

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2024

On the Road in

Abiquiu

Follow in the footsteps
of famed artist Georgia
O'Keeffe **Page 14**



Cafe Abiquiu and
La Teraza serve up
delicious meals not far
from the Georgia O'Keeffe
Welcome Center. PHOTO
BY LONNIE TUCKER



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chief Executive Officer

Mario Romero

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575-336-4550

Emergency and Outages

800-548-4660

Fax: 575-682-3109

Website: www.ocec-inc.com

Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F)

Board of Trustees

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets at 9 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

APPLY TODAY for 2024 Scholarships

Don't miss out on the chance to fund your future with the help of your local electric cooperative

The Otero County Electric Cooperative Education Foundation began awarding scholarships to area students in 1989. Since its inception, more than \$1.4 million has been awarded to students attending university, college or technical school.

The scholarship is \$1,000 per semester for the first two semesters. It increases to \$1,500 per semester for an additional six semesters if the required GPA is maintained and the student continues enrollment.

To be eligible, the student must be an active member receiving electric service from OCEC. Applications are available at OCEC offices, at www.ocec-inc.com or from your school counselor.

The deadline to apply is March 15.

Another opportunity for OCEC members is through Basin Electric Power

Cooperative, which awards scholarships to upcoming high school graduates who receive electric service from OCEC and attend a post-secondary school during the fall of 2024.

This scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of children of member-cooperative consumers. BEPC administers the scholarship in conjunction with OCEC.

Scholarship applicants must be U.S. citizens who plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Applications are available at OCEC offices, from your school guidance counselor or at www.ocec-inc.com. Applications are due to OCEC by February 16.



APPLY NOW

VISIT WWW.OCEC-INC.COM.

Restoring the Power

A step-by-step guide to how utilities set their outage priorities



Heavy snowfall, strong winds and devastating floods can knock out your power. Restoring power after an outage is a complex job. It involves more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line. The goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

While power restoration priorities differ from utility to utility, most follow a plan similar to the one below.

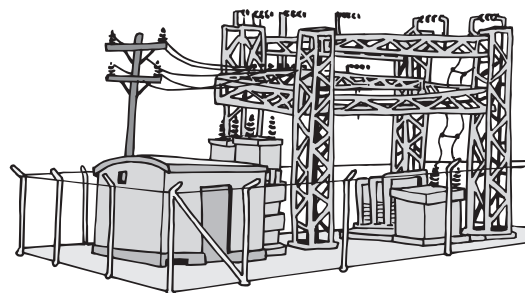
If you lose power, report the outage to Otero County Electric Cooperative at 800-548-4660. Have your name, account number or meter number, and physical address ready for the dispatcher. Please be patient when calling. An outage can affect many people, and phone lines might be busy.

Step 1

Transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but strong winds can damage them. One high-voltage transmission line can serve thousands of people, so if there is damage here, it gets attention first.

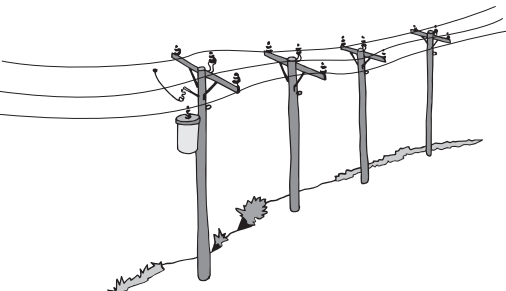
Step 2

A utility may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of customers. When a major outage occurs, local distribution substations are checked. A problem here could be caused by a failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.



Step 3

If the problem cannot be isolated at the substation, main distribution supply lines are checked. These lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of consumers, such as a town or a housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on—as long as there is no problem farther down the line.



Step 5

Sometimes, damage will occur on the service or “tap” line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power and your neighbor does. If this is the case, you must notify your utility of the outage, so a service crew can repair it. In many cases, homeowners are financially responsible for repairs to this line.

Step 4

Secondary distribution lines carry power from the main lines to utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix these remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of members at a time.

