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NM Public Regulation Commission Approves Major New Solar and Battery Storage Projects in Southern New Mexico

SANTA FE, N.M. – This week, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission approved major new solar and battery storage projects in Southern New Mexico. On May 17, the NM PRC approved agreements between El Paso Electric (“EPE”) and the 130 MW Carne Solar Project and the 65 MW Carne Battery Storage Project. The entire output of the Carne project will be delivered to customers in New Mexico.

The projects will be located in Luna County, northeast of Deming, and now that the agreements have been approved, project financial closing, permitting, and construction can take place. The projects are expected to be in operation mid-2025.

In addition to the new projects, the NM PRC approved amendments to purchased power agreements between El Paso Electric and the 100 MW Buena Vista I Solar, 20 MW Buena Vista II Solar, and 50 MW Buena Vista Storage Projects. These projects have already been built, and are located in Otero County near Chaparral, NM. While eighty percent of the output the 100 MW Buena Vista I solar project goes to EPE customers in Texas, with yesterday’s approval, a total of forty percent of the output from these combined projects will go to EPE’s New Mexico customers.

The Carne Solar Project’s output will be purchased for about 3 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). The two Buena Vista Solar Projects’ output will be purchased for New Mexico consumers at about 2.4 cents/kWh. The projects, once complete, should increase EPE’s solar capacity 100 MW today to 350 MW and they should enable EPE to reach a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for their New Mexico service territory of over 40%.

“The approved projects are good for the consumer and for the environment.” Said Commissioner James Ellison. “The NM PRC is proud to play a role in decarbonizing New Mexico’s grid in a cost-effective manner.”

An online version of this release is available [here](#).

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