

Patrick O'Connell

[REDACTED]  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

September 14, 2022

New Mexico PRC Nominating Committee  
P.O. Box 1269  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269

Dear PRC Nominating Committee

I am applying for an appointment to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. Attached is a resume demonstrating my qualifications for the post. It shows over 28 years working in and around electric, gas, water and wastewater utilities. That experience creates a deep understanding of how regulators can, and should, shape utility performance of the services they are regulated to provide.

You have been entrusted with nominating the applicants that will be appointed as the first three appointed PRC Commissioners. Thank you for your service and dedication to that task. The PRC's transition from elected to appointed commissioners is occurring at a moment when each of our utilities are working through their own transitions. The PRC and every utility regulated by the PRC is addressing challenges posed by a changing climate and the lingering impacts of the global pandemic. At the same time, technology developments and federal legislation create exciting opportunities to turn New Mexico's policy goals into reality.

Leading through change requires vision, empathy and determination. We need the services utilities provide and must advance to meet the goals established by the Legislature and Governor Lujan Grisham. I see fruitful paths to cleaner electricity and know the need for all utilities to make wise investment decisions to maintain reliable, affordable service. I also value the wisdom of others. Experience has shown the value of setting a direction and optimizing solutions along the way. I hope for the opportunity to discuss with you how the PRC and New Mexico can prosper as we transition. Working together, we can get there.

Thank you,



Patrick O'Connell

## Patrick J. O'Connell, PE

Called to serve New Mexico as a New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner

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Over 28 years of utility experience in New Mexico, including electric, gas, water and wastewater utilities. Committed to fighting climate change. Deep understanding of interconnections between utilities and how the services utilities provide are daily life essentials and grow thriving communities.

### Electric Utility Experience

Clean Energy Program Deputy Director, Western Resource Advocates, Santa Fe, NM 2019 – today  
Integrated Resource Planning Director, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 2007 - 2019

An established leader in New Mexico's energy transition. Proposes and advocates for clean energy policies and investments at the NM PRC. Authored and led stakeholder engagement for PNM's 2014 and 2017 Integrated Resource Plans. Provided testimony and witness support in electric utility rate cases and merger applications. Advocate for implementation of recent legislation, including the ETA. Understanding of the western electric grid and New Mexico's ability to provide solutions. Direct experience with the interactions between the PRC and regulated utility's financial and operational plans.

### Gas Utility Experience

Senior Natural Gas Supply Planner, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 1999 - 2007

Designed Gas Company of New Mexico's annual gas purchase portfolio, including a purchase price hedging program during the Enron era, and created gas demand. Operational understanding of the natural gas supply network, commodity pricing and supply risks.

### Water & Wastewater Utility Experience

Staff Engineer, Sangre de Cristo Water Company  
Santa Fe, NM 1997 – 1999

Design Engineer, URS Greiner, Albuquerque, NM 1994 - 1997  
Staff Engineer, GMA, Inc., Albuquerque, NM 1993 - 1994

Planned, designed and managed construction of municipal and private utility water and wastewater systems in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Dulce and Santa Ana Pueblo, including a vacuum sewer collection system.

### Contact Information

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### Education

Bachelor of Science,  
Civil Engineering  
University of New Mexico  
May 1990  
With Distinction  
*magna cum laude* in  
General Honors

### Registration

New Mexico Registered  
Professional Engineer #12876

### Political Affiliation

Democrat

### Attributes

Strategic Thinker  
Catalyst  
Team Builder  
Fair  
Affable

### Skills

Public speaking  
Writing  
Analyst