
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER PATRICK LYONS

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NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Lyons to Address 8th Annual Western Transmission Summit Attendees

SANTA FE – New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Patrick Lyons has been invited to attend the Eighth Annual Western Transmission Summit to address the topic of how governmental regulation and policy are shaping the transmission of electricity in the western region of the nation.

Lyons will speak on how federal and state policymakers are focused on bringing new, renewable energy resources online, reducing greenhouse gasses, and opening competition in the electric industry, and how these policy developments are fostering interregional planning and major interstate energy projects.

Regulators in New Mexico and elsewhere are working to balance the need for new generation and transmission in the western region while considering environmental requirements, economic and policy goals, as well as public concern.

Commissioner Lyons specifically will discuss how the policy and regulation decisions presently being made at both the state and federal levels will shape the future of the energy industry along with commissioners from two other states, including California Public Utility Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval, and Montana Public Service Commission Vice Chairman Travis Kavulla, who also serves as President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Commissioner Lyons is also the Chairman of Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee.

Southwest Power Pool covers a region of 575,000 square miles; an area with more than 56,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, and the Regional State Committee recently released a study that indicates \$240 million in annual fuel cost savings were realized during 2012-2015 due to transmission investments. Overall, these investments are expected to produce in excess of \$16.6 billion in cost benefits.

The annual Western Transmission Summit offers a unique forum where top executives from the western United States' regional planning entities, transmission developers, utilities, and state regulatory agencies discuss and debate the most critical issues surrounding transmission expansion in the West.

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