



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

PLANNED OUTAGE, POWERFUL RESULTS

The planned March outage to replace a transmission structure in High Rolls was a significant and carefully coordinated effort. Organizing a project of this scale requires extensive planning—from selecting a date that works for all involved, to coordinating crews and equipment, monitoring weather conditions, and accurately estimating the time needed to complete the work. Thanks to the experience and preparation of OCEC's team, every detail was thoughtfully considered to ensure the outage was both efficient and productive.

Because replacing the transmission structure required a full-day outage, crews took advantage of the deenergized lines to complete additional maintenance in other areas—work that would otherwise have required separate future outages. This level of coordination enabled multiple critical tasks to be addressed simultaneously, maximizing the benefit of the scheduled downtime for our members.

The day proved highly productive, with essential maintenance completed to strengthen system reliability and reduce the likelihood of future outages. In total, crews accomplished the following:

- OCEC Northern and Southern crews (20 personnel): Replaced timbers on three double dead-end structures—work that cannot be performed while lines are energized.
- Tri-State crews (10 personnel): Replaced a 70-foot double dead-end structure in High Rolls that had been vandalized and assisted with timber replacements.
- OCEC vegetation management crews (6 personnel): Removed hazard trees in multiple locations that posed a risk to power lines and would have required separate outages to address.
- Solar Electric (6 personnel): Supported vegetation management efforts by grounding lines, allowing crews to safely remove hazard trees.
- A.R.C. Power Line Construction (4 personnel): Set a pole-in-line on the double circuit feeding Cloudcroft and assisted with timber replacements—another task that requires deenergized lines.

While outages are never convenient, even when planned, the amount of work accomplished during this outage represents a meaningful investment in the reliability of the electric system serving Cloudcroft and surrounding mountain communities. By completing multiple critical projects at once, OCEC crews helped reduce the need for future outages while strengthening infrastructure for the long term.

We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding as this important work was completed.



APRIL CALENDAR PHOTO
submitted by Ben Sanchez

**APRIL
2026**

**CLOUDCROFT
575-682-2521**

**ALTO
575-336-4550**

**CARRIZOZO
575-648-2352**

**LOBBY HOURS
8 AM - 4 PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**TO REPORT AN
OUTAGE, CALL
1-800-548-4660**

**FOR BALANCE
INFORMATION OR TO
PAY YOUR BILL, CALL
1-855-940-3957**

WWW.OCEC-INC.COM

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Crews trimming trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently working in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks.

- o Rio Penasco
- o Mescalero
- o Timberon
- o Hondo

We want to ask for your cooperation when you see crews working to keep these areas clear. This task plays a vital role in reducing fire hazards and ensuring consistent power delivery to members.

Please be aware that vegetation crews do not chip or remove dead limbs or brush after cutting. They will ensure it is not in a driveway or pathway and does not create any additional hazard. OCEC's main concern in vegetation management is powerline reliability and safety.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov

HONORING THOSE WHO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON Lineman Appreciation Month - April

by: Mario Romero, GM/CEO

April is Lineman Appreciation Month, and on April 13 we proudly celebrate Lineman Appreciation Day. One of the greatest privileges of my role as General Manager of Otero County Electric Cooperative is serving our employees and supporting their commitment to our members and communities. This is especially true when it comes to our linemen.

Day in and day out, our linemen do the demanding and often unseen work of keeping the lights on. It is no small sacrifice. Whether they are working in severe weather, putting in long hours through the night, or both, our linemen give up rest, comfort, and time with their families so our members can rely on safe, dependable electric service.

The winter storms this past January were a powerful example of that dedication. Our crews worked for days in deep snow, bitter cold, and extremely challenging conditions to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Through it all, they remained focused on serving our members.

What stood out just as much as their effort was the response from our membership. Even though many homes were without power for multiple days, social media was filled with words of encouragement, gratitude, and prayers for our crews' safety. I was truly humbled by the patience, understanding, and kindness shown during such a difficult time.

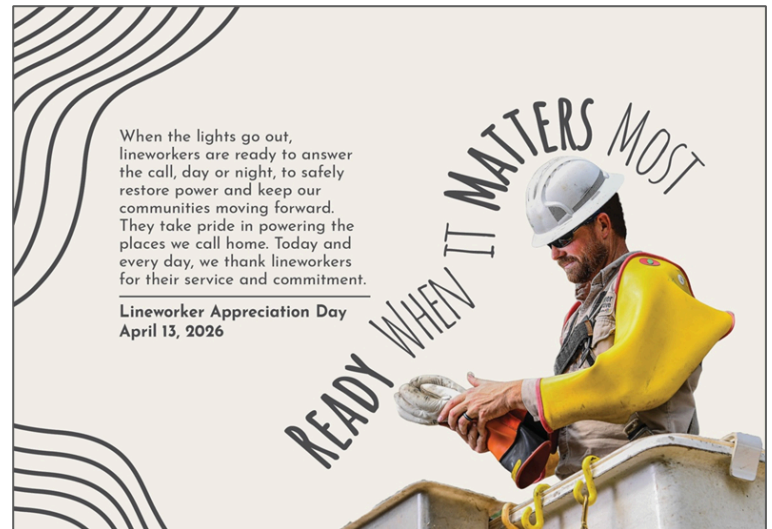
Several members went out of their way to support our employees by providing meals during the outage. And members from Timberon—who experienced some of the longest outages—prepared a generous feast for all employees at our March safety meeting as a heartfelt thank-you for the work done during the winter storm. These gestures meant more than words can convey.

This month, I invite you to join me in recognizing and thanking not only our dedicated internal linemen but also the contractors who support us throughout the year. Their

work often goes unnoticed, but our communities depend on them every day.

If you happen to see a lineman out in public, please take a moment to say hello and thank you. If you see them on the road, give them a wave or tip your hat. Your appreciation makes a difference—and it reminds these hardworking men just how valued they are.

On behalf of Otero County Electric Cooperative, thank you for supporting those who work tirelessly to serve you.



**TO MAKE A PAYMENT BY
PHONE OR OBTAIN YOUR
BALANCE, PLEASE CALL**

**1-855-940-
3957**