



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact:**  
**Michael Santistevan, PR**  
msantistevan@kitcarson.com

## **Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Launches Innovative Hydrogen Safety Project with ENTRUST Solutions Group**

Taos, NM – April 29, 2025 - Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is excited to announce the launch of the KCEC Hydrogen Safety Assessment project in partnership with ENTRUST Solutions Group (EN). This initiative aims to demonstrate the safety and diverse applications of hydrogen as a dependable source of electricity, focusing on Questa, NM, Penasco, NM, and the Town of Taos. Supported by a grant from the United States Department of Energy (DOE), this project marks a significant step towards deploying sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy solutions for residents and businesses throughout the KCEC service territory.

EN and KCEC will conduct comprehensive safety risk assessments to demonstrate the safety and viability of using hydrogen technology as a reliable and secure source of electricity. The initiative will follow a standard safety management system framework to maintain the highest safety standards throughout future design and operational phases. Key focuses of this project include:

**Hydrogen Safety Assessment:** A detailed safety assessment will identify and mitigate public, operational and safety risks, ensuring the safe management of hydrogen facilities once they become operational.

**Process Hazard Analysis (PHA) and Safety Plan:** EN will facilitate a PHA on the conceptual design of the hydrogen facility to identify and evaluate risks, threats, and hazards. This analysis will include reviewing potential incidents, evaluating engineering and administrative controls, considering facility siting and human factors, and recommending risk mitigation. Additionally, this analysis will confidently address and identify all potential risks to public KCEC members, ensuring the project is safe for implementation. EN will draft a safety framework and mitigation plan based on the PHA findings.

**Community Engagement, Education, and Outreach:** KCEC and EN will maintain ongoing engagement with the community to ensure that cooperative member-owners and other stakeholders are fully informed about the project and its benefits. The input and feedback from KCEC members are essential to reinforce that KCEC's clean hydrogen project exceeds the safety requirements of its members. Numerous public listening and feedback sessions will be scheduled to address questions and suggestions from cooperative member-owners and community leaders, incorporating feedback into the overall plan.

"After extensive discussions with community members and groups, the primary concern raised has been the safety of KCEC's Clean Hydrogen Project. We are working in collaboration with ENTRUST to address

all questions and concerns. Kit Carson is committed to pioneering sustainable energy solutions for our communities," said Luis Reyes, CEO of Kit Carson Electric. "The KCEC Clean Hydrogen Project highlights our dedication to innovation and safety in the pursuit of clean energy."

The outcomes of this project will pave the way for the detailed design and implementation of hydrogen technology, positioning Kit Carson as a leader in sustainable energy.

"ENTRUST is grateful for the opportunity to support Kit Carson's leadership team and Board as they advance their strategic plan focused on delivering affordable, sustainable, and reliable generation to its rural and tribal members. As always, Kit Carson continues to lead the cooperative sector in bringing safe and innovative technologies that benefit its membership," said Jessica Zufolo, Vice President for Rural Infrastructure at ENTRUST.

KCEC is among the first cooperatives in the United States to successfully achieve 100% local, distributed daytime solar energy. This remarkable milestone reflects its unwavering commitment to sustainability and innovation in the energy sector. KCEC's strategic plan includes incorporating a diverse range of additional clean, renewable resources to transform its entire energy system into a fully renewable model, contributing significantly to a cleaner environment and a sustainable future for its communities.

KCEC's clean hydrogen projects are strategically located in Questa, NM, Penasco, NM, and the Town of Taos. These state-of-the-art facilities are designed to significantly enhance the reliability of KCEC's entire electrical system, ensuring safe, dependable, and efficient energy generation. KCEC is actively collaborating with the Picuris Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, the Town of Taos, and the Village of Questa to develop and implement a robust energy plan that will deliver clean and safe electricity through advanced hydrogen and solar photovoltaic (PV) technology. Notably, Taos Pueblo is set to provide a portion of the solar renewable energy needed to power these clean hydrogen facilities.

KCEC's clean hydrogen projects are dedicated to improving the quality of life for our members and stakeholders by offering clean, affordable alternative energy solutions that directly support the goals of the communities we serve. KCEC wants to assure its communities and members that KCEC is fully committed to taking all necessary steps to build these hydrogen facilities with the utmost emphasis on safety and quality. Once completed, these clean hydrogen facilities will significantly enhance the sustainability and resilience of KCEC's entire electric system, delivering affordable, reliable, and safe electrical energy generation.

The KCEC Hydrogen Safety Assessment project represents a valued partnership between KCEC and ENTRUST Solutions Group, made possible through a grant from the Department of Energy and Congressional Direct Spending provided by our New Mexico Federal Legislators. KCEC wishes to sincerely thank the New Mexico Federal Delegation for its essential support. This funding is instrumental in advancing KCEC's clean hydrogen project and upholding its commitment to maintaining the highest safety standards.

For more information, please contact: [msantistevan@kitcarson.com](mailto:msantistevan@kitcarson.com)

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### **About ENTRUST Solutions Group**

ENTRUST Solutions Group's 3,000+ professionals in 35+ locations lead power and energy infrastructure transformation across North America. They provide comprehensive and dependable engineering, design, and consulting services to utilities, operators, and industrial customers with excellence from start to finish. For more information, please visit [www.entrustsol.com](http://www.entrustsol.com).

### **About Kit Carson Electric Cooperative**

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 16 electric cooperatives that serve rural New Mexico communities, serving nearly 30,000 members in Taos, Colfax and Rio Arriba counties. To learn more about Kit Carson, visit [www.kitcarson.com](http://www.kitcarson.com).