



For immediate release
January 30, 2012

Tri-State and Arkansas River Power Authority enter into service agreement
Electricity suppliers partner to ensure continued reliable, competitively priced electricity supply to southeast Colorado communities

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the not-for-profit wholesale power supplier to 44 electric cooperatives, and Arkansas River Power Authority, the power supplier to six southern Colorado communities, have entered into a three-year service agreement pertaining to the purchase and sale of electricity and related support functions, beginning February 1, 2012.

ARPA provides wholesale electric energy to its member communities of Holly, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Springfield and Trinidad, Colo., located in southeastern Colorado and adjacent to Tri-State member cooperatives San Isabel Electric Association and Southeast Colorado Power Association.

The agreement is designed to support ARPA with services that include the ability to purchase and sell electricity, scheduling federal hydropower resources and conducting energy accounting settlements. "We believe this is a very positive agreement for both parties and provides the frame work for a long-term relationship" said Rick Rigel, general manager of ARPA.

For Tri-State, the agreement is an opportunity to extend the value of its wholesale power services to a neighboring utility with many points in its existing service territory.

"Tri-State and our members' mission is to serve rural communities with reliable and affordable electricity," said Ken Anderson, executive vice president and general manager of Tri-State. "This agreement is mutually beneficial to both our members and ARPA's"

Ratepayers of ARPA's member communities will benefit from the combined resources and expertise of the two not-for-profit electricity providers in the region.

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About Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association

Based in Denver, Tri-State supplies wholesale power throughout a 200,000-square-mile service territory to 18 electric cooperatives in Colorado, 12 in New Mexico, eight in Wyoming and six in western Nebraska. The 44 co-ops, in turn, provide electricity to more than 600,000 meters – which translates to a population of approximately 1.5 million end-use consumers. More information is available at www.tristate.coop.

About Arkansas River Power Authority

The Arkansas River Power Authority (ARPA) is a wholesale electric service provider in Southeastern Colorado that supplies power to the communities of Holly, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Springfield and Trinidad. Unlike larger, investor-owned utilities, ARPA was formed and is owned by the communities it serves. Electricity supplied by ARPA powers customers in a geographic area spanning five southeastern Colorado counties. Each of ARPA's municipal members owns and operates an electric system that distributes electricity to residential, commercial and industrial customers. Also known as a not-for-profit utility corporation, ARPA is governed by a 12-person board with two board representatives appointed by each member community. Additional information is available at www.arpapower.org.