



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office Hours

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Board of Trustees

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Elias Coriz, District 5 - Chimayo & all other areas in Rio Arriba County east of the Rio Grande River

Marcelina Martinez, District 6 - Santa Cruz & surrounding areas located in Santa Fe County

Bruce Duran, District 6 - Nambe, Pojoaque, surrounding areas located in Santa Fe County

Marissa Maestas-Muller, Trustee-At-Large - represents the entire cooperative area at large

Community Supports Grant Applications for High-Speed Internet Buildout

At least 20 letters came in from community members, businesses, and organizations in support of the grant application(s) JMEC is putting together for state and federal dollars to help fund the buildout of internet infrastructure throughout the cooperative's service territory.

"There is a very good chance our program will receive grant support," said Tomás Barela, broadband manager for the high-speed internet program. "It's a rural area, very diverse, some of our residents are low income and the Española area alone is third to last in internet speeds among U.S. communities of its size."

Barela (pictured below) has nearly 20 years of experience in digital communications, most recently helping to bring Fiber to the Homes in Grants, N.M., as a subcontractor for Continental Divide Electric Cooperative. "I was born and raised and still live in Abiquiu," he said. "We didn't have computer class when I was in high school 20 years ago, some of our schools don't have computer labs now because there is no internet infrastructure to support them. I live the need for this service every day. We all do."



While the program is still in the very beginning stages, Barela added that JMEC heard members need for quality broadband loud and clear when more than 96 percent said "yes" in a survey that asked if the cooperative should get involved in bringing this vital service to our community. "We will be giving updates as we pass major milestones," he said. Engineering got underway this fall with a hope of an early 2023 construction start.

JMEC's high-speed internet program will be operated as a separate business, a division of the cooperative.





Employee Spotlight: Frankie Acevedo

After more than 20 years in the business and closing in on three years with JMEC, Francisco (Frankie) Acevedo, certified line clearance arborist, still loves what he does – vegetation management. That is a fancy term for being out in nature, in all weather and terrain conditions, trimming trees away from power lines. This year-round work helps prevent interruptions to the power that serves our members.

“I have a very cool crew that works with me – Enrico Trujillo, Daniel Gutierrez and journeyman Mauricio Brecedra,” Acevedo said. “I appreciate them a lot and couldn’t do it without them.”

He came to New Mexico in 2000 from California as part of a job transfer working as a subcontractor for an investor-owned utility. He is grateful for the JMEC difference. “The other organization didn’t take care of their employees like Jemez does; didn’t hang on to the employees who know what they are doing or appreciate them,” he said.

While tree trimming takes most of his time, the crew also has to maintain their equipment and focus every day on keeping each other and the public safe. It can be dangerous; the crew is working with chain saws after all, near power lines and sometimes in stormy weather.

Acevedo, who lives in Albuquerque and has a wife and three kids, enjoys his work. **“I am out in nature every day, getting paid to do a job I love.”**

Winter Moratorium Effective November 15

Protection from winter shut off begins November 15, 2022, per a New Mexico’s Public Regulation Commission rule.

A JMEC member’s electric service will not be disconnected (Nov. 15, 2022 – March 15, 2023) if the member meets qualifications of Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), have no past due amounts or remains current on any settlement/installment agreement for amounts due as of Nov. 15, 2022.

Avoid disconnection! Please contact one of these numbers for LIHEAP eligibility information:

- 1.800.283.4465** New Mexico Human Services Department
- 1.888.755.2105** JMEC toll-free number or website, www.jemezcoop.org
- 1.505.753.2105** JMEC Española office
- 1.575.289.3241** JMEC Cuba office
- 1.575.829.3550** JMEC Jemez Springs office
- 1.888.427.5772** New Mexico tribes or pueblos members for help with translation or other matters

