
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER PATRICK LYONS

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NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Lyons Provides Update on Springer Electric Co-op Dedicating Large Solar Power Generating Station

SANTA FE – Public Regulation Commissioner Patrick Lyons applauds the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Development Division in committing to modernize infrastructure in rural northeastern New Mexico, calling attention to last month’s culmination of construction of a solar power generating facility located in Springer, N.M. Springer is located in Commissioner Lyons’ district – District 2.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 26, at the site of Springer Electric Cooperative’s solar power generating facility.

Commissioner Lyons, who has a reputation for supporting initiatives that boost business while simultaneously assisting consumers, stated, “Any time New Mexico can get much-needed electrical infrastructure, it is an asset to the community.”

The \$14.1 million loan provided by USDA Rural Development’s Rural Utility Service (RUS) will also fund improvements to 74 miles of electric line operated by the Springer Electric Cooperative. In all, \$3.4 million of the loan was used to construct the seven-acre photovoltaic facility. Another \$518,000 is being used to upgrade the electric system with smart grid technology.

A smart grid system makes the transmission of electricity more efficient with the installation of an automated meter reading system, which will allow for more efficient control over the use of power to better meet the needs of customers.

Springer Electric Cooperative serves the counties of Colfax, Harding, Mora, San Miguel, and Union. The Cooperative also provides wholesale power to the Town of Springer’s municipal electric system.

Since 1935, the United States Department of Agriculture has worked with rural utilities to deliver infrastructure and service improvements. These investments have brought new economic and social opportunities to and have enhanced the quality of life in rural communities throughout the nation.

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