



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Update



January 2017



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

***“All of us realize the world
around us has changed.”***

Here we are at the outset of a new year. Every January, it is customary in America to consider our future, discuss new beginnings, new attitudes and new goals. I have noticed, however, that the New Year never really feels any different than the year that just passed. I have often thought it would be helpful if crossing the demarcation between December 31 and January 1 was more dramatic in some way.

Oh, it's not that we don't try to make it more eventful. We will have parties and watch the clock so that we can give a celebratory cheer at midnight. Unfortunately, it is all too contrived for my liking. I want it to feel new without my having to force the feelings. And perhaps changing old habits or setting new goals for our lives would be easier if entering the New Year felt...well...new!

When I put on a new pair of pants—they feel new, and I feel different. The same is true when I put on a new shirt. In fact, a new shirt can be very eventful, when I have inadvertently left one of the myriad of pins, used to hold new shirts together, in the package. A new haircut feels new, a new car feels new, a new place looks and feels new, but the new year always feels the same as the old year, to me. Maybe instead of celebrating New Years, we should celebrate “Old Year Continued”.

And yet, there is something to be said for things that never change—never feel new. Relationships should never change, unless it is to become more of what it has been in the past. Aren't you glad Congress has no control over a sunrise? The closest they can come is messing with daylight savings time. They cannot legislate a sunset, a full moon, or snowfall.

Of significant importance are the tried and true institutions that we depend on never changing. We count on the church always being there. Always faithful to its calling. Public schools are institutions we depend on, and, although they receive a lot of criticism, they are trustworthy institutions. Our government, with all of its flaws, is still the greatest in the world, and, whether we will admit it or not, we take comfort in knowing its there. And hopefully, for you as a Rio Grande member, you take comfort in knowing we are here safeguarding your energy supply, making sure it is available when you turn on the light switch.

Here at Rio Grande, we will continue to be the institution, in 2017, on which you have come to depend. We will continue to grow and improve. New technology will help us work smarter. All of us realize the world around us has changed. We have a new President, a new cabinet is being selected, and the judiciary will change over the next few years. Are and will these changes be good? No one but God knows for sure. The rest of us will have to wait and see. Nevertheless, our board and employees remain committed to you and to finding ways to continue bringing you safe affordable energy. Have a happy and prosperous New Year! We'll keep the lights on.

