

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY)
OF NEW MEXICO’S APPLICATION FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND)
NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT, OWN AND OPERATE)
THE RIO PUERCO TO PAJARITO TO PROSPERITY)
345 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT)
)
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO,)
)
Applicant.)
_____)**

Docket No. 26-00000__

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
CATHY NEWBY**

February 25, 2026

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CATHY NEWBY

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO

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Q. Please state your name, position, and business address.

A. My name is Cathy Newby. I am the Director of Tribal Governance and Customer Engagement for PNMR Services Company. My business address is 2401 Aztec Road NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107. I am testifying on behalf of Public Service Company of New Mexico (“PNM” or “Company”).

Q. Please summarize your educational background and professional qualifications.

A. My educational background and professional experience are summarized in PNM Exhibit CN-1.

Q. Have you previously filed testimony in this case?

A. No.

Q. Please describe your responsibilities as Director of Tribal Governance and Customer Engagement.

I lead PNM’s Tribal Government Relations & Customer Engagement team, in building and strengthening relationships with tribal leaders, governments, businesses, and institutional customers. I develop and support the policy framework that enables PNM to build, maintain, and expand energy services on sovereign nation lands while honoring tribal sovereignty and regulatory requirements. I assist with major initiatives including rights-of-way renewals, infrastructure projects, customer service coordination, new electric

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1 service projects, outage communications, renewable energy development, on tribal lands,
2 and taxation matters.

3

4 **Q. Please state the purpose of your Direct Testimony.**

5 **A.** The purpose of my Direct Testimony is to describe the outreach and engagement PNM has
6 initiated and continues to engage in, with Tribes and in support of the Project that is the
7 subject of this application.

8

9

II. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND REQUESTS

10 **Q. Is PNM required to participate in public outreach efforts with local Tribes?**

11 **A.** Yes. This project is located within the City of Albuquerque and falls under the City's 2024
12 amendments to the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO), PNM is required to
13 participate in public outreach to a specified list of Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos.
14 These amendments mandate notification and consultation when proposed development
15 occurs near culturally significant lands. The City now requires notification to Tribes for
16 development occurring within 660 feet of tribal or culturally sensitive areas, including the
17 Petroglyph National Monument, and designates Tribes as official commenting agencies
18 with a minimum 14-day review period before any such project may proceed. This
19 ordinance was formalized through the June–July 2024 updates to the City's IDO.

20

21 The project proposed in this filing is located approximately three miles west of Petroglyph
22 National Monument; PNM remains committed to transparency throughout its

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1 development. Meaningful outreach and communication with all pre-identified 29 Tribes is
2 essential to ensuring understanding of the Project, particularly given these land areas are
3 ancestral homelands.

4

5 **Q. Has PNM engaged in public outreach efforts with local Tribes?**

6 **A.** In accordance with the requirements discussed above, PNM conducted extensive tribal
7 outreach for the Project. PNM issued formal written notifications to pre-identified 29
8 Tribes—22 Tribes in New Mexico and 7 Tribes outside the state, identified by the National
9 Park Service as having historic and ancestral ties to the area. The notification letters, sent
10 via certified U.S. mail with return-receipt requested, were issued on May 2, 2025, and July
11 3, 2025. A “no affects” letter was received from the White Mountain Apache Tribe on June
12 6, 2025. PNM also met directly with numerous Pueblos individually, presented twice in
13 2025 at the monthly meeting of the All Pueblo Council of Governors (“APCG”), and has
14 maintained ongoing communications through PNM’s Tribal Government Relations &
15 Customer Engagement team.

16

17 PNM is committed to continued sharing of cultural resource information developed
18 through pedestrian surveys conducted by licensed archaeologists. Tribal Historic
19 Preservation Officers (“THPO”) from six Tribes have accepted PNM’s offer to review this
20 material. This level of engagement reflects not only compliance with the City of
21 Albuquerque’s consultation requirements, but also PNM’s broader commitment to ensuring

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1 meaningful and respectful tribal participation throughout the life of the Project. See PNM
2 Exhibit CN-2 for further details on the tribal outreach.

3
4 Further, PNM’s Tribal Relations team maintains ongoing relationships with Tribal leaders
5 on energy issues that may affect their communities. For a Project located near sovereign
6 Tribal lands and ancestral homelands, PNM acknowledges the importance of early,
7 meaningful, and culturally respectful involvement. Tribes may hold knowledge regarding
8 cultural resources, sacred sites and environmental considerations that PNM would not
9 otherwise be aware of; therefore, their consultation and feedback are essential to
10 responsible planning, design, and execution of the Project.

11
12 **Q. What was the outcome of the public outreach with the Tribes ?**

13 **A.** In general, most tribal stakeholders expressed an understanding of the need for the Project.
14 To date, there has been no verbal or written opposition to the Project. Representatives
15 consistently requested PNM share the results of cultural resource surveys with their THPO.
16 As surveys have been completed, PNM has shared the information with Tribes who
17 requested the information. A few Tribes also raised concerns regarding west facing view
18 preservation—particularly views from the Petroglyph National Monument toward the west
19 and Mt. Taylor (Turquoise Mountain). PNM has addressed these issues throughout the
20 outreach process and remains committed to continuing to respond to all concerns brought
21 forward by tribal stakeholders. PNM shared visual simulations with the requesting Tribes;
22 to date, no concerns were raised.

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1 **Q. Please identify, for each Tribe consulted, any specific requests, concerns, or**
2 **conditions communicated to PNM following PNM’s presentations of the Project,**
3 **including requests related to routing, cultural resource surveys, construction**
4 **practices, visual impacts, or ongoing consultation.**

5 **A.** Tribal stakeholder responses indicate that they understand the need for the Project. Tribal
6 representatives have been consistent in their requests for PNM to share information about
7 cultural resource surveys and their resulting outcomes with engaged THPO. PNM sent the
8 Cultural Resources Report to six requesting Tribes.

9
10 The Pueblo of Santa Ana questioned initial land jurisdiction concerns for the northern
11 portion of the route, referencing proximity of the line to the Pueblo’s trust lands, Santa
12 Ana’s primary concerns related to this portion of the line and if the line was on tribal trust
13 land. PNM held a meeting with the Pueblo of Santa Ana on August 6, 2025, to review route
14 map, and to clarify the Project was not on tribal trust land, but adjacent to Santa Ana Pueblo
15 land. Concerns were expressed related to view preservation, specifically views from the
16 Petroglyph National Monument, westward towards Mt. Taylor (Turquoise Mountain) and
17 electric & magnetic fields (“EMFs”). While PNM has not directly addressed these concerns
18 yet, they will be incorporated into our environmental studies, which are still ongoing.
19 Please see PNM Exhibit CFN-2 for further details.

20
21 **Q. For any Tribe that requested additional information or changes from PNM, either**
22 **during or in relation to any of these meetings, please identify whether and how PNM**

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1 We have shared cultural resource survey results with THPO's who requested them. We
2 have provided visual simulations as well and will share the full visual analysis for the
3 Project including views from Petroglyph National Monument once it is complete.

4
5 Tribal feedback has focused on cultural resources, view preservation, especially views
6 toward Mt. Taylor and questions about EMFs. PNM has addressed these concerns
7 throughout the process. One Tribe raised a question regarding whether the line being
8 located on its tribal trust land and PNM confirmed that the Project transmission line is not
9 on Tribal trust lands, but adjacent to their land.

10
11 To date, no Tribe has expressed verbal or written opposition. PNM remains committed to
12 continued communication, including updates to new Tribal leaders and another
13 presentation to the APCG in March 2026.

14

15 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

16 **A. Yes.**

GCG#534823

Cathy Newby's Resume

PNM Exhibit CN-1

Is contained in the following 1 page.

Cathy Newby
EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Name: Cathy Newby

Address: Public Service Company of New Mexico
2401 Aztec Road, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Position: Director, Tribal Government & Customer Engagement

Education: Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Communications
December 1988
Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, NM

Master of Business Administration
August 2019
Anderson School of Management, University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Employment: Employed by Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) since 2003

Positions held within the Company include:
Director, Tribal Government & Customer Engagement (2017-Present)
Manager, Native American Affairs (2014-2016)
Administrator, Native American Affairs Sr. (2003-2013)

GCG#534816

Tribal Outreach and Engagement

PNM Exhibit CN-2

Is contained in the following 4 pages.

Meetings/Outreach	Outreach Date	Tribe	PNM Contact	Requests/Feedback	Concerns	Comments	Follow-up
Tribal Project Notification Letter #1	5/2/2025	29 Tribes - 22 NM, 7 outside of NM List of tribes was identified by the Petroglyph National Monument for tribes with connection to Monument area	Leslie Watson	none received	none received	Letter #1 sent USPS, certified return receipt. No effects letter received June 6, 2025 from White Mtn Apache Tribe; no additional letters or notices received.	Second project notification letter sent 7/3/2025 to 28 tribes on tribal outreach list.
Response to 5/12/2025 email from Santa Ana Pueblo THPO	5/22/2025	Santa Ana Pueblo	Leslie Watson	Request for more detailed map of routes, specifically where the route comes close to tribal trust land	Initial land jurisdiction concerns, in reference to proximity of the line to the Pueblo's trust lands, Santa Ana's primary concerns relate to this portion of the line. As for the portion further south near the Petroglyphs, it is good that the line is west of Double Eagle and not directly along the volcanos, which is our other concern. Any viewshed analysis or information about visibility of the line from the volcano's would be great information for us.	5/22/2025 Leslie Watson emailed Santa Ana THPO a detailed route map as requested.	PNM scheduled August 6, 2025 in person meeting with Pueblo staff/THPO to discuss concerns and questions.
Response to 5/16/2025 email from Pojoaque Pueblo THPO	5/16/2025	Pojoaque Pueblo	Travis Suazo, Leslie Watson	Pojoaque Pueblo THPO responded to project information he received from 1st PNM certified mail letter outreach. After reviewing the project documentation, he concluded that given the vicinity of the project, the Petroglyph National Monument should be consulted with as well. The Pueblo of Pojoaque Tribal Historic Preservation Office will provide consultation regarding this project along with the Monument and alongside the Pueblos that are able to participate	none received	Pojoaque Pueblo and THPO were sent second certified mail letter with project information and invitation to attend July 16, 2025 Virtual Project Overview for Tribes. The Pojoaque Pueblo THPO was unable to participate due to field work. He was offered information to attend Public Open House session on July 17, 2025	Project updates provided to Governor during Aug 21 and Dec 4, 2025 All Pueblo Council of Governors Meeting

Meetings/Outreach	Outreach Date	Tribe	PNM Contact	Requests/Feedback	Concerns	Comments	Follow-up
Tribal Project Notification Letter #2	7/3/2025	29 Tribes - 22 NM, 6 outside of NM. List of tribes was identified by the Petroglyph National Monument for tribes with connection to Monument area	Leslie Watson	none received	none received	Letter #2 sent USPS, certified return receipt.	none requested
Virtual Tribal Open House on July 16, 2025; invitation sent to 22 New Mexico Tribes and 7 tribes outside New Mexico. Invitation list of tribes was identified by the Petroglyph National Monument. All 29 tribes were invited to the Public Open House event on July 17, 2025 in Albuquerque, NM.	July 16, 2025	Invitation sent to 22 New Mexico Tribes and 7 tribes outside New Mexico. Invitation list of tribes was identified by the Petroglyph National Monument for tribes with connection to Monument area	Cathy Newby, Russell Brito, Travis Suazo, Leslie Watson	Pueblo of Laguna requested follow-up meeting with THPP, Laguna Development Corp. and Laguna Economic Advancement, LLC. staff. Ryan Riley did ask if PNM will provide any information about EMFs.	None received from participant	Laguna Development Corporation, Govt Affairs staff was sole participant	Follow-up meeting scheduled/held Aug 20, 2025
Meetings with Isleta Pueblo on August 13, 2025, and December 22, 2025.	August 13, 2025	Isleta Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	None expressed, asked to receive copy of cultural resources survey when available.	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, 2nd Lt. Governor, THPO and Cultural Dept staff	Isleta Pueblo THPO sent Cultural Resources Report on 12/19/2025 by Leslie Watson
	December 22, 2025	Isleta Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	Asked to continue to work with THPO	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, 2nd Lt. Governor.	PNM project team will provide project updates to THPO and Pueblo Governors in 2026
Meeting with San Felipe Pueblo on August 1, 2025.	August 1, 2025	San Felipe Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	None expressed	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, 2nd Lt. Governor.	None requested, but PNM project team will provide project updates to THPO and Pueblo Governor in 2026
Meetings with Santa Ana Pueblo on August 6, 2025, and December 3, 2025.	August 6, 2025	Santa Ana Pueblo	Cathy, Newby, Travis Suazo, Leslie Watson	None expressed, asked to receive copy of cultural resources survey when available.	Review of line route showed project is not on Santa Ana land, but adjacent. Tribal area recently became Tribal Trust lands (Kwii Kee Nee Puu); portions of T12 N/R 1 E; Sections 5 & 8. Pueblo asked about impact to view shed.	Maps were reviewed and discussed. Visual simulations were not available at that time to show view shed analysis. Simulations were not completed at the time of the meeting.	Santa Ana Pueblo THPO sent Cultural Resources Report on 12/19/2025 by Leslie Watson
	December 3, 2025	Santa Ana Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	Asked to continue to work with THPO	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, Tribal Administrator	PNM project team will provide project updates to THPO and Pueblo Governors in 2026

Meetings/Outreach	Outreach Date	Tribe	PNM Contact	Requests/Feedback	Concerns	Comments	Follow-up
Meetings with Cochiti Pueblo on August 6, 2025, and December 8, 2025.	August 6, 2025	Cochiti Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	None expressed	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, Tribal Administrator	None requested
	December 8, 2025	Cochiti Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	Governor asked to keep new Governor/ administration updated on project	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, Tribal Administrator	At future scheduled meeting with Pueblo, PNM Tribal Govt Relations staff will provide project overview & new updates to new Governor in early 2026.
Meetings with Sandia Pueblo on August 11, 2025, and December 3, 2025.	August 11, 2025	Sandia Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	None expressed. Environment Director asked to receive copy of cultural resources report when available.	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, War Chief, Lt. War Chief, Special Projects Director	Environment Director sent Cultural Resources Report on 12/19/2025 by Leslie Watson
	December 3, 2025	Sandia Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	Governor asked to keep new Governor/ administration updated on project	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, War Chief, Lt. War Chief - provided brief update on when filing timeframe - Mid-Dec. 2025	At future scheduled meeting with Pueblo, PNM Tribal Govt Relations staff will provide project overview & new updates to new Governor in early 2026.
Meeting with Santo Domingo Pueblo on August 6, 2025	August 6, 2025	Santo Domingo Pueblo	Travis Suazo	None received	None expressed	Met with Lt. Governor and tribal officials to provide an overview of the project.	None requested, but PNM project team will provide project updates to THPO and Pueblo Governor in 2026
Meeting with Laguna Pueblo on August 20, 2025.	August 20, 2025	Laguna Pueblo	Laurie Williams, Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo, Leslie Watson, Russell Brito	THPO requested copy of Cultural Resources Report when available. Feedback to continue engagement with Pueblo on project	None expressed	Laguna Pueblo THPO, Laguna Development Corp CEO and Govt Affairs, LEA CEO,	Laguna Pueblo THPO sent Cultural Resources Report on 12/19/2025 by Leslie Watson
Meeting with Tesuque Pueblo on August 27, 2025.	August 27, 2025	Tesuque Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo	Feedback to continue engagement with Pueblo on the project	None expressed	Met with Governor, Lt. Governor, Tribal Staff	Provide any project updates to Governor in early 2026
Project presentation to the 20 Pueblo Governors of the All Pueblo Council of Governors ("APCG") [1] during their monthly meeting on August 21, 2025.	August 21, 2025	19 NM Pueblos	Laurie Williams, Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo, Leslie Watson, Russell Brito	Asked to continue to provide project updates to APCG body of Governors	None expressed	NM Pueblo Governors, Lt. Governors, Pueblo staff, APCG staff, and guests were present	Provide project update to Governors before the end of 2025
Project update presentation given to the APCG during December 4, 2025 monthly meeting. Additional project meeting updates are available to any tribe upon request.	December 4, 2025	19 NM Pueblos	Laurie Williams, Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo, Don Tarry	Asked to continue to provide project updates to APCG body of Governors	None expressed	NM Pueblo Governors, Lt. Governors, Pueblo staff, APCG staff, and guests were present. update on when filing timeframe - Mid-Dec. 2025	Provide project update to New and returning Pueblo Governors in early 2026 during monthly APCG meeting

Meetings/Outreach	Outreach Date	Tribe	PNM Contact	Requests/Feedback	Concerns	Comments	Follow-up
Ongoing project update discussions occur when PNM Tribal Government Relations staff meet with a Tribe/Pueblo.	August 8, 2025	Zia Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo, Robert Goodwin,	Governor requested THPO receive copy of Cultural Resources Report when available. Additional feedback to continue engagement with Pueblo on project	None expressed	Meeting with Governor, Lt. Governor, Legal Counsel, Tribal Administrators	Zia Pueblo THPO sent Cultural Resources Report on 12/19/2025 by Leslie Watson
	December 19, 2025	Pojoaque Pueblo	Leslie Watson	None received	None expressed	None received	Pojoaque Pueblo THPO sent Cultural Resources Report on 12/19/2025 by Leslie Watson
	December 22, 2025	Tesuque Pueblo	Cathy Newby, Travis Suazo, Robert Goodwin, Adam McClellan	Feedback received was to continue engagement with Pueblo on the project information	None expressed	Provided brief update on filing timeframe - Mid-Dec. 2025; Met with Governor, two Councilman, & staff	Continue engagement with Tesuque Pueblo in 2026 - Tribal Leadership & THPO

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**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF)
NEW MEXICO'S APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE)
OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO)
CONSTRUCT, OWN AND OPERATE THE RIO PUERCO)
TO PAJARITO TO PROSPERITY 345 KV)
TRANSMISSION PROJECT)**

Docket No. 26-00000__

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO,)

Applicant.)

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

Cathy Newby, Director of Tribal Governance and Customer Engagement, PNMR Services Company, upon being duly sworn according to law, under oath, deposes and states: I have read the foregoing **Direct Testimony of Cathy Newby**, and it is true and accurate based on my own personal knowledge and belief.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2026.

/s/ Cathy Newby
CATHY NEWBY