Pueblo of Acoma Energy Decision Making Process

Presented by:

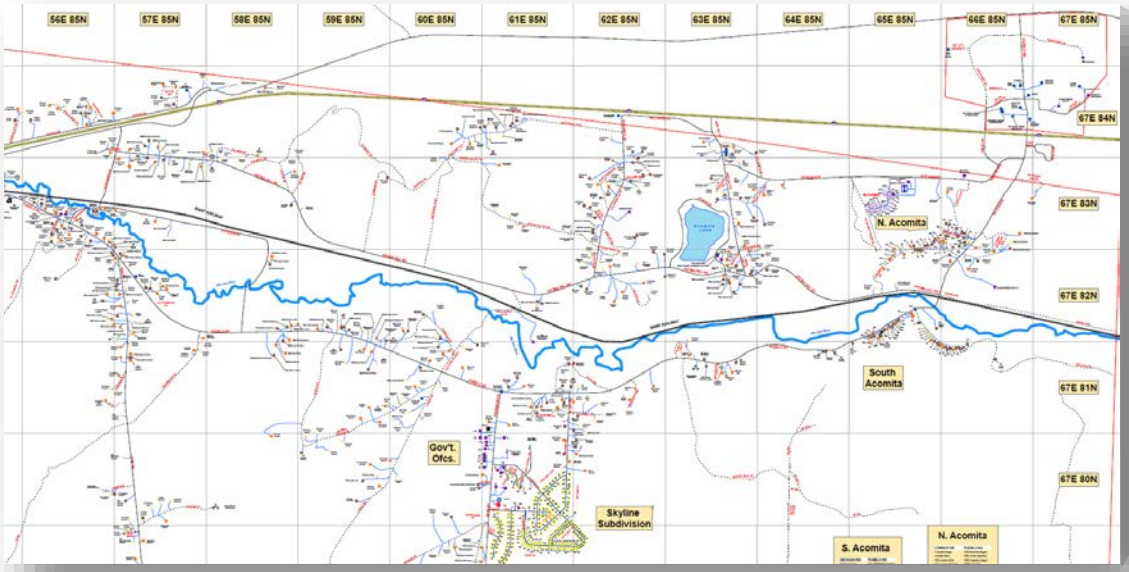
Arvind Patel, Utility Authority Director

Pueblo of Acoma

- One of nineteen Pueblos in New Mexico
- 5,196 enrolled tribal members 2,906 are on Acoma Tribal Lands
- Tribal Leadership is appointed annually by traditional leaders of the Pueblo.
- “Oldest continuously inhabited village in North America”

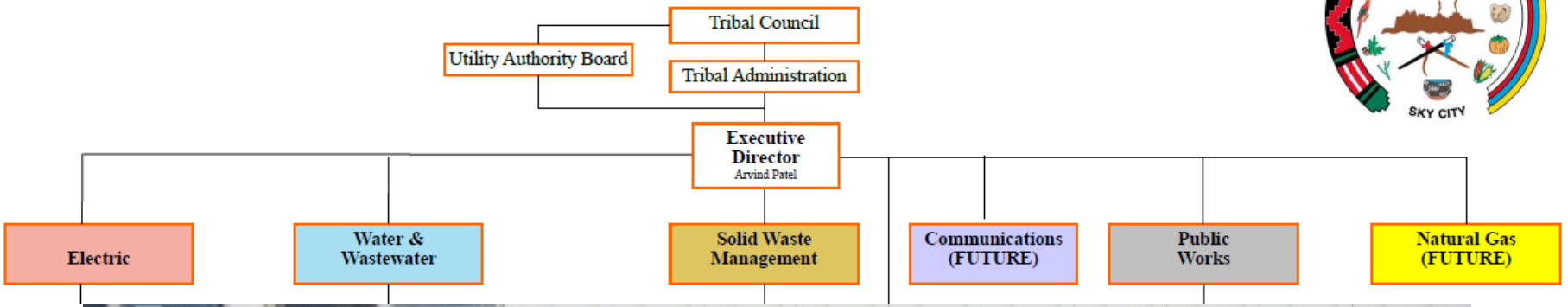
Pueblo of Acoma

- 55 miles west of Albuquerque in west central NM
- 770,000 acres of trust land, but the vast majority of this land is considered open range
- 5,612 – 7068 ft. above sea level, high mountain desert
- Tribal Boundaries are contiguous, few checker board areas
- In the recent years the Pueblo has acquired lands adjacent to the current boundaries



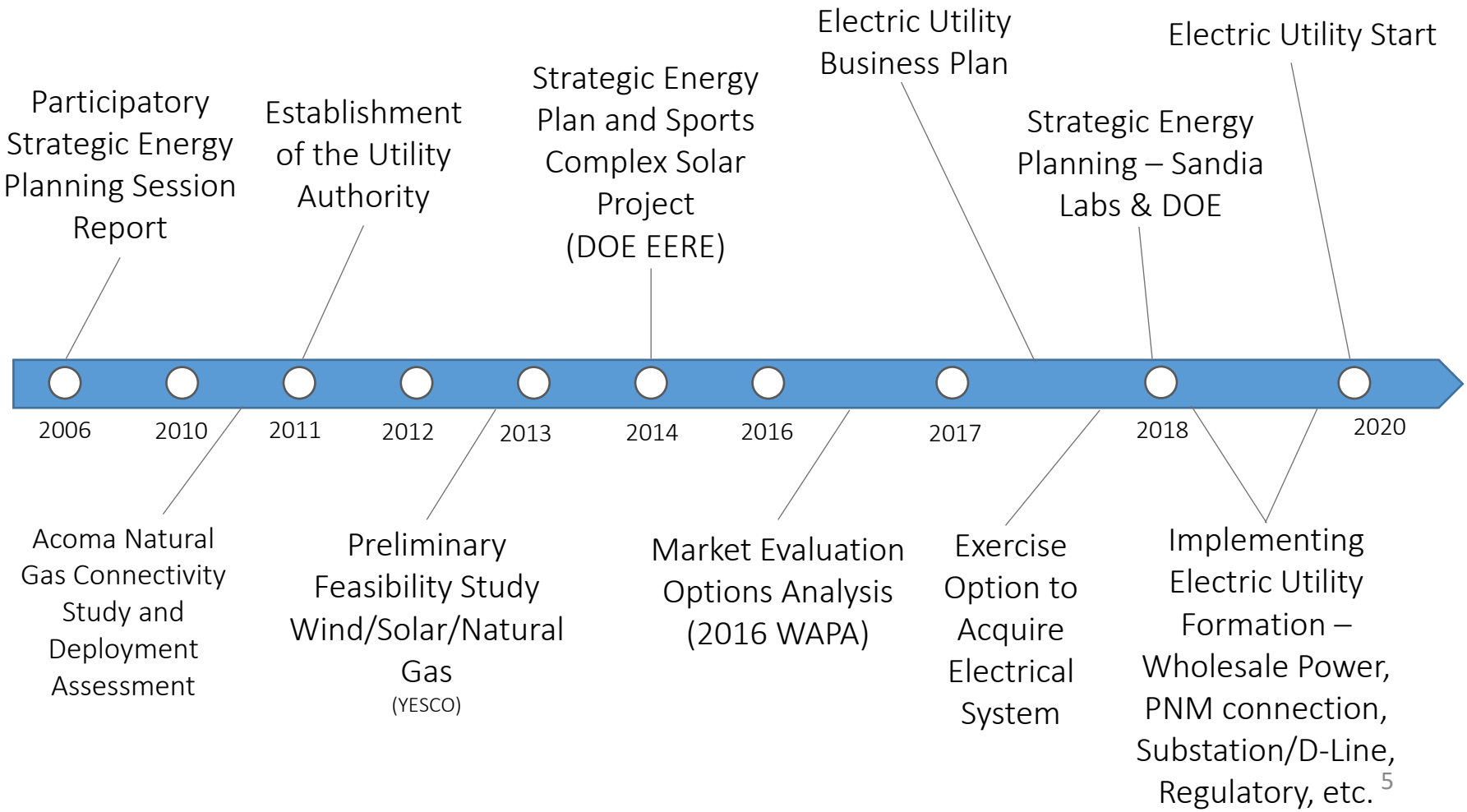
Pueblo of Acoma Utility Authority

2020Utility Authority Organization Chart



Pueblo of Acoma Energy

Acoma has been pursuing energy alternatives since 2006



Pueblo of Acoma Energy History

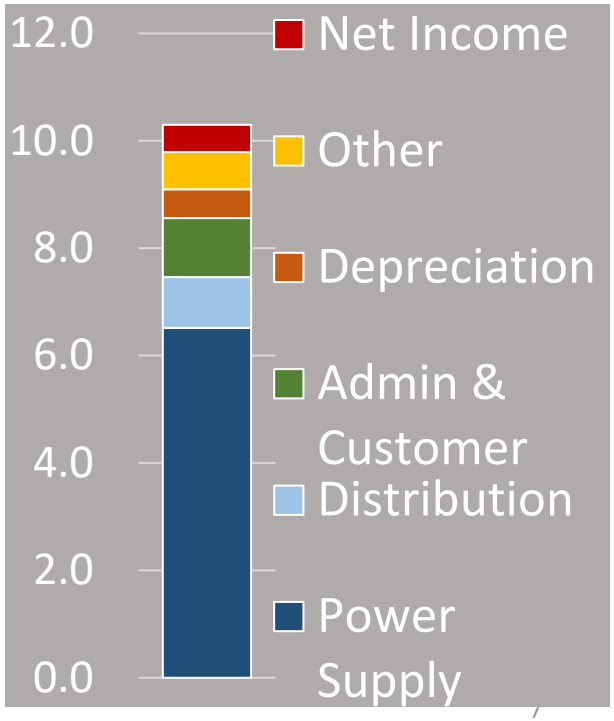
- Like most Tribes, the Pueblo of Acoma tribal government, tribal business and tribal members get our electricity from our local electrical cooperative. This cooperative happens to serve about 25,000 customers with half of those customers being native communities. For a few reasons there is not one person on their 12 person Board of Trustees from any of the four native communities that make up half of their customer base.
- In 2012 the Pueblo called out the Coop for not having a valid ROW to operate on tribal lands, the expired ROW was valid from 1950 to 2000 and provided the Pueblo a $1.00 per year payment for this company to operate on tribal lands.
- In 2014 after much negotiation the Pueblo of Acoma and the Coop came to an agreement and ultimately led to the Pueblo of Acoma acquiring all electrical facilities on tribal lands.

Electric Cooperatives

Pueblo of Acoma Energy History

- While the negotiations were going on, the Pueblo went through extensive effort to perform the necessary due diligence to determine if the Pueblo could viably operate a tribal electric utility. We looked at things such as market available power, substation and construction costs, operational costs, what our rate structure would be, potential debt service, rate stabilization and many others.
- It was ultimately determined that this was a viable business despite our relatively small size and customer base because of the power needs of our Casino/larger business and the future ability to site any size solar facilities to both use and market power as a supplemental revenue source for the entire utility authority operation.
- This was a key point as our local coop didn't want to issue or forward any renewable credits for energy generation sited in "their" service territory.

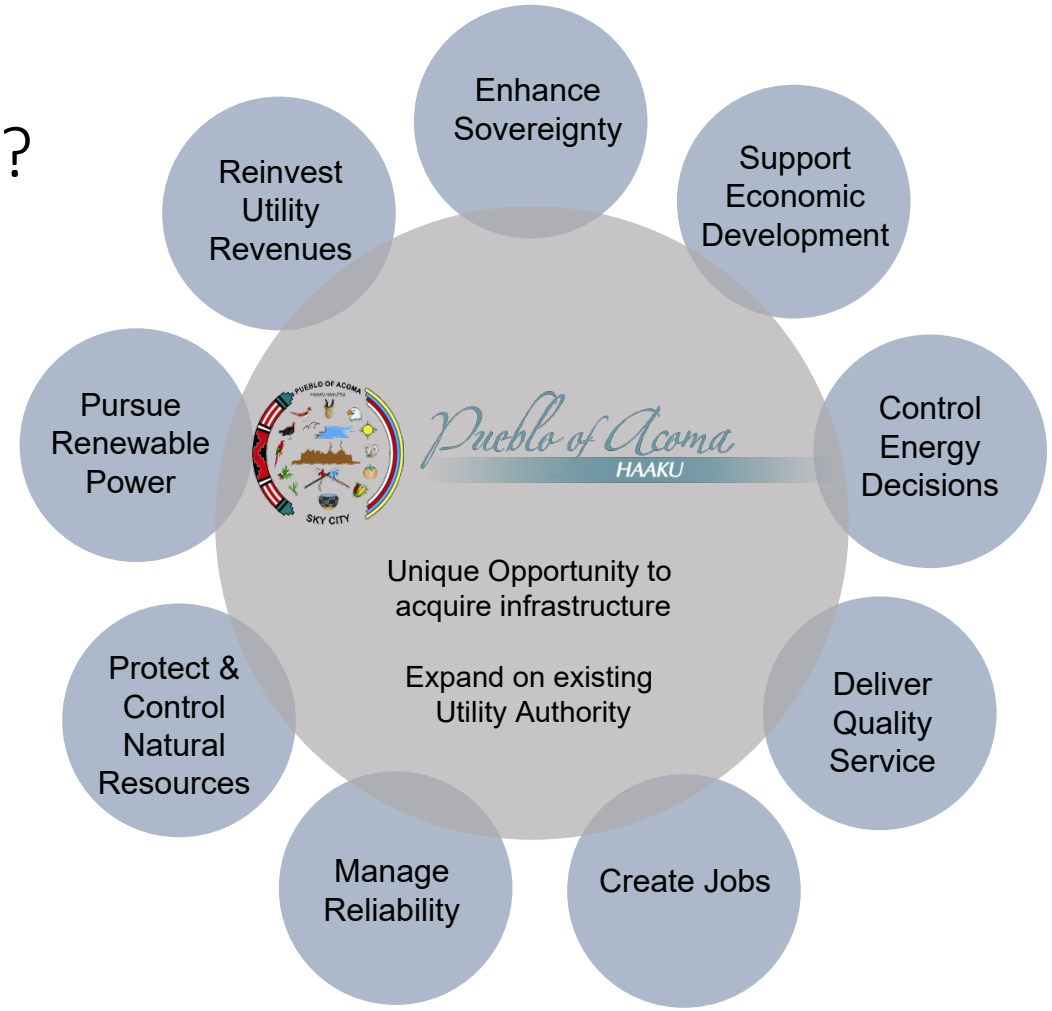
Acoma's Average Retail Payment 10.6 Cents per kWh



Pueblo of Acoma Electrification

In 2014, Acoma prioritized electric utility formation

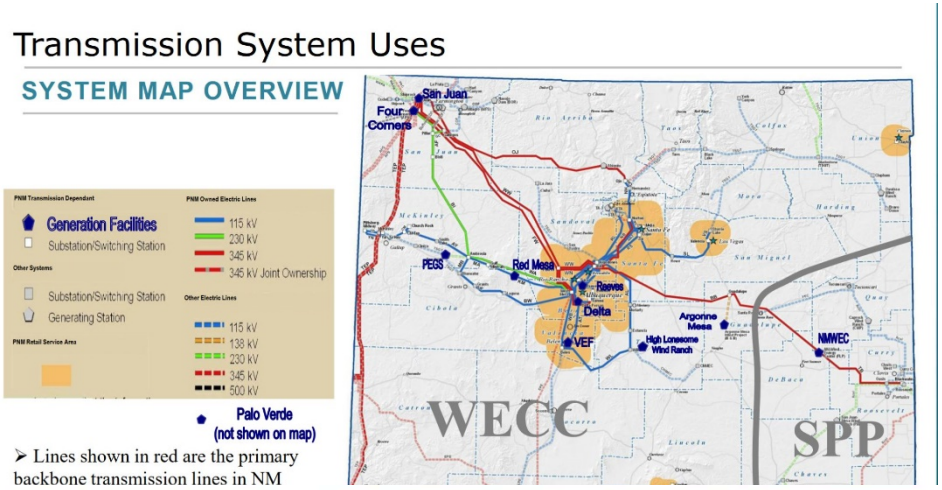
Why?

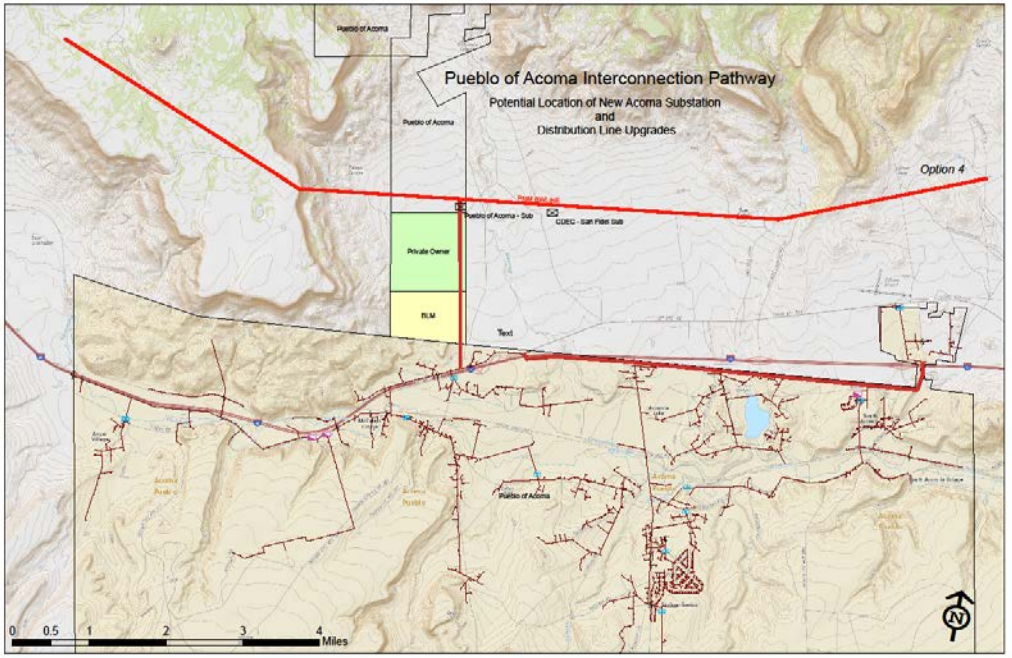


Pueblo of Acoma Electrification

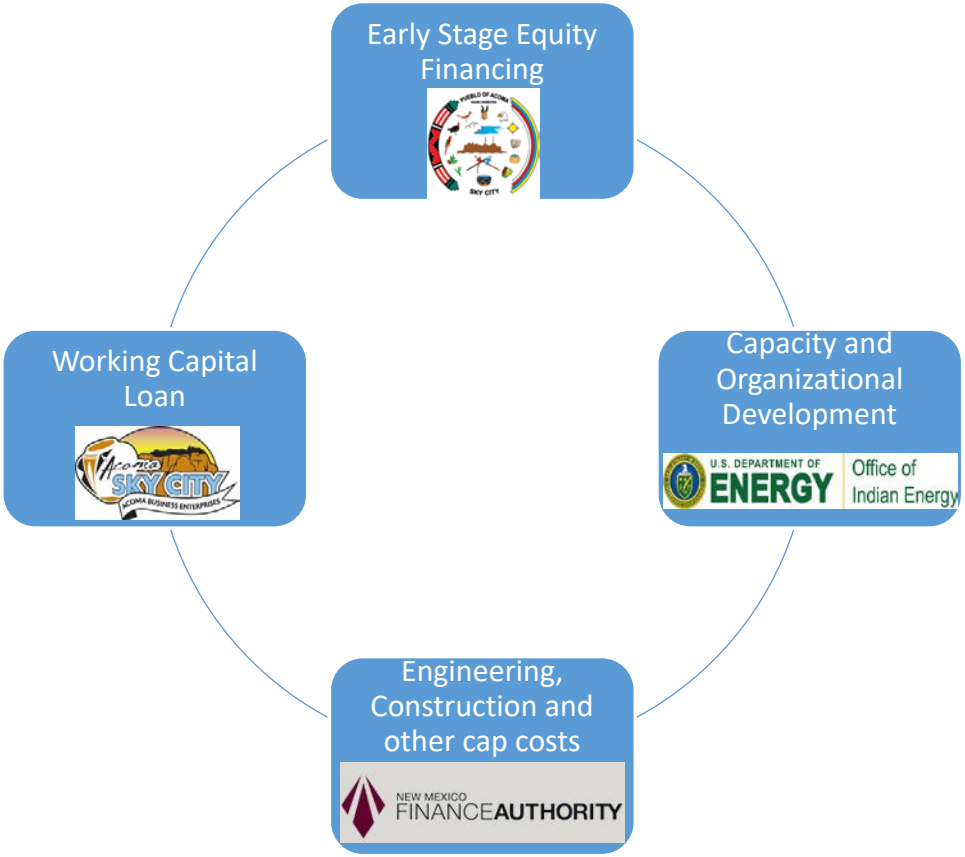
- The Pueblo took out a loan and starting forming the tribal electric utility structure, construction of substation and distribution lines, procuring the inventory tools and equipment, and staffing needs to operate the electrical system.

- This has been our primary effort since 2017 and we are on the cusp of energizing but COVID-19 has put an estimated one-year delay on our formation.





Funding



- Due Diligence - $575,000
- Capitalized Costs - $4,700,000
- Non Capitalized Costs - $500,000

Overall Project Cost for Establishment of the Acoma Electric Utility - $5.8 Million

Project Stakeholders

PUEBLO OF ACOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND THE UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD

Pueblo of Acoma HAAKU
Utility Authority - Water/Wastewater & Solid Waste

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of Indian Energy

AVANT ENERGY

Acoma SKY CITY ACOMA BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

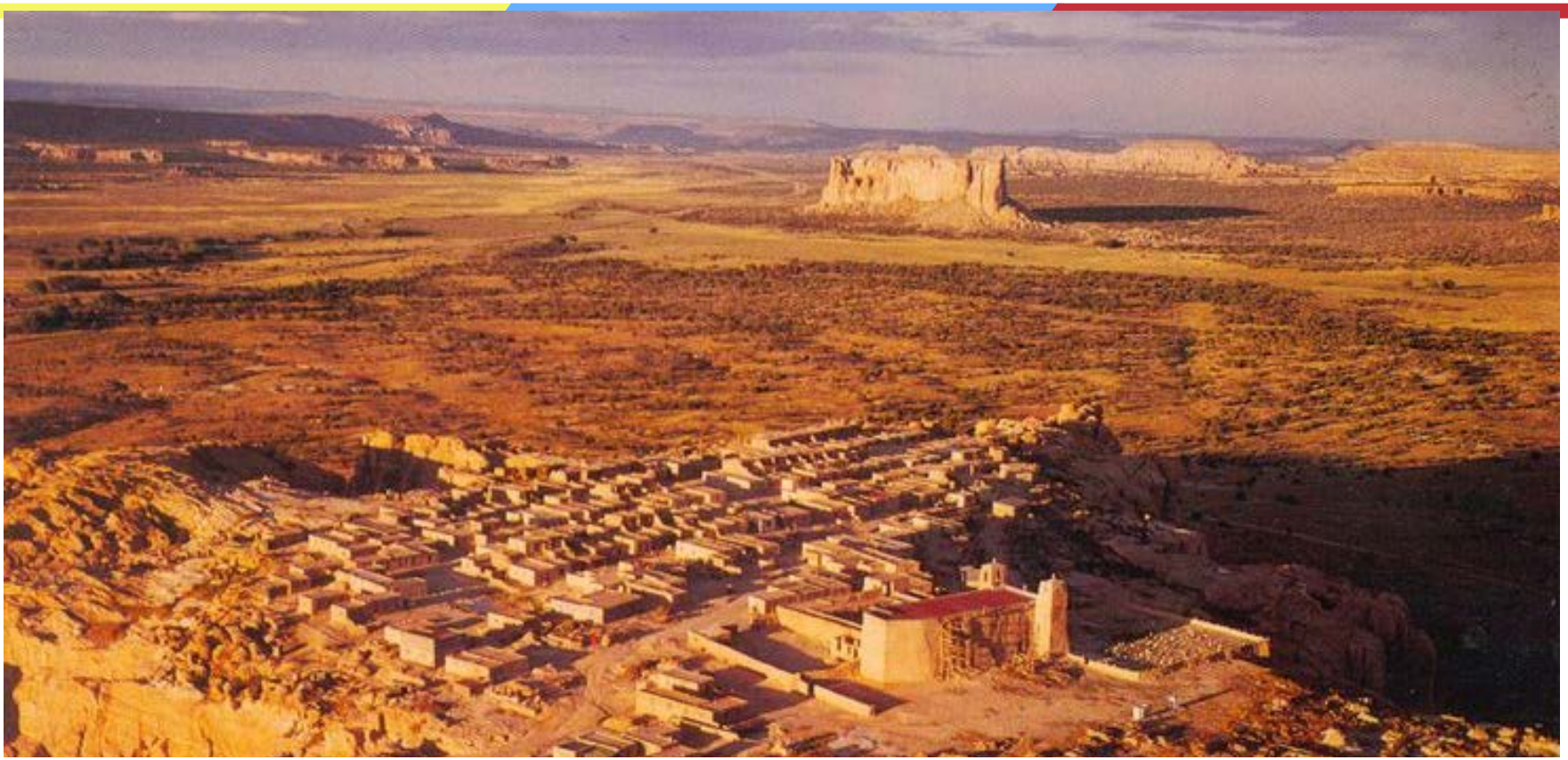
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

STELZNER · WINTER · WARBURTON
FLORES · SANCHEZ · DAWES P.A.

Western Area Power Administration

PNM®

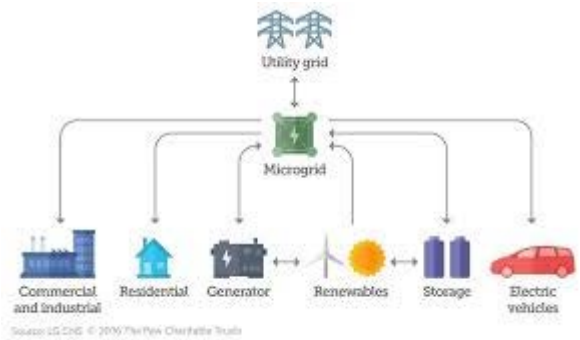
Future Plans



While we have performed energy audits and retrofits in the past, evaluated micro-grid opportunities, looked at phasing in solar generation megawatt by megawatt that was on hold. But now that we are on the way to being independently interconnected, what to do next?

Future Plans

- As energy companies have learned about our tribal electric formation, we have been approached by at least a dozen companies wanting to site their solar at the Pueblo.
- This does have advantages because of capital concerns however the challenge is how do we pick the right business partner if we are to use this model.
- This also includes many companies wanting the Pueblo to move forward with Micro-grid solutions to include residential rooftop solar installation.



Future Plans

- We have been working with NREL over the past year to develop an RFQ/RFP that would help us pick the best business partner that gives the Pueblo the most out of a potential siting of utility scale solar (land lease, revenue sharing, ownership transfer) through an investor model.
- We are also going to apply for the Department of Energy Deployment grants, but matching funds is always a concern.
- At this point, the Pueblo is not moving forward with rooftop solar installations. We do not have land limitations and operational/maintenance costs are more efficient with larger system. By being independently interconnected we don't have to develop "behind the meter solutions".
- Ultimately it is our goal to be in control of our own utility and not rely on outside companies, where economically feasible.

Thank You!

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