



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2023

NMPRC releases FY23 Annual Report amidst year of positive change

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) today released its [Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report](#).

The report provides a detailed summary of actions, initiatives, and achievements during a year of positive change at the NMPRC, as the agency fulfilled its duties to align with a new constitutional mandate that changed the structure of the Commission to an appointed panel, while continuing to effectively regulate utility, telecommunications, and motor carrier companies to ensure that these industries offer reasonable rates and quality services to customers, as well as ensuring safe handling of the state's pipeline system.

"Our team has worked tirelessly over the last year, building a strong foundation to provide greater regulatory oversight across New Mexico for the foreseeable future," **said NMPRC Chief of Staff Cholla Khoury**. "We're excited about the momentum we've built and look forward to continuing with those efforts in serving the public interest."

With new leadership coming aboard the NMPRC in 2023, the agency put an emphasis on growing staff support and hiring for essential positions. At the start of the year, the agency's employment vacancy rate was about 20 percent, but adjudicatory caseloads continued to increase while staff faced insurmountable workloads. The Commission re-evaluated the needs of the agency and created new roles to ensure that assignments were completed thoroughly and on schedule, while closing more than 300 cases.

To help make informed and legally supportable decisions, the Commission increased the size of its advisory staff and filled long-vacant positions in the Office of General Counsel. It also prioritized providing reclassification to Hearing Examiners, who act as administrative law judges, making it easier to recruit and hire for these traditionally hard-to-fill positions. The NMPRC's employment vacancy rate now sits at below 5 percent.

Additionally, the NMPRC rolled out a new [strategic plan](#) with strong commitments toward boosting staff morale and support, improving and professionalizing agency operations and processes, being more present in the regulatory conversation, and increasing the agency's transparency and accessibility for stakeholders and the public.

Other notable NMPRC accomplishments from the past year include:

- Hosting a series of expert-led stakeholder workshops aimed at creating administrative rules, including in the areas of utility reliability standards, distribution planning, greenhouse gas emissions, grid modernization, and cyber security.
- Leading conversations around New Mexico's utilities joining regional markets, seeking to take advantage of the state's geographic location.
- The selection of 45 projects for the development of the state's new Community Solar Program, with an initial energy capacity of 200 megawatts.
- Issuing an order on remand approving a settlement that reaffirmed Public Service Company of New Mexico's (PNM) ongoing authority to issue up to \$360.1 million in Energy Transition Act bonds for costs associated with the abandonment of the San Juan Generating Station and required PNM to provide consumers with \$115 million in rate credits over a 12-month period.
- Helping New Mexico consumers obtain refunds or credits in the amount of \$120,591.90, an increase of 26 percent from last year.

This year, the NMPRC went through a dynamic shift in its operations, and New Mexicans have seen improvements in how the agency is regulating the industries it oversees. The Commission and new leadership have brought a fresh perspective to the agency's role in New Mexico and are setting ambitious goals for growth, administrative rulemaking, and regulatory certainty.

An online copy of this press release can be found [here](#).

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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 Pipeline Safety Bureau and Transportation Division.

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