



Nueces Electric Cooperative

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## Introduction

We are pleased to assist you with your media inquiry. In this media kit, we have provided you with guidance for media inquiries including access to NEC logos, cooperative information, and media contacts.

For assistance, please reach out to our communications team using the contact information provided throughout the kit.

## NEC's Media Kit includes the following information:

- NEC Logos
- About NEC
- Service Territory
- Board of Directors
- NEC Leadership
- NEC/NEC Co-op Energy Difference
- Expert List for Media Contacts
- About Electric Cooperatives
- Seven Cooperative Principles

## Logos

We have multiple versions of the NEC logo available. We have included different versions of lour logo in this kit, please reach out to our communications team for approval on NEC logo use.









## About NEC

Nueces Electric Cooperative (NEC) is a community focused electric cooperative. We are led by our members and we were built by the communities we serve. Founded in 1938, today NEC serves over 19,000 electric meters for consumers in eight South Texas counties.

Since the co-op's inception, NEC has worked hard to be a good community partner. For years we have enjoyed participation in area Livestock Shows and County Fairs. We provide free safety presentations to elementary schools as well youth programs and scholarship opportunities for high school juniors and seniors. Each year, the Ramiro De La Paz Memorial Scholarship Programs awards area youth with funds for college and sends several students to Washington D.C. with the NRECA Youth Tour program.

In 2005, NEC became the first electric cooperative to voluntarily deregulate. We are the only deregulated electric Co-op in Texas and only one of a handful in the United States.

NEC is one of more than 900 energy cooperatives in the United States.

## **Service Territory**





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### **Board of Directors**

Rock Energy Cooperative is governed by a board of nine directors elected by and from the cooperative's membership. The directors are responsible for setting major policies within Rock Energy's eight-county service area, hiring executives and strategic planning for the evolution of the cooperative. Directors are elected to three-year terms. The current board of directors includes:

- District 1: Dr. Rumaldo Z. Juarez
- District 2: Gregg Truesdale
- District 3: David Rosse Secretary Treasurer
- District 4: Donald Wayne Herrmann
- District 5: Louis Bill Hartman
- District 6: Brian Menking President
- District 7: Juan Alvarado
- District 8: Gladys Lippincott





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## NEC's Leadership



#### Senior Staff

Sarah Fisher, AGM & Chief Compliance Officer Adriana Pena, Chief Financial Officer Frank Wilson, Chief Retail Officer

#### Varzavand "Avan" Irani Chief Executive Officer

Irani steps into the role of Chief Executive Officer after serving the members of NEC for 16 years. Irani began his career at NEC in 2003 as Project Manager/Distribution Engineer. In 2011, he was promoted to the role of Chief Operations Officer in which he assisted in strategic growth and managed operational aspects of the Co-op.

Irani received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Bombay in India, a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and completed a Master of Business Administration with a Certification in Energy Finance and Logistics from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, he is also a licensed professional engineer in the State of Texas.

Irani is the co-op's seventh C.E.O. since opening its door in 1938. He will become a part of the co-op's rich history of serving south Texas and will continue to expand and enhance the co-op's unique business model.



# NEC/NEC Co-op Energy? What's the difference?



#### **Background - Texas Electric Industry**

In the Texas electric industry, there are six investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in the ERCOT footprint. These are AEP Texas Central, AEP Texas North, Texas-New Mexico Power Company, Centerpoint Energy, Oncor and Sharyland Utilities. Those who live in the IOU footprint (more than 85% of Texas) are in a competitive retail market in which consumers are offered a choice of retail electric providers. Those who live outside the IOU footprint, typically in rural areas, receive electric service from Non-Opt-in Entities, such as municipalities and electric co-ops. Electric co-ops and municipalities are not required to opt-in to retail competition, and instead have a "captive" consumer base, in which members do not have the option to select retail electric providers.

In 2005, NEC became the first electric cooperative to voluntarily deregulate. We are the only deregulated electric Co-op in Texas and only one of a handful in the United States. NEC came up with the idea in 1999 and NEC voted to give members a choice to choose their power provider in 2000. In 2005 NEC officially introduced NEC Co-op Energy, the Co-op's competitive retail division. Today, NEC Co-op Energy serves the retail electric needs of over 40,000 members across Texas.

#### NEC Co-op Energy is not the same entity as Nueces Electric Cooperative and you do not have to buy NEC Co-op Energy's products to continue to receive quality services from Nueces Electric Cooperative





## **Expert Source List for Media**

To schedule interviews with the sources, contact one of NEC's corporate communications specialist: communications@nueceselectric.org. \*Media inquiries only

#### **Media Contacts**

**Primary Media Contact** Alexa Patek, Corporate Communications & Community Affairs Specialist

#### **Secondary Media Contact**

Kirklan Hinojosa, Corporate Communications & Regulatory Affairs Specialist



## **About Electric Cooperatives**



Electric cooperatives are private, independent businesses whose members have a financial interest in the operation. They are not-for-profit, democratically governed corporations that a based in the communities they serve.

Cooperative profits, or margins, are either reinvested in the cooperative or returned to the member-owners as patronage capital.

## **Seven Principles**

Electric cooperatives are guided by the following seven cooperative principles, which help anchor them firmly in the communities they serve and allow close regulation by their consumers.

- Voluntary & Open Membership Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- Democratic Member Control Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.
- Members' Economic Participation Members contribute equitably to and democratically control the capital of their cooperative.
- Autonomy & Independence Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- Education, Training & Information Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.
- Concern For Community While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable de velopment of their communities.