



The 2012/2013 Work Plan

One great thing about electricity: you don't have to understand how it works to use it. Push the button, turn the knob, flip the switch or plug it in—and leave the details on how and why it works to the experts at SLVREC.

However, as a member of the cooperative, you might be interested in knowing a little more. You might want to know about the co-op's work plan for the next two years. Why? This work plan:

- ♦ outlines the projects needed to ensure a trouble-free distribution network
- ♦ sets priorities for all projects and
- ♦ estimates costs.

In other words, the work plan ensures you have power when you need it. More important, as a member of the cooperative, a portion of your electric bill helps to pay for the work to be accomplished.

Where we are today

In 2001, SLVREC's board of directors recognized a need to significantly increase the amount of money allocated to system improvements and maintenance. At that time, the age of SLVREC's distribution network, coupled with an ever-increasing demand for power, created reliability concerns.

In the 90s, the flurry of development in the Valley kept crews busy building new line and installing new services. A backlog of necessary maintenance work developed. The board recognized that this backlog required attention to maintain system reliability.

For the next several years, aggressive two-year work plans addressed the most problematic areas. By 2008, the co-op had caught up on the project backlog and began working on system improvements.

Of course, maintenance work never completely stops. There will always be a place in every work plan for system maintenance. In the 2012/2013 work plan, prepared by engineering firm ESC Engineering (www.thinkesc.com), specifically points to the need for:

- ♦ replacement of undersized transformers
- ♦ installation of new and replacement of some existing sectionalizing devices
- ♦ addition of a few capacitor banks
- ♦ reconstruction of some obsolete and deteriorated lines
- ♦ replacement of deteriorated poles
- ♦ replacement of old underground cable.

Together, these projects account for approximately 20 percent of the total work plan expenditure for each year.

Since 2008, the most significant portion of each work plan has focused on system improvements designed to increase reliability and to reduce outage times. At the top of the list—substation upgrades and the development of connections between substations within the Valley to create alternate power delivery paths.

Having an alternate power delivery path to a substation can minimize outage times for members when a substation, or a feed from a substation, requires work. Interconnections between substations allows power flow from an alternate direction for the duration of the work.

The Zinzer Switchrack, a project completed in 2011, will facilitate the cooperative's goal of creating interconnections between substations within the Valley to facilitate maintenance and repair work while minimizing outages to members.





One of the constants that we all talk about is how life constantly changes and how change seems to come faster and faster. Technology, computers, cell phones, the Internet, debit cards—they all seem to have added to expectations of having everything that we want exactly when we want it. The electric utility industry has not been immune to this new expectation of life. It was not that long ago in the electric utility industry that if a utility needed to buy power, the supplier of electric power and the buyer of the power met annually, a contract between the two was agreed upon and electricity flowed for another year. In fact our co-op has a contract with Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association which will supply power to us for many years. SLVREC is what is called an “all requirements” cooperative meaning that Tri-State supplies all the power to our member-owned cooperative. We do have the ability to separately purchase a small amount of power ourselves and SLVREC does do this through some of the renewable energy projects in the Valley. On December 7th the Board of Directors of Tri-State approved a new rate design that will begin in 2013. This rate is intended to connect the usage of cooperative members to what is happening

in the wholesale electric system on an almost real time basis.

Tri-State is the electric power provider to 44 member cooperatives including SLVREC. Tri-State has many electric generation resources in its portfolio that are categorized as “base load units,” “intermediate units,” and “peaking units.” The Craig Station and the Springerville Generating Station are examples of the “base load units.” These units are large coal-fired units that are on line and generating almost all the time. The Rifle Generating Station and Brush Generation Facility are examples of “intermediate units” and these units are put on line for extended periods, weeks or months, at times when the total system load generally increases such as during the summer and winter months. The Burlington Station and the Limon Generating Station are “peaking units” and are used to generate electricity on the really hot summer days or when other generating units go off-line unexpectedly.

So, what does this all mean for SLVREC members? Well, Tri-State is constantly balancing real time electric consumption with the lowest cost generating facilities it has available within the constraints of each of the electric resources. This new rate is designed to give Tri-State another way to provide the lowest cost electricity to all of its member systems. The idea is that if Tri-State provides incentives to its member systems to manage the demand of each system, that will help Tri-State provide all cooperative members with the lowest cost electricity possible. This does not mean that electric wholesale prices will be decreasing. The cost of generating electricity is going up for a variety of reasons—more environmental regulations, requirements of states to include a portion of electricity from renewable energy, increased

global demand for fuels such as coal, natural gas and oil. This new rate will help manage those increases by reducing, or increasing, consumption when necessary. Yes, there are times when it is actually decreases cost by increasing consumption, but that is another whole article to write.

SLVREC will be working to further evaluate and consider how we will change our rates to reflect this new rate design by Tri-State. Please understand that this change is not intended to be an increase in rates, it is a way to tie demand (consumption) with the challenges for generation. Tri-State did implement a rate increase this year of 3.8 percent and there will likely be a rate increase again next year, but these increases are driven by market and regulatory changes, not this new rate design. So, the result of all this is that SLVREC members should anticipate new rate types that are more closely tied to the real time wholesale markets which means that one more thing in our lives—electricity pricing—will be something we all have to manage more frequently.

If you would like to know more about this new wholesale rate, SLVREC can provide you with more information. We will be working to communicate with our members in a variety of ways in the coming months on how this change will affect us. If you have further questions, please call or email the staff here at SLVREC.



Board of Directors

Mike Rierson, President	719-754-2588
Scott Wolfe, Vice-President	719-852-0966
Cole Wakasugi, Secretary	719-379-2629
Carol Lee Dugan	719-852-5412
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Your e-mail will be forwarded based upon the direction you provide in your message.

CEO

Loren Howard	719-852-6630
SLVREC Office (toll free)	800-332-7634
SLVREC Office (local calls)	719-852-3538

Scheduled Meetings

Board Meeting January 31, 9:30 a.m.
The Board of Directors meet the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Statement of Publisher

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New scholarship!

On December 10, SLVREC board president Mike Rierson announced SLVREC will fund a new \$1,000 scholarship in 2012. The SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship recognizes the achievements of these two SLVREC managers.

Ray Villyard served as SLVREC's general manager from 1947 to 1973, a total of 26½ years. Ray's son, John Villyard, served as SLVREC's CEO from 2000 through 2011.

With the addition of this scholarship, the cooperative now offers:

- one 4-year scholarship for tuition and books to Adams State College
- one electric lineworker scholarship for tuition, required textbooks or minimal basic tools valued at \$4,000 at any accredited lineman school
- three separate one-time awards of \$1,000 that can be used toward furthering education at

any trade school or college. The Robert Wolfe \$1,000 Scholarship must be used for education in the engineering or agriculture fields. The Past Director and Past Retired Ray and John Villyard Scholarship can be used for any career field.

- a \$1,000 Basin Scholarship to be used for full-time graduate or undergraduate study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school

Mike Rierson announced the newly created SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship at John Villyard's retirement party in December.



- six separate one-time awards of \$500 for any postsecondary accredited institution having at least a one-year degree program (open to dependents of employees and directors of SLVREC)

Scholarship applications must be received at SLVREC's office no later than 5:00 p.m. February 2, 2012.

Applications are available on the co-op web site (www.slvrec.com) at Valley high schools and at SLVREC's office. Applications include information on eligibility requirements. ☺

Nomination petitions available & 2012 Annual Meeting

Circle June 12 in red. That's the day of SLVREC's 75th Annual Meeting!

Although the details have not been finalized, this year's meeting promises to be exceptional. Every member is encouraged to attend. Check upcoming editions of the *Newsboy* for more information about the 2012 Annual Meeting.

In 2012, director positions for Alamosa and Costilla Counties will be open. Currently, Scott Wolfe represents members in Alamosa County; Cole Wakasugi represents members in Costilla County. If you are interested in running for either of these director seats, you will need to follow the recently implemented nomination process.

The article referring to the nomination process is shown to the

right. A complete set of the cooperative's by-laws is available on the co-op's web site at www.slvrec.com or from the co-op. Visit the co-op in Monte Vista to pick up a copy or call customer service to have a copy mailed to you.

The 2012 Annual Meeting will follow a streamlined format. Election results will be tabulated by an independent auditing firm and may not be announced until the following day.

For more information on the nomination process or for a copy of the nomination petition, please contact SLVREC. Submitting your completed petition early will help ensure enough time to publish a candidate profile in the *Newsboy* and in the ballot packet mailed to members. ☺

ARTICLE III, SECTION 4

Nominations by Membership. Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make nominations for any director position to be elected by written petition signed by such members submitted to the secretary of the Cooperative not less than forty five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of the membership. Petitions shall be available at the Cooperative's principal office not less than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the membership. The petition shall be accompanied by the written acceptance of the member nominated. Upon receipt of a petition and acceptance, the secretary of the Cooperative shall determine if the petition contains adequate signatures of members and whether the nominee is eligible for the office for which he or she is nominated and, if the secretary determines that both of the foregoing criteria are satisfied, shall cause such nominations to be posted at the Cooperative's principal office and the names of all members so nominated shall be included with any information concerning said nominee's qualifications reasonably available to the secretary and shall be included with the notice to the members as specified in Article II. No member may sign nominating petitions for more than one (1) candidate per district. Nominations from the floor at an annual meeting for the position of director shall not be permitted.

When the work is complete, power is rerouted through the normal distribution direction once again.

While the concept is simple, the execution may not be. In some cases, substations must be tied to within-Valley transmission lines to accomplish the goal. In other situations, lines between substations must be rebuilt to carry increased power loads. That's exactly the case for the larger projects in the 2012/2013 work plan.

Interconnection

SLVREC will work with Tri-State Generation & Transmission on a project to rebuild a 115 kV line between Carmel and Plaza Substations. When completed, Tri-State will own half the line and will take care of half of all expenses associated with it.

In conjunction with the project, some substation upgrades will be required. Most of the work will take place in 2013. The project carries a hefty price tag. However, over the long haul, the cooperative and its members will see financial benefits from the joint ownership. Additionally, the project will improve system reliability—a direct benefit for members.

This complex project includes several components. In 2012, work will focus on rebuilding and upgrading lines between Carmel and Plaza Substations. In 2013, work will continue on lines linked to Plaza. Waverly and Stockade Substation lines will also receive work.

Already, in preparation for this project, the Zinzer Switchrack and Carmel Substation have been rebuilt and the power transformer in the Stockade Substation has been replaced.

South Fork Substation

When the South Fork Substation was built, its primary purpose was to feed the sawmill. When the mill closed in the late 90s, some thought perhaps the substation could be eliminated.

That idea was quickly nixed when the load from residential growth on the west side of the Valley soon met, and eventually exceeded, the load the sawmill once demanded. Some refurbishing work was done; however, a significant portion of the substation dates from 1957 to 1960. Timbers are showing signs of age.

However, the power lines serving the South Fork Substation don't have the capacity to reroute power from Highland Substation—the most logical alternate power delivery path. In 2012, line reconstruction work will be tackled and a complete rebuild of the South Fork Substation is planned for 2013. Altogether, the project is estimated to cost about \$1.2 million.

Power Demand Forecast

In 2010, SLVREC's system peak was 74.83 MW, down only 3.5 percent from 2003's all-time system peak of 77.56 MW. The lagging economy has slowed the once hectic pace of adding new services. However, the number of active services has still been creeping upwards and the amount of power used by both average residential and small commercial accounts continues to increase.

SLVREC will continue to beef up distribution lines and replace older distribution lines to meet the steady increase in demand. For example, additional work is planned in the Creede area in upcoming years. Lines will be converted from single phase to three phase. Other similar projects are in the work.

Meanwhile, several unknowns loom on the horizon. Will mining resume near Creede? How will pumping restrictions affect irrigation load?

The greatest concern is that power demand will exceed available supply. According to ESC Engineering, "The transmission grid into the San Luis Valley consists of a single 230 kV line jointly owned by Tri-State G&T and Xcel Energy, a 115 kV Xcel Energy line, and a very old small conductor 69 kV Xcel Energy line. All three of these lines originate from the Poncha Springs Substation. Loss of the 230 kV line during the irrigation season causes the system to become unstable and necessitates the shedding of load to avoid voltage collapse. The entire San Luis Valley region does not have adequate single contingency capacity."

Tri-State had partnered with Xcel Energy to work on the possibility of bringing a new double circuit transmission line over La Veta Pass to the San Luis Valley. Xcel Energy withdrew from the project in late 2011 and Tri-State has gone back to the drawing board on the project. For current information on the project status, visit www.socotransmission.com.

What's Next?

As anyone who has paid power bills for the past decade knows, electric rates are increasing. According to ESC Engineering, "Wholesale power costs had leveled off and were slowly decreasing until 2000. However, since 2000 power costs per kWh sold have increased by 85 percent from 3.98 cents/kWh to 7.36 cents/kWh and will continue to increase at least for a few years. Tri State G&T has been steadily increasing their rates since 2002."

To keep costs—and thus rates—in check, SLVREC has adopted technologies like the IVR (interactive voice response) system, improved switching and SCADA

equipment and automatic meter reading. Over the past decade, there's also a direct relationship between more aggressive work plans and a reduction in overtime expenses.

Terryl Jensen, manager of system operations explained, "Our work plan reflects a paradigm shift at SLVREC. We used to fix problems to solve outages. Now, our first thought is, 'How do we get the power back on?' We shift load first; then we fix the problem. It's an entirely different way of doing things and in many ways, it's more cost effective."

In addition to being a more cost-effective approach, the new paradigm has also significantly reduced outage times for members. In the 90s, members averaged about 300 minutes of outage time a year. Now, that number has dropped to just over 5 minutes per year.

Clearly, back in 2001, the directors made a wise choice when they decided to significantly increase the amount of money allocated to system improvements and maintenance. Over the past decade, members have benefitted from increased system reliability and reduced outage times.

Will the cooperative ever catch up? Will the system reach a point where significant projects are no longer required to improve reliability? Jensen believes, "At some point, we may be caught up enough on system work to stabilize with a \$4 million annual plan. It's important to keep in mind though, that costs are increasing at a rapid rate. The sooner we get some of the bigger projects done, the better off we'll be in the long run. We don't want to get in a position of having to catch up on work again."

The bottom line: it's expensive to keep an electric distribution network in good working order. The cooperative will continue to do the best possible with the resources at hand. The board will continue to balance the work plan needs with reliability concerns. ☺



Look closely and you will see a cracked horizontal timber on the left side of the support structure in the South Fork Substation. This substation will be rebuilt in 2013. In the new substation, metal supports will be used.

Kill A Watt!

Do you know how much energy the appliances in your home use? SLVREC has made it easy to find out.



Borrow a Kill A Watt meter directly from SLVREC's headquarters in Monte Vista or from the library. SLVREC has provided Kill A Watt meters to libraries in South Fork, Monte Vista and Crestone. When checked out, the Kill A Watt meter comes with an instruction booklet that explains how to use the device.

Typical uses include testing different electric appliances in your home to see how much energy they use. You could also experiment with use patterns to find ways to save electricity and cut your electric bill. For example, you might try plugging your TV into the Kill A Watt meter directly to see how much it uses. Then, check energy use with the TV plugged into a surge strip with the strip turned off when the TV isn't in use. In this way, the Kill A Watt meter can help pinpoint ways to conserve.

Call SLVREC's energy services specialist to learn more. ☺

Meter tampering can kill

Tampering with an electric meter can kill. It's that serious.

Any attempt to bypass or alter an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion or electrocution. A person who tampers with an electric meter and is lucky enough not to get hurt puts others at risk. A tampered meter sets a dangerous trap for the electric cooperative employees who read and maintain the meter.

If you suspect problems with your electric meter, call SLVREC right away. Our technicians have the skills, equipment and knowledge to check electric meters to ensure safe and accurate operation.

Don't let anyone you know tamper with a meter as a way to cut their electric bill. Not only does such an act risk the individual's life and threaten the safety of others, it is against the law. Instead, encourage them to contact SLVREC.

The cooperative can work out payment plans and direct individuals to community resources for help with electric bills and for weatherization assistance. It's important to call before accruing late fees.

If you know of any meters that have been tampered with, please call SLVREC to report your concerns. ☺



Left: Mike Rierson, SLVREC Board president and Member at Large. Below: Eleanor Valdez, director, Costilla County.



Open House Well Attended

On December 8, SLVREC held an open house to provide members the opportunity to wish John Villyard well in his retirement and to welcome the cooperative's new CEO, Loren Howard and his wife Karen. Over 50 people attended the event. Attendees also had a chance to meet the cooperative's board of directors and many of the co-op's staff as well.

Gigi Dennis of Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association requested Representative Scott Tipton recognize John Villyard with a Congressional Commendation. She read that letter of Commendation at the open house. State Senator Gail Schwartz also chose to recognize John—this time in the State Senate. Mike Rierson presented that letter of recognition.

The Howards received a gracious welcome from dozens of members. Additionally, many community leaders attended the event.

Loren takes the helm of the cooperative in SLVREC's 75th year of service to the Valley. He is the cooperative's seventh General Manager/CEO. He brings a wealth of experience to the cooperative. Prior to accepting the position at SLVREC, Howard served as the general manager at the Holland Board of Public Works in Holland, Michigan. ∞



Left: John and Jowanda Villyard. Below: John Villyard looks on while Mike Rierson presents a letter of commendation from State Senator Gail Schwartz.



Above: Gigi Dennis presented John with a Congressional Commendation. Above right: Loren and Karen Howard. Below: The Howards enjoyed a welcome to SLVREC from dozens of members, community leaders and industry guests.



The last few days have been totally amazing. I'll never forget them. I've had three careers in my life. Eleven years with the Air Force, fifteen years as a CPA and fifteen years at this cooperative. The last fifteen has been like coming home. It has always felt like a family. When the chips are down, we come together and make it right. I'm proud and I will remember it always. Thank you.

John Villyard, December 10, 2011

Good Housekeeping's 5-Minute Multigrain Cereal

- 2 Tbsp. quick-cooking barley
- 2 Tbsp. bulgur wheat
- 2 Tbsp. old-fashioned oats
- ⅔ cup water
- 2 Tbsp. raisins
- 1 pinch ground cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp. chopped walnuts or pecans

In microwave-safe 1-quart bowl, combine barley, bulgur, oats, and water. Microwave on High 2 minutes. Stir in raisins and cinnamon; microwave 3 minutes longer. Stir, then top with walnuts.

Cary Neff's Carrot Quinoa

- 1 cup quinoa, rinsed
- ¼ tsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped celery
- ½ cup chopped zucchini
- 2 cups bottled carrot juice
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper

Heat a 2-quart saucepan over medium flame. Add quinoa; toast, stirring constantly, until grains turn light brown and have a nutty fragrance, about 6 minutes. Transfer to a bowl; set aside.

Return saucepan to heat and add olive oil. Add onion, celery and zucchini. Cover and cook until vegetables soften, about 5 minutes. Stir in carrot juice; bring to a low boil. Stir in reserved quinoa, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer until liquid has been absorbed and quinoa is tender, 25 to 30 minutes.

Chicken Dry Rubs

Add flavor to chicken breast with a dry rub. Pat chicken breasts dry and coat with spices. Let sit in the refrigerator for an hour before grilling or baking.

1. Equal parts smoked paprika,

chili powder, freshly ground black pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, dry mustard, oregano and thyme. Add 1 tsp. of kosher salt per cup of dried spices.

2. Equal parts thyme, rosemary, paprika, oregano, tarragon, rubbed sage, garlic powder, marjoram, savory, cilantro, chervil, chives and parsley. Use 1 tsp. of kosher salt and ½ tsp. of freshly ground black pepper per cup of dried spices.

3. Equal parts garlic powder, oregano, thyme, chili powder, paprika, cilantro, savory, marjoram, rubbed sage, allspice. Add 1 tsp. of kosher salt, ½ tsp. of freshly ground black pepper and 2 tsp. of turbinado sugar per cup of dried spices.

Slow Cooker Fajita Stew

- 2 lbs. boneless beef round steak
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (14-oz.) cans diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 can chopped green chiles
- 1 (15-oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 Tbsp. Fajita Mix (recipe below)
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- ¼ cup flour
- ¼ cup water

Trim excess fat from beef and cut into 2" pieces. Combine with onion and garlic in a 4-quart slow cooker. Mix tomatoes, fajita seasoning, green chile and pour over beef. Top with beans and then peppers. Cover crockpot and cook on low for 7 to 9 hours or until beef is tender.

Combine flour and water in a small bowl. Mix well. Add gradually to crockpot and stir well. Cover slow cooker and cook on high for 15 to 20 minutes until thickened, stirring occasionally. Serve with rice.

Fajita Seasoning Mix

- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. paprika
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 tsp. crushed chicken bouillon
- 1½ tsp. onion powder
- ½ tsp. garlic powder
- ½ tsp. cayenne pepper
- ¼ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- ½ tsp. cumin

Combine ingredients. Store in a small container in a cool, dry place. Makes the equivalent of 3 packets of Fajita Seasoning Mix.

Gingered Beef with Broccoli

- 2 cup broccoli crowns
- ¾ lb. lean beef cut for stir-fry
- 3 Tbsp. water
- 1½ Tbsp. cornstarch
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 Tbsp. minced, unpeeled fresh ginger
- ¾ cup low sodium stir-fry sauce
- 1 red pepper, cut in 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup shiitake mushrooms, stemmed
- ½ cup snow peas, trimmed

Place beef in a small bowl. Pour in water 1 tablespoon at a time, working in with hands until water is absorbed into beef. Sprinkle cornstarch over beef and work in with hands to coat all pieces.

Heat nonstick wok or skillet on high. When hot, pour 1 tablespoon oil down sides of pan. Add ginger and beef; stir-fry until beef just browns. Add sauce and toss to coat; remove beef from pan.

Add remaining oil. Add broccoli to pan. Cook for 4 to 5 minutes. Then add peppers, mushrooms and snow peas. Stir-fry 2 minutes. Return beef with sauce to pan; toss to heat through, about 30 seconds. Serve with rice or rice noodles.



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Conservation Corner

In this Issue:

- 2012/2013 Work Plan
- New Villyard Scholarship
- Nomination Petitions
& 2012 Annual Meeting
- Kill A Watt on Loan
- Meter Tampering Can Kill
- Open House Photos
- Recipes for Keeping Resolutions:
High Flavor, Low Fat



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January 2012



Using ceiling fans in winter

Ceiling fans can provide a cooling breeze in summer and help circulate heat making your house feel warmer in winter—but only if your fan is spinning in the right direction.

In winter months, ceiling fans should spin in reverse mode or clockwise. Warm air rises and gets trapped near the ceiling. When the ceiling fan spins in reverse mode, it circulates warm air from the ceiling down toward the floor to help take the chill out of the air.

The reverse mode works best when the fan is on low in most rooms. However, in a large room, in a room with high ceilings or in a room with more than one ceiling fan, medium or high speed may work better.

To check how the fan impacts air flow, you can turn the fan on and use an aerosol spray with a visible mist, such as Lysol®, to watch how the fan moves the air.

In summer months, switch your ceiling fan to spin in forward mode or counterclockwise. Although the room temperature won't actually drop, the movement of air creates a wind chill effect that helps you feel cooler. In the summer, turn your fan off when no one is in the room to help conserve energy.

If your fan is directly over dining room table or desk, you may want to set it to spin in reverse mode or clockwise year round. This will help prevent the fan from cooling meals or causing papers to fly about.

Source: <http://www.ceilingfan.org/ceiling-fan-direction>