



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-023

CREATING THE NEW MEXICO ENERGY AFFORDABILITY AND GRID RELIABILITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, New Mexico is experiencing sustained growth in electricity demand driven by economic development, onshoring of manufacturing, electrification, clean transportation, and data center expansion;

WHEREAS, meeting New Mexico's rapidly growing electricity demand will require substantial investment in grid modernization, transmission expansion, and new electricity generation to ensure reliable and resilient service statewide;

WHEREAS, the capital investments required to serve new large load customers demand careful planning to mitigate or avoid increasing utility costs for residential, rural, tribal, and small business customers;

WHEREAS, New Mexico is committed to advancing the Energy Transition Act and strengthening progress toward net-zero emissions goals, and supporting sustainable economic policies that promote long-term economic diversification and job growth;

WHEREAS, coordinated permitting frameworks that are used in several states and federal initiatives show that establishing a single point of contact, aligning agency timelines, and consolidating review processes can accelerate infrastructure deployment without compromising environmental review, tribal and community consultation, or regulatory safeguards;

WHEREAS, New Mexico’s wildfire risk is intensifying due to prolonged drought, rising temperatures, and climate-driven extreme weather, resulting in larger, more frequent, and more destructive wildfires across the State;

WHEREAS, wildfire-related damage to electricity infrastructure imposes significant costs on utilities and ratepayers, disrupts essential electric service, and requires substantial reinvestment to restore and harden the grid—underscoring the need for coordinated planning, prudent investment, and modernized infrastructure to reduce wildfire risk and protect customers; and

WHEREAS, coordination across state agencies can improve the predictability and efficiency of critical electricity generation, transmission, and storage infrastructure permitting while safeguarding fiscal prudence, regulatory integrity, and public trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. **Council Creation.** The New Mexico Energy Affordability and Grid Reliability Council (the “Council”) is hereby established. The Council shall be administratively attached to the Department of Finance and Administration.

2. **Council Duties.** The Council shall:

A. Evaluate and recommend strategies that ensure residential, rural, tribal, and small business customers are not disproportionately burdened by the cost of capital investments required to meet growing electricity demand, including from serving large load customers;

B. Make recommendations for affordable utility rate design that protects consumers while ensuring prudent and timely investment in grid modernization, reliability, and resilience;

C. Assess financing strategies, alternative project delivery methods (such as public-private partnerships), and rate design approaches that minimize long-term rate escalation, avoid stranded costs, and prevent regressive cost impacts on frontline communities and vulnerable populations;

D. Evaluate and recommend strategies that advance New Mexico's progress toward the net zero emissions goals established in the Energy Transition Act by expanding zero carbon electricity generation and storage, improving system resilience and sustainability, and supporting affordable access to electricity generated from zero carbon resources;

E. Balance cost containment, system reliability, emissions reduction, economic development goals, and long-term grid sustainability in assessing strategies and recommendations that preserve environmental review standards, tribal consultation obligations, public transparency, and quality assurance safeguards;

F. Recommend measures that enhance transparency in infrastructure investment planning, including mechanisms that provide stakeholders with clear visibility into projected investments and associated cost impacts;

G. Evaluate opportunities and make recommendations to streamline state and local electricity infrastructure permitting review timelines based on capacity and statutory constraints, including opportunities to:

- i. Align review timelines to improve predictability and reduce unnecessary delay;
- ii. Encourage concurrent rather than sequential review where legally permissible;
- iii. Improve predictability through appropriate public visibility into permitting milestones;
- iv. Reduce duplicative procedural steps while preserving regulatory integrity; and
- v. Incorporate coordinated permitting approaches used in other states that provide a unified point of contact and coordinated review schedules;

H. Use the recommendations under Section G to design a framework that appropriately adjusts the permitting burden to accelerate low carbon impact projects and prioritize state agency resources on projects that require deeper review and/or coordination across all involved federal, tribal, state and local entities with project approvals;

I. Ensure alignment of its activities with applicable innovation, infrastructure, and economic development funding; and

J. Develop legislative, regulatory, or administrative recommendations necessary to implement the Council's findings in the form of a final report due to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1, 2026.

3. **Participating Agencies.** Agencies participating in the Council shall prioritize coordination and information sharing to reduce duplicative review and administrative delay. Council members who are unable to participate as full partners in Council deliberations and analysis may be replaced at the discretion of the Office of the Governor.

4. **Council Membership; Chair and Vice Chair.** The Council consists of the following members:

A. One member appointed by the Governor from the Economic Development Department;

B. One member appointed by the Governor from the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department;

C. One representative invited from the Public Regulation Commission;

D. One representative invited from the Renewable Energy Transmission Authority;

E. One representative invited from the State Land Office;

F. One representative invited from each investor-owned electric utility in New Mexico;

G. One member appointed by the Governor to represent rural or cooperative electric associations;

H. One member appointed by the Governor to represent tribal energy interests;

I. One member appointed by the Governor to provide expertise in utility operations or grid infrastructure;

J. One member appointed by the Governor to provide consumer or ratepayer advocacy expertise; and

K. One member appointed by the Governor to provide energy policy expertise.

The Council shall select a Chair and Vice Chair to lead meetings and who may establish procedures and convene working groups and targeted workshops as necessary to fulfill the Council's duties.

5. **Consultation; Experts; Compensation.** The Council shall consult with state agencies, utilities, tribal governments, local governments, industry representatives, workforce entities, consumer advocates, and other stakeholders as appropriate. The Council may engage outside experts to support the work of the Council. Council members shall not be compensated for their service, other than per diem allowed under the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

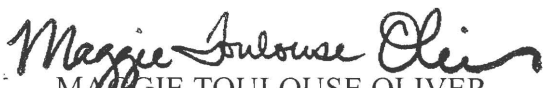
1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

3. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of New Mexico, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

4. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to create a new appropriation or to reallocate funds without legislative authorization.

ATTEST:


MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE



DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 22ND DAY OF APRIL 2026

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR