

GETTING CONNECTED

Information Please!

“Owned by Those We Serve”

June 2013

Volume IV Issue VI

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

CEO's Message



Information Please

In the last year Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. has stepped up communication with our members in order to keep you informed of projects, programs and policies that may affect your daily lives and your service from KCEC. While our newsletter is an excellent source of information the amount of information and distribution frequency are limited by mailing and production costs. As a consequence we communicating with our members via electronic media whenever possible to keep our members informed. We periodically update our members through e-mail.

These notices include:

- Planned outages that may affect your service
- Updates on our Enchanted Light Fiber Optic Communication Network construction
- Updates on the proposed rate increase from Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc. (our electricity supplier) and our opposition to the proposal
- Notices of important KCEC events such as elections and our Annual Meeting

Here's where your cooperation comes in. In order for KCEC to communicate with you electronically, we need your contact information. Supplying that information is easy and completely confidential. There are three simple ways to get us this information:

- Go to our website, www.kitcarson.com, under the Customer Service heading click on Update My Information and fill out the on-line form

- Fill out the enclosed form and mail it to us along with your payment or drop it by the Kit Carson Electric Co-op main office at 118 East Cruz Alta Road
- Fill out the enclosed form and fax it to us at (575) 758-4890

We are also setting up a text message outage alert system. This system will allow us to inform you of planned or unplanned outages as long as you have your cell phone. Our website is also an excellent source of information, as we update the site practically every day. In addition, we send announcements and post pictures on our Facebook page and we have outstanding videos on YouTube.

Electronic media has become an essential part of many of our lives. We realize in order to keep all our members informed we must use all communications means at our disposal. The exciting part of communicating electronically is it is soon to get much faster and more reliable as our Enchanted Light Fiber Optic Communication Project nears completion.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Enchanted Light Fiber Optic Communication Project or any of our means of communicating information, please contact our Public Information Officer, Steve Fuhlendorf, at (575) 758-2258 ext. 143 or sfuhlendorf@kitcarson.com.

Sincerely,
Luis Reyes, CEO

KCEC Efforts Make Tri-State Rate Increase Unlikely in 2013

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative has been involved in a lengthy battle with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the provider of electricity which KCEC distributes to its members, over a proposed increase in rates to their member cooperatives. The efforts of the KCEC Board of Trustees, CEO Luis Reyes and many KCEC members continue to pay off as it is unlikely the rate increase will go into effect in 2013.

Tri-State proposed increasing rates to its 44 member electric cooperatives in October 2012. This is the ninth increase they have proposed an increase since 2000. Each time KCEC was alone it opposing the increase and with no other resistance the increases went into effect. This time however two other co-ops, Continental Divide and Springer, joined in KCEC in opposition. Since three cooperatives are in op-

position, the increase may be decided by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC). Tri-State requested interim rate relief from the PRC in January 2013, which would have meant the increase would have gone into effect until the PRC decided the case. Due to strong opposition by KCEC members the PRC denied the interim rate and did so again when Tri-State resubmitted in May 2013. Tri-State has also filed suit in federal court claiming the PRC does not have jurisdiction over them due to their involvement in interstate commerce.

The denial of the interim rate has saved KCEC members \$360,000 from January until the end of April 2013. "We are very stubborn when it comes to watching out for our member's best interest," said KCEC CEO Luis Reyes. "We believe Tri-State is being punitive in the way they have structured their rate increase. We intend to continue to oppose them at the PRC and in federal court.

KCEC Shines in SEPA Solar Rankings

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative jumped to number 4 in annual solar megawatts (MW) from number 12 and from number 10 to 3 in annual solar watts-per-customer in the 2012 Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) rankings released recently.

In 2012 three new solar arrays were added to the KCEC portfolio.

- The Amalia I Array was a collaborative effort between KCEC, with the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA); the Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association (RCCLA), the land owners; Washington Gas Energy Systems, array owner; Standard Solar, the system installer with project management by Taos solar contractor PPC Solar. Amalia I is a single-axis solar tracking array producing 1.25 MW of AC power at full capacity. It has 5,280 panels covering the size of 15.5 football fields. Amalia I was energized in June 2012.
- The Blue Sky One Array, near the Rio Grande Gorge, is also a single-axis solar tracking array producing 1.25 MW AC. It was developed by Blue Sky Energy, installed by PPC Solar and is owned by Kenyon Energy, LLC. The project consists of 5,280 panels on a 23 acre site. It was energized in August 2012. KCEC has a PPA for the electricity produced by the array.
- The third array completed in 2012 is a parking canopy design, located behind the Taos Charter School. It was also energized in August 2012 with construction by Sol Luna Solar and a PPA with KCEC. The 420 panel, 98.7 kilowatt (kW), array is the first community solar array in New Mexico. The KCEC Community Solar Program, being administered by the Clean Energy Collective, gives KCEC members the opportunity to invest in solar panels installed on the array. The electricity produced by those panels is then credited to their electric bill.

"We are proud and gratified to be highly ranked by SEPA," said KCEC CEO Luis Reyes. "We will continue to aggressively pursue solar production. Our area is ideal for solar production in terms of climate, as well as the desire of our members for clean, affordable energy."

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 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: (575) 758-4890

Automated System: (575) 751-8132

Power Outages/Service Interruptions: (575) 758-6100

Emergency Line-locates: NM One Call 1-800-321-2537

Questa Satellite Office: (575) 586-2113-Call for office hours

Peñasco Satellite Office: (575) 587-1900-Call for office hours

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

Learn more about Kit Carson Electric on the Internet at:

www.kitcarson.com