

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 2020

“Our primary mission is to safely, responsibly, and reliably meet the electrical energy needs of our member-owners.”

**Energy Experts
Working for You!**

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Empire Electric Association Members Denied a Voice by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission

Pending PUC decision could have negative impact on EEA member rates

United Power (United), headquartered in Brighton, and La Plata Electric Association (La Plata), headquartered in Durango, have filed complaints with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) against Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State). Tri-State is a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative that provides power to 42 electric distribution cooperatives and public power districts across Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and New Mexico, including Empire Electric. United and La Plata are members of Tri-State.

United and La Plata have requested the PUC set an exit fee that will allow early termination of their wholesale power contracts with Tri-State. In a G&T cooperative arrangement, all members need to honor their power contracts or pay appropriate exit fees. Exit fees are meant to provide an avenue for a member to leave the G&T cooperative without harm to itself or the remaining members.

The exit fee decision before the PUC should consider the effects on all 42 Tri-State members, not just the two who filed the complaints. The remaining members of Tri-State will be financially harmed if United and La Plata are given unfairly low exit fees. Due to the impact this case could have on ratepayers, Empire Electric and other Tri-State members attempted to file motions to intervene in the case. The hearing officer denied these motions and thus took away the voice of hundreds of thousands of ratepayers who will be affected by the decision.

There is still an opportunity to have your voice heard. We ask that you write to the commissioners of the PUC and ask them to allow other Tri-State members to intervene in order to provide electric ratepayers a voice through their local electric cooperatives. You can file a comment online at <https://puc.colorado.gov/>, you can use a fillable form at <https://actnow.io/eea?p2asource=EEA> or you can mail a letter to the following address:

Colorado Public Utilities Commission
RE: Proceeding Numbers 19F-0620E and 19F-0621E
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202

We ask that you take a moment to let the PUC know that Empire Electric deserves a say in decisions that will impact your bills.

Josh Dellinger, General Manager, Empire Electric Association, Inc.