

FEC. POWER *Source*

Vol. 23 No. 04/05

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



FEC. FREE ELECTRICITY!

You could be the lucky winner of our GRAND PRIZE, (\$1,000 in free electricity), at Farmers' Electric Cooperative's 81st Annual Membership Meeting

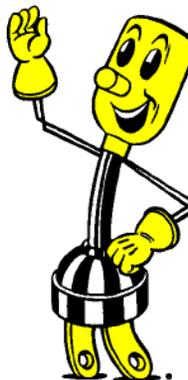
Registration: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m.
 Lunch: Following Business Meeting

Melrose High School Gym
 100 Missouri Ave
 Melrose, New Mexico

Saturday, May 11, 2019

To take action upon the following matters:

- The reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees
- The elections of Trustees from:
 District 2 (Melrose)
 District 7 (San Jon/Logan)
- All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof
- Door prizes for adults and children
- Grand Prize Drawing (\$1,000 in FREE ELECTRICITY!)
- Two special drawings (\$50 Energy Certificates for "First-Time attendance
- Traditional BBQ lunch will be served following Business Mtg., catered By Bigham's Smokehouse and served by MHS BPA.



Switch to Safety

WITH THE FLIP OF A SWITCH, we can light our world. But, it's important to remember, behind this switch is potentially dangerous electricity. With that, you want to make sure it is operating properly and safely.

Don't ignore these warning signs:

- The wall plate is hot to the touch.
- There is discoloration on or around the switch plate.
- Lights dim and/or flicker without apparent cause or when other appliances are turned off or on.
- You hear cracking, popping, or buzzing from a switch or an outlet.
- Breakers trip or fuses blow when the switch is turned on.
- You detect an odor when a switch is used.
- The switch leans to one side or feels loose when operating.
- You experience a shock when operating the switch.
- The home is more than 40 years old and has aluminum wiring, but has not recently undergone a safety inspection by an electrician.



If any of these are happening in your home, have a licensed electrician inspect your home's electrical system as

Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM**

Farmers' Electric has identified a need to revise rates to address revenue loss from the increasing number of members installing distributed generation, primarily solar panels. In some examples, members are able to completely offset their monthly purchases from the Cooperative, providing minimal financial support for the continuing operation and maintenance of the Cooperative's electric system. Across the Cooperative's service area, the cost of maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure is an ever-increasing expense. It is important that we look for ways to encourage member choice in distributed generation technology without requiring other members to shoulder the cost of operation and maintenance of the Cooperative's electric system.

Legislative update; members of Farmers' Electric are keenly aware of many of the major issues debated in the recent state legislative session. With a host of new legislators, democratic party in firm control of the Senate and House and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham working to make progress on many of the issues identified in her campaign, insiders expected a "wild-ride". There were a number of utility specific legislative initiatives electric cooperatives were following, though most did not make front page news or broadcast headlines. For utilities, the one exception was Senate Bill (SB-489), the Energy Transition Act (ETA). Readers can find the full text of the final bill signed by Governor Lujan Grisham on the state legislative web site www.nmlegis.gov.

Supporters of the ETA worked to increase the current Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) of 10 percent for Cooperatives and 20 percent for Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) by year 2020. Going forward, Cooperative power supply must be comprised of at least 40 percent renewable energy by 2025; 50 percent renewable energy by 2030; and a target of being 100 percent "zero carbon" by 2050, with 80 percent of the zero-carbon target generated by renewable resources. Fortunately, the zero-carbon target is tempered by language that 1) achieving the target is technically feasible; 2) implementation does not negatively impact reliability; and 3) does not cause electric service to be unaffordable for consumers.

From my perspective, supporters worked with opponents to include a great deal of "pork" to garner support and I fear the final result is a mandate guar-

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*Caprock Solar near Norton, NM*

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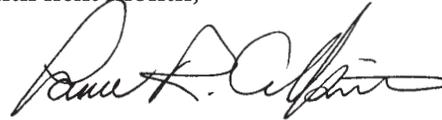
RENEWABLE from PAGE 2

anted to increase costs for consumers, particularly IOU consumers. When it became clear SB-489 would pass, Cooperatives worked to include provisions designed to minimize costs for members, including being able to count our historical hydroelectric resources towards RPS requirements. Farmers' Electric was already well ahead of the RPS, with over 30 percent of energy sold in 2018 generated by wind farms in eastern New Mexico and west Texas, the Caprock Solar Power plant located in Quay County, and a small hydroelectric resource from the Western Area Power Administration.

Beginning January 1, 2019, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) began supplying all of our wholesale power supply. WFEC's renewable energy portfolio consists of 50 megawatts (MW)

of solar generation; 705 MW of wind generation; and 260 MW of hydroelectric generation. A new wind project to be completed in 2019 will increase WFEC's wind generation to 955 MW. Recently, WFEC announced a new solar Project "Tip Top Solar Energy Center", located in south east New Mexico, with a rated capacity of 220 MW. It is scheduled to be operational by December of 2022, increasing WFEC's total solar capacity to 270 MW. In short, we believe Farmers' Electric is well positioned to meet the new RPS 2025 and 2030 requirement with minimal additional cost impact to the membership.

Until next month,



Members registering at the Annual Meeting of Members on behalf of a partnership, organization, church, trust, corporation, partnership, governmental agency, limited liability company, or sole proprietorship should present documentation at registration denoting such. For convenience, a blank form below has been provided to accomplish this. This form or affidavit should be signed and notarized. The form can be delivered by the appointed individual at the time of registration at the Annual Meeting. No person may vote more than one time or receive more than one ballot. For more information, call: 800-445-8541 or 575-762-4466

FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. OF NEW MEXICO

Affidavit for use by a Non-Individual Member to Authorize a Voting Representative

I, _____ do hereby certify that _____ is the voting representative of _____ (name of entity) and is the duly authorized legal representative for such entity for the purpose of voting on any and all matters that may arise at the annual meeting of members of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. of New Mexico (hereinafter referred to as "Farmers' Electric") as held on May 11, 2019 in Melrose, New Mexico to vote on behalf of _____ (name of entity) on any and all matters that may arise at the annual meeting of members of Farmers' Electric. This affidavit shall remain in effect through said meeting date unless earlier canceled by written notice received by Farmers' Electric.

Type of Entity: (please specify)

- Organization
Church
Trust
Corporation
Partnership
Governmental Agency
Limited Liability Company
Sole Proprietorship

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
)
COUNTY OF _____)

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Cooperative Member's Qualifying Telephone Number

On This _____ day of _____, 2019, personally appeared before me _____, being know to be the person and acknowledging the forgoing instrument.

(SEAL)

My Commission Expires:

Notary Public

Standby Generator Safety

During power outages, many members use backup generators for their emergency electrical needs. If installed properly, use of generators to power your home, farm, or business poses little danger. But, if installed incorrectly, your generator system could threaten the lives of family, friends, neighbors, and electric utility line crews trying to restore service.



There are specific ways to properly install generators in your business or home. Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) strongly suggests you have a qualified professional electrician assist you.

To safely operate a standby generator, make sure it has a transfer safety switch to isolate the load from the normal utility source. Without this safety switch, there is a good chance electricity can travel back through the lines causing "back feed." Back feed creates a dangerous hazard for anyone near the power lines, particularly the utility crews working to restore power.

The transfer switch, also known as a "double-throw switch" near the service entrance panel or fuse box, in your home or business by a qualified electrician.

If you would like a copy of *Connecting Your Standby Generator Safely*, a brochure published by the National Food and Energy Council, simply call FEC today and a copy will be sent to you at no charge. FEC's toll-free number is 1-800-445-8541.

Faulty Electrical Controls Should Be Investigated

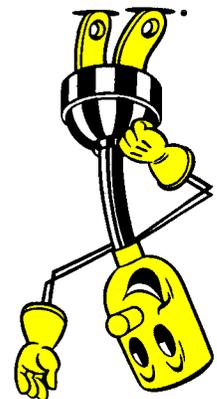


Do you have a wall switch that fails to control the overhead light or an outlet that doesn't deliver power to an appliance?

Don't just bypass or ignore the problem. There's a reason the switch or outlet isn't working.

The problem could be something minor, or it could be the symptom of something more serious. Why not go ahead and have a qualified electrician check it out and fix the problem? Simply ignoring the problem is not worth the risk.

"Owned By Those We Serve"



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