

Gabriel Aguilera

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██████████, Washington, D.C. 20011 •

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September 30, 2022

Dear Nominating Committee Members:

I am very excited about the opportunity to return to my home state to serve New Mexicans as a Commissioner at the Public Regulation Commission. I have spent my career in public utility regulation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Washington, D.C., and it has always been my hope to return to New Mexico as a regulator.

I was raised in southern New Mexico and initially became interested in energy regulation as an economics and finance student at New Mexico State University. After college, I moved to Washington, D.C. to begin a career in public service and the energy industry, and I am currently a senior member of FERC's Office of Energy Market Regulation. I have significant experience with utility tariffs, generator interconnection rules, vertically integrated utilities (including those operating in New Mexico), independent transmission developers and power producers, the effective integration of wind, solar, and energy storage resources into the grid, and electric market rules and design. In my 15 years at FERC, I have experienced how changes in laws, technologies, industry practices, and consumer preferences can require regulatory responses, and how effective regulation requires resolutions based on fairness, well-reasoned analysis, and precedent.

My regional specialization in Western U.S. energy markets at FERC has allowed me to interface regularly with New Mexico utilities, and I am well-versed in issues that the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission will continue to face, including resource adequacy challenges and the ongoing regionalization efforts in the Western Interconnection. My 15 years of progressive movement toward senior leadership at FERC have taught me about effective regulation at the federal and state levels. My experience at FERC has allowed me to work across disciplines to resolve multifaceted regulatory issues with the input of lawyers, accountants, economists, engineers, and other specialists. My experience has also taught me the importance of hiring, training, managing, and retaining knowledgeable staff in a complex field. It has instilled in me that engaging stakeholders and inviting varying and opposing viewpoints are vital steps to developing and implementing good policy. It has imparted the significance of a regulator's role in a consumer-facing industry, to offer as much certainty and transparency as possible, and to adapt and innovate to meet changing trends and customer needs. But most importantly, my experience as a regulator has trained me not to lose sight of the primary goal: to ensure fair and reasonable rates and reliable service for our families, neighbors, and the rest of the public.

As my resume demonstrates, I meet the qualifications specified in sections 62-19-4 and 62-19-5 of the New Mexico Statutes to be appointed to serve on the Commission, and I affirm that I affiliate with the Democratic Party. I am excited to be considered for Commissioner at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and look forward to speaking further about my candidacy.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Aguilera

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I am a New Mexican and Democrat with deep experience in energy regulation. I have spent the past 15 years in Washington, D.C., at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the offices of Energy Market Regulation, Energy Policy and Innovation, and Enforcement working on complex cases and agency priorities, with a focus on regulated utilities, market design, and transmission planning in the Western and Southwestern United States. My areas of expertise include procedures to interconnect renewables to the transmission grid, transmission planning and pricing, resolution of regulated tariff disputes, resource adequacy, and integrating distributed energy and energy storage resources into wholesale electric markets. I am a dedicated public servant focused on fair, effective, and well-reasoned utility regulation that accounts for changing technologies, laws, and consumer preferences. I look forward to the opportunity to bring that experience to bear at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC)

Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Energy Market Regulation - West – July 2021 – Present

- Advise FERC leadership concerning electric policy issues in the Western and Southwestern United States.
- Review orders, deficiency letters, and other written products for Commission issuance.
- Represent FERC at stakeholder events, most recently as a conference panelist (“Uneasy Fit: Decarbonization and Energy Markets”, Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, Union, WA, Sept. 12, 2022).
- Experience working on important Commission rulemakings and orders concerning:
 - Open access transmission tariffs and transmission service (Order No. 890)
 - Regional transmission planning and cost allocation processes (Order No. 1000), including the WestConnect transmission planning region
 - Independent transmission developers
 - Generator interconnection procedures and agreements (Order No. 845 and Interconnection Reform NOPR)
 - Distributed energy resource aggregations in organized markets (Order No. 2222)
 - Energy storage resources (Order No. 841)
 - Generator tie lines (Order No. 807)
 - Utilities not subject to federal jurisdiction
 - Resource adequacy and regionalization efforts in the Western Interconnection
 - Design and operation of Western electric wholesale markets, including for energy, ancillary services, and energy imbalance service
 - Revisions to electric utility and Independent System Operator (ISO) tariffs
 - Legal complaints and petitions for a declaratory order
 - Market-based rate authority for the sale of power, capacity, and ancillary services
 - Transmission cost-of-service
 - Transmission providers operating in New Mexico

Supervisory Energy Industry Analyst, Office of Energy Market Regulation - West, July 2017 – July 2021

- Supervised a team of seven energy industry analysts on electric cases, coaching them to identify issues of importance to the Commission, guiding them in the most effective methods to analyze filings, and helping them prepare for meetings with FERC leadership.
- Reviewed draft orders, markets working group memos, and rulemakings to ensure that written work products translate complex policy and technical questions into readable prose, provide well-reasoned recommendations to the Commission, and adhere to Commission policy.
- Was responsible for processing the filings submitted by a portfolio of Western regulated entities, including public utilities operating in New Mexico.

Gabriel Aguilera

Economist and Energy Industry Analyst, Office of Energy Market Regulation - West, June 2007 – January 2016 and January – July 2017

- Researched and analyzed complex and controversial issues related to electric utility market regulation, including major industry and ISO initiatives, tariff and rate change filings, issues of first impression, pleadings, complaints, and petitions for a declaratory order.
- Led teams of attorneys, accountants, engineers, and analysts in developing sound technical recommendations related to the electric utility industry and drafting high-quality Commission orders and memos.
- Defended recommendations in front of senior staff and Commissioners' advisors and presented significant orders at Commission open meetings.
- Served as team leader of the Training Council, tasked with improving the training opportunities offered to analysts. Identified, organized, and facilitated various trainings for analysts.

Energy Industry Analyst, on Detail to Office of Energy Policy and Innovation - Division of Policy Development, January – July 2016

- Tracked major industry developments, with a focus on the influx of distributed energy resources in California, the Clean Power Plan, and regional transmission planning processes, and evaluated the implications for FERC-regulated markets by reviewing the latest research and conducting industry outreach.
- Advised senior staff through presentations, reports, and memos on how FERC can facilitate the integration of researched trends in regulated markets.
- Evaluated FERC policies, such as for the treatment of generator tie lines, and identified ways to improve those policies through research and collaboration with industry participants.

Energy Industry Analyst, on Detail to Office of Enforcement - Division of Analytics and Surveillance, July 2016 – January 2017

- Developed software tools to identify potential market manipulation in the California ISO and the Western Energy Imbalance Market using SAS to flag abnormal patterns in bidding behavior and market results.
- Conferred with the FERC staff and the California ISO market monitor on results of tool queries and testing and adapted tools based on tariff changes, market updates, and input from the market monitor.
- Reviewed market rules applicable to the California ISO and the Energy Imbalance Market, such as the flexible ramping product and the market power mitigation process.
- Monitored the development of the Western Energy Imbalance Market and conferred with the California ISO and its market monitor to assess and interpret market data results.
- Presented cases of potential market manipulation to the Division of Analytics and Surveillance and determined whether to recommend cases for a formal investigation.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration, University of Maryland Smith School of Business, 2014

Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics, New Mexico State University, 2007

Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, New Mexico State University, 2007

POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Democratic Party

REFERENCE: Steven Wellner, Acting Chief of Staff for Chairman Glick, steven.wellner@ferc.gov, 202-XXXXXXXXXX