

SEC members are weighing in on the problems with the SEC by way of letters to the editor. This is a good sign as the members are the only people who can make this co-op into an enterprise to be proud of. The board and management can harass and bully individuals but they cannot stop the force of the total membership. The idiotic measures taken by the board in the past several months should encourage all members to keep a careful watch of what is taking place and to comment by way of the our newspapers and direct messages to management and board. The link to Saturday's Letter to the Editor follows.

Letters to the Editor (1/16/2013)

by **El Defensor Chieftain Reports** | January 16, 2013 | Filed under: **Opinion**

Should PNM handle electric for Socorro?

Editor:

Isn't it time to update the electric power franchise for the city of Socorro from a cooperative to an investor-held electric power company like PNM? Doing so would save city residential customers 3.5 cents/kwh and \$10/month in service fees (based on published rates online), and we would no longer have to put up with the antics of the coop Board. The co-op could continue to serve customers outside the city franchise area. For example the city of Deming is served by PNM, but surrounding county areas are powered by the Columbus Electric co-op (at a cost even less than PNM).

A co-op made sense years ago when Socorro was a rural area, but now as a city, why should we continue to pay higher rates? How do the higher rates and the spectacle of Coop Board bickering impact our property values and the city's competitive position attracting new business? Why are only five of the 33 most populous communities in New Mexico served by electric coops (members of the New Mexico Rural Electric Coop Association)?

City electric power 25 percent cheaper and less management nonsense? Sounds like a "no-brainer" to this writer. Hey city leaders, what about it?

Clint Janes, Socorro

Co-op reminder of Greek myth

Editor:

In Greek mythology there was a monster, the Hydra, with a snake-like body and numerous heads. When one head was cut off, two appeared to replace it.

In Socorro we have a Hydra, the SEC bylaw committee. The SEC board has voted to resubmit their previously proposed resolutions that failed to pass at the 2012 meeting, to the 2013 annual meeting — and to increase the definition of a quorum of the membership from 3 percent to 5 percent. The "heads" have grown back as repeat resolutions that were already defeated but must now be squelched the member-owners again.

So, even though member-owners roundly defeated resolutions to increase the size of the board, cap compensation to the board and restrict financial contributions to nonprofit corporations, we are asked to vote on these resolutions again. In other words these are proposals to change what member-owners have already defeated.

I am outraged by this and believe the Hydra needs to stay in Greek mythology, not be part of what is happening in Socorro.

Ruth White, Socorro

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