

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

**September 16-17, 2021
State Capitol, House Chambers
Santa Fe**

The fourth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on September 16, 2021 at 10:11 a.m. in the House Chambers of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Sen. Michael Padilla, Vice Chair
Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Harold Pope

Absent

Rep. Jason C. Harper
Sen. Mark Moores
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Sen. William P. Soules

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo (9/17)
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert (9/17)
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (9/17)
Rep. Andrea Romero (9/17)
Sen. Bill Tallman (9/16)

Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Rep. Gail Chasey
Sen. Leo Jaramillo
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew
Rep. Angelica Rubio
Rep. Linda Serrato

Guest Legislator

Rep. Alonzo Baldonado (9/16)

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

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, LCS
Sara Wiedmaier, Research Assistant, LCS
Samantha DeLap, Intern, LCS

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, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Thursday, September 16

Welcome and Introductions (10:12 a.m.)

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

Renewable Energy Development: Capitalizing on New Mexico's Energy Potential

A. The State of Renewable Energy Development and Driving Market Factors (10:15 a.m.)

Rikki Seguin, director, Interwest Energy Alliance, discussed the economic drivers in the renewable energy market and described how New Mexico policies can result in advantages for the state in this market. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20091621%20Item%201%20A%20--%20Interwest%20--%20Renewable%20Energy%20Development%20and%20Market%20Drivers%20.pdf>.

B. Economic Impact of Renewable Energy in New Mexico (10:50 a.m.)

Dr. John Tysseling, economic consultant, Moss Adams LLP, described the United States energy markets, with an emphasis on the job creation aspects of the renewable energy market, and how New Mexico policy and taxation changes that impact the wind and solar markets could create a growth scenario in the state. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20091621%20Item%201%20--%20Economic%20Impact%20of%20Renewable%20Energy.pdf>.

C. Development in New Mexico and Partnerships with Local Communities (11:10 a.m.)

Brian Sarantos, director of development, EDF Renewables, described his company's work in low-carbon energy projects, including the Oso Grande Wind Project in Lea and Eddy counties and the Milo Wind Project and the Roosevelt Wind Project in Roosevelt County. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20091621%20Item%201%20C%20%20--%20EDF%20Renewables.pdf>.

New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (NM RETA): Transmission and Storage Study (12:25 p.m.)

Fernando Martinez, director, NM RETA, updated the committee on the current work of the NM RETA in developing and expanding energy transmission lines and energy storage projects in New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20091621%20Item%202%20--%20RETA%20Updates--Science,%20Technology%20&%20Telecommunications%20Committee%2009-16-2021.PDF>.

Approval of Minutes (1:13 p.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the August 24-26, 2021 meeting with a change that Senator Pope was present all three days of the August meeting.

Regulation Parity for Telecommunications Carriers (1:15 p.m.)

Senator Padilla and Leo Baca, director, Government and Regulatory Affairs, CenturyLink, described statutory changes that are being proposed to the New Mexico Telecommunications Act. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20091621%20Item%203%20--%20Lumen%20--%20Regulation%20Parity%20for%20Telecommunications%20Carriers.pdf>.

Building a Statewide Student Recruitment and Retention Program for K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education (2:29 p.m.)

Gwen Perea Warniment, deputy secretary for teaching, learning and assessment, Public Education Department (PED); Yanira Vázquez, director, Math and Science Bureau, PED; and Dr. Elaine Perea, director, College and Career Readiness Bureau, PED, described the PED's role and current efforts in STEM education and activities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20091621%20Item%204%20--%20PED%20STEM%20Education%20Presentation.pdf>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:58 p.m.

Friday, September 17

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Cybersecurity Issues (Legislators Only) (9:05 a.m.)

After meeting in executive session, the committee recessed and reconvened the regular committee meeting.

Using Utility Easements for Broadband (10:26 a.m.)

Senator Padilla; Carlos Lucero, government affairs manager, Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM); and Jon Hawkins, associate director, Innovation and Communications, PNM, discussed Senate Bill 360 (2021).

Energy Storage Options: An Overview of World Markets and Logistics for Required Raw Materials (11:16 a.m.)

Dr. Babu Chalamala, manager, Energy Storage Technology and Systems Department, Sandia National Laboratories, discussed the current rechargeable battery energy storage technologies and how electric and hybrid vehicles are driving the battery market. Dr. Abbas Akhil, founder, Renewable Energy Ventures, LLC, and former state representative, District 20, discussed the geopolitical and environmental issues surrounding the strategic materials required for the production of electric vehicle batteries. The presentation documents can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/16/2021&ItemNumber=6>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.