



New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

FY 26 BUDGET REQUEST & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Water and Natural Resources Committee
Representative Matthew McQueen, Chair
Senator Liz Stefanics, Vice Chair

November 25, 2024





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COMMISSION**

Priorities and Goals

- ▶ Maintain low vacancy levels through means of adequate compensation and growth opportunities
- ▶ Modernize the Agency and increase capacity by optimizing internal operations, processes and time management
- ▶ Provide leadership in regulation through implementing legislation and state policies, working with the industry and the public to be a resource for the State
- ▶ Leverage Leadership Opportunities for New Mexico
 - ▶ Chair O'Connell elected president of Southwest Power Pool's influential Regional State Committee as well as appointed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to serve on the State Current Issues Collaborative
 - ▶ Commissioner Aguilera elected chair of Western Energy Markets Body of State Regulators
 - ▶ Commissioner Ellison selected to be on the National Natural Gas Committee and Natural Gas Task Force





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Progress

- ▶ FY25 Travel and Professional Development
 - ▶ Specialized memberships and training for staff
 - ▶ Ex. Society for Depreciation Professionals
 - ▶ Peer to peer training required after paid training
- ▶ IT Modernization
 - ▶ The Electronic Filing and Case Docket Management System RFP has been issued and the PRC is on track to award a contract prior to January 2025



Progress Cont.

- ▶ Proactive Regulation- New and Upcoming PRC Rules
 - ▶ Completed:
 - ▶ Reliability Metrics
 - ▶ Green House Gas Emission Limits
 - ▶ Still to Come:
 - ▶ Energy Efficiency
 - ▶ Grid Modernization and Distribution Planning





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FY26 Budget Goals

- ▶ Maintain low vacancy levels through means of adequate compensation and growth opportunities
- ▶ Modernize the Agency and increase capacity





FY26 Request

(Dollars in thousands)

Description	FY25 OpBud	FY26 Request	Difference FY25 OpBud/ FY26 Request	% Increase/ Decrease Over FY26 OpBud
REVENUE:				
General Fund	\$12,903.0	\$14,335.3	\$1,432.3	11.1%
Other Transfers	\$1,964.2	\$2,257.3	\$293.1	14.9%
Federal Revenue	\$1,560.4	\$1,584.8	\$24.4	1.6%
Total Revenue	\$16,427.6	\$18,177.4	\$1,749.8	10.7%
EXPENDITURES:				
200 Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$14,090.5	\$15,720.2	\$1,629.7	11.6%
300 Contractual Services	\$657.3	\$659.4	\$2.1	0.3%
400 Other Expenses	\$1,679.8	\$1,797.8	\$118.0	7.0%
Total Expenditures	\$16,427.6	\$18,177.4	\$1,749.8	10.7%
FTE	114.0	119.0		4.2%



FY 26 Budget Request by Category

- ▶ 200's Category –
 - ▶ PRC is requesting an increase of \$1.4 million or 11.6%
 - ▶ Includes 5 additional FTE, \$575.5 thousand

- ▶ 300's Category –
 - ▶ PRC is requesting an increase of \$2.1 thousand or 0.3%

- ▶ 400's Category –
 - ▶ PRC is requesting an increase of \$118 thousand or 7%
 - ▶ Increase is to purchase supplies and equipment for additional FTE
 - ▶ Includes inflation costs for subscriptions such as S&P Global and Westlaw
 - ▶ Includes funding for an AI software subscription



Proposed Additional Positions

- ▶ Commissioners – 2 Analysts
 - ▶ Faster and more in-depth review of cases
- ▶ Hearing Examiners - 1 Attorney
 - ▶ Increase speed of case resolution
- ▶ Consumer Relations Division – 1 Consumer Advocate/Community Outreach
- ▶ Administrative Services – 1 Grants Manager





FY 26 Special Appropriation Requests

- ▶ IT Modernization, \$1,000,000
 - ▶ Request includes costs for litigation management system and document review/e-discovery software
- ▶ IT Modernization/Equipment, \$100,000
 - ▶ PRC has identified the significant need for new laptops as users are using laptops up to 7+ years old
- ▶ Community Solar, \$700,000
 - ▶ To facilitate the Community Solar program





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Questions

