



"Owned By Those We Serve"

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

UP DATE



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A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

"Those boys had to have guts to be out in that storm." — RGEC Member

It will come as a shock to many of you that summer does not officially begin until June 21. In our service territory, it feels as if summer began some time in April. Around here, the heat wave strikes early and continues into what is generally considered Fall. While we can't control the heat, we can help you to control your electric energy costs. The co-op does its part to keep your costs down by buying electric energy at the lowest possible rate we can get, and we pass this savings along to you.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the free energy audits, which are available to all our members. Trained staff members from your area office will come to your home or place of business, thoroughly inspect your premises, and let you know where you can make adjustments or repairs to help you save energy and lower your bills. Just call your area office and request an energy audit – it's that simple. An online energy audit is available on our web site, which can be found at our "old address" www.rgec.com, and now at www.riogrande.coop, or www.rgec.coop, as well.

Another option you will read about in this issue, is the Weatherization Assistance Program, available through the Department of Energy. This program also provides an energy audit, as well as funding to help make your home more energy efficient. I

urge you to read the article carefully, and take advantage of this program, if you are eligible to do so.

It is a shame that we were not able to tap into all the free electric current which filled the skies in portions of our service territory last month! Unfortunately, these thunderstorms brought more problems than rain in many areas. As is our policy, the co-op staff calls members in areas affected by outages to let them know what caused the outage, and to make sure that each member's power is back up and running. I am always overwhelmed at the number of nice comments we receive when we call our members. I'm glad to know that you understand that when a tornado, hail, and lightning pass through – our crews are out as quickly as possible to restore power to you. Several of you took the opportunity to say that you appreciate all that the co-op does to supply power to you. While it is our job, it is always nice to hear that we are appreciated. One member said, "Those boys had to have guts to be out in that storm". I couldn't agree more. We have highly qualified and dedicated crews in each of our service areas, whose concern for you is genuine. It's the people who make the difference, and that's why you can call Rio Grande Electric Cooperative **"Your Home Team Advantage"**.