

Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. of New Mexico

**Place: Fort Sumner High School - Gym
1001 Sumner Ave
Fort Sumner, New Mexico**

Date: Saturday, May 14, 2022

Registration: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

**Lunch: Following Business Meeting
(Approximately 12:00 Noon)**



To take action upon the following matters:

- 1. The reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees**
 - 2. The election of Trustees from Districts 2 and 7**
 - 3. All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof**
- Grand Prize Drawing (\$1,000 of free electricity!)**
 - Door Prizes for Adults and Children**

In addition to drawing for the grand prize and door prizes, there will be a special drawing of two \$50 Energy Certificates for “First Time” Farmers' Electric Cooperative members in attendance.

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

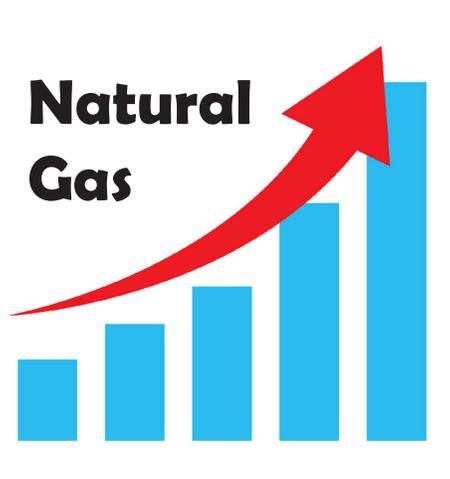
FEC is experiencing “supply-chain” shortages, shipping delays and significant increases in the cost of materials we purchase to build, operate, and maintain the electric system. Currently, FEC is procuring sufficient materials to continue normal new construction activities, complete scheduled maintenance and system improvements, and to repair poles and equipment damaged by accidents, storms, or wildfire.

Beginning late last year, FEC has experienced increases in the cost of wholesale power. Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), our wholesale power provider, has advised they expect higher wholesale power costs to continue for some time. While WFEC implemented a small decrease in base wholesale power rates in January, the increase in generation fuel costs, primarily natural gas, are significantly higher. As a result, the lower base cost of power is not even noticeable to consumers. One contributing factor, with increasing amounts of renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar entering wholesale power markets, markets are relying on less-efficient conventional generation resources fueled by natural gas, generators that can ramp up production very quickly, to provide firm electric supply when wind and solar generation is intermittent (non-firm) or not available.

When comparing wholesale power costs from this time last year, our current costs are thirty percent higher. FEC recovers these changes in wholesale power costs through the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment Clause (FPPCAC), a separate line item on the electric bill. In February of last year, the FPPCAC was a negative (-\$0.009936) per kilowatt-hour (kWh), a credit on lower wholesale fuel costs, reducing the monthly bill amount. Currently, the FPPCAC is a positive \$0.007752 per kWh. For the average FEC member purchasing 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity during a typical month, the electric bill is \$17.69 higher than

Natural Gas Fueling Increases in Electric Rates

It is impossible to ignore the increase in prices for gasoline at the pump! It is amazing how quickly the costs of other goods and services follow increases in the cost of fuel resources used in manufacturing and transportation of all those “things” we purchase. In fact, the rate of inflation overall is higher than consumers have experienced in decades. Farmers’ Electric (FEC) is also experiencing increases in fuel costs to operate our fleet of vehicles. In addition,

**Board of Trustees:**

Mike West

President

George Dodge

Vice President

Donnie Bidegain

Secretary-Treasurer

Justin Barnes

Trustee

Judy Smith

Trustee

Ernest Riley

Trustee

Pat Woods

*Trustee***General Manager:**

Lance R. Adkins

POWER SOURCE

is published monthly by Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. Questions or article ideas should be directed to :

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

To Report an Outage Call:

Clovis

(575) 762-4466

Fort Sumner

(575) 355-2291

Santa Rosa

(575) 472-3971

Toll Free

(800) 445-8541

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TREDNING UP *from* **PAGE 2**

February of last year! Understandably, folks are concerned about how much higher costs can go as well as when can we expect costs to go down?

As previously stated, the current rise in wholesale power costs is being driven by increases in the cost of natural gas used to generate electricity. There are many factors contributing to the increase; winter storms in the north and east, combined with reduced amounts of natural gas in storage, are driving prices higher. Political and regulatory initiatives driving significant increases in renewable energy technology, along with a push to retire fossil-fuel generation early, has forced greater reliance on less-efficient natural gas generation technology to back up renewable generation. Recent changes in domestic policy, both federal and state, that disincentivizes development of new oil and natural gas resources, along with difficulties in expanding natural gas pipeline capacity cannot be ignored. Further, global issues, including the war in Ukraine are significant factors.

For now, controlling the impact of these higher costs are in the hands of consumers, through decisions made each day on how to spend those hard-earned dollars on goods and services. Continue to look for ways to reduce electric consumption in this newsletter and in our statewide publication enchantment magazine. Keep in mind, there continues to be financial assistance available to qualifying consumers through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and through Rent Help New Mexico. For more information on these programs please contact our Customer Service Representatives. As of this writing, Rent Help New Mexico has awarded over \$116 million to more than 49,000 state residents. Recently, the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority implemented a program to assist homeowners, information is available at 1-866-488-0498 or www.housingnm.org.

Unitl next month,



New Answering Service Provider

Farmers Electric Cooperative (FEC) is now utilizing the services of Cooperative Response Center (CRC) for our after-hours, weekends, and holidays answering services. CRC has been in the after-hours call services business for a long time and employs highly motivated, competent individuals who are going to handle all calls and callers promptly and professionally. They have four (soon to be five) fully staffed call centers nationwide.

Because they are new to us and we are new to them, there will be a slight learning curve. Please be patient. They will be best reached by dialing our 1-800-445-8541 number. Once they answer, an automated system will:

- Give you the regular office hours of FEC (there is a long pause after this message) Do not hang up.
- They will ask you to dial your 10-digit number associated with your account.
- You will be asked if you would like to report an outage. You will be given an option to report it through automated phone sequence dialing (might save you some hold time) or you can hold for an operator.

If call volume is high, your hold time may be a bit longer. We appreciate your patience during these busier times. We look forward to working together with CRC in this venture. We have full confidence that this new relationship will prove to be a long and valuable partnership.

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

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- 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 dragged 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.



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

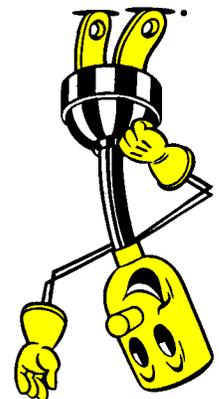
If Caught in a Wildfire

- 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.

Evacuation Tips

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Know your evacuation route ahead of time and

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