



NEW MEXICO  
**PUBLIC REGULATION  
COMMISSION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NMPRC Commissioners appointed to leadership positions on regional public utility organizations**

**SANTA FE** – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) is excited to announce that all three [Commissioners](#) were recently named to prominent leadership positions on regional public utility organizations, helping to advance the interests of local stakeholders through collaboration efforts with other utility regulators from across the country.

Last month, Commissioner James Ellison was appointed to serve on the newly formed National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Task Force on Evolving Gas Infrastructure Planning. The goal of this task force is to connect utility regulators with expert resources and platforms to share information and develop their own refined visions for infrastructure planning processes that will help in navigating the shifting state and federal policy landscape. The task force will hold four in-person and virtual workshops over the next two years, beginning next month. The Commissioner is currently a member of the [NARUC Committee on Gas](#).

“My hope is that participating in the NARUC Gas Task Force will lead to insights that will help improve gas planning for winter supplies for New Mexico,” said Commissioner Ellison.

Also last month, Commissioner Pat O’Connell was named to serve on the [Western Electricity Coordinating Council \(WECC\) Member Advisory Committee](#). WECC is a non-profit corporation that helps ensure a reliable bulk electric system in the geographic area known as the Western Interconnection, which consists of 14 states, including New Mexico. Among its responsibilities, the Member Advisory Committee provides advice and recommendations to WECC with respect to the development of budgets, business plans, funding, and other matters pertinent to the purpose and operations of the corporation.

“I am honored to serve New Mexico at the Western Electric Coordinating Council,” said Commissioner O’Connell. “Electric service is in the midst of a significant transition and WECC will ensure that happens reliably.”

Earlier this week, Commissioner Gabriel Aguilera was named vice-chair of the [Body of State Regulators \(BOSR\)](#). BOSR is the western states’ committee that considers California Independent System Operator Corporation’s (CAISO) market enhancements to the Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) and the proposed Extended Day-Ahead Market. New Mexico investor-owned utilities Public Service Company of New Mexico and El Paso Electric Company currently participate in the WEIM. As vice-chair, the

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Commissioner will have a heightened responsibility to ensure that states are engaged and that their perspectives are considered in the market design. He will also lead the selection of voting members to the WEIM Governing Body Nominating Committee. "This is a proactive step to ensure that New Mexico electricity customers are well represented in the market design of the Western Energy Imbalance Market and the Extended Day-Ahead Market," said Commissioner Aguilera.

Ten months after this new class of three executive-appointed Commissioners was sworn in, the NMPRC has taken significant steps toward improving how the agency regulates utility, telecommunications, and motor carrier companies to ensure that these industries continue to offer reasonable rates and quality services to customers, as well as ensuring safe handling of the state's pipeline system. This includes the launch of an ongoing series of workshops on the reliability of electric service, grid modernization, and regional energy markets, as well as strategic planning sessions with the purpose of drafting goals aligned with the NMPRC's mission, vision, principles, and values for the next three years.

*An online copy of this media advisory can be found [here](#).*

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*The **New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC)** 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 PRC also promotes public safety through the Pipeline Safety Bureau and Transportation Division.*

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