



Live Wire



Roosevelt County Electric

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

November 2021 Vol. 21 No. 11

Executive VP & General Manager

Antonio R. Sanchez, Jr.

Address

121 N. Main Ave.
PO Box 389
Portales, NM 88130

Telephone

575-356-4491

After Hours

575-356-4492

Fax

575-359-1651

Email

rcec@rcec.coop

Website

www.rcec.coop

Office Hours

8 A.M. to 5 P.M. (M-F)

Board of Trustees

President

Wesley Brown-Position 2

Vice President

Janet Collins-Position 1

Secretary-Treasurer

Chris Duncan-Position 6, At-Large

Gene Creighton-Position 3

Charles Bennett Jr. -Position 4

Brandon Dewbre-Position 5

Darrell Caviness-Position 7, At-Large

*Operating in portions of Chaves,
Curry, De Baca and all of
Roosevelt Counties*

**“Roosevelt County Electric
Cooperative, Inc. is an equal
opportunity provider”
and employer”**

Job Anniversaries

Norma Ramos..... 16yrs
Barrett Williamson..... 7yrs
Jamie King..... 7yrs



RCEC Receives Safety Accreditation

RCEC participates in the RESAP (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program) offered by NRECA. RESAP is a national safety program in partnership with statewide and cooperative safety leaders. This utilizes a framework for continuous improvement to improve safety performance and culture. RCEC has participated in the RESAP program since 1972 and has received an award of National Recognition of its dedication to employee and public safety and commitment to regulatory compliance and loss control practices. RCEC has earned the distinction of being the only electric cooperative in NM to gain safety accreditation continuously since 1972.



Pictured: Cade Standifer, (on right)
NM Safety & Loss Control Director,
presents Antonio Sanchez Jr., RCEC
General Manager, with the Certificate
of Safety Achievement

High School & Returning College Student Scholarship Applications



2022 Scholarship applications are available on our website, your area high school counselor's office and in our office.

**Deadline is Friday, January 7, 2022 by 5 pm .
Good luck to all our applicants!**

Space heater energy tip:

Small isn't always mighty. Space heaters use lots of energy and increase monthly bills. Use with caution!

Impact of Storm Uri

February 2021 was a historical moment in time for RCEC and many, many other electric utilities in Southeastern New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. In fact, many other states also felt the effects resulting from Storm Uri. Storm Uri was an extreme cold weather event; a major winter and ice storm in which below zero temperatures were present for several days. Over 5.2 million homes and businesses, the vast majority of which were in the state of Texas, experienced blackouts. 223 people died as a result of the effects from this storm with 210 of them being in Texas. Fortunately for Southeastern New Mexico, we only experienced a few days of really cold weather and rolling blackouts that lasted for three hours and twenty minutes on February 16, 2021.

On February 15, 2021 RCEC was notified by Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), our transmission provider, to be on alert for the need to start shutting off power in predetermined amounts in order to prevent the entire Southwest Power Pool (SPP) grid from blacking-out. RCEC purchases their power from Western Farmers' Electric Cooperative (WFEC), a Generation & Transmission (G&T) cooperative. WFEC is a member of the SPP and all power sold by WFEC is purchased from the SPP, a regional transmission organization. Fortunately, RCEC was not instructed to shut off power that day, but the same cannot be said for the following day. On February 16, 2021, RCEC was directed to shed a total of 2.4 megawatts (MW) of load. RCEC performed rolling outages, limiting each outage to sixty minutes or less in order to comply with the directive. In the end, over a three-hour and twenty-minute time period, 4,335 services were affected.

You may be asking yourself, "why are they waiting until now to talk about this?" The answer to that question is as follows. Several of the impacts, as a result of this, have taken this long to get answers; specifically costs and payment options. RCEC is responsible for their load share ratio of fuel costs associated with power purchases from WFEC. During the month of February, WFEC spent \$270 million for natural gas. A typical month during this time of year usually results in fuel purchases in the \$3-4 million range. Due to the extreme cold, several of the generation units that provide power to the SPP experienced problems associated with freezing pipelines (water and natural gas) and were unable to produce into the market. Wind generation was scarce, solar generation was extremely small and battery storage was pretty much nonexistent. Fossil fuels are what kept the lights on, but there was a cost; a rather high cost for fuel purchases in order to do this.

Natural gas prices were above \$1,000 per MMBtu which is 400 times the normal cost of natural gas during this time period. This resulted in abnormally/historically high, power costs. When the dust settled, these costs were allocated to the members of WFEC (22 cooperatives and 3 customers) and each was required to figure out a way to pay their portion. For RCEC, our share is \$2,750,995. What the board and management of RCEC has opted to do is to finance this cost through WFEC and pay it back over a period of five years beginning January 1, 2022. This cost will be passed through to our members through our FPPCAC (power cost adjustment on member's monthly bills) as filed at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission over that same time period.

The net effect is about an additional 3 mills or (\$0.003 per kWh). For an average residence on our system, this would equate to an additional \$4.00 per month. Anyone having questions is encouraged to call RCEC's office at (575) 356-4491. Ask for the billing department and they will be more than happy to assist you.

Our offices are closed November 25-26 for the Thanksgiving holiday. To report an outage, please call our after hours number at 575-356-4492

Products & Services

- Free 40 gallon Conventional Water Heaters on Conversion from Gas
- Water Purification systems
- New Construction Rebates
- 3% Interest Energy Efficiency loans
- Scholarships
- Youth Tour contest
- Electrical safety demonstrations
- Electric heating/water heater rates



Non-Residential Deposits

Delinquent nonresidential accounts without a continuing letter of guaranty from financial institution are required to pay a deposit equal to 25% of the delinquent bill. On 3rd consecutive delinquency, a deposit equal to 1/6th of the estimated annual billing will be assessed.

Residential Deposits

For residential consumers a deposit equal to 1/6th of the estimated annual billing is required if the account becomes delinquent three or more times in one year. After that year, the deposit may be refunded and applied to the next month's bill provided the account has not been delinquent in that year. If a service is disconnected, the deposit is applied to the final bill if all requirements have been met.



Calendar of Events

Daylight Savings time ends.....7th
Veterans' Day.....11th
Board Mtg.....23rd
Holiday Office Closed25th & 26th