

My Turn

No les entra el peyne : They just don't get it

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This last week's editorial story talks about letting the PRC decide what is true and fair with the rate request by Kit Carson Electric. I need to respond to some issues that were brought up in that article.

Initially I felt the same way but having been part of the PRC process I am convinced that it is going to be an up-hill battle to get the PRC to corral the CEO and the board members of the co-op.

The assigned hearing examiner Lee Huffman has already made some initial rulings that leads me to believe that he is more interested in following protocol than in getting to the bottom of what is going on at the co-op.

At a hearing on Tuesday, May 10, the chairman of the PRC made a comment on the record that just floors me. He said that he wondered if they should be allowed to levy fines against the intervenors in the Kit Carson case.

This just smacks of predisposition of belief in the co-op's favor on the matter. The chairman had not seen any prepared testimony by the intervenors.

He had not seen the deposition of Mr. Reyes or any of the board members. He had not seen any of the discovery information and yet he makes a comment like that?

I know that he could not have seen it because we as intervenors had not filed our responses.

In the article written by J.R. Logan he quoted Luisa Mylet saying that the charge of conflict of interest in the case of Art Rodarte was too vague.

What is vague about a trustee that should represent the members of Kit Carson Co-op when he is in Westminster representing the members of the Tri-State co-op considering rate increases that will affect the members of Kit Carson Co-op or whether or not Tri-State should pay for new transmission delivery points.

In the words of Peter Adang, if you talk to 100 lawyers and ask them if there is a conflict of interest in that situation 99 of them will see it as a conflict.

The one thing that I do agree with Miss Mylet on is that hopefully we will get a final answer that is rendered by a higher authority.

As one of the 10 members that is being sued in an effort to shut us up I don't understand what they are trying to hide. At every turn in this process Luis Reyes and the board have overreacted.

And like the people in Mora who have taken their co-op back it's going to be up to the members to decide what you believe.

The one bright spot in this whole fiasco at the PRC is Jason Marks. At this same hearing on May 10 he amended Commissioner Jerome Block Jr.'s motion to extend the rate suspension period from 30 days to 45 days. And, he made it clear that he was voting to grant the extension period because of the co-op's lack of cooperation in turning over financial records that are essential in getting to the truth. He could not believe that Mr. Reyes was continuing to withhold information from the intervenors.

Finally, it is important that as a member of the Kit Carson Co-op that you stay engaged and hold the trustees accountable.

One way or another we need a change in leadership at the co-op. One that will hold the CEO accountable and the only way to do that is to change the board and hopefully replacing these existing board members with new ones that have the interest of the co-op members at heart.

Members that should be considered for trustee include Art Ortiz, Peter Adang and Cliff Bain — although he needs to be more moderate in his belief of the amount of renewable energy development, a local business man — a member of the Taos Pueblo.

I am sure that there are many more people out there that are willing to serve and as for me my job is taking care of my dad.

Jerome Lucero is a member of both the Mora San Miguel and Kit Carson electric cooperative and a resident of Taos.