

**Collin Gillespie**

Albuquerque, NM

August 30, 2024

**New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Nominating Committee**

P.O. Box 1269

Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in serving as a Commissioner for the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC). My extensive experience in utility regulation, finance, public administration, legal affairs, and consumer protection, combined with a deep understanding of New Mexico utility law and policy, positions me as a uniquely qualified candidate for this role. As someone who is economically minded, with a background that includes a minor in Economics, I bring a well-rounded perspective to the regulatory process, ensuring that decisions are both fiscally responsible and aligned with the public interest.

As of today, August 30, 2024, I am completing my tenure as the Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at the NMPRC. In this role, I have been instrumental in improving the agency's efficiency and effectiveness, working directly with commissioners, attorneys, and policy advisors to enhance the Commission's ability to serve New Mexicans. My work has involved key contributions to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Report to the Legislature and the facilitation, design, and drafting of the Commission's Interconnection and Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) rules. These efforts have streamlined processes and encouraged the adoption of renewable energy in New Mexico.

Starting on September 3, 2024, I will be transitioning to a new role as an attorney in consumer protection with the New Mexico Department of Justice. This new position aligns closely with my longstanding interest and experience in consumer protection, an area I have been passionate about throughout my career. My previous work in consumer law, including drafting pleadings and conducting legal research at the Law Office of Feferman Warren and Mattison, as well as my experience with the Senior Citizens' Law Office, has equipped me with a strong foundation in protecting consumer rights. I am eager to bring this perspective to the NMPRC at the top level, where I believe consumer protection is a critical component of fair and equitable utility regulation.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Commissioner Cynthia Hall as her Policy Assistant, gaining invaluable insights into the day-to-day responsibilities and challenges of a Commissioner. In that role, I had the pleasure of attending hearings, analyzing rate cases, drafting bench requests, facilitating workshops, drafting rules, coordinating with regional and national organizations, and understanding the mechanics of the utility regulatory landscape. This experience has uniquely prepared me to assume the role with minimal transition time, making me an excellent fit for the current vacancy. My familiarity with the workings of the Commission and its employees, including the Division Directors with whom I have collaborated extensively, further strengthens my ability to step into this role effectively and immediately.

In addition to my regulatory and legal experience, I bring a strong background in finance, bolstered by a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Mexico, where I graduated with honors, and a Bachelor of Arts in Languages with a minor in Economics. My early career in finance, particularly as a Securities Processing Analyst at Citigroup, where I achieved Series 7 licensure, provided me with in-

depth knowledge of financial analysis, accounting, and regulatory compliance. These skills have been invaluable in my regulatory work at the NMPRC, where I have applied them to analyze complex financial data and ensure regulatory compliance. My economically minded approach ensures that regulatory decisions are balanced, fiscally responsible, and in the best interest of the public.

I hold deep respect for Commissioner Jim Ellison and his significant contributions to grid reliability. His expertise has been instrumental in ensuring a safe and reliable electric grid in New Mexico, and I am committed to continuing this focus as part of the Commission's mandate. Moreover, I have had the opportunity to work under the leadership of Chair O'Connell, Commissioner Aguilera, Chief of Staff Cholla Khoury, and the Director of Policy Administration, Arthur O'Donnell, whose experience and direction has greatly influenced my understanding not only of New Mexico's regulatory landscape, but what it means to be a leader.

The recent success of the NMPRC, following the constitutional amendment that provided for an appointed commission, is a testament to the hard work of the Commissioners, the Chief of Staff, and the dedicated employees of the PRC. This transformation, spearheaded by the Governor's leadership and advocates of a the constitutional amendment, and supported by the work of the Nominating Committee, has laid the groundwork for a more effective and responsive regulatory body. I am proud to have been a part of this transformation, contributing to the Commission's improved efficiency and effectiveness. As a Commissioner, I would continue my dedication to building on this success, working closely with the established leadership to ensure that the NMPRC continues to serve the people of New Mexico to the highest standard.

Given the current vacancy, I understand the importance of finding a candidate who can seamlessly transition into the role with minimal startup time. My extensive experience at the NMPRC, coupled with my in-depth knowledge of New Mexico utility law and my active participation in the Commission's executive team, positions me as an ideal candidate for this two-year term. I have been directly involved in the Commission's most significant initiatives and have built strong working relationships with all stakeholders, ensuring that I can hit the ground running and continue the Commission's critical work without interruption.

My combined experience in utility regulation, finance, public administration, legal affairs, and consumer protection spans over ten years, making me exceptionally well-suited for the responsibilities of this role. My deep familiarity with New Mexico utility law, as well as my research into the regulatory mechanisms of other states, ensures that I am fully prepared to contribute to the Commission's ongoing mission.

It would be an honor to serve the people of New Mexico by leveraging everything I have learned in my career to ensure safe, just, and reasonable utility service for all. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my application further and to demonstrate how I can contribute to the NMPRC's continued success.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,  
Collin Gillespie

# COLLIN GILLESPIE

[REDACTED], Albuquerque, NM [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## EXPERIENCE

**FEBRUARY 2023 – TO PRESENT**

### **DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Reports directly to the Chief of Staff and works with commissioners, attorneys, and policy advisors on legislative priorities. Drafts legislation to enhance PRC's ability to function as an agency. Monitors legislative interim and regular session developments to keep the commission current on legislative happenings. Works with Legislative Council Service on bills that implicate the PRC's jurisdiction to ensure they are implementable. Prepares talking points for interim and regular session meetings to advance budget talks and bills the PRC supports, as well as providing review of current PRC programs and rulemakings, such as Community Solar. Meets with legislators to advance agency priorities. Served on the MLK State Commission as the PRC Chair's designee to promote the enduring legacy of Dr. King. Drafted the RPS Report to the Legislature on utility RPS compliance and outlook to inform the Legislature on the status of the Renewable Energy Act and ETA with respect to the Renewable Portfolio Standard. Participated in leadership training and received a certification. Assigned to the agency's Disaster Task Force, tasked with designing a comprehensive plan for wildfire mitigation and other natural disasters, including financial preparedness. Attended PRC Utility Regulation CLE program in November 2023 to stay current on NM Bar License. Helped design and execute an agency-wide implementation plan as part of a leadership team.

**JULY 2020 – DECEMBER 2022**

### **POLICY ASSISTANT TO COMMISSIONER HALL, NMPRC**

Provided analysis of cases and issues to support potential policy positions for Commissioner Hall. Reviewed case documents to aid the Commissioner in advance of hearings and open meetings, working with the Office of General Counsel closely. Performed research projects and attended hearings and meetings at the Commissioner's request. Successfully researched, drafted, and promulgated the IRP and Interconnection rules to streamline the IRP and Procurement process and encourage the rapid adoption of solar energy by facilitating interconnection to the grid. Drafted Bench Requests and cross-examination questions to probe stakeholder positions in open case dockets. Analyzed settlement agreements, including financial considerations, such as the Avangrid/PNM merger. Facilitated workshops and other stakeholder meetings to create the best possible rules for the agency. Participated in various webinars, workshops, and utility regulation course offerings to stay up to date on the state of energy policy, technology, and the greater environmental landscape. Developed knowledge of the utility regulatory landscape and the major players in the field. Worked in partnership with Sandia National Laboratories and EMNRD to develop and inform a state-wide decarbonization model. Attended the NMSU Basics Course on Utility Regulation several times.

# COLLIN GILLESPIE

[REDACTED], Albuquerque, NM [REDACTED]

**AUGUST 2018 – TO DECEMBER 2018**

## **LEGAL EXTERN, NMPRC (UNM SCHOOL OF LAW)**

This was my inception into the world of utility regulation. Analyzed rate cases for Commissioner Cynthia Hall (District 1). Identified loopholes in the statute for the renewable portfolio standard requirements that allow energy monopolies to maintain token compliance with the REA while skirting the public policy reasons for the law.

**MAY 2018 – JULY 2018**

## **SUMMER EXTERN, SENIOR CITIZENS' LAW OFFICE**

Met with clients directly to perform client intake. Researched and analyzed legal problems to help local senior citizens with consumer protection issues involving debt defense, identify theft, wage garnishment, and foreclosure defense.

**MAY 2018 – JULY 2018**

## **LAW OFFICE OF FEFERMAN, WARREN, AND MATTISON (CONSUMER LAW)**

Drafted pleadings to file in civil proceedings for consumer issues: auto fraud, FDCPA violations, and TILA violations. Researched potential consumer issues and distilled analysis into internal memos to assist the licensed partners and their clients.

**MARCH 2014 – AUGUST 2015**

## **SECURITIES PROCESSING ANALYST – PRIME BROKERAGE CONTROL, CITIGROUP**

Achieved Series 7 licensure. Collaborated with equities and fixed income teams, lending, Derivative clearing, corporate actions, margin, treasury, and foreign exchange to provide timely trade settlement for world's top hedge funds. Created and analyzed internal reports based on client balances and trade activity. Wrote macros using VBA to improve and automate data analysis. Adjusted clients' strategic positions and processed account fees. Performed bank reconciliations and journal entries. Volunteered as a personal finance teacher at Brandon High School with Junior Achievement Finance program.

**MAY 2013 – AUGUST 2013**

## **CREDIT MANAGER, CORE-MARK INTERNATIONAL, INC**

Managed Accounts Receivable Department for Core-Mark, a wholesale distributor for gas station convenience stores, with one direct report. Created new client accounts.

**JANUARY 2011 – DECEMBER 2012**

## **PROFESSIONAL POKER PLAYER, CIRCUS POKER**

Managed cash account, revenue, expenses, and made a living from poker sufficient to pay for business school. Statistical analyses included variance, expected return, equity valuations, and exploitation of game-theory-optimal imbalances in opponents' tactics. Employed critical thinking and decision-making in high stakes situations. Talked to people from all walks of life and comported self gracefully in victory or defeat.

# COLLIN GILLESPIE

Albuquerque, NM

## EDUCATION

MAY 2020

**JURIS DOCTOR**, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW

- Winograd Scholarship
- Merit Scholarship
- Honor Roll All Semesters
- GPA 3.32

MAY 2013

**MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

- Black Trust Scholarship
- Graduated with Honors
- GPA 4.05

MAY 2009

**BA, LANGUAGES; MINOR IN ECONOMICS**, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

- 5 Consecutive Dean's Lists
- Lottery Scholarship Recipient
- GPA 3.65

## SKILLS

- Financial Analysis
- Legal Research and Analysis
- Mediating difficult conversations
- Crafting Arguments and Drafting
- Limited coding proficiency in HTML and Visual Basic
- Game Theory vs Exploitative Strategies
- Utility Regulation
- Legislative Experience
- Accounting
- Proficient in Spanish, Portuguese, and Conversant in Mandarin Chinese

## ACTIVITIES

- Volunteer work with the Storehouse, a local food bank on Broadway and University
- Volunteered with Covid Vaccination Drives
- Reading and learning the Dharma
- Golf (I employ cognitive dissonance or compartmentalization)
- Walking with and enjoying the company of my three dogs
- Learning and practicing languages
- Reading about Futurology, Transhumanism, and Emerging Tech

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- New Mexico State Bar, 2020—active
- FINRA Series 7—inactive