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## Xcel Energy/SPS's 2026 Integrated Resource Plan SPS System Overview Workshop #2 (March 23-24, 2026), Roswell and Zoom

### WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Representatives from 37 organizations attended this workshop to meet with the Xcel Energy/SPS Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) team, explore the SPS system with subject-matter experts, and learn about upcoming workshops and information-sharing mechanisms. Stakeholders from both New Mexico and Texas jurisdictions were present. The 57 participating stakeholders had an opportunity to vote on their highest-priority topics for the remainder of the IRP process. The list of participating organizations (excluding Xcel Energy/SPS, its consultants, and Gridworks) is attached. Gridworks and SPS extended special appreciation to those who attended the workshop in person in Roswell, New Mexico.

### MATERIALS

- **Gridworks slide deck:** [Gridworks Slide Deck with poll results](#)
- **Xcel Energy/SPS slide decks:** [Xcel Energy Slide Deck](#) and [Xcel Energy Data Sharing](#)
- **Discussion guides:** [Load Forecast Discussion Guide](#), [Planning and Policy Req. Discussion Guide](#), [Resource Options - Demand Side Discussion Guide](#), [Resource Options - Supply Side Discussion Guide](#)
- **Recordings:**
  - **Day 1:** [https://youtu.be/nHpYgSRE\\_1k](https://youtu.be/nHpYgSRE_1k)
  - **Day 2:** [https://youtu.be/gCDvX\\_uLUA0](https://youtu.be/gCDvX_uLUA0)
- **Website for all materials:** <https://gridworks.org/initiatives/xcel-sps/>

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

This workshop had the following objectives:

- Build a foundation of shared knowledge about the SPS system, opportunities, and challenges.
- Provide a more intimate discussion forum (small groups with utility experts) on key topics.
- Introduce a framework to orient stakeholders and introduce them to the in-depth work ahead.
- Prioritize participant interests to guide the stakeholder process
- Build relationships and connections, and offer appreciation for stakeholders.

### BUILDING A FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE SPS SYSTEM

The areas for stakeholder input and the guiding question for the process were reviewed to set the stage for three roundtable discussions among stakeholders and utility experts. These experts provided an overview of critical IRP planning topics, including resources, market pricing, system topology, load forecasts, and important activities of the Southwest Power Pool that affect SPS operations and planning decisions.

Roundtable discussions focused on resource options (supply and demand side), load forecasts, and planning requirements. Key themes from these discussions are listed below.



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## Resource Options

- **Emerging technologies** - geothermal, nuclear, long-duration storage, pumped hydro. How is SPS considering these in its modeling? How feasible are they? In what timeframe?
- **NM compliance, 2045 requirements, carbon-free resources** - what does a fully compliant 2045 portfolio look like? What are cost impacts? Consideration of hydrogen conversion? How to meet the needs of high load factor customers under a zero-carbon future?
- **Virtual power plants and demand response** - how does SPS model these options? How to balance their potential with performance expectations in SPP's market?
- **2024 and 2025 RFPs** - how will CCN approval impact resource planning? Will these bring more batteries to SPS's system? If not approved, how will SPS split the system between NM and TX?
- **Interregional transmission** - is this modeled as a supply-side resource?

## Load Forecasting

- **Unprecedented growth rates** - what are the underlying drivers of the unprecedented growth? What is SPS's criteria to include new requests in its load forecast?
- **Cost allocation** - who is paying for the upgrades? How are SPS customers protected? Large load tariff?
- **Oil & gas load growth: how are expanding operations and electrification contributing to forecasted system load growth?** Complexity of developers vs. tenants.
- **Data centers and forecasting** - how much data center growth is SPS forecasting? How firm is it? What are reasonable assumptions for future growth in the outer years of this planning period?

## Planning and Policy Requirements

- **765 kV additions** - impact on SPS's system constraints? Rates?
- **SPP requirements and membership** - SPP's planning reserve margin (PRM) and effective load carrying capability (ELCC) metrics are severe. How is SPS thinking about the costs to its customers? Has SPS considered withdrawing from the RTO? What would the costs, benefits, and impacts be to exit? What resources are anticipated to be added across SPP?
- **Transmission constraints** - how does southeast New Mexico compare to the rest of the system?

## STAKEHOLDER PRIORITY TOPICS

Stakeholders had the opportunity to identify their top three interests for the IRP process. Stakeholders offered their interests during the first workshop. Participants in this second workshop prioritized the list as follows:



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Top Interests for This Work	
Industrial electrification	60%
Affordability and customer bill impacts	50%
Grid reliability amid rapid load growth	40%
Cost of new resources to meet demand growth	30%
Data centers and large load integration	30%
Speed and timelines for serving new customers; support economic development	30%
Environmental progress and advancing NM's Energy Transition Act	20%
Modeling assumptions and scenario planning	20%
Southwest Power Pool requirements and market participation	10%
Balancing reliability, affordability, and policy requirements	10%
Dispatchable versus intermittent resources for power generation	0%
Technology adoption and grid modernization (virtual power plants, customer-sited resources, advanced metering)	0%
Transmission development	0%

## INFORMATION SHARING

SPS provided a preview of the planned modeling information-sharing framework and process. More details about the platform (iManage) and how to request access to non-confidential and/or confidential information will be provided at the next workshop. A signed confidentiality agreement will be required for stakeholders requesting confidential information.

## ROUNDTABLE FOLLOW-UP

Discussions during the roundtables yielded the following topics for follow-up:

### Data Requests

- Generation portfolio by energy (tables)
- Load duration curves and demand response impact
- Link to SPP interconnection study queue

### For Future Discussion

- Additional detail on load growth elements (including contribution of data centers, other industrial loads, etc.)
- SPS economic development team representatives - discuss data center approach; address speculative shopping
- Microgrids - interest in more discussion, perhaps reframed as “fast connect solutions”
- SPP metrics - PRM and ELCC; value/cost to SPS customers. Exit considerations.
- Growth scenario: I would encourage adding the unconstrained forecast as a point of reference - and also please show where loads stalled in the SPP study process and not getting studied, where that lands in forecasting, including as unconstrained

### Discrete Questions

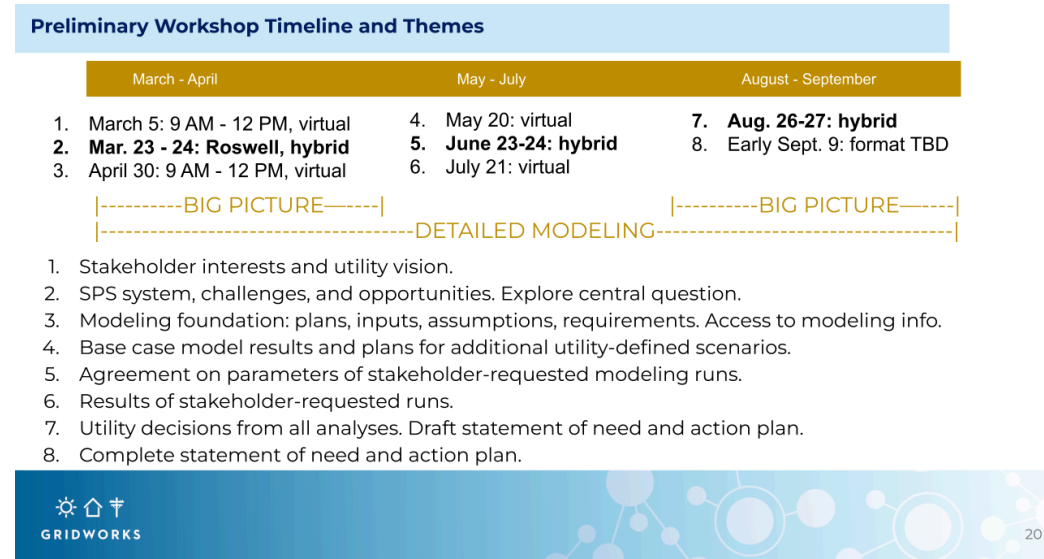
- Wildcat Power Purchase Agreement - did that go through?
- Hydrogen conversion costs to meet 2045 RPS reqs?
- Methane reductions - how are they accounted for? In the oil and gas reductions or the SPS transportation plan?
- TX policy (SB 6), curtailing data center load. How is it considered in the planning reserve margin analysis?



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## NEXT STEPS

The timeline for the IRP stakeholder engagement workshop is shown in the graphic below. Themes may be adjusted based on stakeholder and utility needs, and agendas and objectives for each workshop will be posted in advance.



A summary of this workshop is available at <https://gridworks.org/initiatives/xcel-sps/>

**The next workshop will be held on April 30, 2026, from 9 AM - 12 PM MDT, via Zoom.**

The purpose is to understand the utility’s modeling framework, plans, inputs, and assumptions. Access to modeling information through SPS’s iManage system will also be discussed in more detail.

Questions, concerns, and suggestions are welcome by contacting Linda Hudgins ([linda.l.hudgins@xcelenergy.com](mailto:linda.l.hudgins@xcelenergy.com)) and Deborah Shields ([dshields@gridworks.org](mailto:dshields@gridworks.org)).



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## **WORKSHOP #2 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS (Excluding SPS, its consultants, and facilitators)**

### **Attendees in Person**

Conoco Phillips (also participated via Zoom)  
Central Valley Electric Cooperative  
NGL Water Solutions  
New Mexico Economic Development Department (also participated via Zoom)  
NM PRC (also participated via Zoom)

### **Attendees via ZOOM exclusively**

1898 & Company  
Armstrong County, Texas, Judge  
Betty & Wozniak, P.C./Oil & Gas Attorneys  
Burns and McDonnell  
Cabot Corp  
Chevron  
City of Clovis  
Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy  
Conoco Phillips  
Curry County  
Economic Development Corporation of Lea County  
Enterprise Products Company  
Golden Spread  
Google  
Grid United  
Interwest  
New Mexico Large Customer Group  
NM Dept of Transportation  
NM Environmental Law Center  
NM Renewable Energy Transmission Authority  
NM Oil and Gas Association  
OPL  
Office of Public Utility Counsel  
PBEX, LLC  
Phillips 66  
Renewable Energy Industries Association of New Mexico  
Senate - Hobbs  
Single Space  
Targa Resources  
Texas Cotton Ginners' Association  
Western Farmers Electric Cooperative  
Western Resource Advocates