



Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

SEC Board of Trustees hard at work during a recent Board Meeting

SEC expresses concerns to City of Socorro - Invites City to Meet with Committee

On Monday, July 8, 2019, SEC representatives presented a letter of concern to the City Council of the City of Socorro at their regularly scheduled meeting. This letter echos sentiments expressed by some of the City Councilors at their May 20, 2019 meeting during the discussion of the City's RFP for "Long-Term Wholesale Power Supply, Scheduling Services and Project Capital Financing".

During the report provided by Mr. Ed Reyes, energy consultant for the City, some of the City Councilors asked about the potential impact to the residential consumers of SEC should the City move forward with plans to create a municipal electric utility and "take" electric customers such as New Mexico Tech and those located within the City's Industrial Park area. The "loss" of these customers to SEC would obviously reduce revenues to the co-op which would cause the rates on other consumers, such as the residents of Socorro and other members outside the City limits, to rise.

Your SEC's Board of Trustees share this concern and subsequently the Chair of the SEC Board, Ms. Anne Dorough, appointed a committee consisting of the District 3 Trustees of SEC who were elected to represent the citizens of the City of Socorro. This committee seeks to meet with a similar committee, comprised of City Councilor members, to discuss the impact of electric rates to the community of Socorro resulting from these actions proposed by the City.

The SEC Committee Members of Dr. Don Wolberg, Chair for the Committee, Mr. Leroy Anaya, and Mr. Luis Aguilar desire to engage in dialogue with a similar committee from the City, to review the potential impact to individuals and businesses within the City of Socorro.

If, SEC were no longer able to provide electric service to New Mexico Tech due to the City's actions, an additional \$450,000 in revenue would have to be received from ALL remaining SEC Members. The residents and businesses of Socorro would have to contribute their proportional share of these required revenues, causing rates to rise on both homes and businesses above the \$1,249,993 that is currently being requested by SEC.

At SEC, we are grateful for the concerns expressed by the few City Council members because we too share the same concerns for our members. SEC believes that the City, in it's efforts to establish a utility to serve large loads, has forgotten about its residential members. In fact, at the recent NMPRC Hearing for SEC's proposed rate change, the consultant for the City of Socorro and New Mexico Tech, Mr. Larry Blank, testified that SEC should increase rates on the Residential Class by ***at least 10%***. He also suggested that SEC should decrease rates to other consumers with the additional revenues generated from ***his*** proposed increase to the Residential Class of customers.

Mr. Blank's recommended 10% is much higher than SEC's current requested rate increase on the Residential Class of consumers of 6.66% for the whole class. The actual impact of course will vary based on your individual electric use.

The proposed rates SEC requested are designed to reduce "rate shock" while improving inter class subsidies, a practice recognized and recommended by the NMPRC.

Spotlight on TEAM SEC - Meet our Staff, Your Neighbors

Diana Ross, Purchasing and Inventory Clerk for SEC, started at SEC in May 2014 and has put her many talents and life experiences to work for SEC in keeping track of over \$600,000 worth of materials, poles, wire, transformers and associated hardware to help maintain a high quality of service to the Members of SEC.

Diana served 2 years in the U.S. Army as an Aviation Communications Electronics Technician before receiving her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from UNM, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Diana then taught for 4 years in the Belen Public Schools before leaving to start her own Preschool, serving children from 6 weeks of age to 12 years old. After 11 years, Diana closed her business and stayed home for a period of time before joining SEC.

Diana says that while she was attracted to SEC in part because of the benefits provided to the employees, she has grown to appreciate the support she receives from fellow workers at SEC that make up the team she works with daily. Even though Diana doesn't come into much contact with SEC's Member/Owners with her primary responsibility in keeping the shelves stocked with the many materials used by an electric cooperative, she is an integral part of TEAM SEC and we appreciate her constant "on the go" energy and positive attitude!



Diana Ross
Purchasing/Inventory Clerk

CONTACT US

WEBSITE

www.socorroelectric.com

PHONE

1-800-351-7575 or 575-835-0560

PAYING YOUR BILL

You can make your payment over the phone by check or major credit card, 24 hrs. A day, 7 days a week with our IVR phone system at no charge.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

REPORTING AN OUTAGE

Before reporting a power outage, please check the circuit breakers in your house first. If you still do not have power after checking your breakers, please call **(575) 835-0560 or (800) 351-7575**.

If you get a busy signal, it is an indication that someone else is experiencing an outage as well; however please continue to call, this will help us pinpoint the problem.

MEMBER SERVICE/BILLING

Marilyn Madrid - Member Service Supervisor
575-835-0560 Ext 1504

ACCOUNTING

Rauni Montoya - Accounting Supervisor
575-835-0560 Ext 2502

LINE EXTENSIONS

Bill Harris - Staking Technician
575-835-0560 Ext 2503

MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jimmy Capps - Director of Communications & Public Affairs - 575-838-9724
jcapps@socorroelectric.com

June Board Meeting Report - the Board.....

- approved the renewal of the General Property, Vehicle and Liability insurance policy which includes a 2% premium increase.
- was notified by Manager Herrera of the hiring of 2 new apprentice linemen from a Lineman Training School in Iowa.
- appointed a committee to engage with the City Council of Socorro regarding the potential impact to SEC Members if the City develops their own municipal electric utility.
- set the date for the next Board Meeting as July 24, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Rebate Programs Offer Cash back to Members

For over 20 years SEC, in conjunction with their wholesale power provider, has offered various rebates on appliances, lighting, water heaters and heat pump installations or retrofits.

Current ENERGY STAR appliance rebates include \$40 for front load clothes washers; \$30 for full size refrigerators and freezers, top load clothes washers, electric clothes dryers; \$20 for dishwashers. Mail or bring in your receipt and the yellow Energy Star tag in order to submit your rebate request.

SEC also offers rebates on LED light bulbs or fixtures of 500 lumens or greater. Multi-LED light sources like rope-light, LED troffers or under-counter lighting is considered as a single fixture. The rebate is currently the lower of \$8 per lamp/fixture **or** 50% of the lamp or fixture cost, and is capped at 50 lamps per year, per Member.

SEC also has rebates for electric heat pumps - air & ground source, irrigation motors, variable speed drive retrofits, and commercial LED lighting installations or retrofits. Each of these programs have guidelines and limitations, so please contact our office to get more information on these rebates.

Did you know...? in most homes, the refrigerator, at 13.7% is the 2nd largest user of electricity right after the air conditioner at 14.1%. With most appliances you save energy by using them less, but you can't very well do that with your fridge. The main way to save money with your fridge is to use an efficient model. If your fridge was made before 2001 you could save 50% in electric use with a newer Energy Star rated model and SEC will give you a \$40 rebate to boot! (see above)