

# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Substation Improvements**

**Monte Vista**—San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will be upgrading the Zinzer and Carmel Substations over the next few months. The work will improve reliability to co-op members in these areas and is being completed in preparation for upcoming transmission line upgrades.

The substation upgrades must be completed first. Both Zinzer and Carmel will be rebuilt from 69 kV to 115 kV. After that work is complete, an existing transmission line within SLVREC's service territory, currently serving these substations will also be upgraded from 69kV to 115kV.

Manager of System Operations Terryl Jensen said, "This upgrade gives us more large-scale redundancy. In other words, if we were to have a major outage on the Southern portion of our system now, we would have to reroute power from the west portion of our system. The four substations in the south area would end up operating at limited capacity. Similarly, a large scale outage on the western portion of our system would cause the three substations in the west area to operate with less than normal power. Once the substations are upgraded, we can make the transmission line extensions. Then, we will be able to feed power in more directions which will minimize any impact of an outage to our members in those areas."

The substation improvement work began this fall. The substation sites are being leveled and graded in preparation for construction. Construction work will begin in early November and will be completed by contract crews. Substation upgrades will be complete by mid-February.

After the substation upgrades are completed, the transmission line from Zinzer to Carmel substation will be upgraded, and then from Zinzer to the Plaza Substation will be upgraded next. This transmission line upgrade is not related to Tri-State's Southern Colorado Transmission Improvement Project ([www.socotransmission.com](http://www.socotransmission.com)). Rather, this project will upgrade existing transmission lines already in place within the Valley and will consist primarily rebuilding the existing transmission lines that currently feed these two substations, creating loop feed options within the Valley.

Jensen said, "When the entire project is complete, we will be able to feed the western portion of the affected areas from the southern portion of our system and vice versa. It's a redundancy that will help us address large summer power loads."

For more information on the project, contact SLVREC from 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Thursday. Alternatively, questions may be emailed to [power@slvrec.com](mailto:power@slvrec.com).

SLVREC has provided electricity to the San Luis Valley since 1937. The company is member-owned and serves over 12,000 meters in the Valley. For more information, call 719-852-3538 or 800-332-7634.