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, LOCATION APPROVAL, AND RIGHT-OF-WAY DETERMINATION FOR THE MID-STATE 345 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT	)	**Docket No. 26-0000XXX**
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO,	)	
Applicant.	)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

CATHY NEWBY

October 30, 2026

NMPRC DOCKET NO. 26-0000XXX
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WITNESS FOR
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO

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DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF CATHY NEWBY
NMPRC DOCKET NO. 26-0000XXX

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

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

A. My name is Cathy Newby. I am the Director of Tribal Government & 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. Would you please describe your professional and personal qualifications that support your role in conducting Tribal outreach for this Project?

A. I have more than two decades of experience working with Tribal governments and communities on utility infrastructure, rights-of-way, transmission and distribution projects, renewable energy development, economic development, and stakeholder engagement throughout New Mexico and the Southwest. In my current role as Director of Tribal Government & Customer Engagement for PNMR Services Company, I lead and coordinate PNM's engagement with Tribal governments and

advise utility leadership and project teams on Tribal interests and priorities. I regularly work with Tribal leaders, administrators, cultural resource staff, and community members, recognizing that Tribes are sovereign nations with the authority to make decisions affecting their lands and communities. My professional and personal experience informs an approach grounded in respect for Tribal sovereignty, cultural values, and meaningful engagement

Q. As part of your background, are you a member of a Tribe, and if so, which Tribe?

A. Yes. I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. I am Navajo (Diné), Tódích'íi'nii (Bitter Water Clan), born for Tábąąhá (Water's Edge Clan), and I am originally from Tohatchi, New Mexico. My cultural background and lifelong connection to Tribal communities provide me with an understanding of Tribal values, customs, and community perspectives that support my work in Tribal engagement and relationship building.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. The purpose of my Direct Testimony is to describe PNM's outreach and engagement with Tribal governments regarding the Mid-State Transmission Project ("Mid-State" or "Project"), including the activities completed to date and PNM's plans for continued engagement.

Q. How is your testimony organized?

A. My testimony is organized into two primary sections. First, I describe my background, qualifications, and role in Tribal Government and Customer Engagement at PNM. Second, I discuss PNM's outreach and engagement efforts with Tribal governments and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices related to the Mid-State Transmission Project, including project notifications, Tribal meetings, stakeholder feedback received to date, and PNM's commitment to ongoing engagement throughout project development and implementation.

II. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND REQUESTS

Q. Is PNM required to participate in Tribal outreach and engagement with local Tribes?

A. Based on my understanding, the proposed route does not cross Tribal trust lands; therefore, my understanding is that the Project is not subject to the Tribal consultation requirement in 17.9.592.15(C) NMAC. For portions of the Project on state or federally administered lands, we are working with corresponding agencies to determine the proper scope of any cultural resources review and associated Tribal consultation by those agencies.

Q. Does PNM intend to conduct any voluntary outreach and engagement with local Tribes?

Yes. PNM recognizes and respects that portions of the Mid-State Transmission line route through Torrance, Socorro, and Valencia Counties that are within the traditional homelands of several Tribes, particularly in areas near the Salinas Pueblo Mission National Monument. As a matter of good stewardship and relationship-building, PNM and our development partner Pattern Energy have provided Project notification to Tribal leaders and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices ("THPOs") that are engaged on matters related to the Salinas Pueblo Mission National Monument, 16 tribal nations, to ensure they are aware of the Project and its proposed route. Seven of the 16 Tribal Nations are located in New Mexico. The Tribes have an opportunity to provide input on the Project's full route, identify concerns, and help identify and protect historic, cultural, or natural resources that may be significant to their communities.

Q. Has PNM engaged in Tribal outreach and engagement with local Tribes?

A. Yes. As part of its initial outreach, PNM sent project introduction letters to the Tribal leaders and THPOs of 16 Tribal Nations, seven of which are located in New Mexico.

The letters included an invitation to a virtual Tribal Project Open House held on Monday, August 24, 2026. The open house provided an overview of the Project, including the proposed route, and offered an opportunity for Tribal representatives to identify any historic, cultural, or natural resources that may be significant to their communities.

Q. What was the outcome of the Tribal outreach and engagement?

A. Tribal outreach conducted to date has not resulted in verbal or written opposition to the Project. The White Mountain Apache Tribe submitted a letter of "No Adverse Effect" concurring with the proposed Project plans, and questions raised during the virtual Tribal Open House were addressed through discussion and follow-up correspondence with individual tribes. The Mescalero Apache provided a request to stay informed about the Project and indicated they would potentially participate in future cultural resource survey efforts and construction monitoring.

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

A. Please see PNM Exhibit CN-2 for a summary of PNM's Tribal outreach for this Project.

Q. For any Tribe that requested additional information or changes from PNM, either during or in relation to any of these meetings, please identify whether and how PNM responded, and whether those responses resulted in changes to the Project, route selection, or mitigation commitments.

A. Please see PNM Exhibit CN-2.

Q. Will PNM continue to engage with local Tribes?

A. Yes. PNM and our partners at Pattern Energy intend to continue engaging with Tribes throughout the Project by providing updates, responding to requests for meetings and information, and discussing any questions or concerns related to cultural, historic, or natural resources. PNM and Pattern are committed to maintaining open communication and respectful working relationships with Tribal governments and Tribal representatives as the Project moves forward.

III. CONCLUSION

Q. Please summarize your testimony.

A. My testimony describes PNM's outreach and engagement with 16 Tribes regarding the Mid-State Transmission Project, including project notifications, a Tribal Open House, and opportunities for Tribal feedback. My testimony also summarizes the input received from Tribal stakeholders to date and PNM's commitment to

continuing open communication and engagement with Tribes throughout the development and implementation of the Project.

Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

A. Yes.

GCG#535994

Cathy Newby's Educational Background and Relevant Employment Experience

PNM Exhibit CN-1

Is contained in the following 1 page.

Cathy Newby

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Name: Cathy Newby

Address: PNMR Services Company
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 PNMR Services Company 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)

Tribal Outreach and Engagement

PNM Exhibit CN-2

Is contained in the following 2 pages.

Mid-State 375kV Transmission Line Tribal Engagement Log

Tribe	Communication Type	Date	Attendees/Contacts	Summary of Discussion
Acoma Pueblo, Caddo Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Isleta Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Kiowa Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Sandia Pueblo, Santa Domingo Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and Zuni Pueblo.	Certified Mail Letter Correspondence - Tribal Open House	July 26, 2026	Acoma Pueblo, Caddo Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Isleta Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Kiowa Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Sandia Pueblo, Santa Domingo Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and Zuni Pueblo.	Certified letters and follow up emails invitation for virtual tribal open house sent to sixteen (16) Tribes, Pueblos, Nations and THPO's
Acoma Pueblo, Caddo Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Isleta Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Kiowa Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Sandia Pueblo, Santa Domingo Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and Zuni Pueblo.	Certified Mail Letter Correspondence - Tribal Open House	August 8, 2026	Acoma Pueblo, Caddo Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Isleta Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Kiowa Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Sandia Pueblo, Santa Domingo Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and Zuni Pueblo.	Certified letters and follow up emails invitation for virtual open house sent to sixteen (16) Tribes, Pueblos, Nations and THPO's
White Mountain Apache	Email & Letter Correspondence - White Mountain Apache Tribe	August 17, 2026	White Mountain Apache Tribe	Email and letter received from White Mountain Apache Tribe THPO Mark Altaha acknowledging receipt and review of information regarding the MST Project and virtual open house. The Tribe states in the letter they have determined that the proposed transmission line project will have “No Adverse Effect” on the White Mountain Apache Tribe’s cultural heritage resources and/or traditional cultural properties and has provided its concurrence with the proposed project plans.
Mescalero Apache Tribe	Event (Virtual) - Tribal Open House	August 24, 2026	Pattern Energy and PNM Project Team - 13 total participants	PNM and Pattern Energy held a virtual tribal open house during which project representatives discussed the project need and potential routing options for the proposed transmission line. Mescalero Apache Tribe THPO Holly Houghton participated in the discussion and raised several questions and requests related to the project. She requested a KMZ file of the proposed route and asked whether consideration would be given to involving tribal members and/or tribal monitors in surveying activities. She also asked who is financing the project and which companies have been contracted to conduct the surveying. Additionally, Ms. Houghton requested an opportunity to tour the Western Spirit transmission line/project.
Isleta Pueblo	Meeting (Virtual) - Isleta Pueblo THPO	September 1, 2026	Isleta Pueblo	Isleta Pueblo THPO requested meeting with PNM and Pattern. They potentially have several areas of interest along the line route. They understand Isleta Pueblo leadership is also in the loop on the MST conversations. Pattern sent map and presentation from virtual tribal open house as a follow-up
Kiowa Tribe	Email Correspondence- Kiowa THPO	September 2, 2026	Kiowa Tribe/Pattern Energy/PNM	THPO expressed interest in attending the open house, but did not join or respond to follow ups. Pattern sent map and presentation from virtual tribal open house as follow-up.

Tribe	Communication Type	Date	Attendees/Contacts	Summary of Discussion
Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo	Email Correspondence - Ysleta Del Sur THPO	September 2, 2026	Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo	THPO expressed interest in attending the tribal open house, but did not join or respond to follow ups. Pattern sent map and presentation from virtual tribal open house as follow-up.
Mescalero Apache Tribe	Email Correspondence -Mescalero Apache Tribe THPO	September 2, 2026	Mescalero Apache Tribe	THPO attended virtual open house. Requested PowerPoint presentation and kmz file. Also requested to participate in Tribal monitoring for surveys and maybe construction. Pattern sent KMZ and presentation from virtual tribal open house.
Isleta Pueblo	Meeting (in-person) with Pueblo of Isleta leadership	October 21, 2026	Isleta Pueblo Governor Jiron, Lt. Governor Jojola and Lindsay Culter (Isleta Pueblo Attorney); PNM - Laurie Williams, Cathy Newby, and Travis Suazo	Laurie Williams and Cathy Newby provided a project overview and review of the path of phase I map of the MST transmission project. Pueblo of Isleta Governor Jiron and Lt. Governor Jojola shared the SunZia transmission line project damaged known cultural resources/sites of the Pueblo of Isleta. Both governors expressed the profound loss of Pueblo cultural sites as devastating, as they can never be rebuilt or utilized again. The Pueblo does not want this situation to occur with construction of the MST project and wants a commitment to continued engagement with the Pueblo of Isleta (Governor's Office, Tribal Council, THPO/Cultural Department). PNM staff committed to consistent and continued engagement with all Pueblo of Isleta stakeholders, current, and future. Note: The Pueblo of Isleta will have general elections in November 2026, for the positions of Governor and seven positions on tribal council.

Acoma Pueblo, Caddo Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Jemez Pueblo, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Sandia Pueblo, Santa Domingo Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, and Zuni Pueblo.	Engagement Note	None	Acoma Pueblo, Caddo Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Jemez Pueblo, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Sandia Pueblo, Santa Domingo Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, and Zuni Pueblo.	The 10 tribes listed in this entry have not responded to any Project outreach communications with any response of concern, concurrence, or opposition to any element of the Project.

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AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

CATHY NEWBY, Director of Tribal Government & Customer Engagement for 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 30th day of October, 2026.

/s/ Cathy Newby
CATHY NEWBY

GCG # 535975