



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Update



January 2013



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

“A New Year Brings New Beginnings”

A new year brings new beginnings. 2013 is filled with all the promise our imaginations can muster. It's incumbent on all of us, whether as individuals, or as organizations, to make the most of that promise. I hope you will take time to reflect on where you are, as well as where you would like to be, and endeavor to improve.

Here at the Cooperative, we are doing exactly that. Last year, we worked to prepare both a Long Range Plan (LRP) and a four-year Construction Work Plan (CWP). Both plans were presented to our board of directors, and, following careful review of the plans, they adopted them. With their adoption came the employees' marching orders for this year.

The focus of the plans is improving voltage support, and safety and reliability system wide, for our members...you. These were the only criterion used. Your satisfaction is our only goal. In preparation of the plans, no part of the system was overlooked. ECI, our engineering consultants, worked with Cooperative engineering staff to ensure nothing was missed. Historically, previous work plans were used to generate the new plans. This planning cycle, I insisted on a “fresh look”. I didn't want any project to be included simply because it had been included before. As a result, I sincerely believe we have the most comprehensive planning documents we have ever presented to the board of directors.

The CWP is derived from the LRP, and is designed to meet construction and improvement needs through 2016. Currently, operations personnel are prioritizing the projects proposed in the CWP according to greatest need. Accounting personnel are putting together a loan application so that there is a way to fund the projects. The proposed work in the CWP is estimated to run around \$24,000,000. The improvements proposed are absolutely necessary to accomplish our goal.

As you can see, we are not resting on our laurels. We are poised to hit the ground running in 2013. From time to time, we will need to call on you for planned outages or to rebuild a section of line on your property. Please be patient with us as we work through the details of each project. Even more importantly, I encourage you to work cooperatively with us for your own benefit, and that of your neighbors. Rio Grande Electric Cooperative members still must help their neighbors, so that all can enjoy the quality of life our urban friends enjoy.

At the end of the day, what matters most to us is that the lights come on when you flip the switch. In order for that to happen, it requires all of us to work together. Members must give us easements, so that we accommodate those in need of power. We, as employees, must be respectful of your property and your private property rights. We look forward to working with you, as we bring system improvement projects to fruition.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.!