

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



PRESS RELEASE

March 6, 2025

“Our primary mission is to safely, responsibly, and reliably meet the electrical energy needs of our member-owners.”

**Energy Experts
Working for You!**

P.O. Box K
Cortez, CO 81321
Phone (970) 565-4444
Fax (970) 564-4404
www.eea.coop

EEA Makes \$1.82 Million in Capital Credit Retirement Payments to Its Members

Payments to be distributed as bill credits or mailed as checks in March 2025

Cortez, CO – I am pleased to announce Empire Electric Association (EEA) will return \$1,820,104.95 in capital credits to eligible members. These funds will be distributed as bill credits or mailed as checks in March 2025.

Economic participation is a cooperative principle, and EEA greatly appreciates the support we receive from our member-owners who support us as we work to provide safe and reliable power service to their homes and businesses. We understand the importance of affordable and reliable power to our community, and we continue to seek opportunities to ensure we are delivering on both expectations.

The capital credit process begins with our board approving rates that include target margins providing EEA the necessary working capital to operate the cooperative. The next step is reviewing annual revenue and expenses. Any revenue remaining after all expenses have been paid in a fiscal year are termed margins. Margins are allocated to members who took service from the cooperative during that fiscal year and are placed into a patronage capital account in each member's name. This capital, along with borrowed funds, is invested back into EEA system infrastructure.

“The capital provided by members through this process allows EEA to maintain and upgrade our distribution system without borrowing more money” says Ginny Johnson, Finance Manager. “Borrowing less reduces expenses and helps minimize the need for rate increases. It also helps build member equity or ownership in their cooperative.”

Allocated margins are eventually returned to members as capital credits. Each year, the EEA Board of Directors reviews the financial health of the cooperative and determines if capital credits may be returned. We retire capital credits and pay them back to the members we serve as soon as it is financially prudent to do so. Returning capital credits to our members is one of the many things that sets cooperatives apart from for-profit utilities. At the January 2025 board meeting, the board approved returning the remaining EEA Margins from 2004 and a portion from 2005. Since incorporation in 1939, EEA has paid members over \$41.1 million in retired capital credits.

Please be sure to keep your contact information up to date, even if you discontinue service with EEA, so that you can be contacted about future capital credit retirements. A list of former members with unclaimed capital credits is posted each year on EEA's website at eea.coop. If you have any questions about capital credits or any other cooperative business, please call EEA's office at (970) 565-4444.

Josh Dellinger
General Manager