



# CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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## **CDEC updates members on solar, broadband efforts at 2019 Annual Meeting**

GRANTS, N.M. – Highlights of CDEC’s 2019 Annual Meeting included the discussion of 6.9 megawatts (MWs) of locally-generated solar power and the expansion of broadband internet service to Village of Milan residents.

CDEC Board President Keith Gottlieb called the meeting to order at 8 a.m., Sat., April 27, inside the new gym at Grants High School. Registration of the members began immediately at that time, along with the annual Cibola General Hospital Health Fair and National Park Service’s 2019 Junior Ranger Day.

During the co-op’s business meeting, Gottlieb informed the audience that CDEC, in November 2018, entered into an agreement to buy 100% of the solar energy generated from two facilities to be built in Grants and Bluewater, N.M.

“The new solar projects, to be built by Lightsource BP, of the United Kingdom, will enhance the 32% of renewable energy CDEC presently delivers to its members in partnership with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association,” Gottlieb said.

Both facilities will be operational by the start of 2020, and CDEC will strictly buy the energy produced at a fixed cost over a 20-year period, Gottlieb said.

No bylaw amendments were proposed to CDEC’s membership, this year. Alex Griego of Grants was re-elected by a majority of members in District 1 to serve a new three-year term. Lloyd Ortega of San Mateo was elected to fill the District 4 seat previously held by the late Arsenio Salazar, also of San Mateo. Incumbent Board Member Claudio Romero of Seboyeta did not face opposition for the District 3 seat.

(more)

CDEC Chief Executive Officer Robert E. Castillo, in his report, explained a \$2 increase to the system-charge portion of account-holder bills, which became effective April 2019.

“CDEC performed an in-depth cost-of-service analysis that served as the basis for authorization by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission,” Castillo said.

The increase is necessary for the co-op to recover rising costs associated with maintaining and improving electrical distribution lines, transformers, substations and meters, Castillo said.

He added that the purchase of additional renewable energy from Lightsource’s Grants and Bluewater solar facilities was at a very competitive price and will help CDEC remain economical.

Finally, Castillo said that CDEC remains on target in 2019 to complete construction of all the fiber communication lines within the Grants city limits, making internet service available to all city residents. “We also anticipate making our service available in Milan, Bluewater Village and San Rafael by the end of this year,” he said.

CDEC did not take any official business actions during the business meeting. CDEC registered 517 members, and it needed 557 to establish a quorum.

Adam Bailey, a CPA with auditor Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP, reported a clean bill of financial health for CDEC with total revenue of \$63.1 million in 2018, compared to \$61.7 million in 2017. Total expenses last year were \$61.8 million, compared to \$60.8 million in 2017.

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