Enhancement of Pueblo of Acoma Utility Authority

Presented by:
Raymond Concho Jr., 1st Lieutenant Governor
Arvind Patel, Utility Authority Executive Director
Agenda

• Background
• Project Overview
• Future Plans
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
- 5,612 – 7068 ft. above sea level, high mountain desert
- 800,000 acres of trust and fee land, but the vast majority of this land is considered open range
- Tribal boundaries are contiguous, few checker board areas
- In the recent years the Pueblo has acquired lands adjacent to the current boundaries
Acoma has been pursuing energy alternatives since 2006

- Participatory Strategic Energy Planning Session Report
- Establishment of the Utility Authority
- Strategic Energy Plan and Sports Complex Solar Project (DOE EERE)
- Electric Utility Business Plan
- Acoma Natural Gas Connectivity Study and Deployment Assessment
- Preliminary Feasibility Study Wind/Solar/Natural Gas (YESCO)
- Market Evaluation Options Analysis (2016 WAPA)
- Exercise Option to Acquire Electrical System
- Implementing Electric Utility Formation – Wholesale Power, PNM connection, Substation/D-Line, Regulatory, etc.
- Updating the Strategic Energy Planning – Sandia Labs & DOE
- Electric Utility Start
In 2016, Acoma prioritized electric utility formation

Why?

- Enhance Sovereignty
- Support Economic Development
- Control Energy Decisions
- Reinvest Utility Revenues
- Unique Opportunity to acquire infrastructure
- Expand on existing Utility Authority
- Deliver Quality Service
- Create Jobs
- Manage Reliability
- Protect & Control Natural Resources
- Pursue Renewable Power
- Support Economic Development
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As a result of a decade long trespass claim and subsequent settlement agreement struck in 2014, the Pueblo of Acoma will acquire the electrical facilities located within tribal boundaries from our local coop.

We are continuing to work with our local electrical coop on system separation issues:
- Keeping both system whole
- Reliability, including backup power
- Operating agreements/coordination
- Cost for equipment, materials and labor for separation
- Purchase and Sales Agreement
- Joint presentation to the NM PRC
Pueblo of Acoma Electrification

- Building a new 7MVA substation
- Average annual power usage is 17.5 million kWh
- Annual peak load is 3MW
- Acquiring 88 miles of distribution lines
- Building 9 miles of distribution line for the Pueblo of Acoma system
- Building ~1.5 miles of distribution line for the incumbent coop
Acoma Has a Unique Opportunity to Expand POAUA to Include Electric Pueblo of Acoma Electrification
Project Overview

Develop Structure
Develop People
Develop Operations
Develop Structure

- Identify Staffing Needs Based on Existing Capabilities
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Job Descriptions & SOP’s
- Hire and Train Key Staff
- Capacity Development Goals

Project Overview

Develop People

Develop Operations
Project Overview

Develop Structure

- Operations and Maintenance Plan
  - Focus on reliability
  - Manage and prioritize investments in system improvements
  - Incumbent utility hasn’t re-invested into the system in decades

Develop People

- Five-year Utility Strategy
  - What activities should be prioritized?
  - Transition to internal O&M
  - Position utility to support economic development goals

Develop Operations
Acoma Has a Unique Opportunity to Expand POAUA to Include Electric

Early stage equity financing

- Initial Formation Assessments/Due diligence (Dec 16-Dec 17) - $575,000

Working capital LOC

- Formation Capitalized Costs (Jan 18 – Dec 19) - $4,700,000

Capacity and organizational development

- Capacity and organizational development (Dec 17 – Dec 19) - $187,000

- Non Capitalized Costs (Jan 20 – April 20) - $500,000

Engineering, construction and other cap costs

Overall Project Cost for Establishment of the Acoma Electric Utility - $6.0 Million
Future Plans

Renewable Generation, Community Wide Natural Gas & Broadband Deployment
Project Partners

Pueblo of Acoma Tribal Council, Governor’s Office and the Utility Authority Board

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy

Pueblo of Acoma

Haaku
Utility Authority - Water/Wastewater & Solid Waste

Stelzner · Winter · Warburton
Flores · Sanchez · Dawes P.A.

Western Area Power Administration

PNM

Guzman Energy
Thank You!

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