

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

**September 21, 2023
Western New Mexico University
Silver City**

**September 22, 2023
Lightning Dock Geothermal Power Plant
Animas
and
Playas Training Center
Playas**

The fourth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on September 21, 2023 at 10:18 a.m. at Western New Mexico University (WNMU) in Silver City.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Vice Chair
Sen. Craig W. Brandt (9/21)
Sen. William F. Burt (9/21)
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas*
Rep. Martin R. Zamora* (9/21)

Absent

Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Jason C. Harper
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules

Advisory Members

Rep. Jenifer Jones
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (9/21)

Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Linda Serrato

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

*Appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives as a voting member for this meeting only.

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, LCS

Markela Clinton, Committee Coordinator, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other 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 on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Thursday, September 21 — Silver City**Welcome and Introductions (10:18 a.m.)**

Representative Sariñana welcomed the committee, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome and WNMU Status Update (10:34 a.m.)

Joseph Shepard, Ph.D., president, WNMU, welcomed the committee and guests to the campus and provided a status report on the university.

Building Equity into a Modern Electric Grid for New Mexico (10:54 a.m.)

Theresa Cardenas, chief operating officer, Noble Renewables Group, Inc.; Selena Connealy, Ph.D., associate director, New Mexico Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research; and Priscilla Lucero, executive director, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, described the work of the Empowering New Mexico Communities Town Hall to explore the social, economic and environmental factors involved in the transition from fossil-fuel-dependent electricity systems to renewable energy sources. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20092123%20Item%202%20EPSCOR%20--%20Empowering%20NM%20Town%20Hall%20Brief.pdf>.

Internet Protections for Children: Age-Appropriate Design Proposal (1:37 p.m.)

Greta McAnany, chief executive officer (CEO) and co-founder, Blue Fever, and David Jay, former head of mobilization, Center for Humane Technology, highlighted the mental health crisis and challenges facing young people, particularly from the internet and social media. Ms. McAnany and Mr. Jay discussed ways to design safer social media platforms and referred to the

Age Appropriate Design Code, which was proposed in Senate Bill 319 (2023). The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20092123%20Item%203%20Age%20Appropriate%20Design%20Code.pdf>.

Approval of Minutes (3:04 p.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the July 24-25, 2023 and August 31-September 1, 2023 meetings.

Building Out New Mexico's Geothermal Potential (3:05 p.m.)

Nick Goodman, CEO, Cyrq Energy, described in detail the geothermal potential in New Mexico for electric power generation and how geothermal complements other renewables such as solar and wind. Mr. Goodman also discussed the need for public funding and support in the development of these generation potentials. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20092123%20Item%204%20Building%20Out%20New%20Mexico's%20Geothermal%20Potential.pdf>.

Copper's Role in a Diversifying New Mexico Economy (3:33 p.m.)

Erich Bower, general manager, Tyrone Mining, LLC, and president, Western Land Company; Tony Trujillo, Government Relations, Freeport McMoRan, Inc.; and David Thomas, executive vice president, Research and Operations, New Mexico Copper Corporation, described how the copper mining industry benefits the diversification of the New Mexico economy. They discussed the Chino and Tyrone mining operations and what the future demand for copper looks like. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/21/2023&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:37 p.m.

Friday, September 22 — Animas and Playas

Tour of Lightning Dock Geothermal Power Plant and Playas Training Center (Committee Members and Staff Only) (7:45 a.m.)

Committee members toured the facilities of the Lightning Dock Geothermal Power Plant and Playas Training Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.