



Contact Michael Santistevan, Public Relations Coordinator

Telephone 575.758.2258

Email msantistevan@kitcarson.com

Website www.kitcarson.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2019

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Enters Next Phase of its Efforts Toward 100% Daytime Renewable Energy

Cooperative, in partnership with Guzman Energy and local developers, breaks ground on three new solar array projects

Taos, NM – (Aug. 5, 2019) – Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is breaking ground on three new photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays in its service territory. This exciting development is part of the co-op's ongoing effort of achieving 100% daytime solar energy by 2022. The new PV arrays will add six additional megawatts (MW) of distributed energy resources (DER's) into KCEC's renewable portfolio. All three renewable projects are expected to be completed by the end of the year, allowing KCEC to reach 50% of its daytime solar energy goals.

KCEC has a goal of complete transition to carbon-free electric sources.

In 2016 KCEC entered into an innovative and transformative partnership with Guzman Energy. As a result of this partnership, KCEC will soon have among the lowest wholesale rates in the region. The multi-year agreement between KCEC and Guzman Energy is expected to result in a cost savings of up to \$70 million and allows the co-op flexibility to select the energy sources that provide the best cost and environmental benefit to their communities.

"Kit Carson is continuing to meet our commitment to our members for a more affordable, reliable, renewable and resilient future," said Luis Reyes Jr., CEO of KCEC. "These projects will push the co-op to 50% renewables on our system, while integrating the inclusion and partnership of all of our members. We are very pleased with our partnership with Guzman and its commitment to renewable energy, as well as its partnership with our community."

Since the partnership began, KCEC and Guzman Energy have successfully worked together in the development and installation of solar projects. KCEC has already developed several solar projects in their territory and are building on a great foundation, completed projects include: one MW solar installations in Eagle Nest, Picuris Pueblo in Peñasco and Tres Piedras, NM. These

projects account for approximately ten MW's of PV on their system, accounting for 30% of their daytime summer peak load.

As part of this new phase of development, KCEC and its solar developer, Syncarpha Capital, began construction on a 1.5 MW array in Sunshine, north of Questa, NM. The second site is a 1.5 MW solar array at the Northern New Mexico College in El Rito, NM, and the remaining site is a 3 MW solar array located at the Taos Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Taos, NM.

Based on KCEC's average residential power consumption, these three arrays will power approximately 3,400 homes. Phase two of the project is expected to bring in \$6.6 million of economic development and associated monies back into local communities. This project will also turn a brown field site into usable land.

In April of 2019, KCEC released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for additional solar projects with the integration of battery storage. The distributed resources will allow for multiple applications, resulting in additional cost savings for KCEC members. The RFP is for the next phase of the projects between KCEC and Guzman Energy, which will begin 2020. The proposed sites for these solar arrays and storage will be in Taos and Angel Fire, NM. This next phase of the KCEC solar plan is expected to be completed in 2021. KCEC will meet the requirements of the New Mexico Energy Transition Act (Bill 489), 19 years earlier than mandated.

KCEC began integrating DERs into its grid in 2008. In July 2016, KCEC ended its contract with Tri-State and began working with Guzman as its energy supplier. This strategic business decision set the stage to integrate DERs into the grid, set bold goals, and become a national leader among cooperatives. KCEC made the commitment in 2016 to reach the goal of 100% daytime solar by 2022.

###

About Kit Carson

Formed in 1944, Kit Carson is a member owned electric distribution cooperative in northern New Mexico and is the second largest cooperative in the state. Kit Carson is one of sixteen distribution electric cooperatives that serve rural New Mexico communities, serving nearly 30,000 members in Taos, parts of Colfax and Rio Arriba counties. To learn more about Kit Carson, visit www.kitcarson.com

About Guzman Energy

Guzman Energy is a full-service wholesale power provider focused on providing market-based solutions to address our customers' energy challenges by delivering reliable, clean and affordable power. We work closely with communities to identify their initial and ongoing energy goals and customize solutions based on increased economic competitiveness and sustainability. Our platform is leading a transformation from the legacy energy economy to the renewable and distributed age. To learn more, visit www.GuzmanEnergy.com.