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PNM and major developers work together to meet growing demands in Albuquerque neighborhood

(Albuquerque, NM) – Growth and economic development are important components to the progress of every community. As New Mexico continues to grow, and the economy diversifies, the demand for housing and commercial development is also increasing, including the Albuquerque metro area. PNM collaborates closely with businesses and developers to ensure that growth is supported by the right facilities and equipment in order to maintain safe and reliable power throughout the PNM service area.

One area currently experiencing development is the far northeast heights area in Albuquerque, with a major multi-family housing development project being built near San Antonio and Tramway. The far northeast heights is one of the most active areas of residential construction development within the metro area and will be into the near future. There are between 700 and 900 undeveloped acres within North Albuquerque Acres, according to Double Eagle Realty. PNM has worked closely with developers and [Mechenbier Construction, Inc.](#) while moving two transmission lines in the area, which will help strengthen the grid for PNM customers and accommodate the new development.

This transmission project, which began in late September, involves PNM relocating two current transmission lines that exist in the area, and combining them onto one set of poles. A distribution line in the same area will be underbuilt onto the new transmission structures to help consolidate the structures and maintain the quality of power required for homes and businesses in this area.

“We value the rapport and relationship that we have built with the Public Service Company of New Mexico, and as land in this area of Albuquerque continues to develop, it will magnify the need for electrical infrastructure to maintain reliability for current and future residents,” said John Mechenbier, owner of Mechenbier Construction, Inc. “This consolidation and restringing of the transmission lines strengthens the main infrastructure of the electrical grid and helps support the projected growth in the area.”

The transmission project will replace eight, wood structures with four, resilient steel structures, which not only saves space, but also helps to strengthen the grid overall. Steel structures are more robust and tend to have a longer life span, so this project will help maintain reliability for customers in the area for years to come.

“PNM values the relationship that we have with our community, and it takes strategy and collaboration with businesses and developers to meet the increasing energy demands in growing parts of our service area,” said Ethan Giedraitis, project and program manager for PNM.

The PNM project is expected to be completed by mid-November 2020. Customers in the area are not expected to experience any interruption of power during the project, but PNM will notify them if anything changes.

About PNM

With headquarters in Albuquerque, PNM is the largest electricity provider in New Mexico, serving 530,000 customers in dozens of communities across the state. PNM is a subsidiary of PNM Resources, an energy holding company also headquartered in Albuquerque. For more information, visit www.PNM.com.

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