Transmission Updates: RETA's Role in Meeting the Needs of SE New Mexico

Presentation to the Water & Natural Resources Committee
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Lynn Mostoller, Executive Director

RETA
New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority

RETA's Mission

The New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA) facilitates planning, financing, developing and acquiring high-voltage transmission lines and energy storage projects to promote the expansion of carbon-free renewable energy use in state and regional markets and enhance economic development in New Mexico.

RETA Beginnings

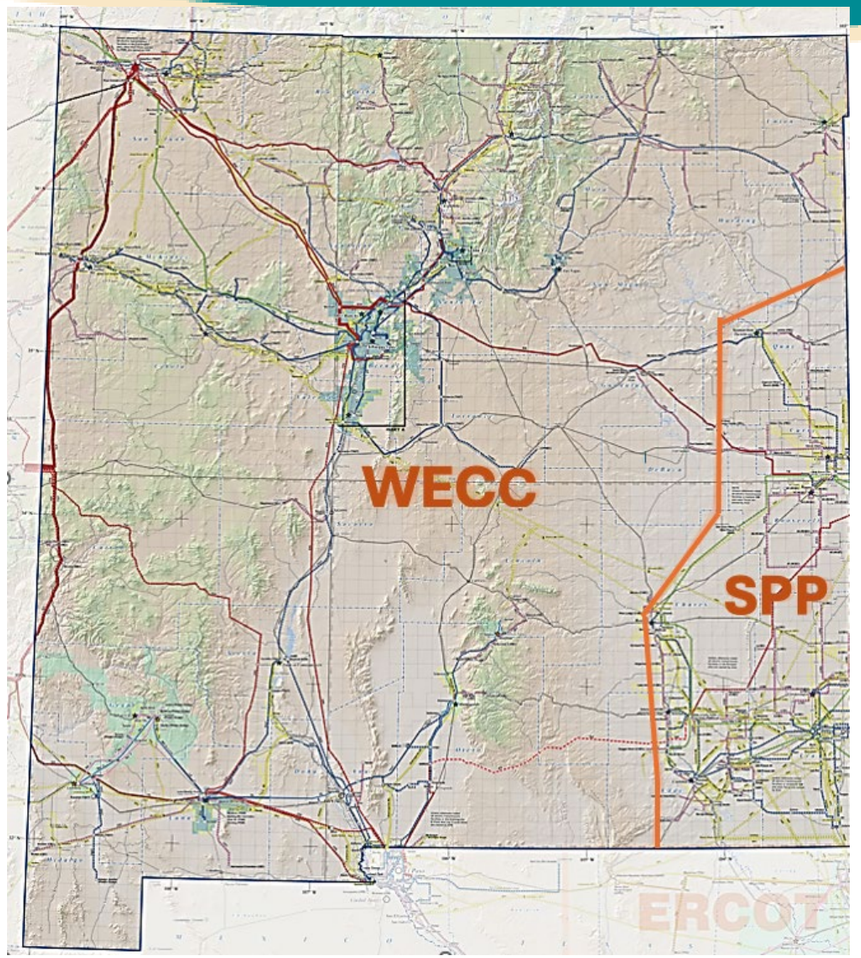
- The Renewable Energy Transmission Authority Act was passed by the New Mexico legislature and signed by Gov. Bill Richardson in 2007 to plan, finance, develop and acquire high voltage transmission lines and storage projects to promote economic development in New Mexico.

  RETA is a ***"public body, separate and apart from the state, constituting a governmental instrumentality for the performance of essential public functions."***

- There are 6 voting members on the RETA Board:
  - 3 appointed by the Governor
  - 1 appointed by the Speaker of the House
  - 1 appointed by the President Pro-tem of the Senate
  - State Treasurer or designee
  - Secretary of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department serves as a non-voting ex-officio member

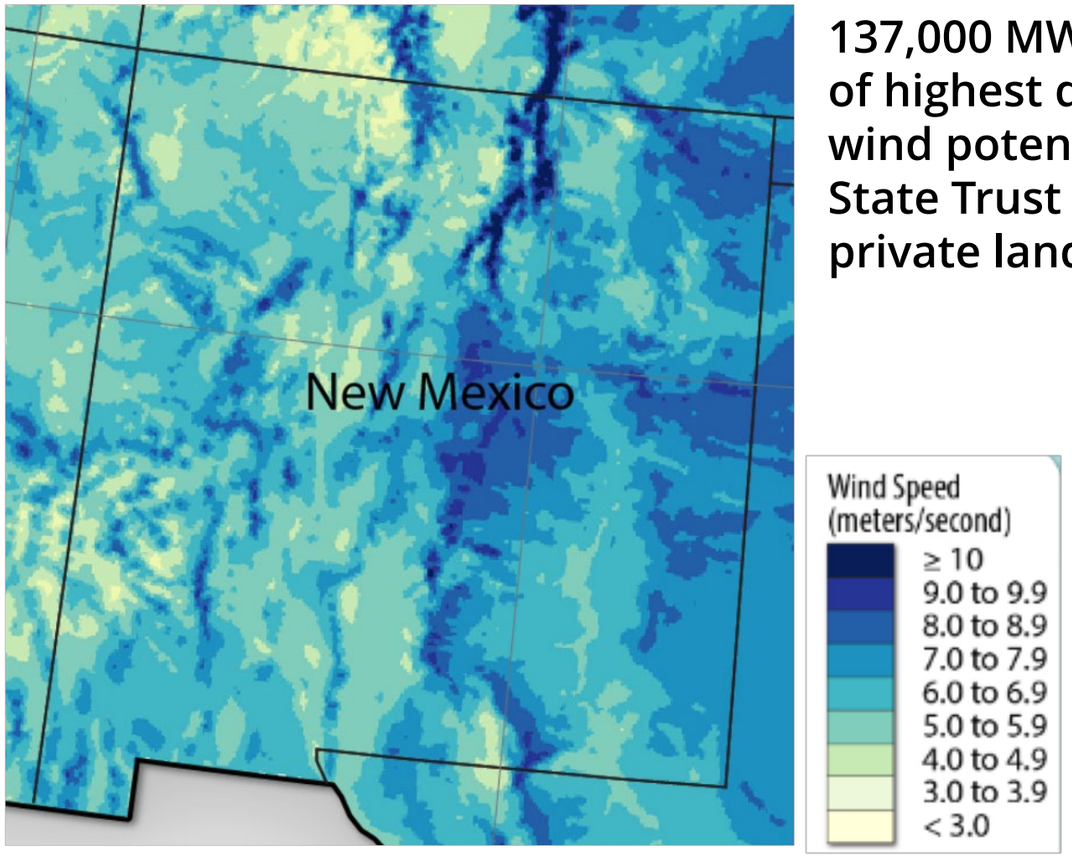
New Mexico's Grid

- Virtually unchanged since the 1980s
- Borders the seam of Eastern and Western Interconnections (Southwest Power Pool-Western Electricity Coordinating Council)
- WECC portion primarily fed from Four Corners coal plants both to export energy and to serve load throughout the state
- Grid is not configured to support economic development from expansion of renewable resources
- Compare this map to renewable resource potential on next slide



Wind Development Potential

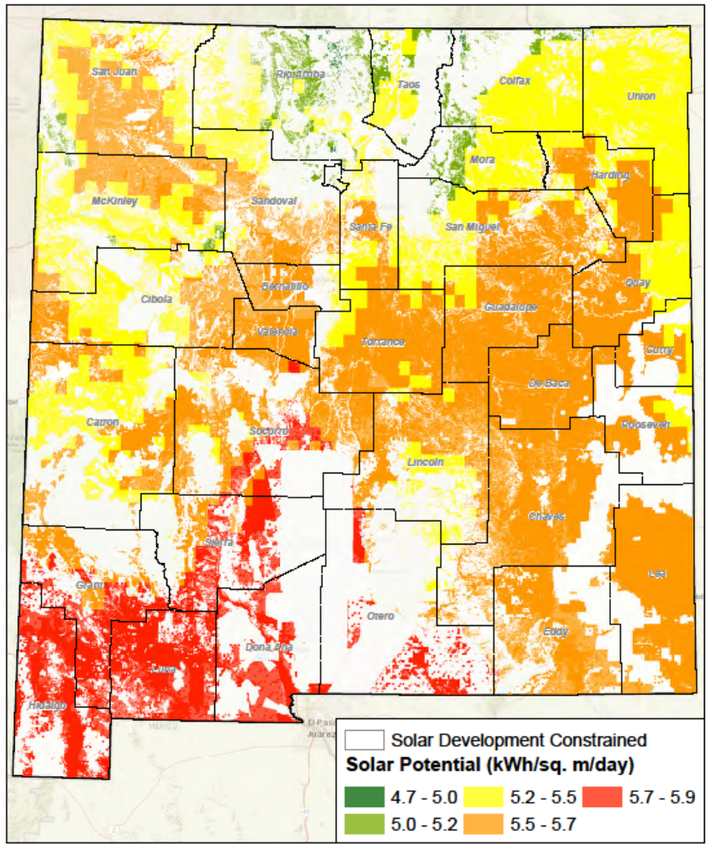
- Total developable land area for commercially viable wind equals 20,500 square miles
- 18,500 square miles on State Trust and private lands



137,000 MW of highest quality wind potential on State Trust and private lands

Solar Development Potential

- Total developable solar land area equals 68,000 square miles
- 49,000 square miles on State Trust and private lands
- Over 9,300 square miles in highest output areas



824,000 MW of highest quality solar potential on State Trust and private lands

How can RETA help a project get built?

RETA's Benefits for Developers are Critical

- **Tax incentives**
  - Gross receipts and compensating tax deductions
  - Property tax exemption for real property and improvements
- **Assistance with permitting and siting**
  - Government-level relationships with relevant New Mexico agencies and entities
  - Powers of eminent domain
- **Reduced regulatory burden**
  - Public Regulation Commission location control right-of-way width approval requirement avoided; reliability determination approval is necessary

RETA Transmission Studies

2010: RETA's original transmission study, conducted by Loren Toole, a researcher at Los Alamos Labs, analyzed potential upgrades for the New Mexico grid and identified the project that eventually became the Western Spirit Transmission Project.

Los Alamos NATIONAL LABORATORY

2020/2022 Update: The New Mexico Legislature provided a special appropriation for RETA to conduct a comprehensive, state-wide transmission study. RETA contracted with ICF. That study projected:

- **11,500 MW of total Renewable Capacity** in New Mexico by 2032
- The creation of up to **3,700 construction and 800 permanent jobs** related to the development construction and operation of renewable and transmission projects
- Up to **$11 billion of investment** in the development, construction, and operation of new renewables and transmission through 2032
- Available at: https://nmreta.com/nm-reta-transmission-study/

ICF

2026: RETA contracted with Quanta Technology to conduct a study to identify the most economical and accessible renewable generation resources in New Mexico and the most viable transmission routes to transmit material amounts of New Mexico renewables to other markets. Report is expected August 2026.

QUANTA TECHNOLOGY

RETA's Model Has Led to Successful Projects

- **Western Spirit (Pattern Energy) –** Sold to Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)
  - 155 miles, 345 kV AC, 800 MW capacity,
  - *December* ***2021 Commercial Operation Date***
- **Crossroads/Hobbs/Roadrunner (NextEra Energy Transmission) –** Completed in southeast New Mexico
  - 137 miles, double circuit 345 kV AC, 1,792 MW,
  - ***April 2026 Commercial Operation Date***
- **SunZia (Pattern Energy) –** Under construction, central NM to south central AZ
  - 550 miles, 525 kV HVDC – 3,000 MW capacity,
  - ***May 2026 Commercial Operation Date***

- **<u>Other Western States are adopting RETA's model to address transmission deficit</u>**
  - CO: Legislature created CETA in 2021, transmission studies funded
  - WA: Legislature created WETA in 2026
  - AZ: contemplating similar legislation
  - RETA works closely with similar organizations in WY and ND
  - **Gridworks is organizing Energy Transmission Authority Conference in September 2026**

RETA's Ongoing Projects: Five in Development, One Under MOU

- **RioSol (Southwestern Power Group) –** In development, parallel to SunZia
  - 550 miles, 500 kV AC – 1,500 MW, ***2029 estimated completion date***
- **Mora Line (Ameren Transmission) –** In development, northeast New Mexico
  - 116 miles, 345 kV AC and 115 kV AC, 182 MW, ***2027 estimated completion date***
- **North Path (Invenergy Transmission) –** In development, northeast to northwest New Mexico
  - 400 miles, 525 kV HVDC – 4,000 MW, ***2032 estimated completion date***
- **Hidden Mountain Extension (Agua Fria, LLC) –** In development, Central New Mexico – connects RioSol to PNM
  - 21 miles, 345 kV AC, 1,000 MW, ***2028 estimated completion date***
- **Eastern NM Connector (Southwestern Power Group II) –** In development, PNM's Pajarito to Blackwater substations
  - 278 miles, 500 kV AC, 3,200 MW ***estimated completion date TBD***
- **Southline, Phase II (Grid United, LLC) –** Under an MOU, southwestern to south central New Mexico
  - 108 miles, 345 kV AC, 1,500 MW, ***estimated completion date TBD***

Project Capacity Summary

Western Spirit (Pattern Energy)	800 MW
SunZia (Pattern Energy)	3,000 MW
RioSol (Southwestern Power Group)	1,500 MW
North Path (Invenergy)	4,000 MW
Mora Line (Ameren)	182 MW
Crossroads/Hobbs/Roadrunner (NextEra)	1,792 MW
Hidden Mountain Extension (Agua Fria, LLC)	1,000 MW
Eastern NM Connector (SW Power Group II)	3,200 MW
Southline Phase II (Grid United, LLC)	1,500 MW
RETA Transmission Capacity Total	**16,974 MW**

(Compare to New Mexico's peak load of less than 4,000 MW)

RETA

New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority

Thank you

www.nmreta.com

505-699-0599

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