



Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A rooftop solar installation in Socorro provides supplemental electricity for its owner.

Presentations from Solar Power Provider, Confusing at Best - Proceed with Caution

In last month's edition of the *Co-op* Corner, we reminded our Members to use SEC as a resource for any questions or concerns when considering the addition of solar to their home or business.

Recently, a solar provider blanketed Socorro and the surrounding areas, with an aggressive marketing campaign promoting their products. Unfortunately, some of the employees of this company represented their company was working in partnership with SEC, and that SEC "knew about all the company and recommended their products". These are false statements we learned about when we received several calls from Members attempting to verify that their products were in some way supported, endorsed, or recommended by SEC.

As mentioned in last month's article, SEC fully supports the decisions of our Members who choose to add solar, or other forms of renewable energy, as long as the guidelines of SEC, the National Electrical Safety Code and the Interconnection Rules of the NMPRC, are followed. SEC has never "partnered" or "promoted" any specific solar or alternative energy provider.

During this marketing campaign, several SEC Members received proposals from this company and they shared them with us. The main points of these proposals are: they would install their products with no money down, loan you the money to finance the purchase, and these panels would produce *all* of your electric needs - as "their panels even produce electricity at night with light from the moon". The premise being the monthly loan payment you make to them, taking the place of your bill from SEC, would provide you with all the electric power you need, all year round.

A representative of this company even created a Facebook page titled "City of Socorro NM Solar Program" to promote their products as they claimed "the prices for electricity from SEC goes up every year". Actually, ***SEC has not had a rate increase in 12 years*** and the City of Socorro does not have a solar program for their residents.

The proposals were presented entirely on a computer and homeowners were asked to sign an electronic contract on the computer - there were no paper copies available to review before signing. No pictures, literature or specifications of the actual solar panels, inverters or mounting hardware were included in the presentations but there were graphs of the amount of power to be produced, the cost of the loan and a even a prediction of the *average* cost of electricity for the next 30 years! In one, they predicted the average cost for electricity for the next 30 years at \$.31/kWh, another said \$.28/kWh with the cost for solar at \$.17/kWh and \$.13/kWh? Inconsistent information from two presentations made to Members two weeks apart.

The main selling point of each presentation was that "electric rates go up about 5% every year", which is not true for *any* electric utility in New Mexico. It seems as if this company is selling "financing" and not solar panels.

We simply encourage our Members to proceed with caution and give us a call with any questions about solar.

Your
**SOCORRO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Spotlight on TEAM SEC - Your Board Trustee, Your Neighbor

Trustee Dr. Donald Wolberg is certainly no stranger to the Members of District 3 and the city of Socorro. He and his family have been SEC members since 1979 and all eight of his children graduated from Socorro High School. Trustee Wolberg is a geologist, who has been a staff scientist and Adjunct Faculty member at New Mexico Tech. He is also completing his third term on the SEC Board.

He holds the highest NRECA credentials available for Trustees, and over the past 35 years has served on numerous local, regional and national boards, commissions, and committees. Don thinks the greatest strength of SEC is its proactive board that emphasizes board training and proficiency as part of the service to SEC members. He also represents the SEC on the board of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association.

He believes in a rational approach to our energy needs, protecting the environment, New Mexico jobs, and the need for affordable and reliable energy. He continues to support maintaining rates as low as possible, embracing emerging technologies such as solar energy, and working together with the communities SEC serves.



Dr. Donald Wolberg
District 3 Trustee

CONTACT US

WEBSITE

www.socorroelectric.com

PHONE

800-351-7575 or 575-835-0560

PAYING YOUR BILL

You can make your payment over the phone by check or major credit card, 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week with our IVR phone system at no charge.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 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 SERVICE/BILLING

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

ACCOUNTING

575-835-0560

LINE EXTENSIONS

Bill Harris - Staking Technician
575-835-0560 Ext 2503

MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jimmy Capps - Director of Communications & Public Affairs - 575-838-9724
jcapps@socorroelectric.com

December 2020 Board Report - the Board met via teleconference....

- approved a support letter to FERC on behalf of Tri-State - new contract language.
- reviewed the proposed franchise agreement with the Village of Magdalena.
- received Staff departmental reports & Board Committee recommendations.
- set the next Board Meeting for January 27, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Pole Inspectors in Magdalena/Alamo Area

In a continuing effort to maintain and improve the reliability of the power we deliver to your homes and businesses, SEC has contracted with a professional company to inspect over 4,100 poles in the areas indicated on the map below.

The company, RAM Utilities, LLC, will be in this area from mid-January thru mid-March conducting their inspections. Their vehicles will have SEC signage on them for easy identification.

This is one of the annual maintenance activities performed in an effort to be proactive and prevent issues before they affect your power delivery.

