
25-00054-UT - 2025.09.25 - Staff - Staff's Second Status Report Pursuant to the Commission's September 8, 2025, Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties

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Date Thu 9/25/2025 3:56 PM

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 1 attachment (362 KB)

25-00054-UT - 2025.09.25 - Staff - Staff's Second Status Report + COS.pdf;

Attached is **Staff's Second Status Report Pursuant to the Commission's September 8, 2025, Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties** in Case No. 25-00054-UT, electronically filed today.

Peggy Martinez-Rael
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BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF MELODY RANCH)	
WATER COMPANY LLC’S WATER SYSTEM)	Case No. 25-00054-UT
BREAKDOWN AND DISRUPTION OF SERVICE)	
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**STAFF’S SECOND STATUS REPORT PURSUANT TO THE COMMISSION’S
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, ORDER SETTING PREHEARING
CONFERENCE AND RELATED DUTIES**

The Utility Division Staff (“Staff”) of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (“Commission”, “NMPRC” or “PRC”) hereby submits Staff’s Second Status Report Pursuant to the Commission’s September 8, 2025, Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties, and would show the Commission as follows:

The September 8, 2025, Order specified in pertinent part that:

Staff shall file with the Commission a weekly report on the Thursday following each status conference providing updates on the current status of water service, the outlook for its restoration, developments with potential partners to restore service, and any other matters they believe to be of importance to this proceeding.

See September 8, 2025, Order at page 2, decretal paragraph D.

Current Status of Water Service

The water service remains below acceptable performance standards based on reports from Melody Ranch customers and information provided by Melody Ranch itself. The sole well used to provide water to the system continues to produce at diminished capacity – currently at approximately 4 to 5 gallons per minute versus the levels enjoyed historically. As a result, service to the tap remains pressure-deficient and time-limited in availability to allow for the storage tank to attain and retain appropriate levels. During the period September 14th through September 20th one resident reports the following water system performance stats:

Sun Sept 14 th	Water from 5pm - 8pm
Mon Sept 15 th	Water from 5pm - 8pm
Tues Sept 16 th	No Water
Wed Sept 17 th	Water from 9am - 1pm and 5pm – 8 pm
Thu Sept 18 th	No Water
Fri Sept 19 th	Water from 5pm - 9pm
Sat Sept 20 th	Water from 2pm - 6pm

This comes to a total of 21 hours of water availability during the specified time-period.

The Outlook for Restoration of Water Service

EMWT Regional Water Association has been gathering information and documents from Melody Ranch that should inform the economic and technical considerations intrinsic to the prospect of restoring water service along the lines sketched out in Staff’s inaugural Status Report. *See* Staff’s Sep. 18, 2025, Status Report at pages 2 – 4. EMWT’s Board met the evening of September 23, 2025, to discuss the Melody Ranch situation and is proceeding with its engineering due diligence review of the Melody Ranch system along with its effort, in conjunction with NMED subject matter experts, to address the economic (funding) component via the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (“DWSRF”) pre-application process.

Developments with Potential Partners to Restore Service

Please see the immediately preceding section. The effervescing nexus that is manifesting between EMWT, NMED, and Melody Ranch is currently the most promising and ostensibly feasible approach to the restoration of service.

September 24th Town Hall

Additionally, and pursuant to the Commission's September 8, 2025, Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties, a Town Hall Meeting was held on September 24, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The Town Hall Meeting was in-person with an option for virtual attendance via the Zoom platform and was hosted by the NMPRC at the Wendell Chino Building, Pecos Hall, 1220 S. Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, courtesy of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department ("EMNRD"). The Town Hall Meeting was recorded and is available for viewing on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0DwQUxumI>.

The purpose of the Town Hall Meeting was to facilitate communication between Melody Ranch and its ratepayers about (1) the status of water availability and (2) the outlook for restoring service. The Town Hall Meeting was also intended to assist in and prompt Melody Ranch towards normalizing and standardizing the means and modes of communication with its ratepayers. Among other things, Melody Ranch committed to providing notice and communications to its ratepayers via the U.S. Mail and email - and with regards to the latter mode, Melody Ranch and the ratepayers are collaborating on the creation of an email service list to carry those communications. The objectives of the Town Hall Meeting will remain a priority and subject to further development and refinement.

Thanks are extended to everyone who attended in-person and virtually on rather short notice. Staff is also very thankful for the input and expertise of Jennifer Baca, Jordan Gutierrez, and Phil Bolton who made the Town Hall Meeting possible.

Conclusion (for the Moment)

Efforts and evaluations regarding the economic and technical requirements of what is contemplated towards the restoration of water service remain underway. Staff remains in the loop and will otherwise continue to inquire of and interact with Melody Ranch, EMWT, and NMED towards supporting and realizing these objectives. Following the Town Hall Meeting, the state of communication between Melody Ranch and its ratepayers has hopefully been placed on better footing with the intent that improvements will be implemented immediately and maintained as long as necessary.

Dated this 25th day of September 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John Bogatko

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BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF MELODY RANCH WATER)
COMPANY LLC'S WATER SYSTEM BREADOWN) Docket No. 25-00054-UT
AND DISRUPTION OF SERVICE)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I **CERTIFY** that on this date I sent a true and correct copy of Staff's Second Status Report Pursuant to the Commission's September 8, 2025, Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties, to the following:

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DATED this 25th of September 2025.

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

/s/ Peggy Martinez-Rael, electronically signed

Peggy Martinez-Rael, Paralegal