

**MINUTES
of the
SECOND MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**July 29-30, 2025
Los Alamos County Council Chambers
1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos**

The second meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 9:11 a.m. in the Los Alamos County Council Chambers in Los Alamos.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair (7/29)
Sen. Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Michael Padilla (7/29)
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen

Absent

Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez

Advisory Members

Rep. Christine Chandler (7/29)
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo (7/29)

Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. James G. Townsend

Guest Legislator

Sen. Peter Wirth (7/29)

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Joanne Montague, Senior Legislative Librarian, LCS
William Mason, Staff, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found under the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Tuesday, July 29

Welcome and Introductions (9:11 a.m.)

Representative Sariñana welcomed everyone to the meeting. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome and Status Update (9:15 a.m.)

Anne Laurent, manager, Los Alamos County, welcomed the committee to Los Alamos and provided updates on the city and county. John Roig, chief information officer, Los Alamos County, discussed cybersecurity issues facing the county and the strategies deployed to combat them. Jerry Smith, broadband manager, Los Alamos County, spoke about recent efforts to expand broadband access and infrastructure in the county. Ben Olbrich, deputy utility manager for power supply, Los Alamos County, commented on the current and future status of power generation in the county.

Responsible Artificial Intelligence: Benefits and Risks (10:10 a.m.)

Representative Chandler introduced Melissa Warr, Ph.D., assistant professor, Educational Design and Learning Technologies, New Mexico State University, and Cristopher Moore, Ph.D., professor, Santa Fe Institute. Dr. Warr presented on the unique difficulties of understanding, evaluating and properly using artificial intelligence technologies. Dr. Moore discussed the current state of regulation and legislation related to artificial intelligence and made recommendations on important issues for the New Mexico legislature to consider. Representative Chandler spoke about some questions and challenges posed by artificial intelligence to state legislatures and discussed some bills related to artificial intelligence that were proposed in the 2025 legislative session. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=7/29/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Cybersecurity Training for Legislators and Legislative Staff (1:03 p.m.)

Shawna Casebier, director, LCS, presented on cybersecurity procedures and training for legislators and legislative staff.

Approval of Minutes (1:20 p.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the June 10, 2025 meeting were approved without changes.

New Mexico Highlands University Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (FWRI) (1:24 p.m.)

Gilbert "Buddy" Rivera, deputy director, FWRI; Katie Withnall, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialist and data manager, FWRI; and Dana Heusinkveld, GIS research specialist, FWRI, spoke about the FWRI's efforts in collecting and sharing forest management and wildfire data; collaborating in community education programs in conservation and ecological education; and building publicly available databases to track ongoing wildfires and support wildfire recovery efforts. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=7/29/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

License Plate Reader Technology and Use by Law Enforcement (2:33 p.m.)

John Allen, sheriff, Bernalillo County; Jeremy Story, chief of police, City of Las Cruces; and Trevor Chandler, director of public affairs, Flock Safety, discussed the implementation and impact of automated license plate reading technology in the state. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=7/29/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Searching for Ancient Life on Mars with the Curiosity and Perseverance Rovers (3:43 p.m.)

Nina Lanza, Ph.D., Moon to Mars team lead, Space Science and Applications, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), presented on LANL's involvement in developing the instruments used on the Mars rovers *Curiosity* and *Perseverance*, as well as continuing use of those instruments in chemical and mineralogical analyses of Mars's surface. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=7/29/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:18 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:07 a.m.

FIRETEC Fire Modeling Project (9:12 a.m.)

Rod Linn, Ph.D., senior scientist, Earth and Environmental Sciences Division, LANL, spoke about LANL's FIRETEC and QUIC-Fire wildfire modeling programs and their value for designing and planning prescribed fires and other wildfire prevention measures. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=7/29/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Quantum Computing Data Centers: Current Trends and Future Outlook (10:06 a.m.)

Carleton Coffrin, Ph.D., staff scientist, Information Systems and Modeling, LANL, presented on the current status of quantum computing and the demands on critical water and power infrastructure represented by quantum computing facilities. He discussed projected developments in the field of quantum computing in the next five to 10 years and noted the far-reaching impacts expected in the fields of basic and applied research. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=7/29/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

LANL Update (10:57 a.m.)

Angela Mielke, executive officer and deputy director, Directorate for Science, Technology and Engineering, LANL, and Kathy Keith, director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL, provided an update on recent developments at LANL and discussed LANL's relationships with state and local governments and educational institutions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=7/29/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Tour of LANL (12:00 noon)

Members of the committee and staff toured LANL.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.