

Annette Morales

Re: Docket No. 25-00082-UT

To the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission,

I am a residential customer of El Paso Electric in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

I am submitting this comment in opposition to El Paso Electric's proposed 54% rate increase.

According to the customer notice, El Paso Electric is requesting approval of a 50.4% base-rate increase. The notice further indicates that a typical residential customer using approximately 750 kWh during summer months could see a total bill increase of approximately 57% after both phases are implemented.

This level of increase is not affordable for many New Mexico residents, particularly seniors, families, and individuals living on fixed or limited incomes. Households are already experiencing rising costs for housing, food, insurance, and other essential services. Utility rate increases of this magnitude place additional strain on basic household stability.

I am also concerned about how infrastructure costs associated with system expansion and new large energy users are being allocated. Before residential customers are asked to absorb significant increases, the Commission should ensure that large-load customers, including energy-intensive industrial developments such as data centers, are paying their fair share of system expansion and grid upgrade costs driven by increased demand.

I respectfully request that the Commission carefully review this application, ensure that cost allocation is fair, and prioritize affordability, transparency, and protection for residential customers in its final decision.

In addition, I am concerned that filing fees associated with formal complaints or intervention may discourage meaningful public participation, particularly for seniors and low-income households. Access to the regulatory process should not be limited by financial barriers, especially when the decisions directly affect essential utility services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Las Cruces, New Mexico