

# FEC POWER

## Source

Vol. 25 No. 03

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## Judy Smith Appointed Trustee of FEC'S District 5

Tucumcari area resident and FEC member, Judy Smith, has been appointed by the FEC Board of Trustees to fill the seat left vacant after the passing of longtime and beloved Trustee, Paul Quintana. Although Judy says she could "never replace Paul," she brings with her a lifelong local residency and a "comprehensive understanding of agriculture and the rural way of life."

Judy graduated from Tucumcari High School, where she was involved with many school activities. She was also in 4-H where she learned a lot about personal responsibility while raising and showing livestock animals. Leadership was another trait she honed while holding various 4-H local and county offices.

Judy had a storied career with the Agricultural

Stabilization and Conservation Service/Farm Service Agency (ASCS/FSA) ultimately serving as County Executive Director for Quay and Harding Counties. After 28 ½ years, Judy retired from ASCS/FSA. However, she hasn't stopped working. Judy and her husband Jack own a 1400-acre farm north of Tucumcari where they grow mostly hay crops and have a cow/calf operation.



Admittedly, Judy confesses, now that she is retired from her day job, she has more time to serve and looks forward to "representing the members of her district." She hopes, given her life experiences and work within the rural agriculture business sector, that she can contribute and bring to the FEC Board "a viewpoint that will prove useful."

## Do-It-Yourself Home Check List

If you're anything like me, your most desirable place to be is not in your home's crawlspace. I had been putting it off for a few years and recently decided that if I didn't do it, I'd never do it. I had come up with so many excuses; it's too cold, it's too hot, it's too damp, it's too dry, will I encounter spiders, bugs, and other creepy crawlies? The list went on and on. Well, I finally did it and yes, I had to deal with some of these issues, but they weren't nearly as bad as my mind had made them out to be.

The best part about the dreaded trip through the crawlspace was, I didn't encounter any real surprises. All in all, things looked pretty good, especially for a 75 year home with galvanized plumbing. However, that being said, I am seriously considering replumbing my supply lines

throughout the house with PEX. No rush though, I'd say 75 years without any "major" problems is a pretty good track record for the good ole galvanized pipe.

Inspired with my success, I thought, "I'm already dirty and in the groove, I should go ahead and go through the attic as well." I did find a minor roof leak over our porch. Luckily, it will be a fairly simple fix. Better to catch it now though than in the future after it has become a much bigger issue. Below are some things to look for and keep in mind when doing your own do-it-yourself home check:

### Crawl Space

- When in the crawl space, check and make sure that

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

## February Deep Freeze Causes Problems Across the Region

Unusual weather events in mid-February caused major disruptions to natural gas supplies and electric generating capacity that rely on natural gas, for millions of customers across the central and southern United States. Perhaps readers have seen news reports of the difficulties in most of Texas, mainly those located inside the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). In fact, top officials at ERCOT and the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) have resigned in the wake of public

outrage; one large Texas cooperative utility filed for bankruptcy on March 1 resulting from nearly \$1.8 billion in charges for electricity from ERCOT related to the winter storm event.

Members of Farmers' Electric (FEC) were not immune to the impacts of what is now identified as winter storms Uri and Viola. From previous articles, readers may recall that electric energy supplies across the United States is generally divided into three independent bulk power grids, the Eastern Interconnection, Western Interconnection and ERCOT. FEC is "electrically" located in the Eastern Interconnection, along with three other electric cooperatives in eastern New Mexico, as well as cooperatives and municipal utilities in the Texas panhandle region through Xcel Energy transmission services.

FEC does not independently own any generation resources and purchases capacity and energy from others, historically, Xcel/SPS and now WFEC. Both WFEC and Xcel have reported they experienced minimal impacts to generation unit reliability during winter storms Uri and Viola. However, both WFEC and Xcel experienced significant difficulties in obtaining natural gas supplies for generating units that burn gas. It is reported that frigid temperatures froze liquids in natural gas production wells, gas processing and pipeline compression facilities, as well as delivery pipelines. As ERCOT generation failed, electric power to many natural gas production and processing facilities also failed compounding natural gas supply impacts. Further, natural gas suppliers diverted gas scheduled for electric generation to serve natural gas retail customers to keep critical home heating fuel available.

FEC received the call from SPP/SPS to shed firm load in the early morning hours of Monday, February 15. When FEC receives the call to shed firm load we are required to act within 30 minutes. If FEC is unable to accomplish this load-shed it is understood the SPS transmission system operator will do it for us, potentially taking a significantly larger number of FEC members than would normally be required due to SPS's limited ability to remotely control service to the FEC system. This first day of load-shed was short lived, with the load shed being cancelled several minutes after FEC shed firm load and FEC personnel restoring service to members. FEC also provided information to area radio stations asking members to reduce consumption as well as communicate the potential for further load-shed to critical loads including hospitals and other confined care facilities.

See **WEATHER EVENT** on **PAGE 3**

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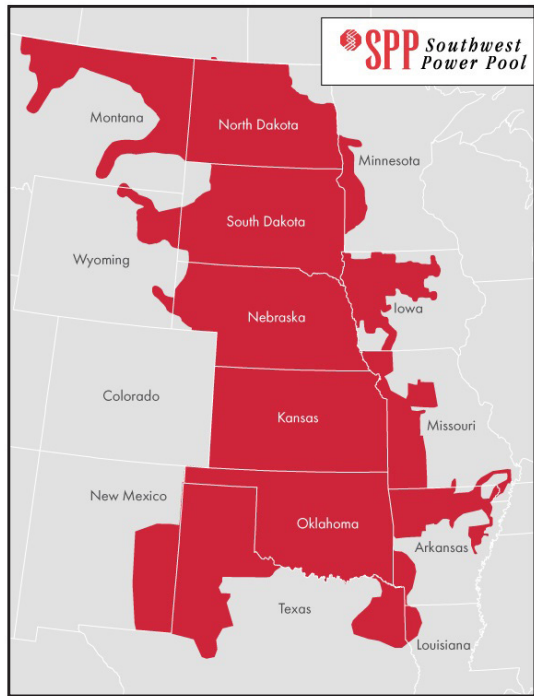
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**WEATHER EVENT** *from* PAGE 2

Tuesday, February 16 was more challenging as the SPP/SPS call for firm load-shed came at 6:15 am and FEC was required to keep the load off, requiring multiple or rolling load-shed events. At approximately 9:00 am SPP/SPS lifted the load-shed order and FEC restored service to all members. FEC crews worked to keep outages to less than one hour and were again able to avoid interrupting service to hospitals and other confined care facilities. Throughout the event FEC was also working with our largest member, Southwest Cheese, who reduced plant operations throughout SPP EEA Level 1 & 2 conditions, reducing by more than half the number of other FEC members who were interrupted.



For members of FEC there is a financial cost as well, as the SPP wholesale electricity market costs rose in proportion to the cost of natural gas generation fuel, so those costs will flow through to the membership through the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment Clause (FPPCAC). Working with WFEC, we plan to spread these costs out over time, likely several years, to minimize the month to month costs each member receives on the electric bill.

Until next month,

**NO RUST. NO LEAKS.  
NO WORRIES.**

Call Farmers' Electric Cooperative today to get special pricing on Rheem-Marathon electric water heaters!



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FEC is the local underwriter of *Ask This Old House*. New episodes can be seen on KENW TV on **Saturdays at 11:30 a.m.** and **1:00 PM**. Find the library of past episodes here: <https://www.thisoldhouse.com/ask-this-old-house>

**Pole Inspectors in Area**

**C**ontinuing through April, weather permitting, GLS, Ground Line Services out of San Antonio, Texas, will be testing poles for Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) out of the Clovis Substation.

Pole testing is a yearly maintenance program that FEC performs, however, every pole is not tested each year, rather, FEC strives to test each on a ten-year rotation.



This type of maintenance program helps to ensure that FEC can continue to supply the very safest, reliable electricity to our members.

All FEC contractors should be marked as such, "FEC Contractor" on their trucks. They should also, have a letter from FEC on their vehicle dash when parked and working. You may also see some four wheelers in and around these areas as GLS crews use these to get to most of our poles. If you have any questions about pole testing or the pole testers, please feel free to contact the office at (800) 445-8541 and ask for Member Services or Engineering.



**HOME CHECK LIST** *from* **PAGE 1**

the vents are unobstructed, allowing airflow through the area to prevent mold and mildew.

- Check for signs of mold, mildew, or moisture.
- Check for droppings, food, debris or other signs of rodents and other pests. If you notice signs of rodents, it's a good idea to look over any pipes or wiring giving them extra attention. Rodents love to chew on these kinds of things and could lead to serious problems later.
- If your heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) unit's ductwork is in the crawl space, be sure to check it. Leaky air ducts are one of the primary causes of high utility bills. It helps if you make sure your unit is on, and you should be able to see movement, hear, or feel major leaks.
- Check for any septic or sewer smells.
- Check for drooping or missing insulation on the underside of the floor.



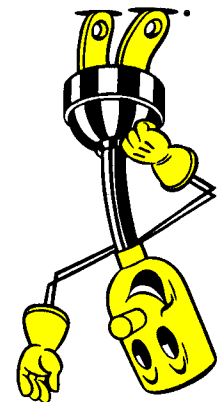
*Cellulose insulation level on 2x6 ceiling joists yeilds an R-Value of approximaltey 20. This is not enough. FEC can help you get to at least R30*

replace fresh air from outside. This is especially helpful at night afer the outside air has cooled. This will help with the overall energy-efficiency of your home. Check your turbine “whirly-bird” vents to make sure they spin freely.

- Check your attic insulation. Typically, it is located on the attic floor. You want your insulation to be fairly even throughout the attic, and it should typically cover your ceiling joist and then some.
  - Be sure to check any knee walls for insulation as well. A knee wall is a vertical wall visible form the attic that has conditioned space on the other side. Most finished attics have knee walls as do some two-story homes.
  - Check the roof deck, the rafters, and insulation for signs of water intrusion, such as stained boards.
  - Check your HVAC ductwork, again with the unit running.
  - Check any vents coming through the attic to ensure they are properly vented to the outside.
  - Check for attic fans or accesses that are unsealed and uninsulated.
  - Check your water heater if is in the attic. It is not common, but some homes do have them there.
- If you find any issues that you don't feel comfortable taking on, contact a professional to help you. You have just completed a DIY home crawl space attic check. This should give you peace of mind and help you live a healthier, more energy-efficient life.

**Attic**

- You never want to enter the attic in the heat of the summer unless it is unavoidable. Summer days in the attic is tough because temperatures can be extreme as most roofs absorb the heat from long summer days. So, make sure it is a cool day when you choose to do your inspection. This is actually the best time of year to do this. When in the attic, check that vents are unobstructed by insulation or any other material. A properly vented attic will help move hot stale air out and



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