

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**SIXTH MEETING**  
**of the**  
**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**November 27-28, 2023**  
**State Capitol, Room 307**  
**Santa Fe**

The sixth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on November 27, 2023 at 10:07 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair  
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Vice Chair  
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Sen. William F. Burt  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Rep. Charlotte Little  
Sen. Michael Padilla  
Sen. Harold Pope  
Sen. William P. Soules

**Absent**

Rep. Jason C. Harper  
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Christine Chandler  
Rep. Gail Chasey  
Rep. Jenifer Jones (11/27)  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (11/27)  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

Rep. Yanira Gurrola  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid  
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill  
Rep. Larry R. Scott  
Rep. Linda Serrato

**Guest Legislators**

Sen. Linda M. Lopez (11/27)  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

**Staff**

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, LCS  
Markela Clinton, Committee Coordinator, LCS  
Paul Estok, Bill Drafter, LCS

## **Minutes Approval**

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

## **Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

## **Handouts**

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

## **References to Webcast**

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov), under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

## **Monday, November 27**

### **Welcome and Introductions (10:07 a.m.)**

Representative Sariñana welcomed the committee, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

### **Building Transparency into AI Programming for Decisions Regarding Public Resources and Services (10:10 a.m.)**

Cristopher Moore, Ph.D., professor, Santa Fe Institute, and member, Interdisciplinary Working Group on Algorithmic Justice, discussed the positive and negative aspects of using algorithms to make decisions in areas such as employment, health care, education, housing and criminal justice. Dr. Moore also discussed an example of legislation from Vermont relating to the use and oversight of artificial intelligence in state government. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=11/27/2023&ItemNumber=1>.

### **Public Safety Radio Communications and the Project 25 (P25) Digital Trunked Radio System Project Status Update (11:16 a.m.)**

Michael Rohrbacher, director, Public Safety Communications, Department of Information Technology, described the statewide radio system and provided the current status of the project to update the system to the new P25 digital trunked standards. P25 is a suite of standards for interoperable digital two-way radio products. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20112723%20Item%202%20DoIT%20Update%20P25%20Digital%20Truck%20Radio%20System%20Project.pdf>.

### **Sandia National Laboratories Status Update (1:34 p.m.)**

James S. Peery, Ph.D., director, Sandia National Laboratories, described activities at Sandia National Laboratories and discussed the economic impact of these activities within New Mexico. Dr. Peery also discussed Sandia National Laboratories' collaborative efforts with New Mexico colleges and universities and the laboratories' initiatives in developing the workforce. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20112723%20Item%203%20SNL%20Status%20Update.pdf>.

### **Approval of Minutes (2:13 p.m.)**

On a motion made and seconded, and without opposition, the committee approved the minutes of the October 30-31, 2023 meeting.

### **Diversifying New Mexico's Economy: Need, Opportunities and Initiatives in Science and Technology (2:14 p.m.)**

Nora Sackett, director, Office of Strategy, Science and Technology, Economic Development Department, highlighted the Economic Development Department's success in creating jobs through economic development projects that have promoted startup and growth in and relocation of science-based and technology-based industries to New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20112723%20Item%204%20EDD%20-%20Diversifying%20NMs%20Economy-%20Initiatives%20in%20Science%20and%20Tech.pdf>.

### **Children, Youth and Families Department Software Projects Update (3:20 p.m.)**

Peter Street, director, New Mexico Impact Project, Office of the Secretary, Children, Youth and Families Department, described the evolution of the information system projects within the Children, Youth and Families Department and explained the status of the department's current project, NM Impact.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:22 p.m.

## **Tuesday, November 28**

### **The Clean Energy Transition: Regulation and Investor-Owned Electric Utilities (9:09 a.m.)**

Merrie Lee Soules, citizen intervenor, Public Regulation Commission Hearings, described her background and experience working through the regulatory structure for electric utilities in New Mexico. Ms. Soules then discussed the transition to renewable energy sources and offered suggestions to improve that transition. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20112723%20Item%206%20The%20Clean%20Energy%20Transition.pdf>.

**New Mexico Bioscience Authority (NMBSA) (10:43 a.m.)**

Dale Dekker, chair, NMBSA, and architect and founder, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini Architecture in Progress; Paul Laur, director, NMBSA, and chief operating officer, Mercury Bio; and Stephanie Tofighi, executive director, NMBSA, described the importance of the bioscience industry to the state and provided an update on the activities of the NMBSA. Ms. Tofighi discussed the current initiatives of the NMBSA, including the community readiness program and the bioscience business accelerator. Mr. Laur discussed the NMBSA's request of \$50 million to create a co-investment partnership program that the state could use to encourage investments in the bioscience industry. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20112723%20Item%207%20NM%20Bioscience%20Authority.pdf>.

**Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Status Update (11:42 a.m.)**

Kathy Keith, director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL, and Frances Chadwick, staff director, LANL, discussed the growth of the funding and workload at LANL in response to increased national security demands. She described LANL's programs that have an economic impact in New Mexico and described LANL's educational partnerships. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20112723%20Item%208%20LANL%20Status%20Update.pdf>.

**Proposed Legislation (12:17 p.m.)**

Mr. Edwards stated that there has been no legislation presented for committee endorsement.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.