NORA News

NORA's Meter Readers Brandon Gonzales & Jonathan Coriz

Northern Rio Arriba Electric Cooperative values the individual talents and contribution of each employee on its team. This month, we are featuring our two meter readers, Brandon Gonzales and Jonathan Coriz.

In addition to gathering meter readings in the field, some of the duties and expectations that they are responsible for on a daily basis include responding to service calls, installation and maintenance of ETS (Electric Thermal Storage) units in the time of use program. Brandon and Jonathan recently completed a training specifically for ETS units in North Dakota.

Meter Reader Brandon Gonzales

Meter Tech Jonathan Coriz

They also install new meters for new members, trouble shoot and replace existing meters when necessary, and when an account becomes delinquent, they will disconnect and reconnect service as needed. Another crucial part of their job is to assist with the NORA line crew during outages and other projects.

At the Annual Meeting in September, Executive Vice President and General Manager Anthony Mercure, informed members of an extensive project of replacing the current PLX meters with all new radio frequency (RF) meters. Brandon and Jonathan are playing an integral role in this by physically going from house to house GPS mapping, completing actual meter replacement, as well as monitoring a control group of the new meters in a trail stage. As these gentlemen are required to access private residences and property throughout the entirety of the project, we ask for and thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Jonathan began working at NORA mid year in 2021 as a Meter Reader. He is from Cebolla and is a 1997 graduate of Escalante High School. He enjoys the challenges of his job and the people he works with. In his free time, he likes to spend time with his three children and attending their sporting events.

Brandon started at NORA in January 2023, also as a meter reader. He is from Chama and is the son of Randy and Jolouisa Gonzales. Brandon was a talented multisport athlete at Escalante High School. In 2012, he helped lead the EHS football team to their very first State Championship before graduating in 2013. He has been a member of the Fina's Diner Golf Team champions at NORA's Annual Golf Tournament. He also enjoys hunting, snowmobiling, and attending basketball games coached by his younger brother Dakotah.

Contact NORA:
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Chama, NM 87520
Mailing Address:
PO Box 217
Chama, NM 87520

Email: billing@noraelectric.org

Happy Mother's Day

NORA 575-756-2181
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Phone: 575-756-2181 - After hours Option 1
When reporting an outage, please provide the following information:
- Name
- Meter Number
- Service Address
- Telephone Number
- How long your power has been off

Happy Mother's Day

If you are currently experiencing financial difficulty, or if you are in a low income status and are continuing to have difficulty paying your utility bills, please contact the NORA office for options on setting up payment arrangements. You can also request financial assistance through LiHEAP by calling 800-283-4465.

Spring/Summer Office Hours: Open 7:00am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday Closed Friday

NORA GM Encourages Members to Take Precaution During High Wind Events

Springtime in our service area is prone to prolonged periods of high winds. When high wind events occur, it is imperative to take the proper precautions and stay informed by the National Weather Service.

Severe winds can be caused in the cold spring season when there are differences in air pressure between strong low pressure and cold high-pressure systems. This can cause wind gusts in excess of 65 miles per hour capable of knocking down trees, damaging powerlines, and other structures. Other hazards caused by high winds include reduced visibility due to dust and flying debris.

Any downed power lines should not be approached. Instead call NORA immediately. Power lines carry very high voltages making them very dangerous. Extreme caution and care must be exercised around all power lines. Please be aware of any trees growing near power lines before a high wind event occurs, and inform our office so we can determine if the tree needs to be trimmed or cut down.

When a tree grows too close to a power line, it can create shock hazards, power outages, and even fires. If a tree branch touches a high-voltage power line, electricity from the line can make the branch so hot it catches fire. From there, the fire can spread to nearby trees, plants, or build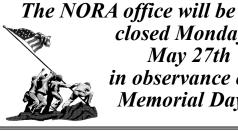ings. If a tree branch falls on a power line, it can cause a power outage. Electricity will be interrupted in any homes or businesses served by that line until the electric utility crew can remove the branch and fix the line.

Never attempt to trim any branches growing too close to a power line. Our line crew is specifically

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The NORA office will be closed Monday May 27th in observance of Memorial Day

Touchstone Energy

Our linemen are on call 24 hrs/day, 7 days a week. Please call 575-756-2181 to report power outages.

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trained to work with electricity and practice safety at all times. They wear special insulated boots, hardhats, and gloves, and use special insulated tools that help prevent shock.

Essential Power Line Safety Tips

- Never touch a power line with your hand or with any other object, whether you are in a tree or on the ground.
- Call your local electric cooperative if you see trees growing close to high-voltage power lines or contacting these lines.
- If you see a power line that has fallen into a tree or onto the ground, stay away and call your electric cooperative immediately.
- Call your electric cooperative if you see someone trimming a tree next to a high-voltage power line. Certified professional tree trimmers are the only ones allowed to do this.
- Plant trees that will not grow tall or wide enough to contact nearby power lines.
- Before planting a tree, call your local utility locator service to make sure you won't dig into underground power lines.
- Never climb electrical poles or towers.
- Keep kites and other flying toys away from power lines.

Billing Schedule May 2024

Bill Due Date	21-May
Usage From	29-Mar
Usage To	30-Apr
SEDC Pickup @11:59pm	1-May
Bill Sent	1-May
Late Notice Sent	22-May
Contact/Follow Up	5-Jun
Disconnects/Cut Off	11-Jun

MAY

Touchstone Energy

Think you have what it takes to join our line crew? Apply now for our Journeyman Lineman opening. We're seeking a skilled individual to join our team. Inquire at 575-756-2181 or stop by our office today to apply.