



"Out with the old, in with the new" - SEC Line Crews replacing the Burris Substation transformer

Powering Reliability Today—Planning for Tomorrow

Socorro Electric Cooperative (SEC) is committed to delivering safe, reliable power while preparing our system for future growth. A recent system improvement in our northern service area reflects that commitment in action.

As part of SEC's ongoing equipment maintenance program, Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) testing identified a potential issue within the substation transformer at our Burris Substation southeast of Belen. DGA testing is a critical diagnostic tool that helps detect developing problems before they lead to outages—allowing us to act proactively on behalf of our members.

Following the initial findings, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State), SEC's generation and transmission partner, assisted with additional testing. Together, the results confirmed that the transformer needed to be replaced to ensure continued reliability.

Jason Otero, SEC's Chief Operations Officer, immediately began coordinating the replacement effort. After evaluating multiple options, he secured a transformer that could be delivered promptly while also supporting increased system capacity—ensuring we are not only addressing today's needs, but also planning for tomorrow's growth.

On March 16, 2026, SEC successfully energized the new substation transformer. This upgrade is now delivering reliable power to many of our members in the northern part of our service territory and strengthens the overall resilience of our system.

Jason expressed his appreciation to the dedicated teams who made this project a success, including SEC linemen and technicians, Tri-State, SGS Engineering, and SEC's professional engineering consultant, Torey Bell.

This project is a strong example of how proactive maintenance, strategic partnerships, and forward-looking planning work together to keep the lights on—today and into the future.

At SEC, we don't just maintain our system—we continuously invest in it, ensuring reliable service for our members and supporting the growth of the communities we serve.



Our partner Tri-State G&T provided their Mobile Substation which was invaluable to the success of this project!

Your **SOCORRO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Powered by  **TRI-STATE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WELCOME TO THE TEAM: MANUEL (Manny) LUCERO

SEC is proud to welcome Manny Lucero to the team as our dedicated tree trimmer/arborist. Manny brings more than two decades of tree trimming experience and a work ethic that is already making a measurable impact across our system.

Manny is the only arborist at SEC, and his role is critical to maintaining safe, reliable electric service as vegetation management is one of the most important—and often unseen—components of keeping the lights on. Trees and brush coming into contact with power lines are a leading cause of outages, particularly on secondary lines.

The efforts of Manny and his team are designed to produce enhanced safety measures for SEC Line Crews and the public by creating a safe distance between high-voltage lines and trees. His proactive approach and dedication to the job have already contributed to a noticeable reduction in outages, helping improve reliability for our members.

Manny's work not only enhances day-to-day reliability but also plays a vital role in protecting our system and communities from wildfire risk—a top priority in our region.

At SEC, we know that great people power great service. Manny Lucero is a strong example of that commitment, and we are excited to have him on the team as we continue working to serve our members safely, reliably, and efficiently.



Manuel Lucero
Tree Trimmer/Fiber Technician

CONTACT US

WEBSITE

www.socorroelectric.com

PHONE

800-351-7575 or 575-835-0560

PAYING YOUR BILL

Check out the SEC App!



Android



Apple

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

REPORTING AN OUTAGE

Before reporting a power outage, please check the circuit breakers in your house first. If you still do not have power after checking your breakers, please call

575-835-0560, 800-351-7575 or 855-881-8159.

If you get a busy signal, it is an indication that someone else is experiencing an outage as well; however please continue to call, this will help us pinpoint the problem.

MEMBER SERVICES

Marilyn Madrid - Member Service Supervisor
575-835-0560, Ext 1504

ACCOUNTING

Rauni Montoya, Chief Financial Officer
575-835-0560, Ext 2502

LINE EXTENSIONS

Eng Dept 575-835-0560, Ext 2501 or 2503

MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jimmy Capps - Director of Communications & Public Affairs - 575-835-0560, Ext 1503
jcapps@socorroelectric.com

Eileen Latasa - District 2 Trustee, Continues Specialized Training



President Leroy Anaya proudly presents Trustee Latasa with her NRECA - BLC Certificate.

In an effort to provide SEC Trustees with the latest in electric utility industry related training, SEC partners with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for their specialized programs.

Eileen Latasa, Trustee - District 2, recently completed 10 core courses in advanced training related to electric utility issues to receive her "Board Leadership Certificate" (BLC) from NRECA.

Trustee Latasa had to first complete the NRECA "Credentialed Cooperative Director" training before continuing her professional development with the BLC Program. Congratulations Trustee Latasa!

March 2026 Board Report - the Board

- approved (3) Member Line Extension Loan applications
- approved updated Board Policy #106 - "Ethics Committee"
- approved updated Board Policy #108 - "Standards of Conduct"

All board agendas, minutes, and videos can be found on our website at:

www.socorroelectric.com/board/resources