



**Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

# UP DATE



**November, 2005**



## **A Message From The General Manager/CEO**

**By Dan Laws**

## **Thanksgiving Reflections**

Soon we will celebrate Thanksgiving and officially usher in the holiday season with all of its warmth and magic. As I consider the upcoming holiday, nostalgia has set in and my mind is a virtual slide show of Thanksgivings past. I recall as a child celebrating Thanksgiving with a fresh blanket of snow on the ground, while eating Thanksgiving dinner at my Aunt and Uncle's house. Where I grew up, it was not uncommon for winter's first snow to fall around Thanksgiving. It was especially nice when the first snowfall came right on Thanksgiving. There is something special about a new blanket of snow; it makes everything look so fresh and clean. It was like a new beginning and the perfect segue to a new season.

I had many celebrations as a child, like what I just described, but as with everything, there were more difficult times ahead. When I was sixteen, my parents divorced and it felt like Thanksgiving had lost its meaning, and there was no magic left. Everything was changed, everything was too different. All of my history was altered in what seemed a fraction of time. It is difficult to celebrate when you are so fractured that you feel nothing will ever make you whole again. Everything I had believed in, depended on, and gained confidence from, was gone.

Then, I met the girl who would become my wife. Darlene and her family shared their deep abiding faith in God with me. I will never forget the day I laid claim to that faith and it became mine. The love of God flooded my fractured heart and the Bible became a healing salve, mending injuries that ran deeper than even I knew. The words of a popular song from that era best describes what I felt, "In my life where everything was wrong, something finally went right." Darlene married me in 1974 and we began creating our own holiday traditions.

Last Thanksgiving, thirty years after that beginning, I had an experience I suspect we all have from time to time. The scene was one that was repeated many times over in households across America. It was mid-afternoon on Thanksgiving Day and my daughter-in-law, (I prefer to think of her as a daughter), Linsey was looking after our first grandson, Jadon. The football game was on the television, providing background and atmosphere (Darlene really likes that). Nakee, Linsey's husband and our oldest son, and his brothers Nathon and Noel were carrying food, plates, and utensils to the dining room table. They were joking and poking fun at each other just as they had when they were boys. In the center of all the activity was Darlene, in her second year of surviving breast cancer.

For a moment, I had the experience of being removed from the celebration. It was as if I was an unseen visitor looking in on the activities. My mind was flooded with the memories I have recounted here and many more. I marveled at where God had brought me, and I was amazed that He would entrust me with the responsibility of being a husband, dad and granddad. But mostly, I was thankful. I was thankful for all the wonderful memories of my youth. I was thankful that when I reached the point that I thought the sun would never shine again, God caused it to shine. And, I was so very thankful we could all be together and that the circle was unbroken.

Let me encourage you to make this Thanksgiving the very best you have ever celebrated. And when you consider your blessings, I hope you can name Rio Grande Electric Cooperative as one of them. Be assured, we count you as one of ours. From everyone here at Rio Grande, have a Happy Thanksgiving!

**Please see next page for important information on your Power Cost Adjustment (PCA).**