



Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Some jobs require many types of our equipment and can involve several members of our excellent line crew.

Socorro Electric Tells City: No Dice!

Socorro Electric Cooperative's message to City Hall was loud and clear: "SEC is not for sale!"

The response comes after the City of Socorro sent an "Open Letter to Co-op Members" and SEC's Board that outlined its intention to acquire the member-owned cooperative so it could build its own municipal system. A system which may, or may not, serve households and businesses outside the city, according to the letter.

This is the latest chapter in the long-running saga between the city and the 77-year-old cooperative, which was formed by area residents or "members" in the 1940s to bring electricity for the first time to rural communities that had been ignored by bigger profit-driven power providers.

SEC has a broad reach, serving both Socorro and more rural households and businesses, some 13,000 meters and 3,300 miles of power lines in parts of seven New Mexico counties.

The City of Socorro wants SEC to step aside and has been using its power to apply pressure. The city questions SEC's financial acumen in its open letter as it seeks a takeover, contending it could run a more cost-effective and potentially forward-looking system for city customers. It cited its feasibility studies as support. SEC, meanwhile, notes its history of holding rates steady and managing a sprawling system for the benefit of all, while being directly accountable to those it serves as a cooperative.

The city's open letter, which cites the expiration of SEC's right to occupy city-owned streets and right-of-ways in 2024, says "it is prepared to purchase SEC's system within the city and assume the obligation to serve SEC's customers in the city." The letter continues, "if needed, the city would entertain serving surroundings areas," leaving who, ultimately, would be served an open question.

Earlier this month, Socorro Mayor Ravi Bhasker told the Albuquerque Journal: "We gave the co-op the right to operate in our city and to deliver electricity, and it's our right to just take it back."



The SEC Board's terse response to the open letter signed by the mayor, says the "Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. or any part of it, is not for sale."

Go to our website at www.socorroelectric.com to see a copy of SEC's response letter to the City of Socorro or scan the QR code to the left.

