



October is National Co-Op Month

*Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

*SEC Crews installing a pole in line in our service area. Just a small part of our commitment to our members.*

## Message from President of SEC Board of Trustees

Dear SEC Members,

The current Board of Trustees has worked extremely hard over the last few years to make financially responsible decisions for the long-term success of SEC. In December 2018, the Board voted to file Advice Notice No. 69 with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) in order to change the existing base rates for the first time since 2011. This decision, while not easy, was an effort to maintain the long-term financial health of SEC, maintain the reliability of your electric service, and ensure the safety of our Members and employees.

Because of protests filed against this Advice Notice, including those by the City of Socorro and New Mexico Tech, the requested rate filing was subjected to a lengthy and costly hearing process. As a result of the protests, on September 11, 2019 the PRC denied SEC's requested rate changes by a vote of 4-1. The PRC adopted the Recommended Decision by the Hearing Examiner who presided over the hearing involving SEC's Advice Notice No. 69. We feel the PRC's ruling results in rates, determined by the Hearing Examiner, that will not ensure SEC's long-term financial stability.

The Recommended Decision, as approved by the PRC, includes changes in rates for all classes of consumers. The entire Residential Class will see an increase of almost \$200,000 annually. This increase will be collected primarily from the ordered increase of \$1.50, from \$15.00 to \$16.50, in the monthly System Charge. At the same time, other rate classes such as Large Commercial and Load Management will see a collective decrease of almost \$201,676 annually.

Also, a **new** 1% additional charge was ordered by the PRC to be placed on the electric bills for **ALL** rate classes. This 1% (approximately \$240,000 annually) **cannot** be used to offset ongoing ordinary operating expenses of SEC. It will be collected and, by law, **can only** be spent on programs or projects to promote the use of renewable energy, load management, or energy efficiency.

The above changes were not requested by SEC and we believe they do not contribute to improving the long-term financial stability of SEC, nor do they provide the additional revenues we need to maintain our existing electric infrastructure or to implement newer technologies to improve the reliability of service to our Members.

We feel the language provided in the New Mexico Public Utility Act that states "Under the Rural Electric Cooperative Act, rural electric cooperatives are nonprofit membership corporations whose **members have direct control over the cooperative's rates through an elected board of trustees**" has been circumvented. Therefore, the SEC Board has voted **unanimously** to appeal this action taken by the PRC and we will be asking the New Mexico Supreme Court to review this ruling.

At the August 28, 2019 regular SEC Board Meeting, the Trustees adopted a resolution to approve the 1993 General Retirement of Capital Credits in the amount of \$367,600, "**if it is fiscally responsible to do so**". In light of the PRC ruling and our continuing commitment to be strong financial stewards for SEC, the Board has decided to postpone the 1993 General Retirement until such a time as is fiscally responsible. We appreciate your support and understanding as we take this action that we feel is in the long-term best interest of your electric cooperative.

Anne Dorough, SEC President

*Your*  
**SOCORRO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative







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Co-op Month.

## Defined by Principles

1. Voluntary & Open Membership
2. Democratic Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy & Independence
5. Education, Training & Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community



## CONTACT US

### WEBSITE

[www.socorroelectric.com](http://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](mailto:jcapps@socorroelectric.com)

## September Board Report - the Board....

### 9/25 Regular Meeting -

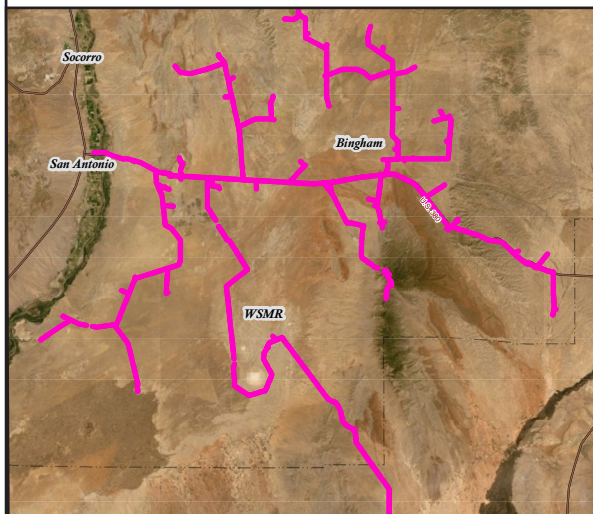
- approved the 2019 Audit Agreement with an external CPA firm.
- approved revisions to several Board Policies
- set the date for the next Board Meeting for October 30, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

### 9/27 Special Meeting -

- voted unanimously to appeal the NMPRC rejection of Advice Notice No. 69.
- voted to postpone the the General Retirement of the 1993 Capital Credits.

## Pole Inspectors in SEC Service Area

In our continuing effort to improve the reliability of the power we deliver to your home or business, SEC has contracted with a company to inspect over 1,400 poles in the areas indicated on these maps.



The map above shows the poles which will be inspected along Hwy 380 from I-25 eastward in the southeastern portion of our service area.

The map to the right shows the poles that will be inspected between Pietown and Datil.



This is just one of the methods we use in our maintenance program to try and prevent issues before they affect your power delivery.

The company, **RAM Utilities**, will be in our service area from mid-October through the end of November conducting their inspections.

**RAM Utilities** will have SEC signs on their vehicles for easy identification purposes.