

# Deming will hold hearing on PNM rate hike

Day & evening hearings take place on June 13

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**DEMING** – Deming residents will have an opportunity to air their views on PNM's proposed rate increase to the Public Regulations Commission on Tuesday.

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission will hold two hearings, both on June 13, for public comment on a proposed rate increase by the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), the largest electricity provider in the state.

PNM is seeking a 9.2 percent increase over 2 years beginning in 2018. The proposal would raise \$62.3 million in revenue [for] the company. An earlier proposal by PNM was rejected by the Commission for being overly complex and for affecting some customers disproportionately. PNM claims the increase is needed for capital investments, includes

new equipment to control pollution from the coal-fired Four Corners Power Plant near Farmington, and to replace two units at the San Juan Generation Station that will be retired.

The new settlement has the approval of PNM and a coalition of environmental and consumer advocacy groups, who say the increase will ensure reliable power supply and PNM's financial stability while taking a step away from coal production in the direction of more renewable energy sources. Critics of the settlement say consumers are being forced to pay for a poor financial investment in the Four Corners plant.

On June 6, the Commission announced it would hold eight public hearings in four New Mexico cities to consider public comment on the increase. The Commission will be in Deming on June 13, at 3 p.m., and again at 6 p.m., at the Luna County Commission Chambers at 700 S. Silver Ave., on the third floor.

Other hearings in the PRC's 5th District will take place in Silver City, Alamogordo, and Los Lunas. The district Commissioner is Sandy Jones, who previously served on the Commission from 2007-2011, and was elected to his seat again in 2014.

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