



# STAYING CONNECTED

*"Owned by Those We Serve"*

January 2015  
Volume VI Issue I

## CEO'S MESSAGE



### LOOKING BACK AT 2014

A look back at what your Kit Carson Electric Cooperative has accomplished in 2014.

**Tri-State Rate Protest** - On September 10, 2014 the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission voted unanimously to allow the Preliminary Mediation Agreement entered into by Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) and all 12 New Mexico Member Cooperatives served by Tri-State Generation & Transmission to move forward. The stipulations of the continued Mediation Agreement allow KCEC and NM Member Cooperatives the ability to continue negotiations on issues such as contract length and terms, future rate increases, modifications to the 5% renewable energy cap, and the ability to seek alternative power suppliers. Under the stipulations of the Mediation Agreement, KCEC and NM Member Cooperatives have agreed to a temporary rate increase of \$.00226 per kWh, which will remain in effect through December 31, 2015, while negotiations towards a Global Settlement take place. The impact to the average residential user will be approximately \$1.10 per month; however, members have saved due to the rate protest. As of October 2014 KCEC members have saved about \$3 million and overall NM members have saved about \$32 million.

This is a positive step forward in allowing our community to start to explore what options our members have in creating a more diverse, more competitive energy supply while increasing our use of solar energy in our area. KCEC is currently reviewing all of its options for a new power supplier and is also working with local groups to establish a vision of what KCEC's energy source should be in the future including how much renewable KCEC should be allowed to put on its system.

**Broadband Project** - The Fiber Optic project has continued to show progress, with both aerial and underground construction. We have lit up the northern part of our service area with high speed internet services. Several businesses and residences in Questa, Costilla, Amalia, Taos, Taos Pueblo, Taos Ski Valley and Sipapu are connected to high speed internet. We are moving forward into 2015 to have our entire service area connected at light speed. Approximately 80% of the project is completed. Testing is scheduled for January 12, 2015. If testing is successful Eagle Nest, Red River, Angel Fire and Taos will be lit and ready for service.

**Solar Projects**- KCEC has successfully partnered with many diverse entities in sustainable energy production. KCEC has created this model by seeking and achieving the cooperation of schools such as the University of New Mexico-Taos, Penasco Elementary School, Taos High School and Taos Charter School; government entities such as the Town of Taos with the Town Hall and Taos EcoPark; and private businesses such as Chevron Mining Corporation, Blue Sky Energy, Washington Gas and Energy, KTAO Radio and Standard Solar. An example of bringing together groups to achieve a common sustainable goal is the generational group of cattle ranchers, the Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association, together with Washington Gas and Energy, Standard Solar from Rockville MD., and PPC Solar from Taos NM to construct a 1.25MW solar array near Amalia, NM on RCCLA land. Taking this idea from concept to fruition was challenging, but very rewarding. With the addition of this array to the existing 1MW concentrated solar array at the Chevron Mining site, every home, school, medical facility and business in our service territory from Questa north to the Colorado border, including the communities of Cerro, El Rito, Amalia and Costilla, are powered by sustainable energy on a sunny day. On December 30, 2014 the Board authorized KCEC to proceed with two community solar projects (1.5 megawatts total): one in Angel Fire and the second in Tres Piedras.



Taos County is rich in beauty, natural resources, art and culture. For this we give thanks as the holiday season approaches. However many among us are struggling to keep our families together, warm and fed. This year our community has again made it possible for another successful year. Taos individuals, families and businesses that have been blessed with prosperity in 2014 joined us in helping those in need.

The week of December 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> our local National Guard in conjunction with Kit Carson Electric picked up several boxes of donated perishable foods from schools around Taos. These boxes were then dropped off at the National Guard Armory where volunteers sorted all the foods. An assembly line was then formed to start filling up boxes, and that is when the counting began!

This year this program had the privilege to hand out over 1,200 boxes to those that qualified. These boxes are filled with several canned foods, beans, rice, flour, sugar, a bag of apples, a bag of potatoes and a ham! What a wonderful and amazing program. Thank you to all that donated food & monetary gifts, and everyone that volunteered their time to make this program so successful!

### CRISIS TELEPHONES CONNECTED AT GORGE BRIDGE

The State Department of Transportation and Taos County along with Kit Carson Electric have been working together to install crisis telephones at the gorge bridge. On December 10<sup>th</sup> the phone boxes were installed at the bridge. With the fiber optic line services these boxes will connect callers directly to a crisis line. The person on the other side of this line will be a crisis counselor at the New Mexico Crisis Access Hotline. They are trained and experienced counselors that will do their job to the best of their ability to help the caller in need.



The fiber optic lines made available in the area by Kit Carson Electric have made it possible to provide this much needed service. With these businesses working together to make this possible, our community will reap the benefits of better communication that will bring hope to those that feel hopeless.

Sincerely,  
Luis A. Reyes Jr., CEO

## KIT CARSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

KCEC HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Kit Carson Electric, Kit Carson Telecom & Kit Carson Energy offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the New Year. For emergencies please call 758-6100.

KIT CARSON ENERGY PRODUCTS

**Rinnai**  
 EK11 - \$1029.00  
 EK22 - \$1395.00  
 EK36 - \$1625.00

**EMPIRE**  
 60,000 BTU - \$295.00  
 30,000 BTU - \$275.00  
 18,000 BTU - \$195.00  
 90,000 BTU - \$445.00

**CAMP CHEF**  
 THE WAY TO GOOD COOKING  
 SINGLE BURNER - \$80.00  
 DOUBLE BURNER - \$125.00  
 TRIPLE BURNER - \$277.00

**Dometic**  
 CYLINDERS  
 100LB - \$157.50  
 40LB - \$96.50  
 30LB - \$64.50  
 20LB - \$42.50

**WATER HEATERS**  
 - Mobile Home  
 - Residential  
 Call For Pricing

**PLUS BOTH PROPANE & ELECTRIC**  
 \$1475.00

\*All Prices Subject to Change

MEET YOUR KIT CARSON EMPLOYEES



*Thank You!*

**Johnny Valerio**

KCEC members meet Johnny Valerio. Johnny is the Chief Financial Officer at Kit Carson Electric. Mr. Valerio has been with our Co-op for 39 years!

**That is an amazing accomplishment!**

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. We are proud to have you on our team. Please congratulate Johnny on his excellent dedicated service. Thanks to Johnny, our Cooperative finances are in good hands! We appreciate you Johnny!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bobby Ortega	President	Questa	District 2
Manuel Medina	Vice President	Taos	District 1
Chris Duran	Secretary	Penasco	District 4
Bruce Jassman	Treasurer	Angel Fire	District 5
David Torres	Trustee	Arroyo Seco	District 1
Peter Adang	Trustee	Ranchos De Taos	District 1
Luisa Mylet	Trustee	Pot Creek	District 1
Virgil Martinez	Trustee	Cerro	District 2
Arturo Rodarte	Trustee	Ojo Caliente	District 3
Ambrose Mascarenas	Trustee	Llano	District 4
Jerry Smith	Trustee	Ocate	District 5

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees meet the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00am in the cooperative boardroom.

**KIT CARSON ELECTRICAL SAFETY PROGRAM**

**BRING THIS AWESOME PROGRAM TO YOUR SCHOOL!**

OUR SAFETY COORDINATOR AND AN OPERATIONS EMPLOYEE WOULD PRESENT TO ALL **2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS** TO TEACH THEM ABOUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY!

**STUDENTS WILL ALSO GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATEWIDE SAFETY COLORING CONTEST!**

IF YOUR SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE THIS YEAR, PLEASE CONTACT DEBORAH MADRID AT 575-758-2258 EXT. 192 OR VIA EMAIL [DMADRID@KITCARSON.COM](mailto:DMADRID@KITCARSON.COM) TO SCHEDULE A DATE AND TIME FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

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Kit Carson Electric along with our Electrical Safety program sponsors an annual Coloring Contest for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students which also promotes electrical safety. Safety presentations are conducted by a KCEC Safety Coordinator and one of our Journeyman Lineman for schools and other public establishments. Call us to schedule a demonstration on electrical safety with your organization. Remember - The Safe Haven Program assists children and adults involved in situations that require prompt attention. If you see an KCEC truck and need help, approach the KCEC vehicle. The employee will assist you by contacting proper authorities to get help as quickly as possible. At your Kit Carson Cooperative, safety courses and programs are very important to us.

CONTACTS

- MAIN OFFICE:** (575) 758-2258 / 1-800-688-6780
- CUSTOMER SERVICE:** (575) 751-9064 / 1-800-944-8159
- CUSTOMER SERVICE FAX #** (575) 758-4611
- ADMINISTRATION FAX #** (575) 758-4890
- AUTOMATED SYSTEM #** (575) 751-8132
- POWER OUTAGE/SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS #** (575) 758-6100
- EMERGENCY LINE-LOCATES #** 1-800-321-2537
- QUESTA OFFICE:** (575) 586-2113 (M-W-F 8:00am – 4:30pm)
- PENASCO OFFICE:** (575) 587-1900 (T-TH 9:00am – 3:00pm)
- KIT CARSON TELECOM** – (575) 758-4838
- KIT CARSON ENERGY** – (575) 758-7757
- NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATORY COMMISSION (PERA Building):** 1-800-947-4722