Balancing the Grid: From Utility Lines to Budget Lines

November 2nd, 2026 NM State Capitol- Room 307

Speaker Bios

Commission Chair, Patrick O'Connell, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1- 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Day 1- 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.



Chair Patrick O'Connell is serving a six-year appointment to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC), his term began on January 1, 2023 (term expires December 31, 2028). In addition to serving as one of New Mexico's three Commissioners, he sits on the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's ("NERC") Member Representative Committee, the Markets + State Committee (MSC), the Western Resource Adequacy Program's Committee of State Regulators (COSR), and is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Energy Resources and the Environment Committee.
Commissioner O'Connell has also previously, served as President of Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Regional State Committee, President of the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners, has participated in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)'s Member Advisory Committee, and represented the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners on the FERC-NARUC Current Issues Collaborative.

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 (PNM), 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, a graduate of the University of New Mexico and lives in Albuquerque.

Cholla Khoury, Chief of Staff New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1- 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Day 1- 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.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, leading 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.

John Kreienkamp, Chief of the Public Interest Advocacy Section, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1– 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Day 1– 10:15 a.m.– 11:15 a.m.
Day 1– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.



John Kreienkamp is the Chief of the Public Interest Advocacy Section at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. He also previously served as the Deputy Director of the Commission's Legal Division and as one of its hearing examiners. Prior to joining the PRC, he was General Counsel at the New Mexico Office of the State Treasurer and an Assistant Attorney General with the Open Government Division of the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General. He has a particular interest in public records laws, having written several law review articles on the subject, and received the William S. Dixon First Amendment Freedom Award by the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government in 2024. Mr. Kreienkamp holds a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, an M.Sc. in International Politics from Trinity College Dublin, and a Graduate Certificate in Public Utility Regulation and Economics from New Mexico State University.

Scott Cameron, Advisory Section Chief
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1– 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Day 1– 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Scott Cameron has been a Public Interest attorney since 2001. He grew up in upstate New York and moved to Albuquerque in 1993. In 1998, after a summer in Western North Carolina, he went to law school at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and upon graduating, returned to the Duke City in late 2000. While in law school, Scott was involved in many public interest issues and projects and won three national and local awards for his public service.
Over his 25-year career as a lawyer, Scott has continued his work on public interest issues, including advocating for public benefits, homeless civil rights, children in abuse and neglect cases, and consumer protections; leading an effort to reform the juvenile justice system; monitoring public charities; overseeing adult guardianship cases; and leading teams of public interest attorneys. He is currently the Section Chief for Advisory Services and former Chief General Counsel at the PRC.

In his free time Scott swims, bikes, runs, skis, rafts, plays guitar, and travels. He has been practicing mindfulness meditation for over 20 years, has been on several multi day meditation retreats, has been a TEDx speaker, has been trained to teach adult Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and children's mindfulness classes, and has taught mindfulness to kindergartners, high schoolers, parents, lawyers, and judges.

Miranda Mascarenas, Chief Financial Officer
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1– 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.



Miranda Mascarenas has over 17 years of experience in fiscal management, auditing, procurement, and regulatory oversight in New Mexico state government. As Chief Financial Officer and Administrative Services Division Director for the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, she leads financial operations and advances transparency, accountability, and operational excellence. Miranda was most recently a 2026, 40 Under 40 Top Business Leaders honoree of the Santa Fe Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Gabriel Aguilera, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Commissioner Aguilera grew up in Doña Ana County. He has nearly two decades of experience in regulatory, economic, and energy market matters, having served as a dedicated public servant at the federal and state levels of government. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics and Finance from New Mexico State University, as well as a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland Smith School of Business.

At the NMPRC, Commissioner Aguilera has prioritized affordable utility services and essential grid infrastructure to support New Mexico's energy mandates and economic objectives. He has championed competition, regional electricity markets, and a robust transmission grid. In Commission matters, he emphasizes affordability, reliability, and compliance with state energy policies. He also remains committed to proactive wildfire mitigation to protect New Mexico's communities.

Before joining the NMPRC, Commissioner Aguilera spent 15 years at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Washington, D.C., including serving as Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of Energy Market Regulation's Western Region. At FERC, he specialized in utility tariffs, transmission planning and pricing, generator interconnection rules, resource adequacy, and removing barriers to integrating renewable and energy storage resources into wholesale electric markets.

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

Day 1– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Mclee Kerolle serves as Technical Advisor to Chairman Pat O'Connell at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC), where he has provided legal and policy guidance on public utility regulation since 2023. In this role, he organized the Commission's statewide Wildfire Mitigation Workshop Series, represented the PRC in the Senate Memorial 2 Wildfire Study Group, and participates in working groups focused on wildfire mitigation, emergency preparedness, and coordination across New Mexico and the West. These include the quarterly Fire Innovations for Regulatory Excellence (FIRE) Group, which enables western utility regulatory staff to exchange mitigation practices and track regulatory developments, and the Gridworks West+ Commissioner Wildfire Collaborative, which brings together commissioners and agency directors to examine regional challenges and the limitations of individual state regulatory frameworks.

He also serves as the PRC's designee to the New Mexico Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission, supporting equity and civic engagement initiatives statewide. Before joining the PRC, Mclee served as a legislative analyst for the New Mexico State Senate's Rules Committee, supporting the 56th Legislature through bill analysis, research, and drafting. His career combines legal expertise and public service, with experience spanning New Mexico energy policy and international space law. He is admitted to practice law in New Mexico and holds a Juris Doctor from CUNY School of Law and a master's degree in Advanced Air and Space Law from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Eliza Hotchkiss, Center Director
U.S. Dep. of Energy's National Laboratory of the Rockies

Day 1– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Eliza Hotchkiss is a center director for the Resilient Infrastructure and Security Center at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Laboratory of the Rockies (formerly NREL). Her areas of expertise include disaster recovery leadership and technical assistance, resilience, and energy security. Her focus is on analysis and outreach to increase deployment of resilient technologies and best practices within infrastructure systems and operations. She has led research and development projects related to visualizing disruptive events, infrastructure vulnerabilities, and consequences, and the value of resilience. She has led and published research on metrics for resilience, valuation, and monetization of resilience solutions. She leads resilience assessments for federal, state, local, and tribal governments and provides technical assistance during disaster recovery. Eliza earned a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Geology from Vassar College, a M.S. in Energy Efficient Buildings from the Oxford School of Architecture, and her Ph.D. research focused on quantifying energy security, in the Advanced Energy Systems Program at the Colorado School of Mines.

Wesley Gray, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Public Service Company of New Mexico

Day 1– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Wesley Gray is Vice President of Engineering & Operations for PNM. With more than 35 years of experience in the electric utility industry. Wes currently oversees PNM's distribution engineering, field operations, fossil-fueled generation fleet, and wildfire mitigation programs in New Mexico. He rejoined the company in 2021 and previously worked at PNM as a Distribution Engineer.

Evan Rogers, Senior Economist
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department

Day 1– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Evan is a Senior Regulatory Affairs Economist with EMNRD's Energy Conservation and Management Division, where he analyzes electricity-sector issues and contributes insight to regulatory proceedings and policy initiatives. Before joining state government, he worked in finance as an equity research analyst. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Boston University.

Ray Gifford, Partner
Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer LLP

Day 1– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.



Ray Gifford counsels energy, communications and other utility-sector companies on matters related to regulation, litigation and policy development. He represents parties before federal and state agencies, in state and federal courts, before legislative bodies, and as an expert witness on utility regulation. His current enthusiasm is to build interregional electric transmission in the Western United States through The Western Transmission Consortium. With Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, he co-founded the Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics (IRLE), an annual seminar for state regulators and staff on the law and economics of network industry regulation. He has served as adjunct faculty at the University of Colorado Law School and as Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship at CU. Ray served as Chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission from 2000-2004. He followed that by serving as President of the Progress & Freedom Foundation, a Washington, DC-based think tank focusing on the law and economics of the digital age. His J.D. is from the University of Chicago Law School and his undergraduate degree in Great Books is from St. John's College in Santa Fe, NM and Annapolis, MD.

Camilla Feibelman, Director
Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter

Day 1– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.



Camilla Feibelman is the Director of the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter where she works to protect our air, water, land and communities. She previously directed the national Sierra Student Coalition and helped to found the Puerto Rico Chapter of the Sierra Club where she worked for 8 years to protect a large swath of leatherback turtle nesting beach.

Camilla was a Fulbright Scholar in Peru in 1998 and was nominated by President Obama in 2013 as a Trustee of the Morris K and Stewart L. Udall Foundation. She graduated from Albuquerque High School, received a B.A. in Environmental Biology from Columbia University and a M.P. in Urban Planning from the University of Puerto Rico.
Camilla was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she now lives with her husband, stepdaughter, and son.

Laurie Williams, Senior Vice President
Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)

Day 1– 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.

Greg Patterson, Director
Arizona Competitive Power Alliance (AZCPA)

Day 1– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.



Greg Patterson has been the Director of the Arizona Competitive Power Alliance since it was founded in 2001. Greg is an attorney and CPA. Prior to his tenure as AZCPA Director, Greg served as the Director of the Arizona Residential Utility Consumer Office and Chief of Staff at the Arizona State Senate. Greg also served two terms in the Arizona House of Representatives where he chaired the Government Operations Committee and later the Banking and Insurance Committee. During his tenure as AZCPA Director, Greg was elected to a four-year term on the Maricopa County Hospital Board of Directors. In 2012 Governor Brewer appointed Greg as a member of the Arizona Board of Regents. He was confirmed by the State Senate and served for 5 years. The last year as Chairman of the Board.

Greg is also the Director of the New Mexico Independent Power Producers (put NMIPP link here) . He is an Attorney in New Mexico as well as Arizona.

Paul Suskie, Executive Vice President, Regulatory Policy and General Counsel
Southwest Power Pool (SPP)

Day 1– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.



Paul Suskie is the Executive Vice-President of Regulatory Policy, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary for Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP). SPP is a non-profit designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to serve as the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) in fifteen states. As an RTO, SPP is mandated by the FERC to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure, and competitive wholesale prices of electricity in thirteen states. As a part of these mandates, SPP oversaw wholesale energy and transmission markets with transactions totaling more than $50 billion in 2024 and launched a new Western Energy Imbalance Service Market (WEIS) in 2021. On April 1, 2026, the WEIS Market transitioned to the RTO with SPP becoming the first market operator on both sides of the East-West Interconnections.

Prior to joining SPP, Suskie was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe, to the Arkansas Public Service Commission as Chairman and as member of the Governor's cabinet. During Suskie's tenure on the Commission, he served in several leadership roles as a state regulator and was named to Arkansas Business's Top 40 under 40 list of individuals influencing business in Arkansas.

When appointed to the Commission, Suskie was serving in his third elected term as North Little Rock's City Attorney. North Little Rock has the state's largest municipally run electric utility provider. While City Attorney, his office received numerous state and national awards for successfully addressing crime ridden neighborhoods through the use of civil nuisance abatement laws.

Before joining the North Little Rock City Attorney's office, Suskie worked for former United States Senator David Pryor in Pryor's Washington and Little Rock offices and was law clerk for Arkansas Attorney General Winston Bryant.

Suskie is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, and the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. He is a retired Colonel who served over 20 years in the U.S. Army's JAG Corp. During his military career he was appointed a state military judge and is a veteran of both the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2005, Suskie served a tour in Afghanistan and in 2008 he served a tour in Iraq with the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Alejandro Rettig y Martinez, Acting Chief Commission Counsel
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.



Alejandro Rettig y Martinez is the Acting Chief Commission Counsel at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. He previously served as Deputy Chief Commission Counsel and as an Associate Counsel in the division. Before joining the PRC, Alejandro litigated civil matters in state and federal court at Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A. He has also taught at the University of New Mexico School of Law as a Visiting Assistant Professor and currently serves as an Adjunct Professor teaching Energy Law. Alejandro began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Michael S. Kanne of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He earned his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Haverford College.

Jazmine Venegas, Regulatory and Government Affairs Specialist
El Paso Electric Company

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.



Jazmine Venegas is a Regulatory and Government Affairs Specialist at El Paso Electric Company, a regional electric utility providing generation, transmission and distribution service to approximately 450,000 retail and wholesale customers in the Rio Grande valley in west Texas and Southern New Mexico. With over 15 years of experience spanning the public and private sectors, including more than seven years in political organizing and government relations, she brings a strategic approach to stakeholder alignment and navigating complex regulatory environments. Her experience includes roles with the U.S. House of Representatives and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, where she led policy, regulatory, and community engagement efforts that balanced public interests with organizational priorities.

Throughout her career, Jazmine has supported critical projects by proactively engaging stakeholders, mitigating risk through early alignment, and building the social license necessary for long-term success. She holds a bachelor's degree in film and international relations from the University of Rochester and is actively involved in nonprofit initiatives focused on addressing food insecurity and strengthening regional resilience

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Dr. Ann Lyn Hall, CEO
Prosperity Works

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.



Ann Lyn is responsible for the strategic leadership of Prosperity Works programs and initiatives. She supports our statewide advocacy network to build capacity in organizations and advocates for policies that generate economic prosperity. She developed a holistic student support model at a local community college to support first-generation students and student parents to achieve their academic and career goals. She is a national leader in financial coaching, asset building, and helping adults improve access to educational, employment, and financial outcomes. She has educated professionals regarding financial coaching, using data for program improvement, the impact of poverty on education, college student resiliency factors, and asset development.

Gabe Pacyniak, Professor of Law
University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law

Day 1– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.



Gabe Pacyniak is the Keleher & McLeod Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law. Gabe's scholarship and policy work focuses on climate change and energy issues, with a focus on equity. He also serves as co-director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Law (NREL) clinic and as a co-convenor of UNM's Just Transition Grand Challenge initiative. Prior to joining academia, Gabe managed the climate change mitigation program at the Georgetown Climate Center. He holds a J.D. from Georgetown University School of Law and a B.A. in philosophy from the New College of Florida.

John Bogatko, Acting Legal Division Director,
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 1– 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 and collaborating with NMPRC Advocacy Staff (comprised of subject matter experts that include accountants, economists, and engineers) in utility proceedings before the Commission.Mr. Bogatko has been with the NMPRC for almost ten 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).

Jonas Armstrong, Director
New Mexico Environment Department –Water Protection Division

Day 1– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.



Jonas Armstrong is the Director of the New Mexico Environment Department's Water Protection Division. Prior to joining NMED, he served as an attorney for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, working with the acequia and water planning programs. Jonas has also worked at the Public Regulation Commission where he analyzed and advised the Commission on legal and policy issues, and with the City of Albuquerque where he served as General Counsel to the Albuquerque Police Department and provided legal services to the Economic Development Department. Jonas began his career with New Mexico's Legislative Finance Committee, analyzing natural resource agency budgets, operations, proposed legislation, and infrastructure projects. Jonas received his Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Thomas Loquvam
Group Vice President of Legal and External Affairs, EPCOR USA

Day 1– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.



Thomas Loquvam is the Group Vice President of Legal and External Affairs for EPCOR USA, Arizona's largest private water utility with operations that extend into New Mexico and Texas.

As Group Vice President of Legal and External Affairs, Thomas develops and implements the company's strategic goals and objectives that align with the company's long-term vision and growth within the United States. Among his areas of responsibility are Public Affairs, Government Relations, Water Resources, Developer Services, and Rates & Regulatory.

Thomas is also responsible for all legal matters involving EPCOR USA and its regulated and unregulated U.S. subsidiaries, including corporate and regulatory compliance, litigation, operational agreements and management of real property issues.

Thomas has been in the utility industry for over fifteen years and practiced commercial litigation before that. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics and Communications from Wake Forest University and earned a Juris Doctorate at the University of Arizona's College of Law. He is active in the non-profit sector, including previously serving as chair of HandsOn Greater Phoenix and as chair of the Alcoholism & Addiction Association. He has also been involved with the Arizona State Bar, volunteering in the Member Assistance Program and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Administration Section.

Balancing the Grid: From Utility Lines to Budget Lines

November 3rd, 2026 NM State Capitol- Room 307

Speaker Bios

Jocelyn Barrett- Chief Hearing Examiner Day 2- 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.



Jocelyn Barrett began her career in Public Utility Law working at a private firm representing a New Mexico Investor-Owned Utility. From there, she went on to serve as an Assistant Attorney General in the Public Utilities Division before joining the PRC as a hearing examiner in 2025. Ms. Barrett took on the role of Chief Hearing Examiner in late 2025.

Joseph Yar, Partner
Velarde & Yar Law Firm Day 2- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Joseph Yar is a New Mexico attorney with extensive experience in public utility, energy, and regulatory matters and has represented a broad range of stakeholders before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and other governmental bodies. He spent four years with the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General, where he served as the sole attorney responsible for utility matters and represented New Mexico consumers in regulatory proceedings, including four utility rate cases. He later served as General Counsel to New Mexico's largest electric cooperative and, in private practice, has represented developers, independent power producers, renewable energy providers, electric cooperatives, large energy consumers, telecommunications carriers, large energy consumers, telecommunications carriers, and other participants in the energy and utility sectors. His experience representing stakeholders across the regulatory landscape provides him with a broad perspective on utility ratemaking and regulation, energy development, infrastructure investment, grid reliability and modernization, customer affordability, and the evolving energy market. In April 2026, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham appointed Mr. Yar to the New Mexico Energy Affordability and Grid Reliability Council, where he serves as a consumer and ratepayer advocacy expert.

Michael Barrio, Senior Principal, Advanced Energy United

Day 2– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Michael Barrio leads Advanced Energy United's engagement in Arizona and New Mexico, with a focus on legislative, gubernatorial, and political engagement. Michael identifies, analyzes, and organizes strategic advocacy and relationship-building opportunities to accelerate the energy transition while expanding markets for the advanced energy industry. Prior to joining United, Michael spent several years running a policy consulting shop in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he focused on housing, workforce, and economic development policy. He has an extensive background in government affairs, crisis communication, non-profit leadership, and corporate human resources.

Kelly A. Tomblin, President and Chief Executive Officer, El Paso Electric Company (EPE)

Day 2– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Kelly Tomblin brings more than 30 years of experience in the energy industry and has worked throughout the world including the U.S., the Caribbean, United Kingdom, and Latin America. While most of her work involves operational improvement and public image enhancement, Kelly has been integral in positioning utilities and related industries as leaders in the energy sector by developing new visions and strategic directions crucial to their success. She was previously recognized as an S&P Platts Global CEO of the Year.

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

Prior to EPE, Kelly 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 VP of International Power/Engie, she led business development activities that resulted in significant growth and market expansion. Prior to ENGIE, she served as President of Pennsylvania Electric Company, a subsidiary of First Energy Corporation. She first started her energy career as an attorney at K&L Gates.

Kelly 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.

Kelly has 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.

Dr. Larry Blank, Professor Emeritus of Economics, New Mexico State University (NMSU)

Day 2– 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Dr Larry Blank is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and serves as Principal Consultant with TAHOEconomics. At NMSU he served as the Director of Economics graduate programs including the Public Utility Regulation & Economics graduate certificate and Masters concentration. He is also an instructor at the NMSU Center for Public Utilities training programs and has helped train over 4,000 professionals across the United States and hundreds more beyond the borders.
As a consultant, Larry has served utility companies, utility customers, and various federal, state, and local government agencies, including multiple state commissions and their staff. He has worked as an advisor or expert witness in over 200 utility cases.

His academic research in public utility economics focused on regulated company incentives and regulatory commission choices in a political economy interest group setting. Early in his career he served as a research economist with the National Regulatory Research Institute at The Ohio State University and as a Manager of Regulatory Policy and Market Analysis with the Nevada Public Utilities Commission.

Erin Lecocq, Appellate Counsel, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.



Erin Lecocq is an attorney with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, where she has served in appellate and advisory roles involving complex utility proceedings, administrative law, and agency decision-making. Her work includes representing the Commission before the New Mexico Supreme Court and advising on contested proceedings.

Before joining the Commission, Erin served as an Assistant Attorney General with the New Mexico Department of Justice, representing state agencies in administrative proceedings, litigation, and appeals before state and federal courts. Erin received her J.D., cum laude, from Seattle University School of Law and is admitted to practice in New Mexico, Washington, and several federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Eldon Vita, IT Director, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.



Eldon has been with the PRC for the past 2 years and has been the IT Director for the last year. Prior to the PRC, he worked at the State Records Center and Archives. Outside of work, he likes to bird watch, go camping, and play board games. His interest in IT spans back to his youth with robotics club.

Greg Nibert, Commissioner,
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.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.

Sarah Kozal, Senior Counsel,
California Independent System Operator (CAISO)

Day 2– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.



Sarah Kozal is Senior Counsel at the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) where she represents the CAISO before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Her work focuses on all aspects of transmission planning and development, interconnection of new resources, and energy market policy, with a focus on how greenhouse gas compliance programs can be reflected in wholesale energy markets.

Prior to going in-house, Sarah worked at several California law firms where she represented energy developer clients. Sarah is a part-time lecturer at UCLA School of Law and most recently taught Energy Law and Regulation in the Fall 2024 semester. She has contributed to publications such as the Daily Journal, POWER Magazine, and Utility Dive on energy matters. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Conference of California Public Utility Counsel. Sarah also served as a member of the Delegation of The Republic of Palau to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP) 20 and 21 in Lima, Peru, and Paris, France, respectively.

Sarah received her B.A. summa cum laude from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), her J.D. from UCLA School of Law, and a graduate certificate in heritage conservation from University of Southern California (USC).

Kimberly O'Guinn,
Vice President of Regulatory and Stakeholder Affairs,
Southwest Power Pool (SPP)

Day 2– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.



Kimberly O'Guinn serves as Vice President of Regulatory and Stakeholder Affairs at Southwest Power Pool (SPP), where she leads engagement with members, federal and state regulators, and stakeholders across SPP's multistate footprint. She builds consensus among diverse groups, advises executive leadership on regulatory matters, and leads initiatives that strengthen stakeholder engagement, regulatory relationships, and organizational effectiveness. Her work advances policies that support SPP's role in maintaining a resilient and reliable power grid.

Before joining SPP in January 2023, Kimberly was appointed to the Arkansas Public Service Commission by Governor Asa Hutchinson in November 2016. As a commissioner, she oversaw the regulation of public utilities to ensure they provided safe, reliable, and affordable service to Arkansas consumers. Beyond retail regulation, she played a key leadership role in regional transmission matters, representing Arkansas on SPP's Regional State Committee, the Organization of MISO States, and the Entergy Regional State Committee.

Kimberly is highly regarded in the regulatory energy community and was actively engaged in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). She was a member of NARUC's Energy Resources and Environment Committee, International Relations Committee, Subcommittee on Education and Research, and the Washington Action Program. Additionally, she served as a mentor in NARUC's Advancing Women Leaders in Energy program, a partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Europe & Eurasia, supporting women leaders in energy regulatory agencies.

Before her energy regulatory career, Kimberly served as Director of Communications for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and as an engineer in the Office of Air Quality. As an engineer, she enforced state and federal air quality regulations by evaluating emissions from state-regulated entities, ensuring compliance with permitting requirements and environmental standards. As Director of Communications, she crafted and implemented strategic communication plans to address environmental policy issues, ensuring clear and effective engagement with stakeholders and the public.

Kimberly is also an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the energy sector. She serves on the National Utilities Diversity Council, where she previously co-chaired before leaving the Commission. During her tenure as Commissioner, she served on several energy boards, including the Financial Research Institute, New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities, and the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council.

A native of Arkansas, Kimberly is dedicated to empowering women and serves as President of the Women's Foundation of Arkansas. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Oklahoma (OU), where she was designated a NASA Fellow while working with the NASA Space Grant Consortium/NASA EPSCoR.

Kelsey Martinez,
Director of Regional Markets, Lands & Transmission Strategy,
Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)

Day 2– 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.



Kelsey Martinez is Director of Regional Markets, Lands, & Transmission Strategy at Public Service Company of New Mexico. Much of her career has focused on bringing the realities of system operations into market design and planning discussions. In her current role, she works across market design, transmission strategy, regulatory policy, and system operations to advance solutions that support customers and strengthen the Western grid.

Gideon Elliot, Attorney in the Legal Division, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.



Gideon Elliot is an attorney in the Legal Division of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, where he litigates utility cases in the public interest with a focus on keeping rates affordable. He joined the PRC in October 2025 after more than six years in the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General. There he served as Utilities Bureau Chief from 2021 to 2025, advocating for residential and small business customers, and as the Attorney General's designee on the Mortgage Finance Authority Board of Directors. Most recently, he worked on the HM 54 working group, where he authored the legislative report on utility service reliability in mobile home communities. Before returning home to New Mexico in 2018, Gideon began his public service career in New York as an Excelsior Service Fellow in the New York State Government, where he worked as an attorney turning executive policy initiatives into operating programs. He holds a J.D. and a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University.

Stephanie Dzur, Partner, Dzur Law Firm

Day 2– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Stephanie Dzur grew up in rural Arkansas and studied English and literature at the University of Arkansas (Go Hogs!). She earned her law degree from the College of William & Mary, where she focused on contracts and international trade, and later received a master's degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law. Her master's thesis examined land exchanges involving federal, state, and private entities.

Ms. Dzur has been in private practice since 1992, with the exception of two years during which time she served as an executive assistant to former Public Regulation Commissioner, Cynthia Hall. Her legal practice has encompassed a broad range of matters, from class-action litigation in Arkansas to challenging "tax lighting" in New Mexico, a case that raised important affordability issues. Since 2015, Ms. Dzur has concentrated her practice on matters before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, representing numerous nonprofit organizations and corporate clients.

Kari Olson, Attorney, Spencer Fane Law Firm

Day 2– 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.



Kari Olson assists clients with administrative and regulatory matters throughout the state of New Mexico with an active focus on state and federal environmental law, public utility regulation, and western water law. Kari employs her diverse industry knowledge and acute attention to detail to navigate complex regulatory landscapes across multiple sectors.

Within her utility and telecommunications practice, Kari provides regulatory counsel and represents water and electric utilities and local exchange carriers in proceedings before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and the New Mexico Supreme Court including general rate cases and other rate and tariff proceedings, certificate and other proceedings for new facilities, procurements, and projects under state law and regulation governing transition to renewable energy, grid modernization, energy efficiency, and expansion of transportation electrification; and rulemaking proceedings.

Kari Olson Continued

Kari's environmental experience includes advising and representing public and private entities before state agencies and state and federal courts with respect to environmental permitting, enforcement matters, and rulemaking with an active focus on ground and surface water, and air. She also regularly counsels clients from multiple sectors on elements of water rights and allocation of water under New Mexico law and has successfully guided clients through obtaining, transferring, and protesting ground and surface water permits from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. She also handles due diligence on ownership of water rights as part of residential and commercial real estate transactions. A dedicated member of the industry, Kari also serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico State Bar Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law Section. Prior to joining the firm, she clerked for the Hon. Justice Richard C. Bosson of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Professor Joshua Kastenberg, Professor of Law, University of New Mexico School of Law

Day 2– 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.



Professor Joshua Kastenberg is currently a professor of law at the University of New Mexico School of Law. Prior to joining the UNM faculty, he had a 20-year career as a lawyer and judge in the U.S. Air Force. He served as an advisor to the Department of Defense on cyber security and cyber warfare matters, twice deployed to Iraq and oversaw the military's compliance with international law. Professor Kastenberg served as a prosecutor and defense counsel in over 200 trials and as a judge in over 200 trials. He has been cited by the Washington Post and appeared on Fox News and written over a dozen law review articles as well as four books. Prior to joining the faculty, he taught graduate and undergraduate level courses in national security law and systems as well as legal history. Professor Kastenberg's interests are in the field of criminal law and procedure, evidence, legal history, and judicial ethics.

Cydney Beadles, Manager/Senior Attorney, Western Resource Advocates

Day 2– 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



As the clean energy manager at Western Resource Advocates (WRA), Cydney Beadles leads the organization's clean energy efforts in New Mexico. In this capacity, Beadles represents WRA in proceedings before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission; actively participates in litigation and rulemakings related to energy issues; helps to craft and lobby for needed legislation and much more; all to advance WRA's energy policy goals that will reduce carbon emissions from electric generation through improved efficiency and increased production of clean and renewable energy.

With more than 30 years of experience in law, especially her focus on public utility regulation and administrative law, Beadles is well-suited to her role. She joined WRA in 2019 after retiring from public service. Beadles spent more than two decades as a managing attorney at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and its predecessor, the New Mexico Public Utility Commission, serving as Legal Division Director for the last three. Her case experience at the Commission involved a broad range of topics and stakeholders, from water rights and tribal energy to rural electric cooperatives and publicly traded investor-owned utilities.

Beadles is passionate about creating sound policies and sensible mandates that protect the public interest by encouraging both the efficient use of electricity and the sourcing of power from cleaner sources. Working with WRA she's able to pursue nimble and innovative solutions that will benefit residents of New Mexico for generations to come.

Cydney Beadles Continued

Having lived in New Mexico nearly all her life, Beadles values the West's unique natural and cultural geography. She knows how critical it is to preserve this heritage so that coming generations can enjoy this incredible region. Her work is deeply rewarding, as she is part of the solutions that are driving positive change to move beyond conventional sources of energy to more intentional use and production that also consider environmental outcomes. And she's brought all of her skills to bear. Beadles played a key role in ensuring the Governor's signature 2019 Energy Transition Act was applied meaningfully when the San Juan Generating Station was scheduled to shut down in favor of cleaner energy sources.

Her work in this area has been so impactful that Beadles was named the Public Lawyer of the Year in 2019 by the State Bar of New Mexico. She has also been tapped for her expertise by the New Mexico Senate Pro Tempore to serve on as one of seven members on the Public Regulation Commission nominating committee and her expertise is tapped serving as a technical advisor to two clean energy groups: ECMD's Grid Modernization Program and New Mexico's Interagency Climate Change Task Force.

A member of the New Mexico bar, Beadles holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Stanford University and Juris Doctor from University of California Hastings College of the Law.

Beadles has two adult children who both live in neighboring states. She enjoys skiing and listening to music in her free time and she used her free time during the pandemic to become proficient at African drumming.

Nancy Burns, Deputy General Counsel, El Paso Electric (EPE)

Day 2– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.



Nancy Burns, EPE – Deputy General Counsel. Responsibilities include management of matters before NMRPRC and PUCT. NMPRC Legal Division, 2000–2015

Jordan Gutierrez
Project Manager/ Community Outreach Coordinator, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Day 2– 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.



Jordan Gutierrez is a Project Manager at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC), where he works at the intersection of public utility regulation, operation modernization, and community-focused service delivery. He served as project manager for PRCe360 , the agency's Case Management System launched in January 2026, which streamlined how New Mexicans interact with the Commission's regulatory processes. His work centers on making utility regulation more accessible and transparent for the public. Outside the agency, Jordan is an active community organizer and activist in New Mexico. In his free time, Jordan trains in boxing and endurance sports, most recently completing his first sprint triathlon.