

Guinn Unger LPEA 2020 Election Questionnaire

Please give a brief list of your professional career and your educational background. (please answer in 100 words or fewer) :

I have a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Rice University. I have owned three small businesses, worked on the Space Shuttle design team at NASA, and worked in corporate America in a Director position implementing a major computer system around the world. I served for 28 years in the US Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. This breadth of experience plus technical expertise means that I am able to understand the complexities of an electric co-op and bring solutions to problems.

What is the primary reason you would like to serve on the La Plata Electric Association board of directors? (100 words or fewer):

I would like to continue serving on the LPEA Board of Directors to maintain our momentum towards the new energy future. We have made a great deal of progress in moving towards cleaner, cheaper and local energy. The Board is supportive of our efforts to look at alternatives to Tri-State. We have a complaint at the Colorado Public Utility Commission that will be resolved in the next couple of months that could very well result in a fair and equitable buyout number. We need to keep going forward and not return to the days of a backward-looking electric co-op.

LPEA is examining buying out its contract from Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Do you believe buying out the contract is the proper course to follow, please explain your position? (100 words or fewer)

Whether or not buying out of the Tri-State contract makes sense depends on the price for buying out. At this point Tri-State has refused to give LPEA any buyout number, much less a fair and equitable buyout number. The studies that the LPEA Board has conducted make it clear that our members could potentially save hundreds of millions of dollars over the remaining 30 years of the contract if we can get a buyout at prices similar to those given to Kit Carson and Delta Montrose, adjusted to our size relative to those coops.

At what point is buying out the contract too expensive to consider? (100 words or fewer).

At the point where the buyout would cost members more and raise LPEA rates it becomes too expensive. There would definitely be some other advantages to being free of Tri-State, but when the total amount to buy out of the contract becomes too large to offset the savings, we would need to take a different approach. Tri-State has not been at all cooperative as LPEA and United Power have asked for more flexibility. The recent Tri-State policies to allow partial or full buyouts are opaque and unlikely to result in anything that is affordable for member coops.

Tri-State has recently allowed members to increase their local generation of energy from 5% to 7% or an additional 2 megawatts of electricity. One reason for seeking to buy out

the Tri-State contract was the cap of locally generated electricity, especially renewable generation, to 5%. Does Tri-State's move to allow up to 7% or 2 additional megawatts, provide sufficient flexibility to negate the need to buyout the Tri-State Contract? (Please answer in 100 words or fewer).

Actually, what Tri-State has offered is community solar, but only the lesser of 2 megawatts or 2% of the member co-op's usage. This is basically trivial, amounting to less than 2% of our peak energy usage. This does almost nothing to get cleaner, cheaper, or local energy. Tri-State needs to step up and recognize that its rates are not competitive. There need to be major changes at Tri-State, but they have not shown any inclination to make these changes. So, this definitely does not negate the need to explore options with respect to the Tri-State contract.

Please answer the following hypothetical question with either a yes or no answer: LPEA has an opportunity to provide 100% of its electricity generation from renewable sources, but it must increase rates on average by 10%. Would you vote yes or no? Please check yes or no. And provide a one sentence explanation of your vote.

Yes.
 No.

Given the responses to the LPEA Board's request for pricing, it is clear that if we were not constrained by the Tri-State contract we could buy 100% clean energy, starting tomorrow, at roughly the same rates we are paying Tri-State, so no rate increase would be required. With a fair buyout amount we would pay much less over time, thereby driving LPEA members' rates down. If we were not tied to the Tri-State contract, we could also have more locally generated, locally owned energy, keeping more of our money in our community.