

# GETTING CONNECTED

“Owned by Those We Serve”

November 2012

Volume III Issue XI

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## CEO's Message

### Local Crews Back to Work on Enchanted Light



About 200 local residents are back to work on the Enchanted Light Fiber Optic High Speed Internet Project and it wouldn't have happened without you, our members. The members of Kit Carson Electric

Coop once again proved when an issue is important to them they are willing to stand up and let their voices be heard. At the recent New Mexico Public Regulations Commission (PRC) hearing in Santa Fe about 400 people from within and around the Enchanted Circle attended to show their support for the Enchanted Light Fiber Optic High Speed Internet Project. In addition, hundreds of e-mails and phone calls were fielded by PRC staff supporting the project. The board of trustees, management and staff of KCEC offers our sincere gratitude to all those who took time out of their day to give encouragement and show support for our commitment to bring 21<sup>st</sup> Century communications technology to our members.

We now have crews working on the underground portion of the project in Arroyo Hondo, Angel Fire, Los Cordovas and the Weimer Foothills area, as well as overhead construction along highway 522. This is a huge project as we follow the path of electric lines that took 70 years to put in place. We will be bringing fiber optic technology to the doorstep of every home and business receiving electricity from KCEC. As I have mentioned before, this will be an open access network, so any of the internet service providers (ISP's) that agree to share the network with us will be able to provide the service from the outside of the home or business to your receiver (modem, etc.) that will bring the signals to your electronic devices.

The overwhelming majority of our members showed their support for this project which:

- Will bring \$64 million into our community
- Is currently employing 200 local laborers
- Will ultimately employ 300 in the construction phase alone
- Will bring Taos into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in technology, allowing locals to compete nationally and globally
- Will provide us with better education for our children and better health for our community

When the project is built KCEC members will own it. It will keep our \$'s local rather than paying an out of town corporation.

If it were not for the strong support from our members this favorable ruling would not have occurred. When the commissioners witnessed the passion of our members and their children about the benefits anticipated for our community when the project is complete they took the only route available to them, which was to eliminate any language from their ruling which would slow down or stop the project from continuing. In other words, the majority has spoken and ruled the day.

One thing that has been lost in the rhetoric surrounding this project is the ease with which the loan will be repaid. In order to meet the terms of the loan we will need 5,000 total subscribers. When complete the network will be "open access", so other ISP's will be able to purchase bandwidth at the same rate as Kit Carson Telecom purchases it. The subscribers to the other ISP's services are included in that 5,000 total subscribers. We contend, and the RUS agreed, when issuing the loan, that this is an easily obtainable number.

Once again we appreciate the support of our members and the opportunity to answer objections. We are very pleased to be responsible for bringing this tremendous economic development resource to our members.

Sincerely,  
*Luis Reyes, CEO*

# Community Solar Panels on Sale Now!

The Community Solar Array at Taos Charter School is now producing solar generated electricity and producing lower electric bills for our members who have already purchased panels. Members of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative can now buy panels on the array. Take advantage of our abundant supply of sunshine!

Perfect for renters or those with homes not situated to receive direct sunlight.

Find our more at [www.kcecsolar.com](http://www.kcecsolar.com)!

## Solar Array Dedications

Federal, state and local officials gathered August 29, 2012 to dedicate new solar arrays at Taos Charter School (left) and the Blue Sky Energy Array near the Rio Grande Gorge. The TCS Array is New Mexico's first Community Solar Project, allowing KCEC members to buy panels and have the electricity produced applied directly to their energy bill. It has a capacity of 98.7 kilowatts and the Blue Sky Energy Array will add 1.25 megawatts to our renewable energy portfolio.

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**Pictured from left:** PRC Commissioner Douglas Howe; Clean Energy Collective (TCS array owner) CEO Paul Spencer; representing Senator Tom Udall, Michele Jacquez-Ortiz; representing Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, Jennifer Manazanares; TCS board member Mary Emery; TCS student; KCEC board president, Bobby Ortega; KCEC CEO Luis Reyes; KCEC board members, Art Rodarte, Ambrose Mascarenas and Francis Cordova.



## Board of Trustees

|                    |                |                 |            |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Bobby Ortega       | President      | Questa          | District 2 |
| Manuel Medina      | Vice President | Taos            | District 1 |
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| 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 Meeting

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

## 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:** 758-4890

**Automated System:** 751-8132

**Angel Fire:** (575) 377-1137

**Power Outages/Service Interruptions:** (575) 758-2258 ext. 1

**Emergency Line-locates:** 1-800-688-6780 ext. 173

**Questa Satellite Office:** (575) 586-2113    **Peñasco Satellite Office:** (575) 587-1900

**Ojo Caliente Satellite Office:** (575) 583-2072

**New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission (PERA Building):** 1-800-947-4722