



NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER SANDY JONES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Facebook's expansion project dependent on solar plant approval

SANTA FE, NM – Two new solar plants in Torrance and Sandoval counties could supply Facebook's data center with enough power to triple the size of its Los Lunas facility, yielding a \$1 billion investment and creating hundreds of jobs – if approved by the Public Regulation Commission (PRC).

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) is asking the PRC to fast-track approval of two purchased power agreements (PPA) to accommodate the data center's increased energy needs with 100 megawatts of renewable energy. A purchased power agreement is a contract between two parties, one which generates electricity and one which is looking to purchase electricity.

A motion filed August 24, asks the PRC to shorten the time for protests to 20 days and expedite a decision. By limiting the time for protests commission approval could come as early as September 26, if no hearing is required. According to PNM, the expedited procedure will ensure the solar facilities are completed and operational in time to meet the energy demands of the data center.

"This commission is nationally recognized for our willingness to expedite reviews and grow our state's renewable energy portfolio," said PRC Chairman Sandy Jones. "We can get bogged down in bureaucracy or we can create jobs, industry, and a strong economy, all while protecting consumers."

According to PNM's application, a PPA with NMRD Data Center II, LLC would generate 50 MW of solar energy from the Britton Solar Energy Center, which will be installed west of Moriarty in Torrance County. In Sandoval County, a PPA with NMRD Data Center III, LLC would produce another 50 MW of solar power from the Encino Solar Energy Center, which will be built northwest of Rio Rancho.

Also according to PNM, the projected \$70 million Britton project will result in an estimated \$3 million in payments in lieu of property taxes to the county during the 25-year life of the project, \$2.5 million in landowner payments, and 200 construction jobs. The Encino project is also expected to bring a \$70 million investment, \$3 million in payments in lieu of property taxes, \$1.2 million in landowner compensation, and up to 200 construction jobs.

To accommodate the data center, the Britton facility should be operational by December 31, 2019 and the Encino plant online by June 30, 2020. However, these projects will keep construction crews working well into 2023 and will create additional full-time positions.
