

GETTING CONNECTED

Watts Happening at Kit Carson Electric Cooperative January 3, 2012

Kit
Carson
Electric
Cooperative

Watts Happening-Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Update

Happy New Year!

We have been truly blessed at Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC) to have members who are passionate about the projects that will give us a stronger community. Naturally not everyone agrees with everything we do. What a boring community that would be and Taos is anything but boring. In January we will highlight some of the accomplishments of 2012 in both our newsletter and our Watts Happening e-mail feature. Look for summaries of our Enchanted Light Fiber Optic Project; our successful petition to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to suspend the rate hike and redesign proposed by our electricity supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission; the reduction of the number and length of outages experienced by our members; plus our launching of the new shop local KCEC Co-op Connections Card, a new website at www.kitcarson.com and enhanced communication with our members in e-mail updates such as this.

We say Thank You to those who have supported us this past year and to those who didn't, because what makes our town special is our healthy dialog about the issues that affect us all. From our KCEC family to yours, we wish you health, happiness, safety and prosperity in 2013!

PRC Suspends Tri-State Electric Rate Increase and Rate Redesign

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC), along with two other New Mexico electric cooperatives, protested a proposed rate increase and rate redesign by Tri-State Generation and Transmission. The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) ruled in favor of KCEC at a hearing on December 20, 2012. The changes were due to take place on January 1, 2013. KCEC has fought rate increases by Tri-State for 12 years, but this is the first time other cooperatives have joined in the battle. New Mexico state law requires three cooperatives to protest a rate increase before the PRC can hear the case.

We want to thank those members who took time out of their

day to call and e-mail the PRC in support of KCEC's fight for electric rate stability. Please call the commissioners to thank them for siding with electric consumers in these tough economic times.

The suspension of the increase, the ninth increase by Tri-State since 2000, means KCEC and other New Mexico electric cooperative consumers will not be subject to a 5% increase in rates. According to KCEC CEO Luis Reyes, "The suspension of the rate increase amounts to an annual savings of one million dollars. The rate redesign would have unfairly burdened the business community during already difficult economic times. We are very pleased the commissioners chose to intervene on behalf of our members."

The PRC will assign a hearing examiner and set a hearing schedule. Tri-State has indicated they will seek to stop the suspension through court action.

KCEC Board Appoints David Torres to Fill Trustee Vacancy

The Board of Trustees of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC) appointed David A. Torres to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Trustee Francis Cordova. The appointment was made at the board of trustees meeting held on December 27, 2012. He will begin his trustee duties on January 2, 2013 and serve the remainder of Mr. Cordova's term, which was due to expire at the KCEC Annual Meeting in June 2013.

Mr. Torres brings knowledge of cooperative operations having served on the board of Kit Carson Energy, Inc. since 2009. He is currently an International Relief Consultant with Samaritan's Purse, leading assessment and relief teams to natural and man-made disasters in numerous counties. He retired as a Colonel from the United States Air Force in 2006, having served as Senior U.S. Military Advisor to NATO Commander Headquarters in Sarajevo. He has also previously worked for the State of New Mexico as Transportation Programs Division Director for the Department of Transportation and as Taos County Public Works Director. He is married with two chil-

KCEC Volunteers Assist in Distribution of Over 1,200 Food Boxes

Current Taos Feeds Taos president Francis Cordova, a recently retired KCEC Trustee, reported Taos Feeds Taos donated more than 1,200 boxes of food to local residents this year. For 27 years this project has thrived due to the generous volunteers from our community. This year donations of \$59,200 were collected for the food purchases. KCEC has actively supported this effort for seven years. That support comes in many forms, including donations from KCEC personnel, assistance with food collection from many of our schools, plus sorting and distributing food. The KCEC Board of Trustees, management and staff are proud to support this worthwhile Taos holiday tradition. According to KCEC CEO Luis Reyes, "The members of the communities served by KCEC have many needs. At the same time, they have a willingness to help their neighbors. The roots run deep here. What has kept those roots growing is demonstrated each year during Taos Feeds Taos. Our Kit Carson Coop family is in a unique position to assist this effort. It is our privilege to be of service to such a worthwhile cause."

KCEC Board of Trustees Meeting Summary

Below is a brief summary of the Kit Carson Electric Co-operative Board of Trustees meeting held on December 28, 2012:

- CEO's Report: KCEC is meeting financial targets. This means there is no need for a rate increase as of this time.
- There were no major outages during November. This was due to continual upgrades being done to the system and the vigilance of KCEC operations personnel.
- The KCEC board of trustees approved a resolution in support of Holy Cross Hospital and commending them for their outstanding service to our community.
- An update was given on the Tri-State rate increase protest to the PRC (see related story).

KCEC board of trustees regular meetings are the last Tuesday of each month at 9am in the KCEC Board Room.



Kit Carson Electric Cooperative employees assist Taos Feeds Taos by picking up food at various schools in our area. Pictured above is Ms. Mondragon's first grade class at Ranchos Elementary School.

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
Francis Cordova	Trustee	El Prado	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 next meeting is January 29, 2013 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**