

# PNM NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Media contact: Kelly-Renae Huber, 505-463-3908, [KR.Huber@pnm.com](mailto:KR.Huber@pnm.com)

## PNM Awarded Sustainability Initiative of the Year

*PNM environmental leadership and water conservation efforts lead to a global sustainability award*

(Albuquerque, NM) – The Business Intelligence Group recently named PNM as a Sustainability Initiative of the Year awardee in the 2023 Sustainability Awards program. The Sustainability Awards honor those people, teams and organizations who have made sustainability an integral part of their business practice or overall mission.

The award recognizes PNM’s role in creating a sustainable solution in transferring the critical water infrastructure at the closed San Juan coal plant to the Navajo Nation via the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project.



“We are honored to receive this recognition for PNM’s sustainable business practices,” said Maureen Gannon, Chief Sustainability Officer, PNM. “To build a clean, secure and sustainable energy future we must protect our natural resources and develop innovative solutions that help our greater community thrive in a decarbonized world.”

“We are proud to reward and recognize PNM for their sustainability efforts,” said Maria Jimenez, Chief Nominations Officer, Business Intelligence Group. “It was clear to our judges that their vision and strategy will continue to deliver results toward a cleaner, more sustainable world.”

### **About PNM**

*With headquarters in Albuquerque, PNM is the largest electricity provider in New Mexico, serving nearly 550,000 customers in dozens of communities across the state. PNM strives to create enduring value for customers, communities and shareholders built on a foundation of Environmental, Social and Governance Principles. At the core of our business, we are focused on our vision of creating a clean and bright energy future, our purpose of working together with our customers and community to serve their energy needs, and our values of safety, caring, and integrity. Visit [PNM.com](http://PNM.com) for more information.*



**About Business Intelligence Group**

The [Business Intelligence Group](#) was founded with the mission of recognizing true talent and superior performance in the business world. Unlike other [industry award programs](#), business executives—those with experience and knowledge—judge the programs. The organization’s proprietary and unique scoring system selectively measures performance across multiple business domains and then rewards those companies whose achievements stand above those of their peers.

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Please see the following press release for background on the water transfer project

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Monday, June 12, 2023

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[B-Roll available here](#). Individual photos available upon request.

## **PNM helps bring sustainable water to Navajo families**

*Commemoration event to be held for acquisition of San Juan Generating Station  
incorporation into Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project*

(Farmington, NM) – Today, PNM announced the official transfer of critical water infrastructure from the now closed San Juan Generating Station to the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project for the delivery of life-changing drinking water to our Navajo communities that continue to face dire water supply scarcity.

Ground water levels for the City of Gallup and surrounding Navajo communities have dropped approximately 200 feet over the past 10 years, and over 40 percent of Navajo Nation households rely on hauling water to meet their daily needs. Inadequate water supply also impacts the ability of the Jicarilla Apache people to live and work outside the reservation town of Dulce. In some areas, there is zero access to groundwater or any running water.

PNM is working with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Navajo Nation, and the City of Gallup by transferring over our water infrastructure from the now closed San Juan Generating Station, which includes the water intake facilities, a diversion channel, and a pumping station on the San Juan River where the water is diverted and pumped eight miles up to this large reservoir where the water can be stored.



“PNM committed that our step out of coal was not a step out of surrounding communities,” said Don Tarry, PNM President and Chief Operating Officer. “Transferring our critical water infrastructure helps deliver water to meet the current and future demands of more than 43 Navajo



Nation chapters and the City of Gallup. These chapters now avoid the construction of a new water intake system, saving millions of dollars.”

There is a significant connection between energy and water, and PNM knew it could make a big impact. Operating in the arid Southwest, PNM understands the importance of protecting and managing scarce water resources. In traditional power plants, such as the San Juan Generating Station, there can be quite a bit of water used for cooling and generating steam. This water infrastructure has been well maintained over the years and PNM wanted that to go to the people in the area that are in need of a long-term water supply.

The project's eastern branch will divert more than 4,600 acre-feet of water annually with no return flow to the San Juan River. The project's western branch will divert the remaining 33,000 acre-feet of water with an anticipated average annual return flow of more than 1,800 acre-feet. The project construction began in 2012 and is anticipated to be fully complete in 2029.

PNM will continue to explore and implement technologies and efficient processes to reduce water consumption at all of its power plants with a goal to reduce freshwater use by 80 percent by 2035 and 90 percent by 2040. With the closure of San Juan Generating Station, we are moving toward those goals by dramatically reducing the amount of water used to generate electricity.

The company has made, and continues to make, significant investments to reduce the environmental impact of delivering much needed power. With the closure of the San Juan Generating Station, PNM has reduced emissions and is now serving our customers with more than 55 percent carbon-free electricity, and we are committed to replacing that power with solar and battery storage.

PNM is taking action to protect our environment and conserve our natural resources while building a clean, secure, and sustainable energy future.

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