

**BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF )  
ADVICE NOTICE NO. 69 BY SOCORRO )  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. )

Case No. 18-00383-UT

FILED IN OFFICE OF

MAR 29 2019

SOCORRO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, )  
INC., APPLICANT )

NM PUBLIC REGULATION COMM  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT BUREAU

**CITY OF SOCORRO'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO REPLY TO SEC'S  
RESPONSE TO MOTION REQUESTING THE  
PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION SCHEDULE  
PUBLIC COMMENT IN SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO**

COMES NOW City of Socorro, New Mexico (the "City"), by and through its attorneys, Stelzner, Winter, Warburton, Flores, Sanchez & Dawes, P.A., and in accordance with NMAC 1.2.2.12 (C)(1)(D), and respectfully requests the Hearing Examiner to file the attached Reply and Supporting Affidavit to Response to Motion Requesting the Public Regulation Commission Schedule Public Comment Session in Socorro, New Mexico. The reply is appropriate and necessary to respond to arguments and positions stated by the respondents and not addressed in the City's motion and to clarify the City's motion in light of the responses.

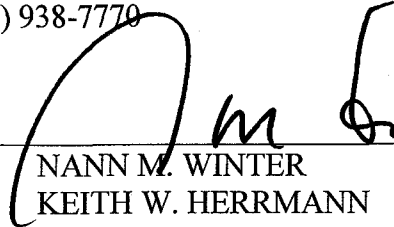
The parties' position to this Motion are as follows: Socorro Electric Coop has not responded to the Motion; New Mexico Tech supports the Motion; Don and Rita Steinnerd support the Motion; and no other party has responded.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

STELZNER, WINTER, WARBURTON,  
FLORES, SANCHEZ & DAWES, P.A.  
Post Office Box 528  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103  
(505) 938-7770

By:



NANN M. WINTER  
KEITH W. HERRMANN

*Attorneys for City of Socorro, New Mexico*

SATXTLIB\12106\Rate Protest\Motion for Leave to Reply and Reply to Response to Request Public Comment Session in Socorro.docx

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)  
**SOCORRO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, )  
INC., APPLICANT )****

**CITY OF SOCORRO'S REPLY AND SUPPORTING AFFIDAVIT TO  
SEC'S RESPONSE TO MOTION REQUESTING THE  
PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION SCHEDULE  
PUBLIC COMMENT IN SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO**

COMES NOW City of Socorro, New Mexico (the "City"), by and through its attorneys, Stelzner, Winter, Warburton, Flores, Sanchez & Dawes, P.A., for its Reply to Socorro Electric Cooperative's (SEC) Response to its Motion Requesting the Public Regulation Commission to Schedule a Public Comment in Socorro New Mexico state as follows:

1. In its Response SEC cites eight (8) meetings with ninety-two customers as justification for its opposition to the Commission scheduling public comment in Socorro. SEC's Resp. paras. 4(a)-(h). At these meetings, the Commission did not participate and was not requested to participate. To ensure the presentations were not entirely one sided, Commission participation is required.
2. Additionally, SEC cites ten (10) meetings with individual "large kWh usage" members as justification for its opposition to the Commission scheduling public comment in Socorro.
3. Resulting from SEC's application, thirty-three individual member filed protests to SEC's application and two (2) "large kWh" members and two (2) citizens intervened in this rate case. The number of protests and intervenors represent significant percentages of the total number of parties contacted in both usage and numbers.

4. SEC's meeting cannot be construed as a substitute for NMPRC public comment mandated by NMAC 1.2.2.9 (C), 1.2.2.23 (F), and 1.2.2.32 (A)(2). SEC has approximately 12,646 customers, including approximately 9,000 who live in Socorro, New Mexico. This rate case is of great interest to them and it is in the interest of the Commission to engage with its constituents to understand their concerns regarding this matter. See attached Affidavit of the Honorable Mayor Ravi Bhasker.

5. In the Procedural Order, the Hearing Examiner required Notice to Customers to be published in a newspaper of general circulation available in every county where SEC provides service. Proc. Ord. Ordering para. C. The notice required by the Hearing Examiner was much more expansive than originally provided by SEC and should prompt additional comments and concerns. The Commission directly states in NMAC 1.2.2.23 (F) that it encourages participation in public hearings. Should it grant the City's request, the Commission will have directly reached out to a majority of SEC's ratepayers in a forum that is much more accessible than a hearing room 120 miles away in Santa Fe. See attached Affidavit of the Honorable Mayor Ravi Bhasker.

WHEREFORE, the City respectfully requests the Commission consider this reply in its decision to schedule public comment in Socorro, New Mexico as request in the aforementioned Motion.

Respectfully submitted,

STELZNER, WINTER, WARBURTON,  
FLORES, SANCHEZ & DAWES, P.A.  
Post Office Box 528  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103  
(505) 938-7770

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
NANN M. WINTER  
KEITH W. HERRMANN

*Attorneys for City of Socorro, New Mexico*

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SOCORRO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, )  
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**AFFIDAVIT OF THE HONORABLE MAYOR RAVI BHASKER**

I, Mayor Ravi Bhasker, having first been duly sworn upon oath, depose and state as follows:


1. I am an adult over the age of eighteen (18) years, and the matters in this affidavit are made on my own personal knowledge.
2. My office is located at 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, New Mexico 87801.
3. On March 8, 2018, I was reelected to serve my eighth consecutive term as Mayor of the City of Socorro.
4. During my tenure as Mayor, I have focused the City's attention toward developing infrastructure and fiscal responsibility.
5. In serving as Mayor I have direct knowledge that the high cost of electricity in the area has been a substantial deterrent to our effort to attract businesses to the City of Socorro.
6. Despite having a renowned technical university, Socorro trails most other cities in New Mexico with regards to income and employment while also growing in age.
7. The city pays some of the highest costs for electricity in the state.
8. The increased cost of electricity is placing a disproportionate burden on the residents in one of the poorer areas of the state.
9. Because of the issues we have with employment and an aging population, many residents are on fixed incomes.
10. It is due to all these factors that the proposed rate increase by Socorro Electric Coop is of great public importance to the people of Socorro.

11. Many residents do not have the time off work or the means readily available to travel to Santa Fe to testify to the Commission in person, nor do they have access to reliable internet to send electronic comments.

12. It would mean a great deal to the people of Socorro if the Commission would host a public meeting in the City to listen to their comments and concerns in person.

13. As Mayor, I could make a public space available for the Commission.

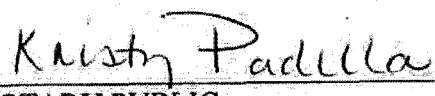
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR RAVI BHASKER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO        )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SOCORRO        )

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29 day of March, 2019, by Ravi Bhasker.



\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:  
2-1-2020



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**NM PUBLIC REGULATION COMM  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT BUREAU**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the **City of Socorro's Motion for Leave to Reply to SEC's Response to Motion Requesting the Public Regulation Commission Schedule Public Comment in Socorro, New Mexico** was served via email on March 29, 2019, to the following persons listed below:

Mayor Ravi Bhasker	RBhasker@socorronm.gov	Theresa Rivera	Theresarosales22@gmail.com
Donald Monette	dmonette@socorronm.gov	James Rivera	trivera@co.socorro.nm.us
Donald Monette	Donald@themonettes.com	Zachery Anaya	zanaya68@gmail.com
Ed Reyes	Edwin.reyes.jr@comcast.net	Maribel Tarango	southernmari2010@yahoo.com
Larry Blank	lb@tahoeconomics.com	Valen Alonzo	valonzo@socorronm.gov
Polo Pineda	ppineda@socorronm.gov	Jim Quaranta	Elkmanjimaz@gmail.com
Leopoldo Pineda, Jr.	pineda@pinedas.net	Anton Salome	asalome@socorronm.gov
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Stephanie Saavedra	ssaavedra@socorronm.gov	Enrique Trujillo	ultimate_dragon2004@yahoo.com
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Mark K. Adams	mkadams@rodey.com		

DATED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

STELZNER, WINTER, WARBURTON,  
FLORES, SANCHEZ & DAWES, P.A.

Post Office Box 528


Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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Email: [kherrmann@stelznerlaw.com](mailto:kherrmann@stelznerlaw.com)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
NANN M. WINTER

KEITH W. HERRMANN

*Attorneys for the City of Socorro*