

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 27 No. 03/04

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Nominating Committee Reports for the 2023 Annual Meeting

District No. 3, (Ft. Sumner) and District No. 5, (Tucumcari), Nominating Committee meetings were held on February 21 and February 23, 2023.

District No. 3 Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at FEC's Ft. Sumner office in Ft. Sumner on February 21, 2023. Following deliberations, **Mike West** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 3.

District No. 5 Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at Del's Restaurant in Tucumcari on February 23, 2023. Following deliberations, **Judy Smith** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 5.

My Co-op

Furthermore, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative, any qualified member of the Cooperative residing in Districts 3 or 5 wishing to be on the Annual Meeting ballot as a candidate, may do so by petition. Article IV, Section 3 (d) reads, "Any fifty (50) members, in good standing with the Cooperative, residing in a district from which a trustee is to be elected, may make nominations by petition for a trustee from that district, providing such nominating petition is filed in the principal office of the Cooperative not less than 20 days prior to the annual meeting."

The filing deadline this year is **April 21, 2023**. If you have any questions, or wish to have more information regarding the process, please call Antonio Sanchez at the Cooperative's Clovis office at 800-445-8541 or 575-762-4466 or by email at antonio@fecnm.org.

PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews, or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when safely possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe



WARNING!

If you connect an electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into the house, the electrical generator could feed back into Farmers' Electric's system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electrical lines.

To avoid this type of back-feeding onto the system, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch between the generator and utility power in compliance with all state and local electrical codes. (A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.)

Your generator might not be large enough to handle the load of all the lights, appliances, TV, etc. at one time. To prevent dangerous overloading, calculate wattage requirements correctly.

Wildfire Safety Tips

Unlike many natural disasters, most wildfires are caused by people – and can also be prevented by people. Meteorologists are not yet able to forecast wildfire outbreaks, so people in fire-prone areas like ours should plan ahead and prepare to evacuate with little notice.

Here are some tips on how to prevent wildfires and what to do if you're caught in the middle of one:

How to Prevent a Wildfire

- Contact 911, the Sheriff's office, or your local fire department if you notice an unattended or out-of-control fire.
- When camping, take care when using and fueling lanterns, stoves, and heaters. Make sure lighting and heating devices are cool before refueling. Avoid spilling flammable liquids and store fuel away from appliances.
- Do not discard cigarettes, matches, and smoking materials from any moving vehicles.
- Use fireworks responsibly and follow local laws and ordinances. Always have a water source ready.
- When pulling a trailer, make sure the slack on the emergency chain is not dragging. A chain being drug on asphalt will cause sparks to fly and could start a fire. Also, the catalytic converter, part of your exhaust system on your car, gets very hot. During normal operation, the catalytic converter routinely reaches temperatures of 1200 degrees F. If you pull over to the side of the road, make sure the underside of your vehicle is not touching tall, dry brush.
- Follow local ordinances when burning yard waste. Avoid backyard burning in windy conditions, and keep a shovel, water, and fire retardant nearby to keep fires in check. Remove all flammables from yard when burning.



Evacuation Tips

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Know your evacuation route ahead of time and prepare an evacuation checklist and emergency supplies.
- Wear protective clothing and footwear to protect yourself from flying sparks and ashes.

Before you leave, prepare your home (if time permits)

- Remove combustibles, including firewood, yard waste, BBQ grills, and fuel cans from your yard.
- Close all windows, vents, and doors to prevent draft.
- Shut off natural gas, propane, or fuel oil supplies.

See **WILDFIRES** on **PAGE 3**

Board of Trustees:



Mike West
Trustee Dist. 3
President



George Dodge
Trustee Dist. 4
Vice-President



Donnie Bidegain
Trustee Dist. 7
Sec. - Treas.



Pat Woods
Trustee Dist. 6



Ernest Riley
Trustee Dist. 2



Justin Barnes
Trustee Dist. 1



Judy Smith
Trustee Dist. 5

POWER SOURCE

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Thom J. Moore,
Editor
thom@fecnm.org

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve your electric power needs

**"After Hours"
Outage Reporting:
(800) 445-8541**

All Other Calls:
Clovis
(575) 762-4466
Fort Sumner
(575) 355-2291
Santa Rosa
(575) 472-3971

SAVE THE DATE

85th Annual Meeting!

We look forward to visiting with you on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at the Cooperative's 85th Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held in San Jon, New Mexico at the San Jon High School gym. Prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served following the business meeting.

Because Farmers' Electric is locally-owned and operated, your involvement is crucial. Mark your calendar today and plan to attend the Annual Meeting of your electric cooperative.

Federal Tax Credits for Homeowners

Go to energystar.gov and find information on federal tax credits for energy efficient upgrades to your primary residence. There are too many to list them all but, here are some, just to name a few: Insulation, heat pump water heaters, exterior windows, air-source heat pumps, central A/C conditioners, electric panel upgrades to 200+ Amps, and exterior doors. Click on the calculator icon. Then click on "Tax Credits for Homeowners" on the left.



WILDFIRES from PAGE 2

- Fill any large vessels – pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, or tubs with water to slow or discourage fire.

If Caught in a Wildfire


- Don't try to outrun the blaze. Instead, look for a body of water such as pond, river, playa, or cattle tank in which to crouch.
- If there is no water nearby, find a depressed, cleared area with little vegetation, lie low to the ground, and cover your body with wet clothing, a blanket, or soil. Stay low and covered until the fire passes.
- Protect your lungs by breathing air closest to the ground, through a moist cloth, if possible, to avoid inhaling smoke.

**New Mexico
One-Call Center**



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

www.nmonecall.org
(This is a free service)



**2nd Annual
James Townson
Team Tournament**

Bass Club

**Logan, NM (Ute Lake)
Saturday, April 29, 2023**

- Entry fee: \$100 per team
1 or 2 persons in one boat constitutes a team
- 50/50 Split - Fundraiser for Melrose Verteran's Memorial
- Big Bass pot \$10 per team - 100% payback

For more information call Mark Latham, Sr. at (575) 799-5412 or Mark Latham, Jr. at (575) 799-4288

Be careful with those space heaters! Running just one space heater, 8 hours a day, will add over \$43 to your monthly electric bill!



1500 Watts = 1.5 kW

1.5 kW x 8 hrs./day = 12 kWh

12 kWh x 30 days = 360 kWh

360 kWh x 12¢ = **\$43.20/month**

Ask the Energy Guys

Hey Energy Guys! I'm having a new home built and I need service. Which would be better, overhead or underground?



PROS

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS

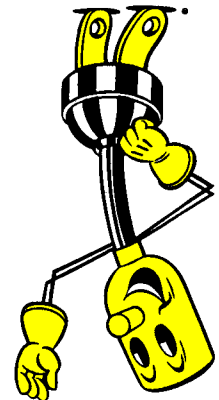
- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltage that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker to construct
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice, and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive



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FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
OF NEW MEXICO
 3701 Thornton St., P.O. Box 550
 Clovis, New Mexico 88102-0550