



Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

During this storm, Mother Nature's electricity is displayed along side man-made power. Photo credits: Robert Capps

U.S. Representative Xochitl Torres Small visits SEC

Your SEC was recently honored to have U.S. Representative Xochitl Torres Small of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District visit us at our headquarters in Socorro. Rep. Torres Small recently received notification from the United States Department of Agriculture that SEC was approved for a loan of \$28 million under the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) program for our new Construction Work Plan (CWP). As the CWP contains projects identified for "Smart Grid" implementation, Rep. Torres Small, called and asked for a meeting with SEC, in an effort to gain a better understanding as to how SEC would utilize these loan funds in the daily operations of a rural electric cooperative located in her district.



L to R: Joseph Herrera, Rep. Xochitl Torres Small, and Jimmy Capps, SEC

Joseph Herrera, General Manager, welcomed the opportunity to meet with Rep. Torres Small to explain the specifics of future system improvements as outlined in the CWP. Manager Herrera reviewed the largest project, the replacement of the 69 kV transmission line between Socorro and Magdalena, explaining this would include the addition of fiber optic cable, which would terminate at the Magdalena Substation. Another planned project is the addition of several poles, to be inset in long spans of the distribution lines, which will allow for SEC to extend fiber cable to our Bernardo and Burris Substations located in Socorro County and Valencia County, respectively.

These proposed fiber line installations will be used for SEC's internal purposes by increasing communications capabilities between SEC's substations to support future Smart Grid technologies. This fiber will also enhance the performance of the recently completed Automated Metering Infrastructure Project. Manager Herrera explained how the proposed fiber installations for SEC's electrical operations will be an island unto itself. In order to provide broadband services to others, the fiber system would need to extend to Albuquerque or El Paso to gain access to the Internet hubs located there, or SEC would have to pay an existing Internet provider for access. SEC would also have to restate our existing rights-of-ways to allow for the inclusion of broadband services.

Manager Herrera continued that in 2018, SEC's Board and Management researched the Connect America Fund program, offered by the FCC, that would supplement the cost of providing broadband to underserved areas in rural America. The FCC Broadband Service maps at that time showed our service area was not underserved, so no grants were available for providers per the guidelines of the program. The current abundance of existing broadband providers in our service area and the unfavorable economics for serving the very rural population without financial assistance, prompted SEC's Board to "stay with what we know best" in providing reliable, affordable electricity.

SEC really appreciates the time Rep. Torres Small took to meet with us. This provided SEC an opportunity to describe the challenges in serving 11,000 square miles of a very rural area with only 3.8 connected meters per mile of power line.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SEC's Foundation Support of 4-H Clubs Continues

One of the many programs that the SEC Foundation sponsors each year, is in recognizing the area youth who are members of local 4-H Clubs and who participate in their respective county fairs with animals or other projects. The Foundation distributes financial support to the Fair Associations of the counties we serve, who then distribute the funds to 4-H club members whose families are Members of Socorro Electric.

With no annual county fair to draw in the public and in spite of the challenges presented this year, each county did continue with the annual livestock shows and auctions. While attendance at the shows and auctions were restricted due to prescribed pandemic guidelines, it did allow the area youth a chance to display their hard work for the past year and an opportunity to sell their animal and recover some of their expenses.



The purpose of the Foundation is to inspire and motivate young people to set goals, reach for higher plateaus, become involved in community projects and expand their educational opportunities. The hope for the Foundation is these monetary awards will serve as recognition of their current efforts and as encouragement to strive for bigger challenges. At SEC we feel investing in our future leaders today, supports our cooperative principles of education, information and concern for the communities we serve.

CONTACT US

WEBSITE

www.socorroelectric.com

PHONE

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, (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

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

August 2020 Board Report - the Board met via teleconference....

- approved the 2018 Bad Debt write-off in the amount of \$73,455.67.
- approved the update to the Classification & Compensation Guide for employees.
- received Staff departmental reports & Board Committee recommendations.
- set the next Board Meeting for September 23, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

NOTICE Winter Moratorium Protection

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2020.

To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the human services department at **800-283-4465** or the appropriate tribal or pueblo entity for eligibility information for low income heating energy assistance program (LIHEAP).

Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2020, through March 15, 2021, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or you remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2020.

Members of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at (888)427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance.

2019 Capital Credit Allocations

The allocations of the 2019 margins will be reflected on the August and September bills received by all active accounts.

This allocation represents the pro-rata share of the margins for each member who had service with SEC during 2019.

Economic participation is another unique cooperative principle not shared by municipal or investor owned electric utilities.

