



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-142

### **DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN SOCORRO COUNTY DUE TO SEVERE ELECTRICAL SERVICE POWER OUTAGE AND AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Socorro County was impacted by a series of severe thunderstorms beginning on August 7, 2023, which caused the destruction of the Socorro Electric Cooperative (SEC) Substation Transformer and resulted in widespread electrical service outages throughout the Alamo Navajo Reservation and the Village of Magdalena;

**WHEREAS**, the thunderstorms produced heavy rainfall and lightning throughout West Central Socorro County that impacted the Magdalena area, causing several power outages for the Socorro Electric Cooperative in that portion of their service area;

**WHEREAS**, the SEC dispatched crews to the affected areas to address the outages, and while the initial outages were able to be repaired, it was soon determined that the lightning had destroyed the main substation transformer at the Magdalena Substation;

**WHEREAS**, the destruction of the SEC Substation Transformer resulted in a systematic power outage on the Alamo Navajo Reservation, as well as the Village of Magdalena and surrounding areas and extending west into Catron County and south into Sierra county;

**WHEREAS**, the SEC stated that the condition causing the power outage was so extreme that it lasted several days, with the SEC requesting assistance from crews in Nebraska in order to

timely regain power;

**WHEREAS**, the power outage occurred during the hottest summer in New Mexico on record, with the Socorro County Emergency Services Manager reporting that 1,700 residents were affected, and left many of those residents without the ability to refrigerate food, access clean water, power medical devices, and attend school;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners for Socorro County issued an emergency resolution stating that local resources available have been insufficient to cope with the resulting situation and requested aid, assistance, relief programs, and funding from the State of New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has now confirmed that this severe electrical service power outage warrants support from the State, and that it remains necessary to authorize the release of emergency funds to protect public peace, health, and safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **DECLARE** a state of emergency to exist in Socorro County due to the series of severe thunderstorms beginning on August 7, 2023, which caused the destruction of the Socorro Electric Cooperative Substation Transformer and resulted in widespread electrical service outages throughout the County, and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Finance and Administration shall make available emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25, and NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-14 to -

15. The funds shall be expended for the resources and services necessary to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm until the situation becomes stabilized; on a temporary, emergency basis for lodging, sheltering, health care, food, any transportation or shipping necessary to protect lives or public property; or for any other action necessary to protect the public health, safety, welfare, and property. The funds shall be expended in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as approved by the Governor or the Governor's Authorized Representative.

2. The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall coordinate all requests for assistance and responses to such requests under the authority of and as determined by the Governor and her Authorized Representative. In addition to such other eligibility criteria as may be established by the Governor and her Authorized Representative, applicants requesting financial assistance from the State for necessary action taken in response to the emergency shall be required to demonstrate that the cost of the necessary action exceeds their available resources, as determined based upon criteria developed in conjunction with the State agencies (if any) with financial and budgetary oversight responsibilities for the applicant.

3. All Cabinet Departments and agencies under gubernatorial control shall provide any assistance that may be required by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or by the State Emergency Operations Center under the authority of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

**I FURTHER ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until all authorized funds are expended or no longer necessary to provide emergency assistance.

ATTEST:

*Maggie Toulouse Oliver*

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

*Michelle Lujan Grisham*  
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

