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Stimulus Money is Helping El Paso Electric Implement Smart Grid Technology

El Paso Electric's Santa Teresa, New Mexico service territory is now benefitting from the installation of smart grid technology thanks to the completion of Phase 1 of a distribution automation project. The implemented technology will help automate processes for identifying and communicating power outages and rerouting power so fewer customers are affected by interruptions in service.

EPE is receiving up to \$1.01 million in federal money to help cover a portion of the costs of implementing the smart grid technology. Phase 1 of the project included the installation of specialized equipment at EPE's Santa Teresa substation. Phase 2, which focuses on the Van Horn, Texas area, is now being initiated and is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

The funding for this grant was made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which seeks to help bring the country's electrical grid to the forefront of technological advancement.

"Our customers will benefit through the implementation of this new technology and the reliability it provides," said Roberto Favela, Superintendent, Distribution System at El Paso Electric. "Once we gain experience with this technology, we will determine the feasibility of implementing it in other parts of our system."