

“First and foremost, the filed comments demonstrate that the stakeholder process facilitated by Gridworks was a success.”

— SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

“I was worried with the very first one that the stakeholders would not be heard. Today’s webinar proved that with the right facilitation, the people can be heard.”

— QUOTE FROM STAKEHOLDER

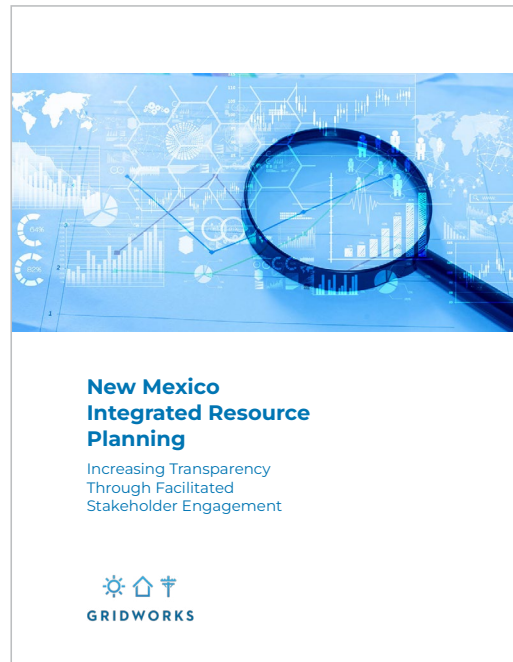
INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN RESOURCE PLANNING FOR NEW MEXICO

Gridworks enabled over 130 organizations to provide substantive input to New Mexico electric utilities’ 2023 Integrated Resource Plans.

OVERVIEW

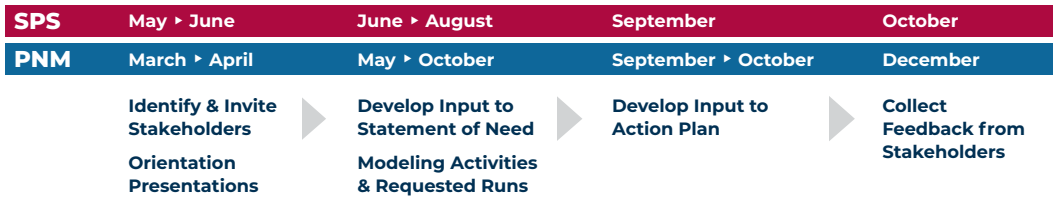
In 2022, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission launched a new stakeholder engagement process to increase transparency, involve stakeholders early in the planning process, and tie the plans directly to the resource procurement process. Gridworks was appointed as the independent facilitator and worked closely with the two utilities, Public Service Company of New Mexico and Southwestern Public Service Company, to complete the six-month engagement process.

Why did stakeholders choose to engage? Many people wanted to express their ideas about how the utility could better meet the challenge of providing carbon-free, reliable, resilient, and affordable electricity. Others had a deep desire to understand the opportunities and constraints faced by the utility.



APPROACH

The sequence of stakeholder conversations is shown below:



Gridworks worked with the utilities to provide a foundation of knowledge for all stakeholders. Participants also had the opportunity to suggest modeling analyses that reflected specific goals such as:

- Acceleration of a 100% carbon-free electric grid,
- Increased use of demand-side resources and
- Meeting the needs of significant electricity demand growth from electric vehicles, building electrification, and industrial loads.

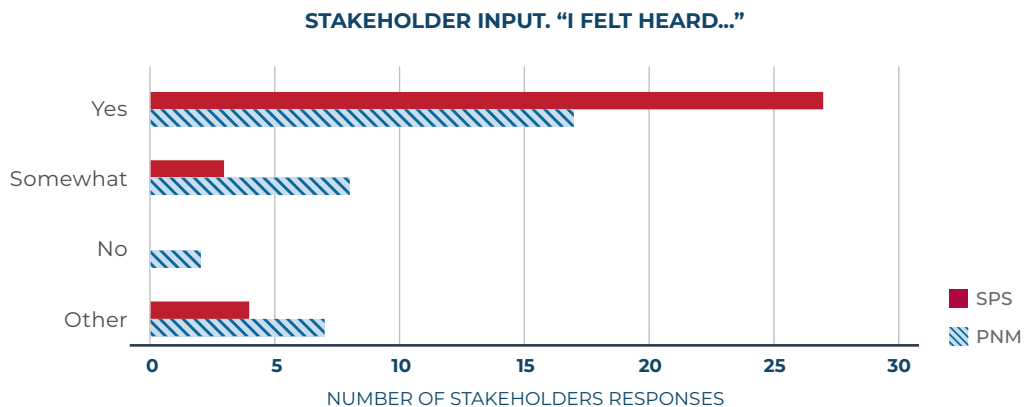
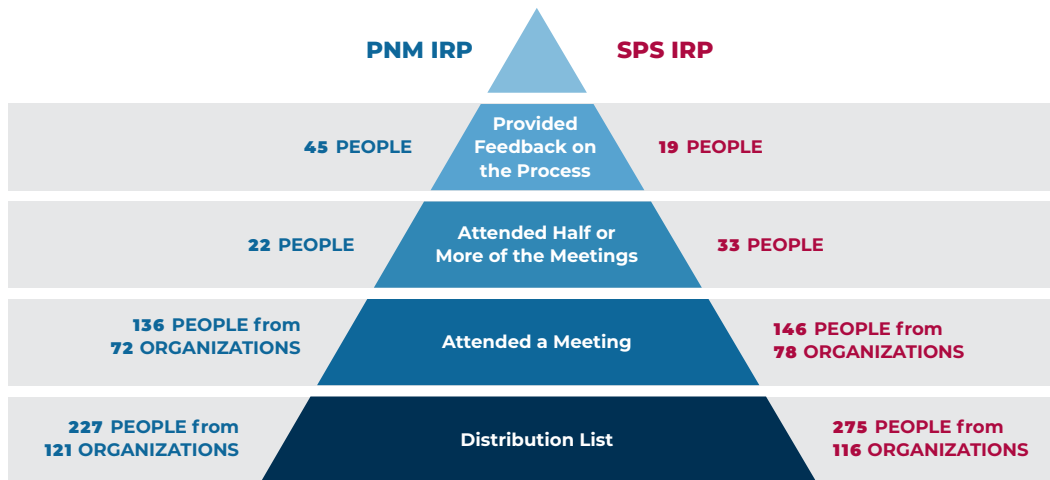
Stakeholders provided input to the statement of need, focusing on the quantity of new resources needed, and the action plan, what resources to procure and how.

Gridworks worked closely with each utility to invite stakeholders from groups that are not normally represented in 20-year planning conversations. These included Indian tribes, pueblos and nations; city and county governments; and income-limited communities.

OUTCOMES

- Agreement among stakeholders and utilities on the actions to be taken over the next three years.
- Increased understanding among stakeholders of the resources needed over the 20-year planning period.

- Over 130 different organizations participated in the process and the majority of stakeholders felt that they were heard and understood.



- Utilities and stakeholders reported the engagement to be a success. Utilities noted that the independent facilitator brought new voices to the process. Stakeholders' suggestions for additional modeling runs and action plan items were accepted and incorporated into the plans.
- Gridworks offered a few recommendations to strengthen future stakeholder engagement processes and increase transparency of the planning process. These include
 - Revisit the timeline for the facilitated process and consider creating an ongoing modeling forum to keep communication open between utilities and stakeholders regarding modeling methodologies, assumptions, and inputs.

- Initiating an outreach effort to engage stakeholders who may not have participated in prior IRP conversations.
- Preparing introductory materials for stakeholders to explain the IRP's purpose and elements and describe the relationship between the plan and future resource procurement actions.
- Structuring stakeholder meetings such that data-rich presentations are followed by time for stakeholders to submit comments and questions to be addressed at the next meeting.
- Engaging stakeholders at the start of the meeting series to choose and/or explain data-sharing platforms and associated procedures. Do the same for information requests and question/answer systems.

ABOUT GRIDWORKS

Gridworks facilitates difficult discussions and collaboration between policymakers, decarbonization advocates, energy providers and utility operators. We work with these groups to determine the best approach to meet decarbonization goals. Our work has eased the shift toward clean energy in the Western U.S. We're expanding to further our mission and invite you to work with us to navigate your clean energy challenges.

Learn more at [**gridworks.org**](https://gridworks.org).