

Regulating Utilities for the Future: *Innovation in Practice*

December 1st -2nd, 2025 NM State Capitol Room 307

Speaker Bios

Commissioner Greg Nibert, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Greg Nibert received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico in 1980 and received a Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from Pepperdine University in 1983. He was Editor in Chief of the Pepperdine Law Review for 1982–83. Currently he is a Commissioner on the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. He was a partner in one of the oldest law firms in New Mexico, Hinkle Shanor LLP, having worked there from 1983 to 2024. He is listed in several legal rating firms and was recognized as one of the top ten energy lawyers in New Mexico. Greg was a frequent speaker and author of papers on oil and gas law topics. Greg is a past President of the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico and has been active in the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association.

Prior to serving on the PRC, Greg was elected to the New Mexico House of Representatives in 2016 and served House District 59 from 2017 until his appointment to serve in the New Mexico Senate in 2024. Greg was appointed to serve on the Energy Council, where he served on its executive board, the Uniform Law Commission, and graduated from the Legislative Energy Horizons Institute. He served two terms as a County Commissioner in Chaves County, New Mexico from 2006 to 2014.

Rob Black, Cabinet Secretary New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD)

Day 1- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Born, and raised in New Mexico, Rob Black brings over twenty-five years of experience and leadership in public policy, advocacy and economic development to his role as Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD). Prior to taking on his role at NMEDD Black was the President/CEO of the New Mexico Chamber of Commerce where he led the Chamber for over six years. While at the Chamber he launched Be Pro Be Proud, a statewide career technical engagement program in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Workforce solutions. Black also launched the New Mexico Organized Retail Crime Association (NMORCA), to better coordinate between law enforcement and retailers on key public safety issues.

Prior to joining The Chamber, Black was Senior Director for Community Relations and managed the corporate foundation at Pacific Gas and Electric of California, one of the largest combined gas and electric utility companies in the country.

Black holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of New Mexico and a juris doctorate from the University of California, College of the Law, San Francisco.



Senator Michael Padilla is a member of the New Mexico State Senate. Senator Padilla has represented District 14 since being elected in 2012. Senator Padilla was elected to the Senate Leadership Team in his second year in office, as the Senate Majority Whip, a position he has been elected to three times. Padilla serves on ten legislative committees, including as chairman of the New Mexico Finance Authority, and was the chairman of the Science, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee ten years, and is the only member of the Senate Finance Committee from Central New Mexico.

Padilla's primary focus as a legislator is to eliminate widespread poverty that affects most of his state.

Bringing a positive and high energy approach to his role as a state senator, Padilla was the first senator to move a bill through the legislature in his first, second, and fifth years as a senator. Padilla has successfully passed multiple pieces of legislation to improve job creation and economic development, early childhood education, access to high-speed broadband Internet, child food insecurity, child protective services, and education reform and funding. Padilla was the 2017 sponsor of the first in the nation landmark legislation called the Hunger Free Students' Bill of Rights, receiving positive attention across the globe, and which has now been introduced in 37 state legislatures and the United States Congress. He believes that taking a child's focus off their stomach and placing it on their studies will help close the achievement gap and improve the child's social and emotional development for the rest of their lives. In 2023, Padilla sponsored and passed legislation that ensured universal free breakfast and lunch for all New Mexico public school children. And changed the name of the 2017 legislation to add the word healthy, added 30% additional funding for all meals, and the creation of relationships with local New Mexico farmers and ranchers. Padilla worked for nine years to improve early childhood education across New Mexico and in 2019 was successful in creating the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department, a cabinet level agency focused on all birth to five services across state government and making his state a pioneer in providing high quality early education and care services birth to age five, which he believes will improve graduation rates and provide a world class workforce.

Padilla has brought attention to the child protective services crisis in New Mexico since he became a state senator, by successfully enacting legislation to dramatically expand the number of high quality foster homes available to children in protective services, and to extend optional fostering to the age of twenty-one, providing a ramp into adulthood for vulnerable young adults transitioning out of foster care at age 18, and into adulthood. Padilla has been able to reform many information technology, high speed broadband Internet, cybersecurity, and new technology services provided by state government. In doing so, he has worked to bring job creation and economic development, telemedicine, and distance learning opportunities to some of the most rural parts of New Mexico. He successfully reformed the New Mexico Local Infrastructure Act to include broadband Internet, reformed the New Mexico Universal Service Fund to focus state dollars on new technologies, modernized the New Mexico Telecommunications Act, which had not been updated since before the Internet was widely utilized, and has made New Mexico an attractive state for technology investment funding. In 2021 he brought a bi-partisan group of legislators together from both legislative chambers to create the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, which has six primary functions and will help New Mexico be a leader in the delivery of high speed broadband. And, in 2023, he sponsored legislation that created the Office of Cybersecurity to bring consistency across state government in how any other agency of government performs transactions with state government.

Padilla is from Los Padillas, a rural farming community that his family helped settle over 160 years ago and is located inside of the district he represents. Padilla has always been involved in the Democratic Party of New Mexico, serving as a precinct chairman, ward chairman, county central committee member and state central committee member. He has also served on numerous boards and commissions prior to becoming a senator, including Youth Development Incorporated, Special Olympics New Mexico, Junior Achievement of New Mexico, Association of Commerce and Industry of New Mexico, the New Mexico State Workforce Development Board, and several others. Padilla founded Altivus CRM Solutions, a contact center and consulting firm, in 2000, and grew the company organically to a peak of 3,600 full-time employees. The company specializes in building contact centers and providing operational consulting services affecting people, process, and technology. Padilla still serves as Chairman and CEO of the company. Padilla is the youngest of five children. His parents were unable to raise him and his siblings, so they grew up in foster homes across New Mexico, the All Faiths Receiving Home for Homeless Children, and with various family members. Padilla started working when he was eleven years old and is proud of the way he was raised. Padilla has twin sons, Aaron and Zachary, both of whom have earned master's degrees in social sciences. Padilla has always attributed his sons' successes to a focus on early childhood education and hard work.

Monique Jacobsen, Senior Vice President of Corporate Services
TXNM Energy

Day 1– 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Monique Jacobson is the Senior Vice President of Corporate Services for TXNM Energy, the parent company of PNM and TNMP, where she oversees the separate business units of human resources, information technology and customer experience, which houses PNM's economic development team. With 25 years of experience spanning both public and private sectors, Monique brings a unique perspective to the intersection of energy and economic development in New Mexico.

A native of Taos, Monique graduated with honors from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. She began her career at PepsiCo, where she led innovation for Gatorade and was the General Manager for the \$1.8B Quaker breakfast portfolio. After 11 years at PepsiCo she moved back home to New Mexico to serve as the Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Tourism Department and subsequently the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD).

Now at TXNM Energy, Monique is passionate about leveraging the power of electricity to elevate New Mexico's economy. She recognizes that reliable, affordable energy is foundational to attracting industry, supporting families and building a brighter future for the state. Under her leadership, TXNM Energy is committed to fostering innovation, expanding opportunity and ensuring that energy remains a driving force for economic development in New Mexico.

Erin Lecocq, Appellate Specialist
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Erin Lecocq is the Appellate Specialist at the NMPRC, where she represents the agency in complex regulatory matters before the New Mexico Supreme Court. She has briefed and argued numerous cases regarding the PRC's work, helping to shape the state's regulatory landscape during a period of significant transition. Prior to joining the Commission, Erin served as an Assistant Attorney General, representing state agencies in appellate and trial courts, including the Ninth and Tenth Circuits. She is passionate about advancing sound regulatory policy through clear, effective advocacy.

Dan Driscoll, Partner Director of Software Engineering
Microsoft

Day 1– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Dan Driscoll is a Partner Director of Software Engineering at Microsoft, where he leads development of artificial intelligence solutions within the Dynamics enterprise software suite. A pioneer in conversational AI, Dan co-founded Microsoft Bot Framework and Azure Bot Service, and has spent the past decade advancing the field. He holds 11 patents and contributes both as a business leader and a hands-on engineer, with active involvement in open-source and private technology projects. Beyond engineering, Dan has a longstanding interest in the intersection of law and technology. He previously served as a director at Washington Lawyers for the Arts, where he supported collaboration between artists and lawyers in the Seattle area. In his free time, Dan enjoys flying, drinking coffee, and spending time with his wife and toddler.

Brian Moore, Litigator
Nachawati Law Group

Day 1– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Brian (B-Mo) Moore is a litigator at Nachawati Law Group based in New Mexico. As part of the firm's Public Entity Litigation division, Brian represents state and local governments around the country in affirmative litigation in the areas of consumer protection, public nuisance, false claims and fraud against taxpayers, data privacy, and antitrust.

Brian served on the New Mexico Supreme Court Rules of Professional Conduct Committee from 2016 through 2022. In his private life Brian enjoys landscape and portrait photography, skiing, and exploring the great outdoors of the American Southwest with his family.

**McLee Kerolle, Technical Advisor to Commissioner O'Connell
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission**

Day 1– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

McLee Kerolle serves as Technical Advisor to Commissioner Pat O'Connell at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, where he's been providing legal and policy guidance on the regulation of public utilities statewide since 2023. Recently in this role, he has organized the Commission's statewide Wildfire Mitigation Workshop Series and represented the PRC in the Senate Memorial 2 Wildfire Study Group. Before joining the PRC, he served as a legislative analyst for the New Mexico State Senate's Rules Committee, supporting the 56th Legislature through bill analysis, research, and drafting.

McLee also serves as the PRC designee to the New Mexico Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission, promoting equity and civic engagement initiatives across the state. His career blends legal expertise and public service, drawing on experience in both New Mexico energy policy and international space law. He holds a Juris Doctor from CUNY School of Law and a Master's in Advanced Air and Space Law from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

**Rebecca Puck Stair, Director
Energy Conservation and Division**

Day 1– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

As the Director of the Energy Conservation and Division, Rebecca "Puck" Stair oversees dozens of grant, loan, and other funds and programs to advance New Mexico's transition to a renewable future. She came to EMNRD after nearly two decades in the New Mexico film industry, where she worked as a producer and location manager on numerous films, television shows, commercials and other media projects, including podcasts and conferences for the Franciscan monk Father Richard Rohr. For two years, Stair served as president of the local film crew union. In 2020, she ran for State Senate, and subsequently served as a policy analyst for our House Consumer & Public Affairs Committee. Stair graduated Cum Laude from Amherst College with a BA in English Literature, and did some graduate study in Linguistics at Georgetown University.

On all the projects she has spearheaded, she loves building great teams and championing clean-energy practices. When not working, she rides horses, skis, races triathlons, and other questionable activities that require helmets.

**Jim DesJardins , Executive Director
Renewable Energy Industries Association of New Mexico
(REIA-NM)**

Day 1– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Jim was born and raised in Chicago and earned a B.S. in Marketing from the University of Illinois at Chicago. His professional career has included positions in the desktop computer industry, telecommunications, real estate and at a U.S. Embassy for the Department of State. Since 2008, he has resided in Albuquerque, NM working in a variety of positions in the solar industry. He is currently the Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Industries Association of New Mexico (REIA-NM) and in this capacity, he has worked on various initiatives at the NM state legislature and NM Public Regulation Commission. When he is not working, he enjoys running, cycling and hiking.

**Jeremiah Cunningham , Director of Regulatory and Strategic Analysis
Southwestern Public Service Company**

Day 1– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Cunningham is the Director of Regulatory and Strategic Analysis for Southwestern Public Service Company, based in Xcel Energy SPS's Amarillo, Texas headquarters. Mr. Cunningham has over 12 years of experience in utility regulatory strategy and project management. Mr. Cunningham is responsible for leading teams that are responsible for the development, filing, and processing of rate cases and other regulatory filings for SPS. Additionally, Mr. Cunningham has extensive experience with the development of policy issues, engaging with stakeholders, and with advocacy for utility Commission approval of utility initiatives and projects

**Chair Gabriel Aguilera, Chair/Commissioner
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission**

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Commissioner Gabriel Aguilera joined the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission in January 2023, following over 15 years of experience at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Commissioner Aguilera joined the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission in July 2025. Commissioner Aguilera's expertise focuses on electric transmission, interconnection, and Western U.S. electric issues.

**Representative Kristina Orteiz, New Mexico House District 42
New Mexico State Representatives**

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Kristina Orteiz is a dedicated public servant, nonprofit leader and advocate for rural and working families in Northern New Mexico. Representative Orteiz brings deep experience in land stewardship, education and community development to her legislative work.

Representative Orteiz is currently serving her third term representing House District 42, which includes Taos County and surrounding communities. In the Legislature, she has been a strong voice on issues of water security, public education, environmental protection and rural economic resilience.

Prior to public office, Representative Orteiz served as Executive Director of the Taos Land Trust and was a founding board member of the Taos Housing Partnership. She currently serves as co-chair of the Education & Workforce Development Committee for The Council of State Governments West and continues to champion policies that uplift working families and honor the cultural and ecological heritage of New Mexico. She holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Mexico and earned her bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

**Kelly Tomblin, President and Chief Executive Officer
El Paso Electric Company**

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Ms. Kelly Tomblin brings over 30 years of extensive experience in the energy industry, having worked across the U.S., the Caribbean, the United Kingdom, and Latin America. Her expertise lies in operational improvement and public image enhancement, and she has played a pivotal role in positioning utilities and related industries as leaders in the energy sector by developing innovative visions and strategic directions essential for their success. Ms. Tomblin was honored as an S&P Platts Global CEO of the Year.

Currently, Ms. Tomblin serves as the President, CEO, and Board Member of El Paso Electric Company. During her tenure, she has spearheaded several key initiatives, including the development of a newly envisioned strategic plan, the implementation of smart metering and automated system technology, and the deployment of electric vehicle infrastructure. Under her leadership, El Paso Electric Company has significantly expanded its renewable energy portfolio.

Prior to joining El Paso Electric Company, Ms. Tomblin served as President, CEO, and Board Member of both INTREN (MASTEC) and Jamaica Public Service, the utility that serves Jamaica West Indies. While in Jamaica, she also served on the Caribbean Utilities Board. As Regional Vice President of International Power/Engie, she led business development activities that resulted in significant growth and market expansion. Before her tenure at ENGIE, she served as President of Pennsylvania Electric Company, a subsidiary of First Energy Corporation. Ms. Tomblin began her career in the energy sector as an attorney at K&L Gates.

Ms. Tomblin is a board member of El Paso Electric Company; WestStar Bank; the El Paso Chamber of Commerce; El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank; El Paso Downtown Management District; The Hospitals of Providence Governing Board; Edison Electric Institute; and is Vice Chair of The Borderplex Alliance. She is also a member of the Advisory Council for Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness; the Texas Tech President's Development Council; Children at Risk Advisory Board, Make-A-Wish Foundation Advisory Board, and the Executive Forum.

Ms. Tomblin holds an MBA from New York University's Leonard Stern School of Business and a Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Science in Journalism with a public relations concentration from West Virginia University.

**Jeff Dennis, Executive Director
Electricity Customer Alliance (ECA)**

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Jeff Dennis is the Executive Director of the Electricity Customer Alliance (ECA), a growing coalition of diverse energy consumers—spanning technology, commercial, industrial, and residential sectors—committed to advancing customer-centric solutions that modernize the grid, keep electricity affordable and reliable, and support economic growth. He is also Senior Counsel at the Washington, D.C. policy consulting firm CO2EFFICIENT, where he advises clients on navigating federal and state policy and regulatory frameworks, wholesale market structures, and strategies to accelerate transmission planning, permitting, and development.

Jeff is a nationally recognized expert in energy and climate policy and law, with over two decades of experience across both government and private sector leadership. He held key roles at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)—including Director of Policy Development, Legal Advisor to a Commissioner, and Appellate Attorney—where he helped craft landmark orders and rulemakings that modernized wholesale electricity markets, enhanced regional transmission planning and cost allocation, and tackled emerging reliability challenges; he also litigated numerous cases in federal courts. At the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), he served as the first Deputy Director for Transmission in the Grid Deployment Office, spearheading all transmission deployment initiatives, advancing public-private partnerships that mobilized over \$8 billion in private investment, and streamlining federal permitting for new transmission projects.

Earlier in his career, Jeff was General Counsel and Managing Director at Advanced Energy Economy (now Advanced Energy United), where he co-founded and led the organization's wholesale markets education and advocacy efforts and frequently testified before Congress, FERC, state legislatures, and public utility commissions. He has a J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law and a B.A. from Marymount University (Arlington, VA).

**Michele Beck, Director
Utah Office of Consumer Services**

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Michele Beck is the Director of the Utah Office of Consumer Services. Serving as Utah's utility consumer advocate since 2007, she represents and advocates on behalf of Utah's residential and small commercial consumers of public utilities. In addition to state utility regulatory work, Ms. Beck focus includes regional energy markets and electric reliability issues. Ms. Beck's other current professional responsibilities include: Executive Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA), Smart Energy Power Alliance Research (SEPA) Advisory Council, Critical Consumer Issues Forum Advisory Committee, consumer advocate sector representative on the Formation and Launch Committee of the West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative, and end-use representative on the Member Advisory Committee of WECC. Prior to her work in Utah, Ms. Beck worked for over a decade in various positions in the electric industry in the Midwest.

Commissioner Pat O'Connell
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1– 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. &
Day 2– 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Patrick O'Connell is serving a six year appointment to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, his term began on January 1, 2023. In addition to being one of the three Commissioners for New Mexico, Patrick is President of SPP's Regional State Committee and has served as chair of the Commission, sat on WECC's Member Advisory Committee, the FERC–NARUC Current Issues Collaborative, and as Vice Chair of NARUC's Energy Resources and the Environment Committee. Prior to joining the NMPRC, Patrick worked for Western Resource Advocates, providing leadership to the Clean Energy Team. Before joining Western Resource Advocates, Patrick was a long-tenured employee at the Public Service Company of New Mexico, where he directed PNM's Integrated Resource Planning team, and led natural gas procurement planning efforts for New Mexico Gas Company. Patrick is a registered Professional Civil Engineer, graduated from the University of New Mexico and lives in Albuquerque.

Sonia Aggarwal, Chief Executive Officer
Energy Innovation

Day 1– 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sonia Aggarwal is the Chief Executive Officer of Energy Innovation, where she leads the organization and works closely with partners and policymakers on effective climate and clean energy policies across North America, Asia, and Europe.

Prior to this role, Sonia served as Special Assistant to the President for Climate Policy, Innovation, and Deployment in the Biden administration, where she helped to develop the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and to set the nation's high-level climate targets including the commitment to cut economy-wide greenhouse gases by 50–52 percent below 2005 levels in 2030. Sonia also co-chaired the Biden administration's Climate Innovation Working Group and focused federal initiatives to reinvigorate clean energy manufacturing across the country.

Sonia was a founding director of Energy Innovation, building Energy Innovation's policy research, modeling, and analysis teams over eight years until she was appointed to serve in the Biden administration. Sonia has deep experience in energy modeling, analysis, and policy design in many of the world's largest-emitting countries and regions. She spearheaded creation of [America's Power Plan](#), a platform to identify innovative thinking on decarbonization policy solutions for affordable, reliable electric power.

Before Energy Innovation, Sonia managed global research at ClimateWorks Foundation, worked on the McKinsey carbon abatement cost curves, advised the International Energy Agency's "Accelerating Technology Transitions" project, advised clean energy companies on technology and financial communications, and worked in accident prevention design engineering at a nuclear power plant. In 2019, she received the U.S. Department of Energy's [Clean Energy Education and Empowerment Award](#).

Sonia holds a B.S. from Haverford College in astronomy and physics, and an M.S. from Stanford University in engineering, focused on energy.

Sarah Freeman, Principal Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)

Day 1– 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sarah Freeman brings over 25 years' experience in utility law and policy to her dual roles with the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP). Sarah joined RAP in 2025 as Principal and member of the Council of Commissioners following nine years of service at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, where she regulated electric, gas, water and wastewater utilities.

As Commissioner, Sarah held leadership roles with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and the Organization of MISO States. She expanded educational and engagement opportunities for commissioners, commission staff and external stakeholders at state, regional and federal levels. She served on various boards and advisory councils with organizations that advance education and energy thought leadership, including the Mid-America Regulatory Conference, the National Council on Electricity Policy, Electric Power Research Institute, and Financial Research Institute of the University of Missouri. She also served on the board of directors for the Universal Service Administrative Company advancing universal broadband access.

Before her appointment to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Sarah served the people of the Hoosier State in roles across all three branches of government. She started her legal career as a clerk to the Honorable Frank Sullivan of the Indiana Supreme Court and then represented the state of Indiana as a deputy attorney general in proceedings before state and federal trial and appellate courts. From 2000 to 2016, Sarah provided legal counsel to and drafted legislation for the 150 members of the Indiana General Assembly, focusing on utility and transportation law.

Sarah holds multiple degrees from Indiana University – Bloomington, where she was a member of the inaugural class of Herman B Wells Scholars. Her degrees include bachelor's degrees in French, psychology and political science from Indiana University and a juris doctorate from the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University.

Cholla Khoury, Chief of Staff New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. &
Day 2– 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Since 2023 Cholla has served as Chief of Staff at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission where she has been a leading force for modernization, professionalization and change in New Mexico's utility regulatory agency. Cholla began serving New Mexico in 2010 when she joined the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General, where she zealously advocated New Mexico and New Mexicans. During her time there, among other roles, she also served as New Mexico's Utility Consumer Advocate, she led a team of attorneys and experts representing small businesses and consumer interests before the Public Regulation Commission. Cholla's legal experience spans every level of the state and federal judicial system, including environmental protection and natural resources litigation and original action litigation before the Supreme Court of the United States.

A proud graduate of Moriarty High School in Moriarty, NM, she earned her JD from Drake Law School in Des Moines, IA. When not working to make New Mexico a better place to live, work, and raise a family, Cholla enjoys playing sports like soccer and golf and appreciates New Mexico's pristine outdoors through activities like fishing and camping.

Daren Zigich, Lead Engineer New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Daren is currently a Lead Engineer at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.

Daren is a licensed professional engineer and has more than 35 years of professional work experience in both the public and private sector.

Daren holds a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics Degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Mechanical Engineering Degree from New Mexico State University.

**Keri Hatley, Co-Chair
New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA) PRC
Committee and Electric Utility and Transmission Work
Group**

Day 2– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Keri Hatley co-chairs the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA) PRC Committee and Electric Utility and Transmission Work Group. She is a New Mexico-based attorney with a focus on electricity, water, and regulatory legal matters in the Permian. She is a voting member on Southwest Power Pool's Markets and Operations Policy Committee. Keri has a wide breadth of experience spanning federal and state government, as well as private litigation and in-house counsel roles. She worked in the Office of General Counsel for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Washington D.C. before transitioning to private water rights litigation in Denver, CO where, among other matters, she worked on the TX v. NM United States Supreme Court litigation as counsel for New Mexico. She has been in-house working oil and gas matters for the last twelve years, with a focus on electricity, water rights, and produced water in the San Juan, Permian, and Piceance Basins. A New Mexico native originally from Aztec, New Mexico, Keri obtained her law degree from the University of New Mexico and an LL.M. and M.B.A. certificate from the Insituto de Empresa in Madrid, Spain.

**Jennifer Bradfute, Founding Partner
Bradfute Sayer, P.C.**

Day 2– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Jennifer has experience working with regulators on policies related to energy development and water reuse. Jennifer is the Founding Partner at Bradfute Sayer, P.C. Jennifer has worked as an in-house attorney for Marathon Oil Company serving as a general counsel for the company's New Mexico and North Dakota operations. In 2019, Jennifer spearheaded industry efforts to draft, negotiate, and successfully pass the New Mexico Produced Water Act—landmark legislation that secured bipartisan support and triggered substantial infrastructure investment in the state. In 2022, Jennifer represented the oil and gas industry on New Mexico's Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force, a group convened to review the state's 50-year water plan. In 2025, Jennifer drafted and negotiated microgrid legislation that was passed into law and she also successfully drafted and lobbied for the Well Repurposing Act which allows for the retooling of older oil and gas wells into energy storage infrastructure.

Jennifer earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.), cum laude, from George Mason University School of Law, where she also serviced as the Managing Editor of the Journal of Law, Economics & Policy. Additionally, she holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.A.), magna cum laude, from Eastern New Mexico University, where she also served as the Student Body President.

**Jake Brown, Assistant General Counsel
Xcel Energy**

Day 2– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Jake serves as Assistant General Counsel at Xcel Energy in the State Regulatory practice group. He is licensed to practice law in Texas, New Mexico, and Hawaii and has represented clients before regulatory bodies in each jurisdiction. In his current role, he advises Southwestern Public Service Company on regulatory issues in Texas and New Mexico, including matters before both states' public utility commissions. Jake's work at Xcel includes a focus on issues surrounding large load growth and development in SPS's service territory and across Xcel's operations.

Christopher Dunn, Economist
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2- 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Christopher Dunn is an Economist in the Utility Division of NMPRC advocacy Staff. Christopher graduated from New Mexico State University and received specialized regulatory training at the Center for Public Utilities at NMSU while finishing his Masters' degree in economics, obtaining a concentration in Public Utility Regulation as well as a minor and graduate certificate in Finance. He has worked in the NMPRC's Utility Division for five years and brings prior experience from economic development, startup consulting, and policy analysis to his work with the agency. Christopher has a passion for deep thinking, long-distance running, and sharing conversations with friends and colleagues. Christopher's work with the NMPRC has spanned across numerous different areas including serving as an expert witness on topics such as rate of return, community solar, renewable energy, energy efficiency, time variable rates, and other subjects.

Jake Van Reen, Owner
Van Reen Accounting

Day 2- 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Jake has more than 17 years of accounting experience focused on the utility industry and was a former Senior Manager in Earnst and Young's Assurance practice. Prior to Ernst & Young, Jake was a Senior Associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers in their audit practice. Jake has assisted numerous utilities and regulators in rate case proceedings, regulatory investigations or inquiries, whistleblower investigations, program cost recovery proceedings, disputes, and litigations. He has testified and/or submitted reports in California, Arizona, Illinois, West Virginia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and North Carolina. Jake is a Certified Public Accountant.

James A. Schichtl, Vice President
Customer and Regulatory Solutions

Day 2- 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

As Vice President of Customer & Regulatory Solutions, James (Jim) Schichtl is responsible for the oversight and direction of EPE's Economic Research, Rate Research, and Regulatory Case Management groups. He also directs and has responsibility for leading the Customer Care and Meter and Field Services groups. Previously, he acted as Vice President of Regulatory Operations and Resource Planning for El Paso Electric. Jim began his career with EPE in 1992 as a Rate Design Analyst and spent 18 years with Southern California Edison Company in a variety of regulatory functions before returning to EPE in 2012. Over his career, Jim has attended and presented material for numerous seminars and workshops related to cost of service, rate and program design, and regulation. He represents EPE on the Board of Directors of the Association of Electric Companies of Texas and is a long-time member of the EEI Rates and Regulatory Committee.

Judith Amer, Legal Division Attorney
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Judith Amer has been employed as an attorney by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission since 2014 in a variety of capacities, including, the Office of General Counsel, Advisor to Commissioner James F. Ellison, and currently as an Attorney, Legal Division, for Utility Division Staff. During this time, Ms. Amer provided legal advice to Commission and Staff regarding rate cases involving public electric utilities; drafted Briefs and Commission Orders pertaining to electric utility rate cases, applications for certificates of convenience and necessity, renewable energy portfolio standards applications, community solar and rulemaking proceedings. In addition, Ms. Amer has appeared before the New Mexico Supreme Court to defend Commission decisions as well as before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, federal district court in the District of New Mexico and appeals to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to working for the NMPRC, Ms. Amer, at the New Mexico Department of Finance (DFA), was General Counsel (from 2006 to November 2010) and Assistant General Counsel (from 1996 to 2006). At DFA, Ms. Amer provided legal advice to the Cabinet Secretary and Office of the Governor in all areas of finance, including budget, retirement and tax, drafted agency regulations and negotiated settlements between a variety of stakeholders and appeared before the Legislative Finance Committee. From 1991–1996, Ms. Amer was Assistant General Counsel, for the New Mexico Environment Department, where she provided legal advice to agency divisions including groundwater, air, hazardous waste and solid waste.

Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director
New Energy Economy

Day 2– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Mariel is the Executive Director and President of New Energy Economy. Mariel is New Energy Economy's chief strategist – she develops NEE's campaigns and leads its legal interventions before administrative agencies, including the NM Public Regulation Commission, Water Quality Control Commission, Oil Conservation Commission and NM Supreme Court. A civil rights and criminal defense attorney, she has been practicing in New Mexico for 24 years, and for ten years before that in Chicago, Illinois. Legal cases she has won and settled have been featured in the major media, including the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Albuquerque Journal, Santa Fe New Mexican, and on many television stations, including a documentary, "End of the Nightstick," on PBS. When Mariel realized the urgency of climate change, she came to work for New Energy Economy as the senior policy advisor. Two years later, she was asked to serve as executive director. Mariel led the political and legal strategy to reject the \$180 million Liquified Natural Gas plant proposed by the NM Gas Company in Rio Rancho. She also led the opposition to the Avangrid/Iberdrola/PNM \$8 billion merger and won. In May of this year, she was victorious against the Governor's dangerous proposal to reuse "treated" produced water (aka fracking waste) and dispose of it onto New Mexico land – and ushered in one of the most protective and scientifically stringent regulations banning the discharge and reuse of produced water, consistent with science and law. When a new proxy oil and gas reconstituted themselves under a new name and filed a new petition two months later, she, with her colleagues, defeated this proposal too, after it was revealed that it was fraught with undue influence, bias and predetermination. Mariel has spoken at many conferences and was recently awarded the Corporate Accountability and Energy Justice Champion by the Institute for Local Self Reliance.

Jocelyn Barrett, Hearing Examiner
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Jocelyn Barrett serves as a hearing examiner with the PRC. Before joining the PRC, Jocelyn worked as a consumer advocate with the New Mexico Department of Justice and before that had a career in private practice that included regulatory work, litigation and civil rights. Over the course of her career, Jocelyn has worked across a broad range of regulatory matters, advising and engaging with stakeholders throughout New Mexico’s diverse communities and industries. Jocelyn is a longstanding advocate for the advancement of diversity within the legal profession and recognizes the critical role that varied backgrounds and perspectives play in strengthening regulatory decision-making.

Laurie Williams, Senior Vice President
Integrated Planning and Transmission Development

Day 2– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Laurie Williams is the Senior Vice President of Integrated Planning and Transmission Development. Laurie has been with PNM since 1992. She has held various roles, including Vice President of Integrated Planning, Director of Transmission and Substation Engineering and Director of NERC Reliability Governance. Laurie has extensive experience in generation and transmission planning, root cause analysis, and compliance program management. She is also actively involved in professional organizations such as the Western Interconnection Compliance Forum and the North American Transmission Forum. She has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from New Mexico State University and an MBA from the University of New Mexico.

Edison Jimenez, Public Utilities Economist
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Edison Jimenez is a Public Utilities Economist in the Utility Division of the NMPRC. Edison has been with the NMPRC since 2023 working in Transportation Electrification Plans (TEP), Energy Efficiency (EE) programs, Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) plans and Base Rate cases. He has also experience as Financial Advisor and Project Analyst in Colombia, and as Research Assistant at the Universitat de Barcelona in Spain and at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California in Mexico in the areas of Econometrics, Development Economics and Industrial Development. He has been published in Economics Journals and act as a jury for economics scientific articles in peer reviewed journals in Mexico and Colombia. He holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from the Universidad del Tolima in Colombia, and a Master of Science in Economics and a PhD in Economics from the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California in Mexico.

Joseph Sanchez, CEO
Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative

Day 2– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Joseph Sanchez is the General Manager and CEO at Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative (JMEC). Mr. Sanchez has over 25 years in the energy and construction industry. Prior to working at JMEC, Mr. Sanchez was the Electric Utility Engineering Manager at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Mexico, and his MBA from New Mexico State University. Mr. Sanchez is also a licensed professional engineer in New Mexico.

**Ranime Oueis, Legal Division Attorney
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission**

Day 2– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Ranime is an attorney with the NMPRC Legal Division. She is bilingual, with English being her second language. She grew up in New Mexico and obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and later a Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico. Prior to joining the Commission, she spent nearly six years doing civil litigation defense work that required advocating for individuals from a wide range of backgrounds in areas of personal injury, workers' compensation, medical malpractice, and construction defects. In March 2025, Ranime transitioned into utility law work for the Public Regulation Commission, where she serves as legal counsel for Commission Staff in support of fair, transparent, and accessible regulatory processes.

**Gideon Elliot, Legal Division Attorney
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission**

Day 2– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Gideon Elliot serves as a regulatory attorney in the Legal Division of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, a position he assumed in September 2025. Prior to this, he spent seven years with the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General, including four years as Utilities Bureau Chief, where he represented residential and small-business customers in proceedings before the Commission. Mr. Elliot holds a Juris Doctor and a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University; both conferred in 2012. Before returning to New Mexico, he was an Excelsior Service Fellow in New York state government, involved in implementing and coordinating policy priorities across state agencies. His practice focuses on utility regulation, consumer protection, and the development of effective regulatory policy.

**Agata Malek, Director of the Office of Technical Analysis
and Policy
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission**

Day 2– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Agata Malek is the Director of the Office of Technical Analysis and Policy at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and chair of Southwest Power Pool's Cost Allocation Working Group. Her focus is on regional markets, governance, and cost allocation and resource adequacy. Prior to joining the NMPRC, Agata was a Foreign Service Officer with the United States Department of State.

**Miguel Perez, Economic Advisor
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission**

Day 2– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Miguel Perez is an Economic Advisor in the Office of Technical Analysis and Policy at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. He focuses on rate design and regulatory policy and previously served as a Senior Economist at the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. Miguel holds an M.A. in Economics, with a concentration in Public Utility Policy and Regulation, from New Mexico State University.

**Claire Everett, Department of Energy Innovator Fellow
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission**

Day 2– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Claire is a DOE Energy Innovator Fellow at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. She recently completed her master's degree in international relations at Johns Hopkins University and received her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington in 2022. Since joining the NMPRC in August, Claire has participated in the grid modernization drafting team, provided support on the hydrogen case, and begun research on performance-based ratemaking.

Claire is originally from Central Texas, but has spent the past few years in Seattle, Spain, Italy, and Washington DC. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and pottery.

John Bogatko, Legal Division Director
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

John Bogatko is an attorney with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (“NMPRC”) Legal Division primarily engaged in representing the NMPRC Utility Division Staff (comprised of subject matter experts that include accountants, economists, and engineers) in utility proceedings before the NMPRC. Mr. Bogatko has been with the NMPRC for almost nine years and holds a BA in Antiquities (Missouri State University, 1996), a MA in Anthropology (The University of Tulsa, 2002), and a JD (The University of Tulsa College of Law, 2002).

Rebecca Roose, Senior Infrastructure Advisor
Office of the Governor

Day 2– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Rebecca Roose serves in the Office of the Governor as New Mexico’s Senior Infrastructure Advisor. In this role, Rebecca provides strategic leadership for federal and state infrastructure programs to support resilient communities across New Mexico. She led successful legislative proposals that established the New Mexico Match Fund in 2024 and the Strategic Water Supply in 2025. In her former role as Deputy Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Environment Department, Rebecca oversaw New Mexico environmental and public health initiatives across all NMED programs and served as the agency’s lead on infrastructure, tribal relations, and water policy. In 2022, Rebecca was one of four Executive Committee members providing leadership for the New Mexico Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force. Rebecca also served the state as NMED’s Water Protection Division Director for two years. Prior to joining state government in 2019, Rebecca led national environmental programs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over her 13-year federal career. Rebecca received her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law and her undergraduate degree in Geography from Valparaiso University.

Jennifer J. Horton, Executive Director
Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association

Day 2– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Ms. Horton currently serves as the Executive Director of the Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA), where she oversees the day-to-day operations of the organization, including management of a \$12 million annual budget and a team of 22 full-time employees.

Bringing a strong financial background to her role, Ms. Horton spent six years in the commercial banking industry prior to joining the Association. During that time, she held positions as a Credit Analyst, Marketing Director, Business Banker, and Branch Manager, gaining valuable experience in fiscal management, strategic planning, and customer service.

She is a proud graduate of New Mexico State University, holding both a Bachelor of Accountancy and a Bachelor of Business Administration, as well as a Master of Business Administration (MBA). In addition to her academic achievements, Ms. Horton holds a Level 4 Water Certification and a Level 4 Wastewater Certification from the State of New Mexico. She is also certified as a Chief Procurement Officer.

Under Ms. Horton’s leadership, the Association has secured approximately \$70 million in state and federal funding over the past 15 years. These funds have been instrumental in upgrading aging infrastructure and expanding regional water and wastewater services through strategic acquisitions and connections.

Beyond her responsibilities at the Association, Ms. Horton is an active leader in the broader water management community. She currently serves on the Board and Executive Committee as Past President of New Mexico Rural Water and sits on the board of the South Central Council of Governments, where she advocates for sustainable, community-focused water solutions across the region.

**Jeffery Wechsler, Partner
Spencer Fane LLP**

Day 2– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Jeff Wechsler concentrates his practice in the areas of water, environmental, natural resources, public utility regulation, and complex litigation. In the area of water law, Jeff has litigated cases and negotiated agreements involving surface and groundwater throughout the West. He regularly represents public and private clients in litigation before state and federal courts, in stream adjudication suits, and before the New Mexico State Engineer. Jeff has continuously represented states before the United States Supreme Court in interstate water litigation since 2002. He has argued before the United States Supreme Court on water issues and successfully represented the State of Montana in *Montana v. Wyoming*, No. 137 Original, the State of New Mexico in *Texas v. New Mexico*, No. 65 Original, and the State of Kansas in *Kansas v. Nebraska*, No. 126 Original and *Kansas v. Colorado*, No. 105 Original. He currently serves as lead counsel for the State of New Mexico in *Texas v. New Mexico*, No. 141 Original. Jeff has worked extensively with experts in the areas of groundwater and surface water hydrology, and regularly advises clients on the sale, lease, transfer, litigation, and permitting of water rights. Representative water clients include states, municipalities, ranchers, energy companies, developers, utilities, private industry, and farmers.

**John Kreienkamp, Legal Division Deputy Director
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission**

Day 2– 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

John Kreienkamp is the Deputy Director of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's Legal Division. Prior to joining the PRC, he served as General Counsel at the New Mexico Office of the State Treasurer and as an Assistant Attorney General with the Open Government Division of the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General, where he served as public records counsel and conducted statewide trainings on New Mexico's sunshine laws. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the State Bar of New Mexico's Public Law Section and has written several law review articles on the subject of public records laws. Mr. Kreienkamp holds a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis and an M.Sc. in International Politics from Trinity College Dublin.

**Kelly Gould, Partner
The Gould Law Firm**

Day 2– 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Kelly Gould Graduated UNM Law School in 2016. After law school she became a law clerk at the New Mexico Supreme Court for Justice Charles W. Daniels. Currently she is a partner at The Gould Law Firm. She is council for New Mexico Affordable Reliable Energy Alliance (NM AREA), a large customer group whose members take power in PNM's service territory. She represents the interests of NM AREA in proceedings at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.
