
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER CYNTHIA B. HALL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

PRC Schedules Hearing to Amend Rules On Electric Utility Plans, Energy Storage

Vice Chair Hall to Preside Over May 31 Public Hearing

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) has initiated a rulemaking proceeding to consider amending a Commission rule that would require electric utilities in New Mexico to consider adding energy storage resources to their resource portfolios. The Commission Rule on Integrated Resource Plans for Electric Utilities (IRP Rule) will be reviewed for possible amendment following workshops and a public comment hearing.

The IRP Rule requires that investor-owned electric utilities engage in a resource planning process that evaluates all practical renewable energy, energy efficiency, load management, distributed generation and conventional supply-side resources on a comparable and consistent basis. This should be done while also considering risk factors – such as uncertainty of fuel supply, price volatility and costs of anticipated environmental regulations – in order to identify the most cost-effective portfolio of resources to supply the energy needs of customers.

In 2007, when the IRP Rule was adopted, energy storage was not available as a commercially feasible alternative, but has now begun to be deployed by utilities. Energy storage refers to the technology capable of absorbing energy, storing it for a period of time, and delivering the energy at a later time, when needed.

Written comments may be submitted to the NMPRC no later than Wednesday, April 19, 2017, and written responses to these written comments must be submitted to the Commission no later than Monday, May 1, 2017. Mail comments to: New Mexico Public Regulation Commission; Records Management Bureau; PO Box 1269; Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269; or hand deliver to the NMPRC's Records Management Bureau located on the Fourth Floor, 1120 Paseo de Peralta, Room 406, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Comments submitted to the NMPRC must refer to the docket number. Those submitting comments are advised to include "Case No. 17-00022-UT" prominently in their submissions.

A public workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, beginning at 2 p.m., at the Offices of the Commission at 1120 Paseo de Peralta, in Santa Fe. The Commission will determine at this initial workshop if additional days of workshops need to be scheduled.

At the workshop, participants should be prepared to discuss the following issues: 1. Describe the energy storage resources they currently use or intends to use; 2. Discuss their planned or existing energy storage resources, including the useful life of the resource, its maximum capacity and dispatch characteristics, and operating costs; 3. Discuss whether the Commission should establish

benchmarks for energy storage resources, including examination of the costs and benefits of deploying more energy storage technologies in New Mexico; 4. Ways in which those benchmarks would be determined, and; 5. Suggest other ideas for the creation of a larger energy storage industry in New Mexico.

Commission Vice-Chair Cynthia Hall has been appointed as the presiding officer of the Rulemaking Public Comment Hearing scheduled to begin Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at 2 p.m., at the Commission's Fourth Floor Hearing Room, 1120 Paseo de Peralta, in Santa Fe. The public comment hearing provides an opportunity for the public to deliver their comments verbally. Because the public has been given the opportunity to provide their comments in writing, the presiding officer may limit the amount of time afforded to speakers in order to allow all speakers to have their comments recorded.

The record for this case will close June 14, 2017 – 14 days after the May 31 public hearing.

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