

Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand

By Kevin Brandon CEO

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life—so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity, and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

POWERFUL SOURCES

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas, or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, or hydropower.

At Southeast Colorado Power Association, (SECPA) we work closely with Tri-State Generation and Transmission, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. Tri-State maintains a diverse energy mix, of coal, natural gas, wind, solar, and also has allocations for energy from clean hydro projects—through Tri-State, SECPA has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity



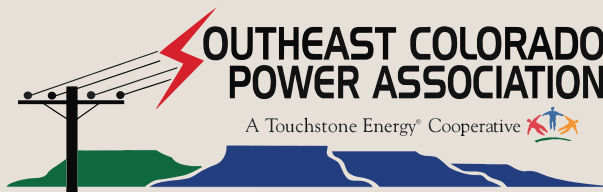
supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because SECPA works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, SECPA knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances, and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS THE GRID

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.



SECPA MISSION

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.

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YOUR CO-OP NEWS

RTOs, ISOs, and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors, and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the

same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

SECPA remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply. (WIN*Leslie Feik, 6064xxxxx)

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators, and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

Accepting Petitions

For SECPA Board Director Positions

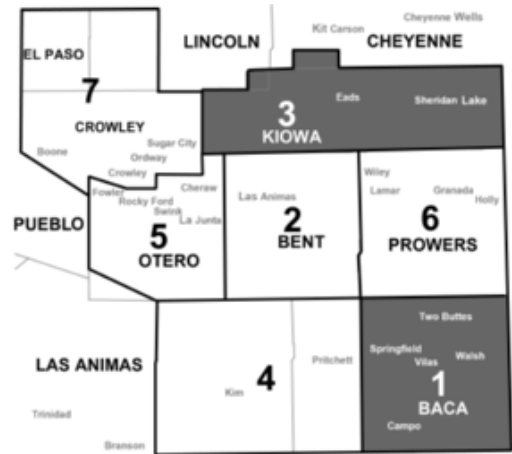
S ECPA Board positions up for election in 2025 are District 1 – Baca County and District 3 – Kiowa County. See map below. Elections for District seats 1 and 3 are for three-year terms, beginning May 2025 and ending April 2028.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BE A DIRECTOR:

- A person must be a SECPA member and bona fide resident of the district he or she is to represent.
- Cannot be an employee or have been an employee of SECPA or its subsidiary within the preceding five (5) years.
- 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 6, 2025. Petitions are available in all SECPA offices or on the website at secpa.com/annual-meeting-elections.

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



You're Invited
TO SECPA'S ANNUAL MEETING!

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

Lamar Community Building
610 S. 6th Street, Lamar, CO

Registration 5 p.m.
Dinner 6 p.m.
Meeting 6:45 p.m



SECPA \$1,000 Scholarships

Applications due February 10

Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) is once again making a scholarships available to area high school seniors. Students' parents must be members of SECPA.

SECPA is offering ten \$1,000 scholarships and also administers through Tri-State, an additional two \$1,000 scholarships. Eligible applicants must be a high school senior graduating in 2025 who plans to attend a two or four-year college, trade school, or other nontraditional secondary educational institution.

Students interested in applying for the scholarships are asked to submit the completed SECPA application form — available on the SECPA website at secpa.com/scholarships — with a school transcript, letter of recommendation, and a short essay on the benefits of cooperative membership.

Applications for SECPA scholarships are due no later than February 10, 2025. For additional information, please visit the SECPA website or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314.

FIND YOUR NAME AND WIN!

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


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Hungry cows headed to feed through the snow the November blizzard left behind at the Eddie Ming Ranch.

The November Blizzard

Finding gratitude during storm recovery

By Misty Ming-Abbott

My Dad, Eddie Ming, ranches in the canyons of western Baca County, with me as his faithful ranch hand. Monday, November 4 started out like a typical snowy winter day. But the heavy, wet snow kept falling for five days with no relief. We were too busy trying to solve problems caused by the snow to measure it officially, but there was more than 3 feet of snow, with much deeper drifts in the draws and creeks of our canyons.

Saturday morning, I could see cattle balled up against the gate behind my house, up to their chests in the snow, but I had no way to get to them. All of our equipment was 5 miles away at my Dad's house. The county broke our roads out, as well as they could on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Dad dug to our Komatsu WA320 loader, but the snow was so wet and heavy the loader made very little progress toward digging out of Dad's yard, much less to any cattle. Knowing we were up against a disaster, Dad and I called in reinforcements from Guymon, Oklahoma. My brother, Greg Ming, brought his Komatsu 320 loader with a V-plow blade, a D6 Cat track dozer, and two additional seasoned equipment operators: Aron Ming and Clay Walker. Our heroes rolled in Sunday morning and the work of plowing to each pasture began.

The guys would blade a path to the cattle, and a wider spot to lay hay down on. We hadn't been able to get to the cattle for four to five days, depending on the pasture. The cows were more than happy to follow the heavy equipment to where Clay and I fed them a bale of hay and caked them. The snow was chest to neck

deep on the cows. They were relieved to have a clear spot to walk and get fed. They looked pretty rough, but by the mercy and grace of God, they were all alive.

Six days after the storm, thanks to all the glorious sunshine and warmer temperatures, we were fighting mud to feed cows. The snow and mud tore up equipment and increased repair costs significantly. Every piece of equipment my brother Greg brought had to have repairs; so did our loader. My son Nathan George and Dad fed every day, one on the loader and one in the feed pickup for two weeks. We typically only feed every other day in the winter, so our feed costs doubled.

The wonderful thing about November's blizzard is we had warm sunny days once it stopped snowing. The cows lived in the paths the Guymon crew cut for them for weeks. And until the cows could see bare ground with grass to eat, we had to feed them every day.

I know how important it is to count our blessings in the face of difficulties. Our gratitude goes to the county guys for working diligently to break our roads, and to our heroes from Guymon: Greg and Aron Ming, and Clay Walker. These men brought hope to a very bleak situation. The other huge blessing is that we never lost electricity. I know **Southeast Colorado Power** crews were working diligently throughout the storm to restore power to many of our neighbors.

The days ahead are still going to be a challenge, but with the beautiful sunshine, and being supported by such amazing family and friends, I can't help but feel optimistic. It is in the deepest darkness that stars shine the brightest.