



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

“If Rio Grande is to continue to be the vital resource you have come to expect, we must be willing to consider change.”

As a child, I always looked forward to the coming of summer. It represented change at a time when change was badly needed. Where I grew up, the winters were long and often harsh. We, of course, were accustomed to dealing with them and that was never a problem, however, it was always nice to be past the snow, slush, and ice.

Another change that summer brought was no school! I apologize to all the teachers that read this, including my wife, but I don't remember ever liking school. Summertime was freedom, and I like freedom. As the end of school drew near, I would sit in class, stare out the window, and daydream about being outside. I must confess that habit got me into quite a bit of trouble.

As I look back, I see that my life was, and continues to be, a constant cycle of change. Some changes were repetitive and therefore familiar, and some were not. And some change, although permanent experiences change within the change. Marriage was a huge change in my life and it is a life change that has lasted 32 years. Now for all you naysayers, let me just say it is possible for someone to stay with me for that long...if they are extraordinarily tough. I have always been thankful Darlene is tough. Within that change however, there has been change!

We were a couple and then we became parents. We were parents of babies, then young children, then teenagers, then college students, and now adults. Then we became grandparents! All of these small changes within the big change of marriage required change in the relationship between Darlene and me. Change brought about the evolution of our marriage, and more importantly, change improved our marriage and us as individuals.

I have come to the conclusion that change is good and, more importantly, necessary if I am to become all that Providence would have me to be. Resisting change may only serve to stifle my becoming all I can be, and so I work to embrace change.

Change is not only good and even necessary for us as individuals; it is good for us corporately, as well. Organizations, businesses, and government entities all benefit from change. And yes, even Rio Grande Electric Co-op will benefit from change. We must be willing to both embrace that which is thrust on us, and seek change when it is clear that the old ways are not going to meet the needs of the future.

As we move forward, we want to carry with us into the future, the white-hot coals from the alters of the past...not the ashes. The white-hot coals represent the essence of what Rio Grande is, and has been, over the years. It's the principles of member-ownership and shared costs, so that all may have electric energy.

We are considering membership in a G&T (generation and transmission cooperative) and it represents change that is partially thrust on us, and partially sought. If Rio Grande is to continue to be the vital resource you have come to expect, we must be willing to consider change. At this point, no one knows whether membership in a G&T will be beneficial, but the process we are undertaking to make that determination is very much a part of your Home Team Advantage. In the end, the decision will boil down to only one question – “What is in the members' best interest?” The answer to that question is something we can all live with.