



Jemez Mountains Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

La Luz

JMEC Newsletter December 2021

A Message from the Board

Dear Members,

We have weathered a lot of storms together since the cooperative was established more than seven decades ago – the pandemic being among the toughest. Throughout these many years your not-for-profit, cost-of-service electric cooperative has followed its mission to strive to be the best in price, service and reliability – keep our system in good condition, operate it safely, keep expenses as low as practical and charge our members only what it costs to serve them – no more, no less. That is the cooperative way.

In March 2021, a cost-of-service (COS) study was completed for JMEC which showed that the cooperative is not meeting its federally required revenue benchmarks to continue to safely, reliably provide electric service to you. U.S. prices have risen nearly 14 percent in the more than eight years since JMEC's last rate change. We must act now so that our rates cover the cost of maintaining our system in good working order and to comply with federal regulations mandating minimum financial metrics. In late December of 2021, we will file a request with the New

Mexico Public Regulation Commission for approval of a needed change in rates so that they fairly cover costs.

Your Board of Trustees are members just like you and have given every consideration to balance the needs of our members for reliable service and low rates with the needs of the cooperative to be financially sound so we are able to meet those needs at the lowest long-term costs.

We have worked hard for this proposed rate change to be fair and responsible and for our efforts to be transparent and clear. To that end, we will be out in the community talking to members and answering questions. **If you would like a member of our team to visit with your group to discuss this needed rate change, please call Tina Trujillo at 505.367.1151 or email ttrujillo@jemezcoop.org. You can also find more information on our website at www.jemezcoop.org.**

Sincerely,
Dennis Trujillo
President, Board of Trustees
Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc.

With Proposed 9 Percent Rate Increase, JMEC Lowest Among Tri-State Cooperatives

After the proposed 9 percent rate change goes into effect, JMEC will still have the lowest average (770 kWh) residential member rate among all 11 electric cooperatives served by Tri-State G&T in New Mexico.

The average residential member's monthly bill will increase \$5.82 beginning in February 2022. In March 2022, the increase lowers to \$3.30 per month after a reduction from Tri-State for wholesale power goes into effect.

Members will see the biggest change in the Facility Charge. Having the fixed, reoccurring costs of operating our system more adequately covered in the Facility Charge increases our electrical system's reliability and safety as it means JMEC will not depend on selling more electricity to cover the cost of maintaining it – increasingly important as we adapt to the state of New Mexico's policies on solar and step up to support members who desire community and rooftop solar projects and who still depend on the grid for backup power.

We understand the work ahead of us. Earlier this year, JMEC's professional staff completed a state of the cooperative review of all departments. There is much that is going very well but of course we turn our attention to addressing deficiencies. The staff has a great deal underway and your Board of Trustees have been at work to make current some woefully out-of-date policies. In other matters it is better to engage a third party, as for a forensic audit of our foundation and other transactional matters, to make certain we are performing to the expected best practices. We will be reporting on the progress and outcomes of this work in each of the coming months.

Contact us if you would like one of our team to meet with your group. Ask for our pamphlet or look to our website, this newsletter, our social profiles, the letter we enclosed in the mailed Notice to Ratepayers or our radio and print advertisements as we strive to communicate as you need about this proposed rate change.

www.jemezcoop.org



JMEC Employee of the Month, Patricia Martinez

Patricia Martinez has enjoyed a diverse and challenging career that has included working in the manager’s office for Rio Arriba County, in Gallina schools and, for the last five years, at JMEC

as clerk / cashier in the Cuba district office.

“I was looking for a challenge,” she said. “This opportunity came up and I went for it!” Like many employees at the cooperative, Martinez wears a lot of hats – she is a backup cashier, answers phones, coordinates the many steps it takes to connect members to JMEC electric service and properly set up their accounts. “I love figuring it all out and making sure everything is correct,” she added.

She has especially enjoyed supporting the work funded by the Cares Act which brought electricity to the homes of residents, some of whom had been waiting years, if not decades, for power. “We had limited time, and staff, but working together as a team we made it happen,” Martinez said. “It was so gratifying!”

She lives in the Coyote area and loves spending time with her husband and two kids as well as hiking and fishing when the weather is fine. A perk of working at JMEC’s Cuba office – it is near to where her dad live so gets to see him for lunch every day!

High School Art Department Logo Contest

Jemez Mountains is proud to announce the JMEC Logo Design Contest. We are extending an invitation to all local high school art departments to submit a new Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative, Inc., logo design. Criteria is not limited but needs to incorporate the vision statement:

Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc.’s vision is to be the best electric cooperative in New Mexico based on price, member service and reliability through which we enhance the quality of life for the communities we serve.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, January 28, 2022. The art department submitting the winning logo will receive a cash prize and its logo will be used in various media by the cooperative.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We hope you are able to enjoy a sweet Christmas holiday with family and friends and a joyous, safe New Year’s celebration. **While our offices will be closed for Christmas, Friday, Dec. 24th and Saturday, Dec. 25th, as well as for New Year’s Friday, Dec. 31st and Saturday, Jan. 1st,** our hard-working dispatchers and linemen will be on call during the closures to assure your safe and reliable electrical service. **If you experience an outage, please call the JMEC outage hotline – 1.877.753.0095.** You can follow real-time updates on your phone using JMEC’s mobile app or go to <http://71.29.201.50:7576/> on our website.



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