

Here is a questionnaire to candidates seeking spots on the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors.

Please respond by April 15.

Please keep answers brief because of limited news space.

Could you also provide a jpeg attachment of a headshot for use in a news article.

Thank you for your participation.

LPEA 2020 Election Questionnaire Dave Nulton

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

- BS Mechanical Engineering – Drexel University
- MS Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering – Stanford University
- 43 yrs. experience in the energy field – nuclear, renewable, carbon technologies
- Work experience with large utilities, multibillion-dollar power plant construction projects, Environmental Impact Statement preparation
- Presenter at numerous energy meeting/conferences – including 2009 Colorado Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting
- Senior Executive & Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Dept. of Energy (DOE)
- Was one of several senior DOE managers who created a US/Russian program to dispose of dismantled nuclear weapons material as nuclear reactor fuel
- Special international assignments for Energy Secretary & US State Dept.

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

I have no alliance with special interests and will use my extensive energy background to ensure that LPEA Coop members receive affordable, reliable electricity that is produced in a safe, sensible, environmentally acceptable manner. The energy market is complex, competitive, and changing rapidly. LPEA has traditionally been an electricity *distribution* entity – not a *generating* company. Tri-State has been in the power generating and purchasing business for 67 years. They are experienced and aggressively pursuing Colorado's mandated transition to renewable energy. I believe they are best equipped to continue providing electricity to LPEA as opposed to LPEA becoming a generating entity.

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)

No. LPEA is the fifth largest of 22 cooperatives in Colorado. Tri-State has been working with member coops, including LPEA, to meet Colorado's energy mandates. They are currently generating 35% of the energy they produce for their members with renewable energy facilities in Colorado and New Mexico. They are on track to produce 50% of their energy with renewables by 2025 and 100% by 2040 in accordance with Governor Polis's Energy Roadmap. Some of these renewable sources are being built and operated in

partnership with Tri State's member coops; one 120 Mega Watt solar facility is planned in LPEA territory.

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

LPEA's risk and cost of pursuing renewables will be much lower by working with Tri-State. Wind and solar power are intermittent sources of electricity. They require reliable replacement power during periods of no sun or wind. LPEA would have to produce or contract for replacement power with an outside entity – likely from a non-renewable source. Further, LPEA would have to purchase or lease high voltage power lines, transformer substations, and related infrastructure from Tri-State (at unknown cost) to bring this replacement power into our region. Utility Scale batteries are a back-up power alternative, but currently unproven and expensive to purchase.

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).

Increasing the allowance for local generation from 5% to 7% may not be enough. However, it is not sufficient basis to initiate a high-risk buyout of the Tri-State contract at \$150 to \$200 Million. LPEA should negotiate a higher rate of local generation and allow Tri-State to deal in the business they know best while meeting State mandates for renewable energy - much more affordable, reliable, and low risk. The Kit Carson Electric Cooperative in Taos, New Mexico was the first Tri-State member to buy out their contract. That venture resulted in Kit Carson defaulting on their buyout loan.

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.

While providing all electricity locally may seem attractive, the high buyout cost, business risk, and potential loss of reliability, are not justified when the existing contract with Tri-State provides for our needs AND meets Colorado's aggressive renewable energy mandates.

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