

Press Release

November 5, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Clare, Heather Sanchez or Terryl Jensen
(719)-852-3538
3625 U.S. Hwy 160 W
Monte Vista, CO 81101

Substation Improvement Work in Progress

Monte Vista—San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative has recently completed the earthwork in preparation for the upgrades at the Zinzer and Carmel Substations. Contractors will now start on the construction of the new substations. When complete, the project will improve reliability to co-op members in the areas surrounding these two substations. The project is being completed in preparation for an upcoming transmission line upgrade.

Substation upgrades must precede transmission line upgrades in order to support the additional energy that can be supplied by an improved transmission line. Both Zinzer and Carmel Substations will be rebuilt and converted from 69 kV to 115 kV. After that work is complete, the existing transmission line that serves these substations will also be upgraded and converted from 69kV to 115kV.

Manager of System Operations Terryl Jensen said, “In addition to rebuilding a 1950’s vintage line, that has far exceeded its life expectancy, this upgrade will improve redundancy to the SLVREC transmission system by giving us new ways to reroute large amounts of power on the system if we have an outage or if we need to complete maintenance or make a repair. The upgrade from 69kV to 115kV also increases our capacity to provide power to our members and decreases line loss, making our power distribution system more efficient.”

The construction portion of the substation improvement work will start shortly. Construction work 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. Transmission lines 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). Rather, this project will upgrade existing transmission lines already in place within the Valley and will consist primarily of rebuilding the existing transmission lines that currently feed these two substations, creating loop feed options within the Valley.

For more information on the project, contact SLVREC from 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Thursday at 719-852-3538 or 800-332-7634. 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.