



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

UP DATE



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A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

New Beginnings

I am writing this month's article from a hotel room at M.D. Anderson Hospital, in Houston. It's kind of funny that I am in this place writing an article about the beginning of a new year, when I am in the very place that represents the apex of one of my new beginnings. It was here, in August, 2002, that Darlene and I were having the course of treatment explained, which she would follow to fight breast cancer. In these halls, some of the most fervent prayers of my life were uttered, as I paced the floor, while she underwent tests.

Thankfully, the news we received today is much better than the news we received in those early days. Today, Darlene is officially a four and a half year survivor! The tests they ran today paint the picture of a person in excellent health, and with no evidence of recurrence. Today, my prayers were not petitions, but rather thanksgiving. The new beginning represented by this place is the beginning of the rest of our lives together, thanks to God's infinite mercy and grace.

Sometimes, new beginnings don't have the look and feel we expect a new beginning to have. Sometimes, like in our case, a new beginning has a pretty rocky start and may even feel more like an ending. So, I guess I would suggest you not judge a new beginning by how it begins. 2007 has begun, and so far, as a new beginning, you may feel it stinks. Things you hoped would come together are as far apart as the east is from the west. Resources you were counting on have not materialized, and friendships you value have faltered, or even failed. Take heart! God is in the business of new beginnings, look to Him.

In the pages that follow, you will read about some of the Cooperative's planned new beginnings. The thrust of every project is to improve our ability to meet your needs. There are no corporate moguls or investors located halfway around the world to which we owe allegiance. There are only you, the member/owners. Obviously, we can't do everything you want us to do in every circumstance, so our board has established policies, bylaws and tariffs to govern our activities. These documents are aimed at fair and impartial treatment of everyone, while carrying out the mission of the Cooperative.

We do not anticipate that any of the new beginnings we have slated for 2007 will be rocky, but it is always a possibility. Rocky beginnings may well translate into some type of inconvenience for you. If that happens, we respectfully ask for your patience and understanding. Each project, when brought to fruition, will bring about improved system reliability and fewer inconveniences in the future.

Our planning process is focused on your best interests, because we have no other goal. In a recent survey, 72% of those asked said they were satisfied with the Cooperative as it is, and 17% said they were satisfied, but had some things they would change. All told, that's a whopping 89% satisfied! We are locally owned and locally controlled, and that's what makes us **"Your Home Team Advantage"**!