

**45<sup>th</sup> Colorado Rural Electric  
Operations/ Engineering Conference  
March 31- April 3, 2008  
Alamosa, Colorado  
San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

The 45<sup>th</sup> Colorado Rural Electric (CRE) Operations/ Engineering Conference was hosted by San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative in Alamosa, Colorado March 31- April 3, 2008.

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

John Villyard- CEO, San Luis Valley REC, welcomed attendees and introduced SLV's Public Information and Regulatory Compliance Officer Jim Clare, who called the meeting to order and thanked the audience for supporting the town during its current water crisis.

Jim Nelson- Global Mapping Solutions, presented "Field Inventory for Population of Modern GIS System."

Joseph Lentz- Asplundh Tree Inc., discussed "Vegetation Management on Utility Right-of-Way."

John Heath- Cooper Power Systems, provided detailed information on the New Transformer Efficiency Standards as determined by the Department of Energy (DOE).

Jim Clare- SLV REC, demonstrated ICS (Incident Command System) as an efficient on site tool to manage emergency situations and what to expect if you have a forest fire.

Bob Mailander- Governor's Energy Office, spoke of the GEO's Utilities Program which partners with utilities across the state, offering incentive programs and working to improve conservation and efficiency.

John Baker- Independent Consultant, addressed concerns for co-op security against terrorist activities.

Logan Pleasant- ESC of Fort Collins, addressed the timeliness of updating system coordination.  
Sandy Veltrio- of Trinidad State Junior College's Lineman School Program, conveyed information regarding TSJC's program and encouraged input from the O&E group for suggestions on any TSJC program improvements which could help meet Colorado Rural Electric requirements.

Okonite Company and Western United hosted a dinner for REA employees and guests at Harleez Restaurant.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Kathy Rogers- City of Alamosa, welcomed attendees.

Jim Thate- Director of Safety Training and Loss Control, presented detailed information regarding CREA safety accreditation.

A field trip was coordinated to tour Sun Edison Solar Farm, an 80 acre 8.2 megawatt, generation facility.

A banquet was held at the Inn of the Rio Grande featuring awards.

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Howard Barnes- RUS, offered an RUS update and the annual statewide statistics.

Mike Miller- of Sangre de Cristo Electric, extended an invitation to next year's CRE Operations and Engineering meeting to be held April 6-9, 2009 at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs.

Round Table Discussion- panel consisting of: David Churchwell (Highline Electric Association), Doug Cox (Delta-Montrose Electric Association), Rodney Dunker (Y-W Electric Association), and Roger Grogg (Gunnison County Electric Association).

Topics:            One-man bucket trucks  
                      New Apprentice programs  
                      What are we doing to promote new line workers?

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Business Meeting

Jim Clare opened the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Greg Guthridge (Mountain Parks) moved to approve the 2007 minutes and financials, Mike Miller (Sangre de Cristo) seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Pamphlets similar to those by the Colorado Power Council (CPC), defining dangers and proper clearances for overhead power lines, were discussed. CRE O&E President Mike Miller will follow up on pamphlet production.

Note: CREA has received funding for the production of the pamphlets with individual co-ops responsible for purchasing.

New Business:

Tim Stanton (Poudre Valley) will check on existing video to promote the lineman trade for cooperatives to use for "Career Day."

Jim Thate will check into possible video release throughout NRECA. Jim Clare will check into video from Mesa Hotline School.

Mike Miller informed the O&E group of a suggestion from vendors to put vendor's nights together so they will not have to be in attendance all week.

Committee Reports:

*Loss Control Committee* – Co Chair Scott Ehmke advised of new APPA safety manuals' availability pending review by committee members.

*NRECA Advisory Committee* – No committee members were present and Jim Clare is to survey membership as to whether or not committee is still necessary.

*Education Committee* – Chairman Mike Miller acknowledged instructor evaluations are available, as is the new 2008 class schedule, through CREA. A survey for any other classes or training which co-ops would like to have CREA offer, besides current core classes, will be provided.

*Disaster Aid Committee* – Chairman/ West Slope Coordinator Pat Oglesby (Grand Valley), with the assistance of Jim Thate, is working on an agreement between Colorado co-ops and neighboring states on a disaster aid agreement plan.

*Nominating Committee* – it was moved, seconded and approved that all officers for the CRE Operations/ Engineering group advance to the next position and that Pat Oglesby be selected as Secretary/ Treasurer. The 2008/ 2009 officers are:

President- Mike Miller, Sangre de Cristo Electric Association  
Vice President- Roger Grogg, Gunnison County Electric Association  
Secretary/ Treasury- Pat Oglesby, Grand Valley Power

Everyone thanked Jim Clare & San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative for hosting the 2008 CRE O&E conference.