western Baca County and Eastern Las Animas County (incumbent is Randy Phillips); District 5 – Otero County (incumbent is Kevin Karney; and District 7 – Crowley County (incumbent is Clint Anderson.) See map below.

Director elections are for three-year terms, beginning April 2023 and ending March 2026, for District seats 4, 5, and 7.

To be eligible to be a director: 1) a person must be a SECPA member and bona fide resident of the district he or she is to represent, 2) cannot be an employee or have been an employee of SECPA or its subsidiary within the preceding five (5) years. 3) cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to SECPA.

Petitions must be signed by 15 bona-fide members in the nominee's district and must be returned no later than 5 p.m., January 5, 2023. Petitions are available in all SECPA offices or on the website at <http://secpa.com/annual-meeting-elections>.

Return petitions to Debbie Howard at any SECPA office, or mail to SECPA, ATTN: Debbie Howard, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.



ANNOUNCEMENT – BYLAW REVISIONS

(CURRENT)**ARTICLE III – Meetings of Members****SECTION 5 - Voting**

Voting for election of Directors and amendments to the bylaws shall be in person at meetings therefore or by mail, as provided herein.

Nothing shall be voted on at a meeting of the members that is not on the published agenda and placed there by the Board, or as otherwise provided in these bylaws.

Each member of the Cooperative shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter, including election of members of the Board of Directors, submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. Unless otherwise provided by the law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these bylaws, material issues on the published agenda or other questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person and by mail.

Mail voting shall be on ballots provided by the Cooperative. Mail ballots shall be voted by the member, placed in a special envelope for the purpose of concealing the marking on the ballot, deposited in a return envelope, which must be signed by the voting member and mailed back to the Association. Envelopes containing mail ballots shall be counted prior to the annual meeting, and stored in a manner that protects their privacy. Mail ballots must be returned to Southeast by the close of business two (2) days prior to the date of the meeting of the members in order to be considered valid after which time a revote is not permitted.

Nothing herein shall prevent those physically present at an annual meeting from acting on advisory, non-binding resolutions brought forth at the meeting.

ARTICLE IV - Directors**SECTION 4 - Nominations**

A nomination for Director on the Board of Directors shall be made by a written petition signed by at least fifteen members within that district, and filed with the Board of Directors no later than sixty days prior to the date of the election. Any petition or nomination so filed shall designate the name of the nominee and the district for which nominated. The name of a nominee shall appear on the ballot if the nominating petition is in apparent conformity with the section as determined by the Secretary of the Board. Any petition for nomination shall be signed by at least 15 individual members of the Association having memberships located within the District for which the person is nominated.

SECTION 5 - Elections

(a) Each membership of the association shall be entitled to vote in the election of the directors on the Board of Directors either at a meeting held for such purpose or by mail. Mail voting shall be in writing on ballots provided by the Association. The mail ballot shall be voted by the member, placed in a special envelope provided for the purpose so as to conceal the marking on the ballot, deposited in a return envelope which must be signed by the voting member, and mailed back to the Association. Envelopes containing mail ballots shall remain sealed and uncounted until the meeting held for the purpose of electing the Board of Directors. A member, if present at such meeting, may revoke a mail vote theretofore executed by such member, and such member shall be entitled to vote at such meeting in the same manner and with the same effect as if such member had not voted by mail.

(b) Voting for Directors on the Board of Directors by proxy or cumulative voting is prohibited.

(REVISED)**ARTICLE III – Meetings of Members****SECTION 5 - Voting**

Voting for the election of Directors and amendments to the bylaws shall be in person at meetings, by mail, or electronically (if available) as provided herein. Except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws, nothing shall be voted on at a meeting of the Members that is not contained in the published agenda.

Each Member of the Cooperative shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter, including election of members of the Board of Directors, submitted to a vote. Unless otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these bylaws, material issues presented to the Member for a vote shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the Members voting thereon.

Mail voting shall be on ballots provided by the Cooperative. Mail ballots shall be voted by the member, deposited in the provided return envelope addressed to the Cooperative or the contracted independent third-party designated by the Cooperative to conduct the election, and signed by the voting member.

For the ballot of a Joint Membership, the ballot envelope mailed to the Joint Member must include the name of each eligible voter. The Joint Member who casts the ballot shall sign the return envelope.

Envelopes containing mail ballots may be counted prior to the annual meeting and stored in a manner that protects their privacy. Mail ballots must be returned to the Cooperative or the contracted independent third-party designated by the Cooperative to conduct the election by the close of business three (3) days prior to the date of the applicable meeting of the members in order to be counted. A Member who has voted by mail (or electronically) shall not be entitled to vote in person at the meeting.

If the Cooperative has contracted with an independent third party to conduct the mail ballot election, such ballots must be delivered to the Cooperative under seal promptly after the count and, upon the request of any candidate, made available to the candidate for inspection. Nothing herein shall prevent those physically present at a meeting of the Members from acting on advisory, non-binding resolutions brought forth at the meeting.

ARTICLE IV - Directors**SECTION 4 - Nominations**

(a) A nomination for Director on the Board of Directors shall be made by a written petition signed by at least fifteen (15) Members within the District for which the candidate is nominated, and filed with the Board of Directors no later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the applicable meeting of the Members or election. Any petition or nomination so filed shall designate the name of the nominee and the district for which nominated. The name of a nominee shall appear on the ballot if the nominating petition is in apparent conformity with this section as determined by the Secretary of the Board.

(b) Upon request, each candidate for a position on the Board of Directors is entitled to receive a membership list in an electronic format upon receipt and verification of a valid petition. The membership list must include the names and addresses of all Members, including all Joint Members, as they appear in the Cooperative's records. Candidates shall use such lists only for purposes of the election and shall return or destroy them immediately after the election.

SECTION 5 - Elections

(a) Each membership of the Cooperative shall be entitled to vote in the election of the Directors either at a meeting held for such purpose or by mail or electronically (if available).

(b) Voting for Directors on the Board of Directors by proxy or cumulative voting is prohibited.

These changes are being made to comply with Colorado law.

REVISIONS WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5, 2022.

The Board of Directors welcomes any questions or comments regarding these revisions by emailing bylawsrevision@secpa.com, visiting www.secpa.com/bylawsrevision or calling 719.383.1323.