



# CNMEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Newsletter



### Resilience and Reliability for Rural NM-Take Aways From A Well-Known Story



Alena Brandenberger  
General Manager/CEO

The first pig made his house of straw, the second out of sticks and the third used brick and mortar. We know how the story ends-the house of brick and mortar withstood the challenges and provided security and quality of life for those relied on therein.

Almost daily, we see devastation from fires, floods, earthquakes, and tornados. This is where the need for management of emergencies, grid resilience, and communications arise at the forefront of an electric utility. We can take a simple fairy tale and apply today's challenges about our electric grid and the efficiencies there. CNMEC is committed to mitigating challenges, while providing security, quality of life, and creating a more resilient grid resistant to various threats and disruptions to serve our members.

In addition, we are working diligently to harden our grid, with safety and resiliency as top priorities with planned maintenance, construction, and the clearing of our rights-of-ways with vegetation management. In addition to supporting, caring for, and actively managing our existing infrastructure, CNMEC is growing, and with that comes the need to increase our capacity.

CNMEC has finished the construction of our new Moriarty Substation and are completing upgrades to the Edgewood substation. This new construction and upgrade to our plant will increase compacity by 300% and enhance the infrastructure in Moriarty and Edgewood. In addition, we are working on the construction of a new substation in our south-central territory. Construction of the new Corona Substation will begin this year with an estimated completion date of February 2026. This construction will also support higher capacity for our members and the large volume of wind construction activity in the area. Upgrading our substations can lower energy costs through improved efficiency and enabling access to increased power capacity for future needs.

Looking towards our future, this cooperative recognizes the need for modern technology, economic development, education, and bridging the digital divide in rural America for our communities. Historically, cooperatives have played a significant role in providing basic utility services like electricity to underserved rural areas where private companies would not invest. History is repeating itself, and with the technological era we live in, many cooperatives like CNMEC are working towards connecting our substations and members to the Internet.

Through building fiber infrastructure, CNMEC will use the technology necessary for monitoring our grid functionality while greatly enhancing our ability to efficiently respond when issues arise from outages or power fluctuations. CNMEC also foresees the future in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). AMI meters provide many benefits, including improved customer service, more accurate billing, reduced energy waste, faster outage responses, and reduced costs.

We have also witnessed the void when most of our members needed high quality, affordable Internet access. This supported our decision to pursue grant funding and use our existing infrastructure to cost-effectively extend fiber to the home to eligible areas. CNMEC is the recipient of the State of New Mexico Office of Broadband and Expansion Pilot Program Grant, the 2023, and 2024 USDA Reconnect Grant Programs- a total of approximately \$56 million in grant funding. In partnership with these funding agencies, CNMEC will focus on our new Fiber Division for the construction and acquisition of communication facilities to support our endeavors to connect our substations, use state of the art technology such as SCADA, and Advance Metering Infrastructure while providing high-speed internet to many of our members. Without these grants, this would not be possible.

Over the next five years, we will be constructing a new communications network on our existing distribution line to afford us technological opportunities for your future use and our future operations. Should you wish to receive broadband services from CNMEC, please contact us.

As we make plans to move the cooperative forward, we will continue to keep our members informed. We value and respect the cooperative democracy and business model and appreciate our members. Should you have questions regarding CNMEC operations, we will be hosting our Annual Meeting in Moriarty on April 26th. If you want to visit prior, please feel free to visit one of our offices in Moriarty or Mountainair or call us at 505-832-4483. You may also contact us via our website at <https://cnmec.org>.





# CNMEC

**NOTICE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS and  
ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

In Accordance with Article II, Section 2.03 of the Bylaws, notice is hereby given that Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative, Inc. will hold the Annual Meeting of its Members and Election of Trustees on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the Moriarty High School Gym in Moriarty, New Mexico.

Registration and voting are from 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Business Meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

Trustee positions to be filled are as follows:

District No. 5: (Moriarty, Edgewood and Stanley Area)

At Large comprising the areas of District 1 and 8

District No. 7: (Corona, White Oaks, Duran area)

North Boundary: Township line between T1N and T1S to Range line between R11E and R12E; North on Range line to Township line between T1N and T2N; East along Township line to range line between R14E and R15E; North along Range line to Township line between T3N and T4N; East along Township line to Co-op boundary;

East Boundary: Co-op Boundary

South Boundary: Co-op boundary

West Boundary: Co-op boundary

District No. 8: (Northwest Moriarty, Edgewood area)

North Boundary: Co-op boundary

East Boundary: State Hwy 41

South Boundary: Old Hwy 66

West Boundary: Co-op boundary

Candidates must live in the district for which they are running. Anyone wishing to file for candidacy must do so in either the Mountainair Office or the Moriarty Office on Thursday, March 27, 2025, before 4:00 p.m. Candidates must attend an informational orientation workshop to be qualified to have their name placed on the ballot. The date for the workshop will be scheduled after the filing for candidacy date.

**If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact Suzy Edmonds at 505-847-1012.**

## TIPS!!!

### TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

Be cautious of fraudulent websites pretending to be an electric utility. Scammers often create look-alike sites to steal your personal or payment information. Always type your utility's official web address directly into your browser instead of clicking email or text links. Watch for signs of a secure website, such as "https://" in the address bar and a padlock icon. If you're ever unsure, call your utility company using the official phone number listed on your bill to verify payment or account details. Stay vigilant to protect yourself from utility fraud.



### STAY IN THE KNOW



Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Current contact information benefits you in multiple ways.

- ✓ Faster outage reporting and response
- ✓ Timely alerts about planned outages and other important updates
- ✓ Smoother customer service interactions
- ✓ Improved access to member benefits and programs

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.

