

**2025 PROPOSED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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Proposed Work Plan

The Water and Natural Resources Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on April 28, 2025. The committee will focus on the following topics, as scheduling permits:

A. topics concerning **water**, including:

1. the Surface Water Quality Permitting Program (Senate Bill (SB) 21) (2025);
2. Water Data Act: updates, integration and access, including gaps in data and funding;
3. the status of the Strategic Water Reserve;

4. a report on the New Mexico Unit Fund, distributions, proposed uses and funding;
5. a Water Security Planning Act report and regional water planning, including:
 - a. implementation, rulemaking status and funding needs;
 - b. sequencing regional planning efforts; and
 - c. updates from the Water Security Tribal Advisory Council;
6. desalination as a tool to resolve water issues;
7. an update on the governor's 50-year water plan;
8. water rights administration: metering, monitoring, enforcement, shortage-sharing and solutions to detect and prevent water theft and policies to support key industries;
9. increasing water use penalties, as proposed by SB 210 (2025) and House Bill (HB) 348 (2025);
10. the Roosevelt Soil and Water Conservation District Rainfall Enhancement Program;
11. acequia infrastructure challenges and opportunities, including:
 - a. a report on the outcome of HB 330 (2025), which would have enacted the Land Grant-Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Act;
 - b. an update on the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund;
 - c. the proposed creation of the Acequia Bureau;
 - d. Acequia and Community Ditch Education Program changes; and
 - e. disaster recovery programs and funding needs;
12. Indian water rights settlements updates;
13. *Texas v. New Mexico* settlement updates and lower Rio Grande water challenges;
14. Rio Grande Compact status and updates;
15. Colorado River basin updates;

16. modernizing water management; and
17. New Mexico water supply strategies and conservation alternatives;

B. topics concerning **energy**, including:

1. threats to health from tritium venting;
2. Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) electric shutdowns;
3. transmission and renewable siting and permitting;
4. oil and gas price and production declines;
5. Blackstone Infrastructure's acquisition of PNM;
6. economic and regulatory impacts of the Clean Fuel Standard;
7. a report on the renewable energy production tax credit;
8. a report on the status of community energy efficiency projects, including community energy efficiency development implementation in the City of Albuquerque, the Town of Bernalillo, the City of Las Cruces and Santa Fe County;
9. a report on violations, penalties and lawsuits regarding the Oil and Gas Act, including:
 - a. increasing fees and penalties, as proposed by HB 259 (2025);
 - b. oil and gas bonding, enforcement and reform; and
 - c. proposed funding changes to the Oil Conservation Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD);
10. a San Juan Generation Station remediation and restoration study;
11. Energy, Conservation and Management Division of the EMNRD energy and policy 101: interagency work on energy issues;
12. buildings and efficiency — energy conservation codes and workforce opportunities;
13. electric vehicle (EV) charger buildout;

14. the Solar For All program, community solar and sovereign energy;
15. the Energy Transition Act — Economic Development Department fund projects update;
16. methane and ozone rules status — state and federal updates, including methane measurement, reporting and verification standards; and
17. wind turbine, copper and critical mineral recycling opportunities;

C. topics concerning **natural resources, conservation and climate**, including:

1. an update on the reforestation centers;
2. a Wildfire Study Group Report pursuant to Senate Memorial (SM) 2 (2025), including:
 - a. fire insurance;
 - b. post-fire restoration efforts;
 - c. a buffer program — defensible space between forests and communities;
 - d. wildfire funding, changes in federal wildfire response and the United States Forest Service program;
 - e. costs of the climate crisis on New Mexico — forest fires and climate change; and
 - f. utilities and fires and costs to ratepayers;
3. state natural resource agencies federal funding gaps, including attacks on federal environmental protections — federal programs and funding lost;
4. a Rio Grande Trail update, including designation and limiting liability within special districts, as proposed by HB 29 (2025);
5. a forest restoration and economic development study report pursuant to Senate Joint Memorial 1 (2025);
6. land conservation programs, including:
 - a. the Natural Heritage Conservation Act and Land Conservation Incentives Act (LCIA) — accomplishments and updates; and

- b. LCIA reform;
- 7. state parks updates and funding needs;
- 8. heat response and mitigation: current trends in extreme heat, health impacts and worker protections;
- 9. updates on the Environmental Database and interagency coordination;
- 10. Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund proposed changes;
- 11. clean car and trucks rules update and public health impacts of transportation;
- 12. EV battery second life;
- 13. state and federal EV and charger rebates, PNM customer incentives and cost savings from purchasing an EV;
- 14. electric school buses;
- 15. the role of states in climate action and the need for greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets; and
- 16. green technologies and infrastructure; and

D. topics concerning agriculture, land management and animals, including:

- 1. federal land sales;
- 2. changes to the Department of Game and Fish, the State Game Commission and wildlife management pursuant to SB 5 (2025);
- 3. a New Mexico Agricultural Workforce Development Program Act update;
- 4. a New Mexico meat and dairy in schools work group report pursuant to SM 19 (2025);
- 5. impacts of extreme weather on rural and agricultural communities; and
- 6. food and farm initiatives and a New Mexico Grown Programs update, including:
 - a. 2025 legislative outcomes — state and federal funding concerns;
 - b. the New Mexico Food Charter and its annual "report card" for 2023-2024;

- c. market opportunities and sustainable systems for New Mexico farmers, ranchers and food producers; and
- d. New Mexico's food security and local economies.

**Water and Natural Resources Committee
2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 3	Santa Fe
July 1-2	Las Vegas
August 18-20	Las Cruces and Alamogordo
September 11-12	Taos
October 29-30	Sandia/Isleta/Albuquerque*
November 17-18	Santa Fe

*Meetings outside the State Capitol after September 30 require New Mexico Legislative Council approval.