



Update



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A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

“The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

There is an old expression, “the more things change, the more they stay the same”. The writer of Ecclesiastes put it this way, “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun”. We see huge advancements in technology, but what we are trying to accomplish with that technology has not changed. Conduct business, stay in touch with family and friends, do more with less, and so on. When we consider technology, we have to admit that some things are hard to improve upon.

For example, the electric motor; there have been no significant advancements in the way a motor works in more than one hundred years. The same is true for its inductive cousin, the transformer. Substantially the same, it continues to deliver electric energy to your home. When we install a transformer, we expect it to last for thirty years or more, unless improperly sized, protected, or it succumbs to outside forces such as lightning.

So, I guess it’s not surprising that new electric energy generation would employ old technology for its prime mover—the wind, or, old technology as its means of conveyance, as in solar photovoltaics. The sun acting on a semi-conductor generates electric energy, but it must be stored for use in batteries. Battery technology has changed, to be sure, but only in the types of materials used — not in its basic premise.

We are being asked more and more frequently by entrepreneurs about connection to the Rio Grande grid, in order to transport wind generation or solar generation to market. And, individual members are taking a greater interest in the possibility of using available natural forces to generate some of their energy consumption needs. Accordingly, we are taking proactive steps to make modifications to our Tariff and service rules to accommodate the demand. At the present, we have no one generating a portion of their energy requirements with renewable energy, but we want to be ready when the day comes.

We have purposely kept the same logo through the years, and unlike some we have never taken the word “cooperative” out of our name. We bring to you the same things we have been bringing you for sixty-four years — safe, reliable electric energy, at an affordable price, consistent with sound business principles. As we move forward, we want to bring the fire from the alters of the past, not the ashes. So, we employ new technology, but with the same tenacity; new services, but through the same system of checks and balances in order to insure we meet your needs.

You have come to depend on us, and we take our responsibility very seriously. It is impossible, when you consider our commitment, our values, and our desire to meet the needs of our membership going forward, to draw a line in the sand and say, “Here is where the past ends, and here is where the future begins.” We really are “Back to the Future” here at Rio Grande everyday. I honestly believe that is something you can take comfort in.