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Co-Op Sued Over Lost Pay

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SOCORRO — Two managers fired from their positions at Socorro Electric Cooperative in August have filed separate lawsuits against their former employer claiming lost wages totaling more than \$88,000 between them.

Polo Pineda Jr., who served as general manager since 2003, and Kathy Torres, the accounting manager who had worked for the company for 22 years, were placed on administrative leave without pay Aug. 13 amid an investigation into financial irregularities. Socorro Electric's board of trustees voted to terminate them both at a special meeting held Aug. 25.

According to the complaints, the managers were due final payment of compensation within five days of termination, as per state law, meaning they should have received disbursements by Aug. 30.

The filings are both titled "Verified Complaint for Violations of New Mexico Wage and Hour Law" and indicate that Pineda and Torres are entitled to an additional 60 days wages pursuant to state law.