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## **NMPRC to hold 2nd workshop to determine RTO/ISO viability for PNM and EPE**

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) on Thursday, January 25, will hold a second workshop to discuss anticipated benefits to customers regarding Public Service Company of New Mexico's (PNM) and El Paso Electric Company's (EPE) potential participation in either a regional day-ahead market or a regional transmission organization (RTO)/independent system operator (ISO). The workshop will include presentations by PNM, EPE, and Energy and Environmental Economics Inc. There will also be a discussion on the Western Markets Exploratory Group's western day-ahead market production cost impact study, including analysis applicable to both PNM and EPE's electric systems.

During an open meeting in July, the Commission explained that New Mexico ratepayers stand to benefit from a regional market that optimizes economic dispatch and maximizes the use of the electric grid and available generation. Additionally, the Commission noted that regional markets can also help meet the state's emissions reduction targets and improve grid reliability at a reduced cost to ratepayers as compared to transacting through a bilateral energy market.

The Commission will collect information during the workshop from industry professionals and stakeholders to discuss and develop guiding principles and expectations for New Mexico electric utilities participating in a regional day-ahead market or RTO/ISO. Stakeholders, rural electric cooperatives, and other interested parties are encouraged to participate in the Q&A portions of the workshop. To participate via Zoom in the Q&A portions, sign up by sending an email to [public.comment@prc.nm.gov](mailto:public.comment@prc.nm.gov) or by phone at (505) 490-7910, no later than 5 p.m. on January 19.

Although the concept of a day-ahead market has not been implemented in the U.S., according to the State-Led Market Study, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, it's generally expected that a day-ahead market would require centrally optimized day-ahead unit commitment and real-time dispatch, with participants

continuing to administer their own transmission tariffs and transmission planning functions while retaining operational control over their transmission systems.

RTOs and ISOs have additional responsibilities, as they are typically tasked with optimizing transmission and energy flows across the market footprint, performing transmission planning and administering the generator interconnection procedures within the market footprint, ensuring reliable operation of the grid, and managing wholesale energy market transactions and cash flows within the market. Electric utilities, the California Independent System Operator Corporation, Southwest Power Pool, state regulators, and electric industry stakeholders in the Western U.S. are currently developing and considering viable regional day-ahead markets and discussing the potential for a western-wide RTO/ISO.

During the first workshop held in September to determine RTO/ISO viability for PNM and EPE, representatives from investor-owned utility Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) spoke about its experiences, including benefits to customers, participating in Southwest Power Pool, an existing RTO. Watch a video of that workshop [here](#).

Details about the second workshop are as follows:

- **WHO:** NMPRC, statewide investor-owned electric utility companies, and industry stakeholders to discuss RTO/ISO viability for PNM and EPE.
- **WHAT:** Regarding Case No. 23-00268-UT, In the Matter of an Inquiry and Potential Rulemaking Pertaining to Investor-Owned Electric Utilities' Regional Market Activity
- **WHEN:** Thursday, January 25, at 2 p.m. MST
- **WHERE:** Hearing Room inside the Bokum Building, located at 142 W Palace Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501; Watch online via the NMPRC's [YouTube Channel](#).
- **AGENDA:** Find an agenda for the workshop [here](#).

*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. To learn more about the work of the NMPRC, please visit [www.prc.nm.gov](http://www.prc.nm.gov).*

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