

Balancing the Grid: From Utility Lines to Budget Lines

November 2nd, 2026 NM State Capitol- Room 307

Agenda
Monday

Time
8:15 AM - 4:30 PM

Time	Title
8:15 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.	Coming Soon!
Potential Bonus Session: <i>PRC Update, New Legislation</i>	
Chair O’Connell, Commissioner, NMPRC Cholla Khoury, Chief of Staff, NMPRC John Kreienkamp, Section Chief, NMPRC Scott Cameron, Section Chief, NMPRC Miranda Mascarenas, CFO, NMPRC	
9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	As utilities increase capital spending to protect the grid from wildfires and extreme weather, consumers bear the prudently incurred costs of a resilient grid. Regulators, advocates, practitioners, and utilities must ensure resilience investments deliver measurable, cost-justified value rather than driving unchecked rate increases. This panel explores grid hardening from the consumer’s perspective. The panel will translate resilience modeling into economic impacts for customers, with a focus on affordability. Panelists will discuss how risk-spend efficiency and cost-benefit thresholds can assess whether proposed capital projects offer measurable safety benefits relative to their cost.
Evaluating the Cost of Grid Resilience (1G)	
Commissioner Aguilera, Moderator, NMPRC McLee Kerolle, Advisor, NMPRC Eliza Hotchkiss, Director, National Laboratory of the Rockies Johannes Pfeifenberger, Principal, Brattle Group	
10:00 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.	Break



10:15 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.

**The Right to Be Heard
and the Duty to
Decide: *The Role of
Public Comment in
Administrative
Adjudications* (1G)**

Cholla Khoury, Moderator, Chief of
Staff, NMPRC

Ray Gifford, Partner, WBK Law Firm
John Kreienkamp, Section Chief,
NMPRC

Camilla Feibleman, Director, Sierra
Club Rio Grande Chapter

- Public comment is an important mechanism for promoting transparency, accountability, and public participation in administrative decision-making. Yet, when agencies move from policymaking to adjudicating individual disputes, the role of public input becomes more complex, raising fundamental questions about procedural fairness, impartiality, and the obligations of administrative decision-makers.

This panel will explore the proper role of public comment in administrative adjudications, examining the tension between the public's interest in being heard and an agency's duty to decide cases fairly, independently, and on the basis of the relevant law and evidence. Panelists will consider the legal and ethical boundaries of public participation, the risks of external influence and prejudgment, and the procedural safeguards that can preserve both meaningful public engagement and the integrity of adjudicative processes. The discussion will also address how agencies can distinguish legitimate public accountability from pressure that may compromise impartial decision-making.

11:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.

**Navigating
Interconnection and
Procurement in the
Era of the Large Load
(1G)**

Chair O'Connell, Commissioner,
NMPRC

Laurie Williams, Senior Vice
President, PNM

Greg Patterson, Director, AZCPA

- FERC Large Loads

12:15 p.m.- 1:15 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1:15 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.

Energy Justice in Practice: Affordability, Assistance Programs, and Emerging Solutions (1 EIJ)

Alejandro Rettig y Martinez,
Moderator, Acting Director-OCC,
NMPRC

Jazmine Venegas, Regulatory and
Government Affairs Specialist, EPE

- This panel explores how energy justice principles can guide policies and programs that reduce energy burden for low-income New Mexicans. Speakers will discuss current challenges, successful customer assistance strategies, equitable rate design, and the role of emerging technologies in supporting vulnerable households.

2:15 p.m.- 3:15 p.m.

A Discussion of Emerging Issues with Small Water In New Mexico (1G)

John Kreienkamp, Moderator,
Section Chief, NMPRC

John Bogatko, Director-Legal,
NMPRC

Jonas Armstrong, Director, NMED

Thomas Loquvam, VP, General
Counsel, Epcor Utilities

- This panel will explore the challenges facing small water utilities in New Mexico, including infrastructure needs, financial sustainability, regulatory compliance, and maintaining reliable service. Panelists will discuss potential approaches to supporting small water systems and the communities they serve.

3:15 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

The Mindful Attorney: How to Be a More Effective Advocate Through the Practice of Mindfulness (1E)

Scott Cameron, Section Chief,
NMPRC

- This CLE will explore ways for professionals to use mindful practices that help them become more present, making them more effective advocates.

4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Balancing the Grid: From Utility Lines to Budget Lines

November 3rd, 2026 NM State Capitol- Room 307

Agenda Tuesday

Time

8.15 AM - 4:30 PM

Time

Title

8:15 a.m.- 8:45 a.m.

- Coming Soon!

**Potential Bonus
Session: Q&A with PRC
Hearing Examiners**

TBD, Hearing Examiner, NMPRC

9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.

- Coming Soon!

**Realigning Utility
Incentives to Meet
Modern Demands (1G)**

Joseph Yar, Partner, Velarde & Yar
Law Firm

Michael Barrio, Senior Principal,
Advanced Energy United

Kelly Tomblin, President and CEO,
EPE

Dr. Larry Blank, Professor &
Associate Director, Department of
Economics, NMSU,

10:00 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.

Break



10:15 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.

**Artificial Intelligence
in Regulatory Practice:
Opportunities,
Applications, and
Pitfalls (1G)**

Erin Lecocq, Appellate Counsel,
NMPRC

- Artificial intelligence is transforming the way professionals research, analyze information, draft documents, and solve complex problems. But what does that mean for the day-to-day work for regulatory attorneys?

This presentation explores the practical applications of generative AI in regulatory practice, with particular attention to the work of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. Participants will learn how AI tools can assist with reviewing complex regulatory filings, analyzing testimony and evidence, conducting research, drafting and editing documents, and organizing information.

Through practical examples and demonstrations, the presentation will explore effective prompting techniques, strategies for improving the quality and reliability of AI-generated responses, and ways to incorporate AI into existing workflows.

The presentation will also examine the risks and limitations of generative AI, including hallucinations, confidentiality concerns, embedded biases, and the need for independent verification. Emphasis will be placed on using AI responsibly and effectively while preserving the professional judgment, transparency, and accountability essential to regulatory attorneys.

11:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.

**New Mexico and
Regional Transmission
(1G)**

Commissioner Nibert, Moderator,
NMPRC

Kim O'Guinn, Senior Director,
Southwest Power Pool

Jake Brow, Assistant General
Counsel, Xcel Energy

Sarah Kozal, Senior Counsel,
California ISO

- Coming Soon!

12:15 p.m.- 1:15 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1:15 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.

Affordability: How to Strive Toward Affordability with the Needed Investments and Fighting Inflation (1G)

- This panel will examine the challenges of maintaining affordable utility rates while balancing the financial and operational needs of utility providers. Panelists will discuss regulatory considerations, rising costs, consumer impacts, and approaches to ensuring reliable utility service remains accessible and affordable for New Mexico residents.

John Bogatko, Director-Legal,
Moderator, NMPRC
Gideon Ellion, Attorney, NMPRC
Stephanie Dzur, Partner, Dzur Law
Kari Olson, Attorney, Spencerfane

2:15 p.m.- 3:15 p.m.

- Coming Soon!

Evidence in Administrative Adjudications (1G)

Joshua Kastenberg, Professor, UNM
School of Law

3:15 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

How Plain is Too Plain? *Communicating Technical Concepts to Non-Technical, Ethical and Practical Considerations (1E)*

- Increasing general understanding of utility specific information, especially regarding challenges facing the industry.

Cydney Beadles, Manager/Senior
Attorney, Western Resource Advocates
Nancy Burns, Deputy-General
Counsel, EPE
Jordan Gutierrez, Project Manager,
NMPRC

4:30 p.m.

Adjournment
