# NORA News

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## Tri-State Proposes Renewable Transition Strategy

In a recent press release, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, power supplier for NORA Electric Cooperative, announced its commitment to a long term clean energy strategy which includes retiring two coal fired power plants ahead of schedule and adding 1250 megawatts of new renewable energy resources and battery storage over the next seven years.

**Tri-State CEO Duane Highley at NORA's 2023 Annual Meeting**

Through their 2023 Electric Resource Plan (ERP) filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Tri-State plans to retire the Craig Station Unit 3 coal burning plant, located in Moffat County in northwestern Colorado, by January 1, 2028. This is nearly a full two years earlier than the previously announced date of December 31, 2029.

The Craig Station is comprised of two other units which also have plans to become retired in 2025 and 2028. According to an EPA report, in 2022, the Craig Station was comprehensively responsible for releasing 8 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Unit 3 was responsible for 2.8 million tons of that total and 1,700 tons of sulfur dioxide, a major cause of acid rain. Unit 3 also emitted 2,900 tons of nitrogen oxide, a major contributor to toxic ground-level ozone. Tri-State is the sole owner of Unit 3, but it jointly owns Units 1 and 2 with five other entities.

In addition to Craig Station Unit 3, Tri-State also plans to retire the Springerville Station 3 coal powered pant by September 2031. Springerville is entirely owned by Tri-State and is located in eastern Arizona near the New Mexico border.

The decision to expedite the closure of the two coal powered plants ahead of schedule came partly in response to a number of Tri-State's member cooperatives expressing their desire to secede in order to offer their consumers a wider array of cleaner renewable sources of electricity. Another factor was the ongoing increase in operational costs of coal powered plants. The possibility of reduced member loads combined with the growing expenses associated with Craig Station and Springerville made this decision an economic necessity.

In place of the coal powered plants, Tri-State's ERP would invest in 1250 megawatts of renewable energy and energy storage by 2031. This includes 500 megawatts of wind resources, 200 megawatts of wind resources with storage hybrids, 310 MW of storage, including standalone 100-hour iron air batteries, standalone 4-hour batteries, and 4-hour batteries with wind and storage hybrids, and 240 MW of solar resources.

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NORA 575-756-2181
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**Phone:** 575-756-2181 - After hours Option 1
When reporting an outage, please provide the following information:

- Name
- Meter Number
- Service Address
- Telephone Number
- How long your power has been off

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If you are currently experiencing financial difficulty, or if you are in a low income status and are continuing to have difficulty paying your utility bills, please contact the NORA office for options on setting up payment arrangements. You can also request financial assistance through LiHEAP by calling 800-283-4465.

**Fall/Winter Office Hours: Open 7:00am - 3:30pm Monday-Friday**

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Tri-State had also previously announced the addition of 595 megawatts of solar resources to be completed in 2024 and 2025. This would combine for a total of nearly 900 megawatts of new solar resources by 2031.

To complement industry reliability standards, Tri-State's plan would also include a 290 megawatt combined cycle natural gas unit by 2028 which would allow for dispatchable generation as needed. By 2031, carbon capture and sequestration are to be added to the natural gas unit to minimize its negative environmental impact.

Funding for the 2023 Electric Resource Plan would come from a subsidized grant through the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA's New ERA (Empowering Rural America) program. This recently passed legislation is intended to encourage and enable rural electric cooperatives invest in affordable clean energy initiatives. Tri-State is seeking $970 million of $9.7 billion available from the New ERA program.

Duane Highley, CEO of Tri-State commented on the ERP, "Our ambitious plan, with federal funding, can accelerate clean energy investment and significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions at a lower cost than alternative scenarios, all while exceeding both industry-standard and heightened extreme weather reliability criteria. We are clearly demonstrating how Tri-State remains the most reliable, affordable and responsible power supplier for our members both now and well into the future."

Estimated utilization of renewable energy sources by Tri-State in 2022 was 34%. Implementation of the 2023 ERP would increase clean energy usage to 50% by 2025 & 70% by 2030 according to Highley.

***The NORA office will be closed January 1st & 15th for New Years Day and Martin Luther King Day.***

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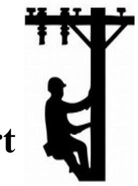
**Martin Luther King Day**

Touchstone Energy

**Our linemen are on call 24 hrs/day, 7 days a week. Please call 575-756-2181 to report power outages.**



TRI-STATE

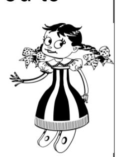
This transition from coal to renewable energy sources would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado by 89% relative to a baseline set in 2005 exceeding emission reduction requirements set by the state.

The ambitious goals of Tri-State's 2023 ERP have gained much praise and support among stakeholders, state agencies, and environmental non-governmental organizations. The combination of a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gasses and decarbonization along with the lower costs and more consistent prices of renewable energy resources make it a win-win situation.

Provided that the federal funding from the New ERA plan is granted, the award will enable Tri-State to proceed with a cost-effective transition of infrastructure with minimal economic burden on member cooperatives and accelerate savings over the long term.

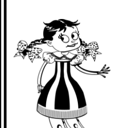
"This transformational plan outlines the most cost-effective path for Tri-State to meet our mission to serve our members with a reliable, affordable, and responsible supply of electricity. Through 2043, our plan reduces costs to our members by more than $1.8 billion compared to business as usual," stated Highley

Tri-State G & T serves 45 members including 42 electric distribution cooperatives across the four states of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska.



**Billing Schedule January 2024**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bill Due Date** | **25-Jan** |
| Usage From | 30-Nov |
| Usage To | 30-Dec |
| SEDC Pickup @11:59pm | 1-Jan |
| Bill Sent | 1-Jan |
| Late Notice Sent | 26-Jan |
| Contact/Follow Up | 6-Feb |
| *Disconnects/Cut Off* | 12-Feb |

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***Think you have what it takes to join our line crew?*** Apply now for our Journeyman Lineman opening. We're seeking a skilled individual to join our team. Inquire at 575-756-2181 or stop by our office today to apply.