

# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

## COMMISSIONERS

GABRIEL AGUILERA  
JAMES F. ELLISON  
PATRICK O'CONNELL, CHAIR



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Mexico Senate confirms the nominations of PRC Commissioners Aguilera, Ellison, and O'Connell**

SANTA FE, N.M. — The New Mexico Senate today confirmed the nominations of Gabriel Aguilera, James F. Ellison, and Patrick O'Connell as members of the state Public Regulation Commission (PRC), which transitioned earlier this year from a five-member elected body to a three-member executive-appointed panel. All three of the new commissioners have been sitting on the PRC as appointees of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham since January.

Commissioner O'Connell will initially serve a term of six years. Before coming to the PRC, he was the clean energy program deputy director at Western Resource Advocates. Prior to that, he worked at Public Service Company of New Mexico as an integrated resource planning director and as a senior natural gas supply planner. A registered professional engineer, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico.

"I am grateful for the support of the state Senate and want to thank Gov. Lujan Grisham for her confidence in my ability to serve on the Public Regulation Committee," said Commissioner O'Connell, who is currently serving as Chair of the PRC.

Prior to his appointment to the PRC, Commissioner Aguilera spent 15 years in multiple positions at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C., focusing exclusively on western electric issues. He holds Bachelor of Business Administration degrees in both Economics and Finance from New Mexico State University and earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland Smith School of Business. He will initially serve a term of four years.

“I’m honored to serve New Mexicans as a Commissioner of the PRC,” said Commissioner Aguilera. “The PRC makes decisions that affect the lives of all New Mexicans; this is a tremendous responsibility. I want to thank the governor and Senate for trusting my colleagues and me with this responsibility.”

Commissioner Ellison will initially serve a term of two years. Before coming to the PRC, he held multiple positions at Albuquerque-based Sandia National Laboratories, mostly focusing on power systems analysis and planning, including energy storage and integrating renewable energy into the grid. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics and Political Science from Clemson University, Master of Science degrees in Technology and Policy and Mechanical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Master of Science degree in Management from Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

“It’s an honor to have been selected by Gov. Lujan Grisham and confirmed by the Senate for this important role,” said Commissioner Ellison. “I look forward to representing and listening to the concerns of all New Mexicans, as well as facilitating our state’s transition to renewables.”

PRC commissioners are tasked with hearing and making decisions on cases relating to the regulation of utilities, pipelines, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure that customers pay fair and reasonable rates and receive safe and reliable services. In 2020, New Mexico voters approved an amendment to the state’s Constitution changing the makeup of the PRC.

*The **New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC)** regulates the [utilities](#), [telecommunications](#), and [motor carrier](#) industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The NMPRC also promotes public safety through the offices of [Pipeline Safety Bureau](#) and [Transportation Division](#).*

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