

NEW MEXICO PRC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BRIAN EGOLF, CHAIR
ALONZO BALDONADO, SECRETARY
RON LOVATO
RIKKI SEGUIN
CYDNEY BEADLES
WILLIAM BRANCARD
DENISE RAMONAS



P.O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269

- 1. New Mexico has the potential to be a leader in the region, delivering low-cost renewable resources to serve its citizens and the rest of the West, benefiting New Mexico's economy, ratepayers, and supporting grid reliability. What do you see as the role for a New Mexico Commissioner as it relates to regional discussions on power markets and interstate transmission; how are you best suited to engage in these regional forums?**

Given the unprecedented environmental and climate-related challenges and social awareness the Nation is facing, an NM Commissioner should ensure that the process of developing policies and regulations is based not only on cost and need but includes new variables such as impacts on the environment, education, community values, etc. There is the need to expand the number of public policy goals the utility regulation aims to achieve; examples are energy conservation and efficiency, environmental protection, public health protection, minimal quality of life impact, low-income consumer assistance, minorities, etc. In addition, the decision-making should be based on scientific reasoning. Given my background and knowledge, I see my role as a supporting role providing an objective and science-based point of view.
- 2. Competition between generators, whether utility- or Independent Power Producer-owned, helps ensure the lowest cost, best suited resource is procured by electric utilities, ultimately resulting in the best deal for customers. What do you see as the role of a Commissioner in ensuring fair and transparent competition in resource procurement?**

As mentioned before, the PRC needs to account for other types of costs, such as environmental and public health costs. The role of a Commissioner should consist of guaranteeing these additional costs are included in the process of making decisions. As an example, the benefit of clean air will reduce the long-term public health costs to treating asthma in kids.
- 3. What is the "public interest" in the context of utility regulation?**

In my vision, the public interest doesn't consist only in providing a low energy cost or making the best deal for the customer but in accomplishing multiple goals simultaneously, including respect for minorities, environmental protection, and state economic growth.
- 4. What is the role of electric utilities in decarbonizing the economy and what is the Commission's role in overseeing that process?**

Utilities are at the core of the decarbonization process. For example, electric utilities influence the adoption of grid-interconnected residential solar. Electricity pricing is critical for the adoption of residential solar and,

consequently, for the mass adoption of electric transportation technologies. From the production side, commissioners must ensure that additional energy production costs are not being aggressively shifted to the consumers due to a less carbon-intensive energy mix. Electric utilities can also be involved in the future off-peak-hour production of H2 by electrolysis for long-haul transportation and shipping. Gas utilities can reduce carbon emissions by blending green H2 with Natural gas. Commissioners must ensure that utilities pricing is aligned with the decarbonization goals and make sure that there are no artificial barrier to the green energy transition.

5. **To what extent, if any, should rate-setting decisions of the PRC consider social, cultural, and environmental externalities? When, if ever, should social, cultural, and environmental externalities lead the PRC to approve rates higher than could be approved if such externalities were not considered?**

Always is my answer! I believe that the listed criteria should not be considered externalities but as endogenous and dynamical components of the decision process.

6. **Please discuss your views on governance and the appropriate roles of Commissioners and staff, appropriate levels of delegation and your expected level of involvement in the administration of the agency.**

I see the involvement as a scientific advisor.

7. As you evaluate issues before the PRC which of the following factors do you view as most important and why?

- Portfolio standards/ energy mix
- Climate change
- Reliability
- Flexibility
- Sustainability
- Affordability
- Grid capability/stability
- Scalability of technology
- Promoting new technologies
- Eliminating certain energy sources from New Mexico's portfolio
- Social justice for frontier communities
- Maintaining New Mexico's ability to produce the energy it needs in New Mexico i.e., keeping New Mexico as energy-self-sufficient

See answer to question number 8

8. **In what order would you rank each factor? Are there other factors that would influence your decisions?**

There are interdependencies across all the listed issues. It is not possible or even correct to weigh them as they were independent. These issues are integrated build a complex system with nonlinear behavior that makes it difficult to know what is most important without an analysis. In addition, different questions may lead to different answers. We need to define the context and a question to say what is most important.

9. **Is there a state whose energy regulatory policies that you believe New Mexico should emulate? If so, which one and why?**

NM should not emulate any other state. Regulatory policies that work for a specific state do not easily translate to another state. Each state has different natural resources, social communities, minorities, energy conservation

needs, and economic growth rates. An analysis to understand what has been successful or not in other states is critical, but only if accompanied by the effort of translating those experiences to the specificity of NM.

10. Briefly describe your experience in the development or implementation of regulatory policy.

I do not have experience in developing or implementing policies. However, using computational models, I have the scientific background to quantify the effects and estimate the risks of policies in specific environmental policies such as carbon policies.

11. New Mexico has 23 distinct sovereign Native American tribes within its borders. Please explain your familiarity with the State - Tribal relationship with an emphasis on how this relationship is applicable to utilities including power generation, right of ways and alternative energy?

I have not personal experience in such regard.

12. The Public Regulation Commission is a regulatory body. Often the line between regulation and policy can get blurred. Please explain your view as to where the line between regulation and policy is and actions and or ideas you would bring to the Commission to help maintain the focus on regulation.

From my perspective, the line between regulation and policy should be always driven by science. As stated before, I would bring my scientific knowledge to inform and support PRC decisions.

13. What is the most consequential action or decision of the PRC in the last twenty years? Why?

14. In the last twenty years, has the PRC exceeded its authority? Please explain when and how.

In my experience, PRC has not exceeded its authority.