

'TIS THE SEASON

PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE SNOW-RELATED POWER OUTAGES

GENERAL MANAGER'S COLUMN

It has been a busy time at our co-op. MPE crews have been working overtime to respond to the influx the new service requests that came in before deadline as we round out this construction season before the ground freezes. Work continues on our power supply transition agreements and grant applications. And due to the dry weather throughout most of October, staff also kept track of local fire restriction changes and responded by adjusting the sensitivity levels of our system to mitigate wildfire risks.

When we move the system to the higher sensitivity setting, we call it "one shot." Throughout our system are electrical devices known as reclosers. They function to clear lines from what are often temporary faults, such as a tree limb touching the line, by de-energizing and re-energizing several times. If you've experienced blinking lights at your home, it was likely due to reclosers clearing a line. When the system is on "one shot," the line will immediately de-energize when hit by a tree limb, other vegetation, an animal, etc.

Moving the system to "one shot" is a critical process as a part of our wildfire mitigation plan. The trade-offs for "one shot" are that the system will experience more outages, creating more of a strain on our Operations Department and linemen in the field. Many of our reclosers still must be manually switched on and off "one shot," as well. This will

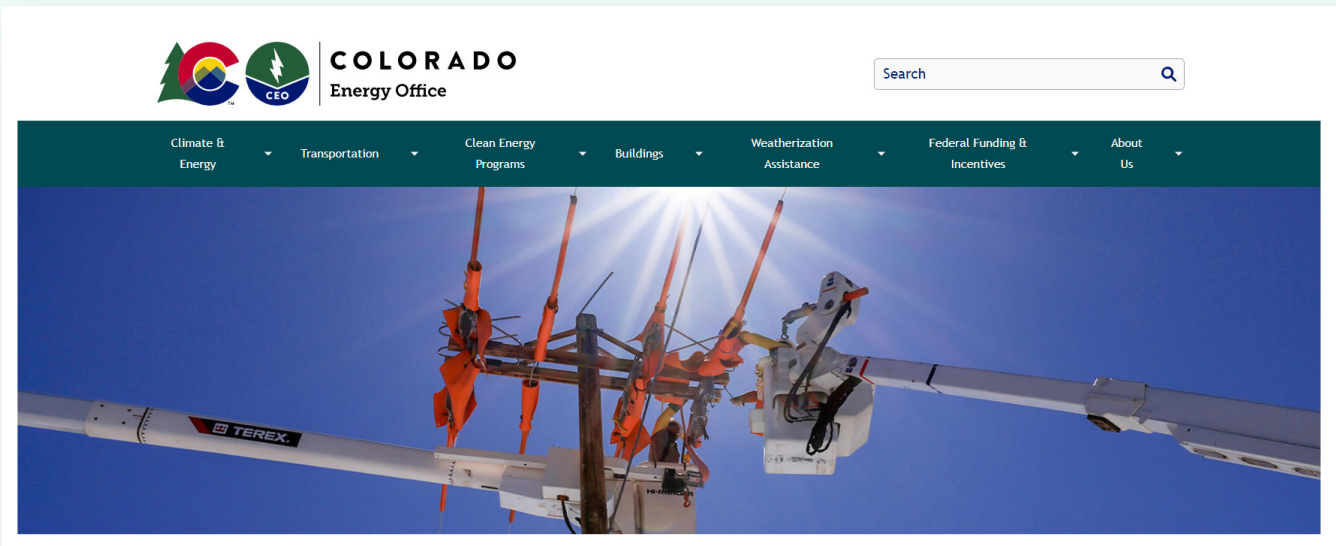


VIRGINIA HARMAN
GENERAL MANAGER

improve as more of our devices are upgraded and connected to our SCADA system, which will allow system settings to be changed from the office.

This time of year, as the seasons change in high country, we can experience a confluence of circumstances like on Monday, October 21. Our area was in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions and our system was on "one shot." Our first major snow system came through and the moderate temperatures created a heavy, wet snow that weighted down power lines and tree limbs (as seen in the photo above). Instead of experiencing blinking lights from the reclosers, lines were immediately de-energized due to the "one shot" settings and our linemen responded to outages throughout our service territory. As always, they acted quickly and responsibly, restoring power while staying safe.

Even when the system is not on "one shot," snow storms that come through our area can create havoc and cause outages. As we winterize our homes, we should also prepare our families for possible winter power outages. Check out [ready.gov/power-outages](https://www.ready.gov/power-outages) for helpful content relating to preparing for outages, tips for during the outage, food storage, etc. For those with electric medical devices or refrigerated medications, it is advised to speak with your medical provider about a power outage plan.



We should all be prepared for possible winter outages, but be assured that MPE's system is impressively resilient and staff is experienced and professional. An example: Operations Manager Adam Paulson and a couple of our linemen were invited to give a statewide presentation on October 14 on lessons learned from the East Troublesome Fire. Adam was happy to share his insights, but disappointed he would miss the MPE Board Meeting. I met with Adam to see if there were any particular items from his area I needed to share with the board on his behalf. In reviewing the Operations Board Report, I questioned Adam about what I thought must be a typo. He had noted that the annual pole testing had concluded and the report showed 22 rotten poles that needed replacing out of 2,402 poles inspected. That's a fail rate of less than 1%, which is practically unheard of. In my experience, pole testing fail rates are usually much higher. It wasn't a typo, and Adam said this low fail rate has been common for MPE. What this demonstrates is the long-running commitment of MPE to invest in our system for safety and reliability. Thanks to our successful recent grant applications related to grid hardening, MPE will continue to be on the forefront of system resiliency. The Colorado Energy Office even has a photo of MPE linemen on its "Grid Hardening for Small and Rural Communities Grant Program" (see photo above).



WAYS TO SAVE

LINDSAY McCANN
MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST

Save time,
energy,
and money
this Thanksgiving

Pre-heating the oven

An oven only needs 5 to 8 minutes to pre-heat.

Big turkeys gobble energy

A smaller turkey takes less time and energy to cook.

Un-stuff for savings

Baking stuffing outside of the turkey reduces oven time needed to cook a turkey.

Ceramic or glass are faster

Glass or ceramic pans heat faster than metal pans.

Sweet savings

Consider no-bake desserts.

REBATE PROGRAM RE-VAMP IN 2025



MPE is revamping our rebate program offerings for 2025!

Do you have your eye on something offered in our 2024 program?

If so, we recommend you make your purchase now and submit your online application to us by February 1, 2025.

Check out our 2024 offerings at www.MPEI.com/REBATES.

MPE Energy Resource Coordinator Megan Moore-Kemp visited with members about the upcoming rebate changes at all of the recent Coffee with MPE events.



WEATHERIZATION WORKSHOP

Learn how to have a warmer, more comfortable home and lower your energy bills.

DECEMBER 10

5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

FRASER LIBRARY

**FREE ADMISSION,
PIZZA & PRIZES**



OPTIONAL RSVP:
MAILCHI.MP/SUSTAINABLEGRAND/WEATHERIZATION-WORKSHOP

Holiday Lighting Contest

www.MPEI.com/CONTESTS

Get creative.
Go big.
Submit a photo
for a chance to
win bill credits.

YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS EARN LIFE-CHANGING TRIPS

Along with MPE's Scholarship Program (www.MPEI.com/SCHOLARSHIPS), MPE also conducts an annual energy-related essay contest. The two prizes are each life-changing, all-expense paid trips, one to Washington, D.C. (First Place) and the other to Youth Leadership Camp (Second Place). Both awards/trips help students beef up their post-high school resumes for college and employment applications.

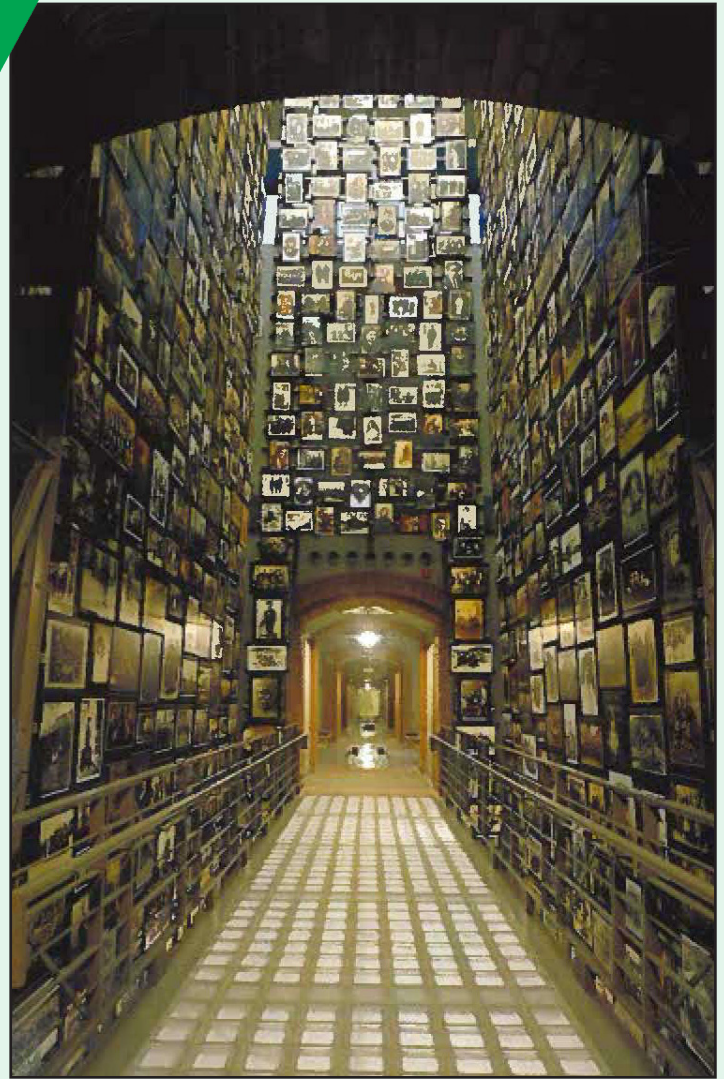
For more information, online application, and entry details, visit www.MPEI.com/YOUTH-PROGRAMS.



Lillian Hufford

Lillian Hufford, of West Grand High School, won the essay contest and MPE sponsored her trip to Washington D.C. in 2024. She joined other Colorado high schoolers in Denver before flying to our nation's capital to experience a long list of sights and activities, such as the Library of Congress, Mt. Vernon, Smithsonian museums, famous memorials, and more.

"My favorite thing that I have learned was how detrimental and impactful moments and history really are. The architecture was really cool. Thank you for an insightful experience," Lillian wrote in on a thank-you postcard (seen at right) to MPE following her trip.



Lillian Hufford sent this postcard to MPE from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum during her 2024 Washington D.C. Youth Tour trip.

ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE

75

Annual Meeting

APRIL 26, 2025

