



GRIDWORKS

NM PRC's 2022 Grid Modernization Webinar Series
February 17, 2022 Webinar #1
Introduction to Grid Modernization
Meeting Notes

Meeting Objectives

- Establish stakeholder engagement expectations and practices for the grid modernization webinar series
- Provide background, context and expectations for grid modernization webinar series and resulting NMPRC action
- Hear from stakeholders opportunities and barriers that should be addressed in the webinar series and subsequent NOPR

In attendance:

- Over 45 individuals
- 20 distinct participating organizations represented
- Also participating was representation from PRC (commissioners and staff), NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, (NM EMNR; presenters) and Grid Works members (meeting facilitation and support)

Meeting Agenda is available [here](#)

Two presentations were received:

- Art O'Donnell, US Department of Energy Solar Innovator, (assigned to the NM PRC)
 - Presentation slides available [here](#)
 - Key Messages:
 - Statutory and regulatory context for grid modernization (see slides 3-8)
 - Initial outline of topics to be addressed in grid mod rulemaking (slide 9)
- Jacqueline Waite, NM EMNRD Clean Energy Program Manager
 - Presentation slides available [here](#)
 - Key Messages:
 - EMNRD's role in grid mod: Baseline; Grid Mod Advisory Group (and white papers); Roadmap (slides 4-5)
 - "Framing Questions" for Grid Mod (slide 6), and Implementation of GMAG recommendations/unanswered questions (slides 7-11)



GRIDWORKS

Stakeholder Facilitated Discussion (synopsis)

- Regarding the process:
 - Concerns with the pace and time commitment expected (especially utilities and industry representatives)
 - Question about how prioritization will occur within the process
 - Questions about how grid mod (pre-NOPR and NOPR) interacts with other rulemaking and related proceedings (Interconnection; IRP; etc.)
- Regarding the Grid Mod NOPR:
 - Some view the Grid Mod statute as relatively self-contained and complete, regarding the topics potentially addressed in rule language; (subjects; definitions; utility authority; role of PRC; other procedural aspects of filing, review and approval)
 - Others expressed that, within the “time equation” of decarbonizing as quickly as possible there is a need to put a structure in place for plan filings and reviews, and a related need to proactively ease the review process (such as via articulating review criteria, etc.). The national status of how grid mod proposals are being reviewed by regulatory commissions was referenced, as reflected in this article:
 - <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/duke-sce-other-grid-mod-proposals-cofronted-big-cost-questions-in-2021-a/610977/>
 - Other issues to address in a NOPR, that are not explicit in the statute:
 - how the PRC is to balance needs in reviewing applications
 - incorporating energy equity as a specific objective
 - how PRC will balance minimizing cost to consumers v. need to invest to improve the system
 - what guidance the PRC should provide regarding the packaging of grid mod components most effectively as comprehensive projects
 - coordinating grid mod-based system upgrades with objective of improving interconnection of customer-sited generation and community solar
 - defining what qualifies as a grid mod project, vs. an upgrade/routine maintenance (e.g., CCN filing)
 - how cost recovery will be addressed
 - balancing system optimization and enhancement concurrently with serving additional load
 - potential use of project oversight, cost/benefit constructs and decision-making frames (“scorecard;” Gantt chart; etc.) as part of PRC review/approval