



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMPRC Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to require reporting intended to improve electric utilities' service reliability

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) today issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) that provides the public with notice of a proposed Reliability Reporting Metrics rule as well as notice of the schedule to file written comments and the method and date for participating in a public hearing on the proposed rule.

The proposed rule is intended to promote service dependability by requiring the state's three investor-owned electric utilities (IOUs) to report on a variety of reliability metrics annually to the Commission, with the goal of identifying areas of vulnerability for future remedies.

"Reliability is job number one for our electric utilities," said Commissioner James Ellison. "The way reliability metrics are reported can have an impact on how distribution system investments are made. We invite all customer classes to participate in this rulemaking process."

Last year, the Commission held three workshops to review existing practices regarding reliability management and to explore a framework for consistent collection and reporting of reliability metrics from each of the IOUs – Public Service Company of New Mexico, El Paso Electric Company, and Southwestern Public Service Company. During the second workshop, the Commission participated in a discussion on local reliability issues with the utilities. The Commission also heard from Mr. Joseph Eto of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, an expert on electric utility reliability measurement, who presented the most well-known reliability metrics.

Prior to the third workshop, the IOUs filed written proposals with suggestions for reliability reporting requirements the Commission should consider prior to issuing the NOPR, including the objectives of such requirements. The IOUs also prepared a joint filing that was based on five meetings held among the IOUs' technical and regulatory staff responsible for distribution system operations, reliability, and reporting. The joint proposal considered the recommendations and suggestions at the second workshop.

Taking into consideration the matters discussed at the three workshops and the joint proposal of the IOUs, the Commission prepared the proposed Reliability Reporting Metric rule with input from each of the three IOUs and the NMPRC's Utility Division staff.

A public hearing to discuss the proposed rule will be held in May 2024. The Commission will issue a final order adopting a Reliability Reporting Metrics rule after that, based upon the comments received.

An online version of this release is available [here](#).

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*The **New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC)** serves New Mexico by ensuring safe operations and reliable utility services at fair, just, and reasonable rates consistent with the State's legal, economic, environmental, and social policies. To learn more about the work of the NMPRC, please visit www.prc.nm.gov.*

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