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Contact: Kelly-Renae Huber • 505-463-3908 • KR.Huber@pnm.com

PNM partners with Sandia National Laboratories to further clean energy goals and grid resilience

(ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.) – PNM and Sandia National Laboratories have partnered together to advance technologies that move PNM customers to the next century of clean, affordable, safe and resilient electricity. Through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), PNM and Sandia will research and develop projects related to energy resiliency, clean energy and national security.

“Our goal for 100 percent emissions-free energy requires advanced resources to bridge the technological gap,” said Pat Vincent-Collawn, PNM chairman, president and CEO. “We are fortunate to have a national laboratory in Albuquerque, and the combination of their expertise, technologies and resources with our team’s industry experience is an ideal collaboration to solve this challenge. We look forward to this opportunity for shared learning and progress.”

“The partnership with PNM will address energy challenges not just in New Mexico but across the United States,” Sandia Labs Director James Peery said. “This agreement provides a pathway for Sandia’s advanced technologies to be put to the test in a real-world system, while advancing the goals of electric power system resiliency and safety that are critical to national security.”

PNM has been actively involved in integrating new technologies into its electric infrastructure. To meet the company’s goals of optimizing emissions-free generating, improving overall operations and producing a more resilient grid system, future energy resources require technologies that go beyond the current state-of-the-art technologies.

PNM and the National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC will capitalize on their combined expertise to assess current and future technologies that provide greater flexibility in the electric system and enhance emissions-free generation technologies. Advances may include networked microgrids, virtual power plants, highly efficient distributed and centralized storage systems, and reconfigurable grid architectures that provide added resilience.

In one of the first projects under the CRADA, Sandia and PNM will conduct research that looks at new technology that enhances performance, reduces cost, and ensures grid resiliency and sustainability. Projects will be designed to bridge gaps, address technical barriers and enable large-scale deployment of power system technologies.

Another project will allow PNM and Sandia to test different threats to the electric infrastructure, such as an intentional cyber or physical attack on the grid. PNM remains focused on identifying solutions to emerging threats to our electric generation and delivery systems.

PNM and Sandia National Laboratories previously collaborated in the nation’s first combined solar-plus-storage facility to be fully integrated into a utility power grid in 2011, using smart grid technology to advance renewable energy.



A CRADA is an agreement between a government agency or federal laboratory and a nonfederal entity. CRADAs bolster collaboration and foster partnerships to facilitate cutting-edge research and development for ultimate commercialization.

About PNM

With headquarters in Albuquerque, PNM is the largest electricity provider in New Mexico, serving more than 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 PNM.com.

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