

# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION CLARIFIES PROCESS FOR UTILITIES REGARDING THE COMMUNITY SOLAR ACT AND UPCOMING RULEMAKING

(SANTA FE, NM—JULY 9)—The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) would like to clarify for those interested in the development of community solar projects in New Mexico that the rules for implementing the state's community solar program have not yet been established. Currently, the NMPRC is engaged in the Rulemaking process for the Community Solar Act, which was signed into law following the 2021 New Mexico legislative session. Those wishing to develop projects under the Community Solar Act will have established rules to follow on or before April 1, 2022.

An order regarding the Rulemaking, issued June 15, 2021, by the NMPRC, directs utilities to advise current, future, and likely community solar applicants of the following:

1. Existing interconnection rules remain in effect until they are amended or replaced by the NMPRC.
2. A place in a utility's applicant queue for interconnection does not and will not provide any advantage for selection as a community solar project prior to the NMPRC's rules being established, on or before April 1, 2022.

Anyone wishing to work with investor-owned utilities in New Mexico, please contact the following participating utilities regarding their community solar programs. For El Paso Electric, contact Roberto Favela [Roberto.Favela@epelectric.com](mailto:Roberto.Favela@epelectric.com), Donna A. Enriquez [Donna.AlHakeem@epelectric.com](mailto:Donna.AlHakeem@epelectric.com) or Chris Corral [Christopher.Corral@epelectric.com](mailto:Christopher.Corral@epelectric.com); for Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM): [communitysolar@pnm.com](mailto:communitysolar@pnm.com), or for Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS): Kyle Reddell at [kyle.a.reddell@xcelenergy.com](mailto:kyle.a.reddell@xcelenergy.com).

*The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) regulates the [utilities](#), [telecommunications](#), and [motor carrier](#) industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law.*

*The NMPRC also promotes public safety through the offices of [Pipeline Safety Bureau](#) and [Transportation Division](#).*

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to current, future, and likely community solar interconnection applicants, as required by Decretal Paragraph A of the New Mexico Public Utility Commission's ("NMPRC") June 15, 2021 *Order Issuing Notice to Electric Utilities and Applicants Regarding Pending Applications for Community Solar Interconnections during Rulemaking Proceeding*, which was issued in this Docket (the "June 15, 2021 Order"). On June 18, 2021, the Community Solar Act, Sections 62-16B-1 to 62-16B-8 NMSA 1978, became effective law in New Mexico. Pursuant to Subsection 62-16B-7 (B) of the Community Solar Act, the NMPRC is required to adopt rules to establish a community solar program no later than April 1, 2022, which is approximately nine months from the date of this Public Notice

As required by the June 15, 2021 Order, [[ El Paso Electric Company ("EPE") / Public Service Company of New Mexico ("PNM") / Southwestern Public Service Company ("SPS")]] hereby provides notice to current, future, and likely community solar interconnection applicants that:

1. The NMPRC's existing interconnection rules, found in the New Mexico Administrative Code at 17.9.568 NMAC, and manual remain in place until amended or replaced by the NMPRC; and
2. A place in a utility's applicant queue for interconnection does not and will not provide any advantage for selection as a community solar project, as the NMPRC's rules will be in place on or before April 1, 2022.

No NMPRC community solar rules are currently in place, and there are no rules that authorize the processing of any community solar interconnection applications. For this reason,

utilities are not required to accept or record community solar applications. However, [[ EPE / PNM / SPS ]] will process qualifying facility applications that are not, or will not be associated with community solar programs according to NMPRC Rule 17.9.568 NMAC.

This Public Notice is being posted on [[ EPE's / PNM's / SPS's ]] website. If you have any questions, please contact:

PNM: [communitysolar@pnm.com](mailto:communitysolar@pnm.com)

SPS: Kyle Reddell at [kyle.a.reddell@xcelenergy.com](mailto:kyle.a.reddell@xcelenergy.com)

EPE: Roberto Favela at [Roberto.Favela@epelectric.com](mailto:Roberto.Favela@epelectric.com), Donna A. Enriquez at

[Donna.AlHakeem@epelectric.com](mailto:Donna.AlHakeem@epelectric.com), or Chris Corral at [Christopher.Corral@epelectric.com](mailto:Christopher.Corral@epelectric.com).