
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER VALERIE ESPINOZA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Commission Votes 3-2 to Partially Grant Kit Carson Electric's Rate Increase

Commissioners Espinoza & Lyons Vote Against Increase

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's decision on the proposed rate increase for Kit Carson Electric Cooperative's electric rates was split 3-2, with Commission Chair Valerie Espinoza and Commissioner Patrick Lyons voting against the increase proposed. The decision came after nearly 2-1/2 hours of discussion amid findings presented by NMPRC staff during the Wednesday, December 7 open meeting.

The rate increase approved by the Commission on Wednesday represents a 15 percent increase for KCEC's residential average usage (462 kwh) customers. This equates to a residential revenue increase of \$2,020,046, compared to KCEC's proposal for a 26 percent increase and a residential revenue increase of \$2,919,316.

Commission Chair Espinoza stated that if other classes (businesses, schools, industrial) had filed a formal complaint, as the residential class did in this case, that they too would have had their rate increase reduced or included in this decision. Because these classes had not filed a protest to the increase, however, the Commission lacked authority to reduce their rate increase.

Espinoza then directed NMPRC Staff to create a less intimidating formal complaint form, and to narrow it down from four pages to one or two pages maximum, with verbiage informing consumers that they do not need an attorney or notary public to file the complaint. "This process must be simplified," Espinoza stated.

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