

My Turn

Thanks to intervenors, protesters in co-op rate case

JEROME LUCERO

A big thank you to all of the intervenors in the recent Kit Carson Public Regulation Commission case. On Tuesday July 12 the hearing regarding the Public Regulation Commission process to determine what rate relief that Kit Carson is seeking in order to continue their daily operations in all of their unregulated business and their core business of selling electricity.

As one intervenor who took part in the process I would like to thank all of the members who took the time to fill out a form; 540 protested as part of the process.

I would like to mention that we could not have gone as far or done as much to expose the happenings at the Electric Coop without the help of all the intervenors and that includes the following: Peter Adang, Ernesto Gonzales, Linda Bence, Taos County Commissioner Andrew Chávez, Link Summers, and finally as is the case on a basketball team the sixth man in our case were the 317 protesters that took the time to be a part of the process and hopefully we will be heard by the PRC.

At this point we as intervenors can file a brief that gives the PRC our final recommendations on this matter. I as one of the intervenors feel that we have given the PRC all of the information they need to make a decision.

As I said at the beginning of this process I have faith in Commissioner Marks. And now that I have participated in the process I have faith in the staff attorney Cydney Beadles, and the staff economist John Reynolds. I for one will not be giving the PRC any recommendation.

I would also like to mention that even though the mayor and Christopher Madrid showed support for Luis Reyes and the Kit Carson Electric Board it should be understood that if they are so inclined they can pay for the expansionist tendencies that the co-op exhibits out of their own pockets but I don't believe that they are so inclined.

The mayor in as much said at the hearing that it was just about a done deal that the town of Taos was going to become a participant in the command center.

Thank God for Councilor Gene Sanchez, who politely stated at the same hearing that he, the town manager and the other town councilors have not seen one piece of paper or plan as to what the details will be.

In conclusion I am glad that I was part of a team effort to bring this matter to the Public Regulation Commission and I hope and pray that the hearing examiner displays the wisdom of Solomon on this matter on his way into retirement. This gives him the opportunity to change the way in which co-ops are allowed to operate in New Mexico thus creating a lasting legacy that will benefit co-op members for the foreseeable future.

Jerome Lucero is a concerned member of the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative.