



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

*Pictured above is the new Magdalena Substation incorporating the latest in technology. (photo by: Rauni Montoya)*

## ***Long Awaited System Improvements Now in Place for SEC Members Magdalena Substation & Socorro-Magdalena Transmission Line***

“Out with the old, in with the new” may be a good description of the most recent major infrastructure projects for Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. The completion of the upgraded Magdalena Substation and the new Socorro to Magdalena 69,000-volt transmission line, both contain the latest technologies that will enhance and improve the electric service to SEC Members receiving their power from the Magdalena Substation.

Work on these upgrades started many years ago with the completion of the concept, design, and engineering so they could be included in the Construction Work Plan that guides the infrastructure improvements for SEC year in and year out.

The new substation includes the latest Schweitzer Engineering Lab (SEL) computerized relay equipment which can help us identify the location of a fault condition (outage) on the power line to within 500 or so feet. This greatly reduces the amount of time SEC Line Crews need to patrol the lines to find and repair the cause of the outage.

The control building at the substation houses updated communication equipment for our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) that permits quick, accurate meter information including kwh usage, instantaneous voltage readings, and even outages reported back to us through Outage Management System (OMS). This equipment can tell us if you are out of power...sometimes before you even know it! The Switchgear with individual circuit breakers makes it possible to move the load from one feeder to another to perform maintenance without interrupting power flow to SEC members.

This technology is made possible with the addition of the fiber optic cable that is contained in the top wire (static wire) of the transmission line. This fiber optic cable not only provides for the new services mentioned above but provides for our new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) software that will allow us to remotely operate and control not only the AMI equipment but the circuit breakers in the substation. SCADA will also provide immediate readings of fault current, the electric loads for each distribution circuit, and the operating conditions of the large power transformer.

One design change late in the transmission line project, was the addition of more fiber optic cables in the static wire so that Continental Divide Electric, through a partnership agreement with SEC, could bring their Redbolt Internet Services to the Village of Magdalena. This high-speed internet will bring new connectivity for SEC Members who live and work in Magdalena. All in all, we are excited that these major projects are completed and in service for our SEC Members!

# Spotlight on TEAM SEC - Meet Your Neighbor

Jeff Sousa joined Your SEC as a Staking Field Technician in June 2024, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his previous career as an Underground Electric Cable Splicer in New Hampshire. His extensive background in the electric utility industry has allowed him to transition smoothly into his new role, staking for both overhead and underground line extensions.

Jeff and his wife, Nico, decided to move to New Mexico to “get away from the snow.” As Jeff puts it, “You don’t have to shovel sunshine” although this change was not much of a shift for Nico, who was raised in El Paso, Texas.

In his spare time, Jeff enjoys working on his classic cars and improving his farm north of Socorro. Nico shares his love for animals, particularly her favorite horse, Maximus—affectionately known as “Spicy Meatball.”

The couple also enjoys exploring the vast expanses of New Mexico, hiking, searching for gemstones, and capturing the stunning scenery through photography.

Jeff takes great pleasure in meeting SEC members and helping them gain access to electric power for their homes, farms, ranches, or businesses. He finds that every line extension or project presents unique challenges that keep his job interesting. He enjoys the close-knit atmosphere among SEC employees and feels right at home in both New Mexico and the SEC Team. We are fortunate to have Jeff as part of our team!



Jeff Sousa - Staking Field Technician

## 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 SERVICES

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

### ACCOUNTING

Rauni Montoya, Chief Financial Officer  
575-835-0560, Ext 2502

### LINE EXTENSIONS

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

### MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jimmy Capps - Director of Communications & Public Affairs - 575-835-0560, Ext 1503  
[jcapps@socorroelectric.com](mailto:jcapps@socorroelectric.com)

## New Energy Efficiency Rebate Changes for 2025!

Since 1985, Tri-State and SEC have partnered to promote the wise use of electricity, energy efficiency, and implementation of new electric technologies. Today, Socorro Electric is helping members move forward to promote beneficial electrification to increase efficiency and productivity, create sustainable and load growth, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance safety.

Some of the additions to this year’s Energy Efficiency Rebates are:

- Revised & Clarified heat pump water heater product incentive, requirements and guidelines.
- Thermostat eligibility now requires ENERGY STAR certification.
- Revised & Clarified Heat Pump product incentive, requirements and guidelines to accommodate a simplified, flat rate incentive.
- A/C units no longer eligible for rebate.
- Removed residential LED rebates.

Please visit [www.socorroelectric.com/energy-efficiency-rebates](http://www.socorroelectric.com/energy-efficiency-rebates) for more information.



Scan this  
QR Code to  
download the  
newest Rebate  
Information.



## March 2025 Board Report...the Board:

- received Staff and Departmental monthly reports.
- approved resolution for loan advance with RUS/FFB.
- discussed the process for addressing the District 3 Trustee vacancy.

All board agendas, minutes, and videos can be found on our website at:

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