

• November 9, 2023 •



# GENERAL MANAGER'S BOARD MEETING BULLETIN



Virginia Harman

## Board approves 2024 Operating and Capital budgets

*Rising power, operational costs forces first increase in rates in 7 years*

The Board approved the 2024 Operating and Capital budgets following a presentation of the completed cost of service study by Power System Engineering and budget presentations by MPE Manager of Finance and Accounting Emily Meek.

The Operating Budget includes a revenue increase of 9% to cover rate increases from MPE's power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc. After being notified by Tri-State of the rising cost of power, the MPE Board approved at its Aug. 10 meeting a rate increase to begin on Jan. 1, 2024. The proposed rates can be seen under the current rates at [www.mpei.com/electric-rates](http://www.mpei.com/electric-rates).

Anticipating an increase in its wholesale power cost from Tri-State, the MPE Board and management started communicating to members in December 2022 regarding the need for upcoming rate increases.

"As we get closer to the effective date of our rate increase, I encourage any member who is struggling to pay their electric bill to reach out to our member services team. We can share information about energy assistance programs, efficiency tips, and potential weatherization steps that can help reduce your power usage," noted MPE General Manager Virginia Harman. "We continue to take steps to ensure that we are conscientious of

our controllable costs while still maintaining safe, reliable electrical service. Additionally, we are still actively pursuing a new wholesale power supply contract in an effort to stabilize our cost of power, which is our single largest expense each year."

### RESIDENTIAL RATE COMPARISONS

#### MPE's PROPOSED RATE (2024)

- Monthly Service Fee: \$33.22
- kWh charge: \$0.11737

#### YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC (2023)

- Monthly Service Fee: \$45
- kWh charge: \$0.1110

#### GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC (2023)

- Monthly Service Fee: \$35
- kWh charge: \$0.13268

## Other Board Meeting Actions

- Starting in the second week in December, MPE will be returning \$500,000 in capital credits to its member-owners. Each year, the MPE Board evaluates the financial health of the co-op to determine what portion of capital credits should be returned to the members through retirement. The capital credit retirements will be issued by check, if the amount is \$50 or greater, on Dec. 1, or as a bill credit for amounts less than \$50 on December billing statements.
- The Board reviewed donation requests from the Unclaimed Capital Credits (UCC) fund and approved a \$5,000 contribution to North Park High/Middle School Wrestling and \$2,000 to the Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Coalition's Stewardship Program. The UCC also benefits scholarships, early childhood education, and drivers education. The Board's next scheduled review of donation requests will be at the March 14, 2024, meeting. For more info, visit [www.mpei.com/donation-request](http://www.mpei.com/donation-request).

The Board Meeting Bulletin summarizes highlights from the recent MPE Board Meeting. MPE Board Meetings are open to the public, and agendas, minutes, and more information can be found at [www.mpei.com/board-meetings](http://www.mpei.com/board-meetings) or by contacting [memberrelations@mpei.com](mailto:memberrelations@mpei.com).