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. **Bonus Session: *PRC Update, New Legislation*** **Patrick O'Connell,** Commission Chair, NMPRC **Cholla Khoury,** Chief of Staff, NMPRC **John Kreienkamp**,Section Chief, NMPRC **Scott Cameron**, Section Chief, NMPRC **Miranda Mascarenas**, CFO, NMPRC	• A deeper look into the new PRC. Members of PRC leadership will discuss the new funding structure and updates to the agency after recent legislation for a better understanding of how the agency operates and how the these structural changes promote and support the Commission's work.
9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. **Evaluating the Cost of Grid Resilience (1G)** **Gabriel Aguilera,** Commissioner, Moderator, NMPRC **McLee Kerolle**, Advisor to Chairman Pat O'Connell, NMPRC **Eliza Hotchkiss,** Director of the Resilient Infrastructure and Security Center, National Laboratory of the Rockies **Wesley Gray**, VP of Engineering & Operations, PNM **Evan Rogers**, Economist, EMNRD	• 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.
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
Paul Suskie, Executive VP, SPP

- Just like Leon, loads are getting larger. The emergence of computational loads has the attention of federal and state regulators. We will explore the recent FERC show cause order on large loads and the large load registration requirements under development at NERC by discussing how utilities, regional transmission organizations and independent power see things changing.

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
Dr. Ann Lyn Hall, CEO, Prosperity Works,
Gabe Pacyniak, Professor of Law, UNM School of Law

- 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, Advisory 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. **Bonus Session: *Q&A with PRC Hearing Examiners*** **Jocelyn Barrett,** Chief Hearing Examiner, NMPRC	• We've heard that you have questions, and we want to give you the opportunity to get answers. This presentation will focus on the day to day work of the Office of Hearing Examiners and shed light on how the work gets done and some of the principles behind their recommendations. Questions from the community are welcome. Please submit questions to Gideon Elliot (gideon.elliot@prc.nm.gov) .
9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. **Has the Traditional Utility Model Met its Match? (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 of Economics Emeritus, NMSU	• Big new loads building their own power, private capital buying up utilities, and customers generating, storing and managing their own electricity: the century old utility bargain is under pressure from every direction. In an informal, no slides conversation, our panelists debate whether the traditional model can adapt, what has to change, and who carries the risk if it doesn't.
10:00 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.	**Break**

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

Evidence Refresher: The Basics of Presenting Your Case (1G)

Joshua Kastenberg, Professor, UNM School of Law

- Professor Kastenberg will provide a practical refresher on the fundamentals of evidence in proceedings before administrative tribunals. Topics will include expert testimony, authentication and admission of documentary evidence, hearsay, and other essential evidentiary principles for effectively presenting a case in an administrative proceeding.

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

New Mexico and Regional Transmission (1G)

Greg Nibert, Commissioner, Moderator, NMPRC
Kimberly O'Guinn, Senior Director, Southwest Power Pool
Kelsey Martinez, Director of Regional Markets, Lands & Transmission Strategy, PNM
Sarah Kozal, Senior Counsel, California ISO

- The need for transmission has increased in recent years. Driving this need is an awareness for greater system reliability, load growth, expected demand increases, and the transition to carbon free generation. New Mexico utilities' participation in regional transmission will be essential to connecting resources to load centers, strengthening grid reliability, accelerating the integration of clean energy resources, and improving import and export capabilities. This panel will dive into transmission from various perspectives and discuss the challenges of regional coordination, cost allocation, and balancing infrastructure investments with affordability

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)

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

- 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.

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

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

Erin Lecocq, Appellate Counsel, NMPRC
Eldon Vita, IT Director, 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.

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)*

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

- This session examines how technical utility information is communicated across different audiences and platforms, from public comments and press releases to social media posts and legal filings. Through practical scenarios, panelists will discuss attorney ethical obligations, including truthfulness, clarity, civility, and the risks of oversimplification when communicating complex regulatory matters to the public.

4:30 p.m. **Adjournment**