



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

SEC's new Socorro to Magdalena 69 kV line construction showing the old transmission line on the right, the new one on the left and the distribution lines next to the new line, that will all be incorporated and moved onto the new steel poles. Photo Credit: Jimmy Capps

## Partnering With a Sister Co-op For Better Opportunities

Over the last two years, SEC has been gearing up to start construction on our new 69 kV transmission line that feeds power from Socorro to Magdalena and our new Magdalena Substation. These construction endeavors will help increase reliability to our members in Magdalena, Alamo, the VLA, and surrounding areas. The new 69kV line will be built with steel poles (pictured above) and make for a more robust and resilient system than wood poles do.

SEC is providing what is called “the middle mile” of the fiber-optic broadband internet service, in which we are partnering with our sister cooperative Continental Divide, an Energy and Telecommunications Cooperative in Grants, New Mexico, to provide their Red Bolt Broadband internet service. The way that SEC is providing the middle mile of fiber is a unique way that fiber is being incorporated into electrical transmission lines.

SEC has opted to incorporate the fiber-optic cable within its static/neutral of our new 69 kV line between Socorro and Magdalena. This allows for longer, more reliable strands of fiber to be strung. The fiber line will terminate at SEC's Magdalena Substation and, from there, be picked up by Red Bolt Broadband's splicing cabinet and fed out to the Village of Magdalena.

The fiber-optic build-out to Magdalena has already started and will continue, in parallel, with the build-out of the 69 kV line. The crew building the fiber-optic grid in Magdalena, Ward Systems, will be providing a fiber drop near every electric meter in the area. Ward Systems is a contractor of SEC and Red Bolt Broadband. There are several ways fiber-optic internet will help the people in Magdalena.

A home equipped with fiber-optic internet service has more value than a home that has any other service attached. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), “homes equipped with internet speeds up to 25 Mbps

have prices 3% higher than homes with up to 1 Mbps.” In the same article, the NAR states, “Access to fiber may be associated with about a \$5,437 increase in the typical home's value.”

If you have a student in the house, the internet is essential. The faster the internet, the better it is for you or your student to get things done online. High-speed internet will also allow you to stream TV services online.

Since the pandemic, internet services have become increasingly critical. Pew Research Center says, “35% of people who can work from home do so full time.” This means that the opportunity for growth and prosperity for the Village of Magdalena is endless. People who work from home have been drawn more to the country style of living recently because they no longer have to live in the city to have a high-paying job. They can work from home with high-speed internet.

The main focus for Your Socorro Electric Cooperative is to provide reliable electric service to our members. The upgrade to the transmission line is doing just that. SEC saw this as an opportunity to help better the lives of the people of Magdalena and possibly allow expansion to more areas of our service territory with the partnership of our sister cooperative.



**CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**  
AN ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

**REDBOLT**  
BROADBAND

If you have questions about Red Bolt Broadband or the contractors in your area, please get in touch with Red Bolt Broadband's helpline at (505) 876-2020. If you would like more information, visit: [www.redboltbroadband.com](http://www.redboltbroadband.com)

# Follow these tips to help you stay warm and safe this winter!

Safe Electricity shares the following tips for using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Review and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using an extension cord.
- Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.
- Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from flammables.
- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture, or counter tops.
- Be aware of pets and children near heating appliances. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
- Keep space heaters and electric blankets away from water. If they become wet, do not turn them on to dry.
- Regularly examine cords to make sure there is no cracking or fraying. Do not use damaged appliances. Inspect electric blankets to ensure they are not worn or damaged. They should not have any charred or dark areas.
- Store your electric blanket in a manner which avoids creasing. If it cannot be stored flat, loosely fold or roll the blanket in a cool, dry closet.



## CONTACT US

### WEBSITE

[www.socorroelectric.com](http://www.socorroelectric.com)

### PHONE

800-351-7575 or 575-835-0560

### PAYING YOUR BILL

Check out the SEC App!



Android



Apple

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
8 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, 800-351-7575 or 855-881-8159.**

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

Jimmy Capps, Chief Financial Officer  
575-835-0560, Ext 1503

### LINE EXTENSIONS

Eng Dept 575-835-0560, Ext 2004, 2501, 2503

### MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jerrid Williams - Director of Communications & Public Affairs - 575-835-0560, Ext 2502  
[jwilliams@socorroelectric.com](mailto:jwilliams@socorroelectric.com)

## Socorro County Historical Society Receives \$500 Tri-State Donation

On October 30th, Leroy Anaya, SEC Board President and Tri-State Director, presented a donation of \$500 from Tri-State to the Socorro County Historical Society to further support their work with Socorro county's historical information, documentation, and preservation.



Socorro County Historical Society's Treasurer, Prescilla Mauldin said, "The funds will go to help fix the walls, ceiling, and doors of the historical society's office."

This is due to serious erosion of the adobe.

Socorro Historical Society Treasurer, Prescilla Mauldin and President Charles Zimmerly accepting the check from SEC Board President Leroy Anaya.

## Vegetation Management Update

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks.

### • City of Socorro

SEC reminds members that you may see vehicles and crew members from Windy Tree cutting trees near existing power lines. Vehicles will be marked with their company name and an SEC contractor placard.

## October 2024 Board Report...

- *Board approved RUS FFB Loan BB48 Advance.*
- *Received departmental reports from staff and recommendations from board committees.*

*All board agendas, minutes, and videos can be found on our website at:*  
[www.socorroelectric.com/board/resources](http://www.socorroelectric.com/board/resources)