MINUTES
of the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

October 7-8, 2026
University of New Mexico-Los Alamos
Wallace Hall, Room 505
4000 University Drive
Los Alamos

The fifth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, vice chair, on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 10:23 a.m. in Wallace Hall at the University of New Mexico (UNM)-Los Alamos campus in Los Alamos.

Present
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Vice Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez (10/7)
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton (10/8)
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen (10/7)

Absent
Sen. Heather Berghmans, Chair
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Sen. Michael Padilla

Advisory
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Linda Serrato
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. James G. Townsend
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

(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 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 under the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Wednesday, October 7

Welcome and Introductions (10:23 a.m.)
Representative Sariñana welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Welcome and UNM-Los Alamos Status (10:24 a.m.)
Mike Holtzclaw, Ph.D., chancellor, UNM-Los Alamos, welcomed the committee and gave an overview of UNM-Los Alamos's programs and priorities.

Aligning New Mexico's Education Ecosystem to Power the Innovation Economy (11:01 a.m.)
Kersti Tyson, Ph.D., and Patricia Carden, co-chairs, New Mexico Partnership for Mathematics and Science Education, presented on the partnership's vision for education in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=2.

New Mexico Water Ambassadors (1:01 p.m.)
Mike Hamman, former state engineer; Ladona Clayton, Ed.D., executive director, Ogallala Land and Water Conservancy; and Gretel Follingstad, Ph.D., senior manager, Climate-Resilient Water Systems, Environmental Defense Fund, gave a presentation on

the New Mexico Water Ambassadors' water management initiatives and made policy recommendations for water planning in the state. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=3.

Expanding Access to Solar: Plug-in Solar and Simpler Interconnections (2:46 p.m.)

Jim DesJardins, executive director, Renewable Energy Industries Association of New Mexico, and Timi Laniyan, market and policy analyst, ConnectDER, discussed newer technologies that could improve the accessibility of solar installation in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=4.

New Mexico Bioscience Authority (NMBA) Status Update (3:34 p.m.)

Stephanie Tofighi, executive director, NMBA, and Paul Laur, chair, board of directors, NMBA, gave an update on the NMBA's activities in fiscal year 2026 and priorities for the next fiscal year. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=5.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:46 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:06 a.m.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Status Update (9:07 a.m.)

Angela Mielke, executive officer, Science, Technology and Engineering Directorate, LANL, and Kathy Keith, director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL, discussed recent highlights of LANL's operations. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=6.

LANL Quantum Collaborations (10:01 a.m.)

Carleton Coffrin, senior scientist and quantum science coordinator, LANL, presented on recent developments in quantum computing and LANL's partnerships in that area. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=7.

Technology Readiness Gross Receipts Initiative (TRGR) Update (10:52 a.m.)

Candice Siebenthal, Technology Engagement and Entrepreneurship Program manager, Richard P. Feynman Center for Innovation, LANL, and Mary Monson, senior manager, Technology Partnerships, Sandia National Laboratories, discussed the TRGR program's support of new technology enterprise. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=8.

State Agency Migration to Post-Quantum Cryptography (11:35 a.m.)

Todd Baran, general counsel, Cybersecurity Office, and Harshith Vemula, senior information technology security analyst, Cybersecurity Office, presented on post-quantum cryptography. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=9.

Proposed Amendments to Telecommunications Law (12:59 p.m.)

Tim Kunkleman, director, Government Affairs, Lumen Technologies, Inc., and Peter Gose, senior director, Regulatory Affairs, Lumen Technologies, Inc., presented proposed amendments to the Enhanced 911 Act and the New Mexico Telecommunications Act. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=10.

Building New Mexico's Scientific Future: From Education and Research to Innovation (1:30 p.m.)

Ganesh Balakrishnan, Ph.D., director, New Mexico Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NM EPSCoR), and Selena Connealy, Ph.D., associate director, NM EPSCoR, discussed NM EPSCoR's programs and activities and its proposed Science and Technology Plan. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=11.

Current and Emerging Data Privacy and Public Surveillance Issues (2:44 p.m.)

Tatiana Prieto, policy advocate, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of New Mexico, and Deanna Warren, director of public policy, ACLU of New Mexico, discussed online data privacy and made policy recommendations to regulate data collection. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/7/2026&ItemNumber=12.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.