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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMPRC to hold workshop to determine RTO/ISO viability for PNM and EPE

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) on Thursday, September 21, will hold a workshop to discuss the anticipated benefits and impacts to New Mexicans regarding Public Service Company of New Mexico's (PNM) and El Paso Electric Company's (EPE) potential participation in either a regional day-ahead market or a regional transmission organization (RTO)/independent system operator (ISO).

At an open meeting in July, the Commission explained that New Mexico ratepayers stand to benefit from a regional market that optimizes economic dispatch and maximizes the use of the electric grid and available generation. Additionally, the Commission noted that regional markets can also help meet the state's emissions reduction targets and improve grid reliability at a reduced cost to ratepayers as compared to transacting through the bilateral energy market.

“Regional markets are emerging in the Western United States, and it's incumbent on the NMPRC, utilities, and interested stakeholders to discuss the potential benefits to New Mexicans and ensure those benefits come to fruition if New Mexico's utilities participate in such markets,” said Commissioner Gabriel Aguilera. “We will solicit industry and stakeholder input and aim to develop guidance principles and expectations for PNM, EPE, and any rural electric cooperative that decides to participate in a regional market.”

The Commission will use input from industry professionals and stakeholders to discuss and develop guiding principles and expectations for electric utilities participating in a regional day-ahead market or RTO/ISO. The

state's other investor-owned electric utility company, Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), which currently participates in an existing RTO called Southwest Power Pool (SPP), will make a presentation on its experience participating in an RTO, including benefits to ratepayers. The Commission also invited rural electric cooperatives and other stakeholders to present at the workshop.

The concept of a day-ahead market has not been implemented in the U.S. However, according to the State-Led Market Study, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, it is generally expected that a day-ahead market would entail centrally optimized day-ahead unit commitment and real-time dispatch, but participants would continue to administer their own transmission tariffs and transmission planning functions and would retain operational control over their transmission systems.

RTOs and ISOs have additional responsibilities, as they are typically tasked with optimizing transmission and energy flows across the market footprint, performing transmission planning and administering the generator interconnection procedures within the market footprint, ensuring reliable operation of the grid, and managing wholesale energy market transactions and cash flows within the market.

Electric utilities, the California Independent System Operator Corporation, SPP, state regulators, and electric industry stakeholders in the Western U.S. are currently developing and considering viable regional day-ahead markets and discussing the potential for a west-wide RTO/ISO.

An agenda for this workshop can be found [here](#). A copy of the order scheduling the workshop is available upon request.

Details about the workshop are as follows:

- **WHO:** NMPRC, statewide investor-owned electric utility companies (IOUs), industry stakeholders
- **WHAT:** Regarding case no. 23-00268-UT, In the matter of an inquiry and potential rulemaking pertaining to investor-owned electric utilities' regional market activity
- **WHEN:** Thursday, September 21, at 2:30-5 p.m. MDT
- **WHERE:** Hearing Room inside the Bokum Building, located at 142 W Palace Ave., Albuquerque, NM 87112; Watch online via the NMPRC's [YouTube Channel](#)
- **Public Comment:** To sign up for public comment via Zoom, send an email to public.comment@prc.nm.gov. Please sign up no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the workshop. If you are providing public comment in-person, you do not need to sign up in advance.

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) regulates the utilities, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The PRC also promotes public safety through the offices of Pipeline Safety Bureau and Transportation Division.

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