



NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE**

2025 INTERIM FINAL REPORT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE
490 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL, SUITE 411
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
(505) 986-4600
WWW.NMLEGIS.GOV

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTERIM SUMMARY

WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE

AGENDAS AND MINUTES

INTERIM SUMMARY

Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee 2025 Interim Summary

The Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee held six meetings during the 2025 interim. In addition to meetings held at the State Capitol in Santa Fe, the committee held meetings at the Los Alamos County Council Chambers in Los Alamos, the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Albuquerque, Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. The committee also toured Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, the North American Wind Research and Training Center at Mesalands Community College and the Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center at New Mexico State University.

During the 2025 interim, the committee focused on: the uses and impacts of artificial intelligence in public- and private-sector industries; the cybersecurity needs of the state and institutions of higher education; and emerging technologies in energy production and transmission. Additionally, the committee received oversight and status update reports regarding: Los Alamos National Laboratory; Sandia National Laboratories; the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion; the Department of Information Technology; the Spaceport Authority; Eastern New Mexico University; and New Mexico Highlands University.

Presentations were also received regarding quantum computing; data centers; data privacy; the development of new cash crops for New Mexico's farmers; the impacts of federal funding on New Mexico research institutions; and technological innovations in wildfire modeling and monitoring and forest and watershed restoration. The committee did not consider legislation for endorsement.

WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE

2025 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Members

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Sen. Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Tara L. Lujan

Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Yanira Gurrola

Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. James G. Townsend
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

Work Plan

The Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on April 28, 2025. As time permits, the committee proposes to continue its oversight role regarding the state's information technology projects, developments at the national laboratories in the state and the science and technological programs at the state's research universities. It also proposes to continue to examine issues regarding the development of broadband infrastructure, the telecommunications market, uses of technology in law enforcement, the science- and technology-based economic sector within the state and STEM education and extracurricular programs. Aside from these traditional functions, in 2025, the committee proposes to particularly focus on the following topic areas:

A. growing impacts of the use of artificial intelligence in the business sector, government and public life in general and whether there should be statutory guidance or requirements on its use;

B. the cybersecurity environment for public institutions and the private sector and approaches to developing greater cybersecurity literacy in the workforce and the general public;

C. methods to address the growing demand for data privacy by the public;

D. developments in energy production and transmission, including emerging technologies and the use of artificial intelligence to detect and remedy leaks during the extraction of energy minerals, the development of the Western Transmission Consortium as a regional power grid and the potential impacts of proposed federal transmission corridors; and

E. potential impacts of federal budget restructuring on the state, including on the planned radio telescope replacement project at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array and on research grants and cybersecurity at the state's higher education institutions.

**Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee
2025 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 10	Santa Fe
July 29-30	Los Alamos
August 25-26	Albuquerque
September 22-23	Tucumcari
October 23-24	Las Cruces
November 12	Santa Fe

AGENDAS AND MINUTES

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FIRST MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**June 10, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

Tuesday, June 10

- 10:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
- 10:15 a.m. (1) **[2025 Proposed Work Plan and Meeting Schedule](#)**
—Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service
- 12:00 noon **Adjourn**

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

**June 10, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 10:17 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Sen. Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen

Absent

Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Harold Pope

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. James G. Townsend

Staff

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

Tuesday, June 10

Welcome and Introductions (10:17 a.m.)

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

2025 Proposed Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (10:27 a.m.)

Mr. Edwards presented the proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the 2025 legislative interim. Committee members suggested additional topics for the committee to address during the interim. On a motion made and seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the proposed work plan and meeting schedule.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Revised: July 25, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
SECOND MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

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

Tuesday, July 29

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Status Update**
—Anne Laurent, Manager, Los Alamos County
- 10:00 a.m. (2) **Responsible Artificial Intelligence: Benefits and Risks**
—Representative Christine Chandler
—Christopher Moore, Ph.D., Professor, Santa Fe Institute
—Melissa Warr, Assistant Professor, Educational Design and Learning
Technologies, New Mexico State University
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (3) **Cybersecurity Training for Legislators and Legislative Staff**
—Shawna Casebier, Director, Legislative Council Service
- 1:30 p.m. (4) **New Mexico Highlands University Forest and Watershed Restoration
Institute (FWRI)**
**A. New Mexico Fire Viewer: Keeping New Mexico Citizens Informed
About Current Wildfires with Geographic Information Systems
(GIS)**
B. Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Hub and Post-Fire Hub
**C. New Mexico Vegetation Treatments Database: Empowering
Effective Land Management**
**D. ReSHAPE Database: Understanding the Impacts of Fuel
Treatments on Wildfire Behavior**
—Gilbert "Buddy" Rivera, Deputy Director, FWRI
—Katie Withnall, GIS Specialist and Data Manager, FWRI
—Dana Heusinkveld, GIS Research Specialist, FWRI

2:30 p.m. (5) [License Plate Reader Technology and Use by Law Enforcement](#)
—John Allen, Sheriff, Bernalillo County
—Jeremy Story, Chief of Police, City of Las Cruces
—Trevor Chandler, Director of Public Affairs, Flock Safety

3:30 p.m. (6) [Searching for Ancient Life on Mars with the Curiosity and Perseverance Rovers](#)
—Nina Lanza, Ph.D., Moon to Mars Team Lead, Space Science and Applications, LANL

4:30 p.m. **Public Comment***

4:45 p.m. **Recess**

Wednesday, July 30

9:00 a.m. (7) [FIRETEC Fire Modeling Project](#)
—Rod Linn, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Earth and Environmental Sciences Division, LANL

9:45 a.m. (8) [Quantum Computing Data Centers: Current Trends and Future Outlook](#)
—Carleton Coffrin, Ph.D., Staff Scientist, Information Systems and Modeling, LANL

10:30 a.m. (9) [LANL Update](#)
—Angela Mielke, Executive Officer and Deputy Directorate for Science, Technology and Engineering, LANL
—Kathy Keith, Director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL

12:00 noon **Tour of LANL (Legislators and Legislative Staff Only)**

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee [web page](#).

**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.

Revised: August 19, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
THIRD MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**August 25-26, 2025
New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
801 Stephen Moody Street SE
Albuquerque**

Monday, August 25

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Status Update**
—Heather Miller, Ph.D., Superintendent, New Mexico School for the Blind
and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI)
—Justin Burks, Facilities and Capital Projects Coordinator, NMSBVI
—Kitty Edstrand, Innovations and Development Research Coordinator,
NMSBVI
- 10:00 a.m. (2) **Securing Artificial Intelligence to Strengthen Cybersecurity**
—Srinivas Mukkamala, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Securin; Member,
Board of Regents, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology;
Member, Board of Directors, El Paso Electric
- 11:00 a.m. (3) **Sandia National Laboratories Status Update**
—Laura McGill, Director, Sandia National Laboratories
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (4) **Modeling Electric Grid Resistance to Wildfire**
—Brian Pierre, Manager, Electric Power Systems Research, Sandia
National Laboratories
- 2:00 p.m. (5) **The Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for Broadband:
Prospects for Upcoming Years and Needed State Response**
—Jeff Lopez, Director, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion
—Judd Hinkle, Chief Executive Officer, Smith Bagley, Inc.
—Guy Turley, Chief Operating Officer, Smith Bagley, Inc.
- 3:00 p.m. **Public Comment***

3:15 p.m. (6) [Cybersecurity Office Status Update](#)
—Raja Sambandam, State Chief Information Security Officer

4:15 p.m. **Tour of NMSBVI (Legislators and Legislative Staff Only)**

4:45 p.m. **Recess**

Tuesday, August 26

9:00 a.m. (7) [Sandia National Laboratories — Quantum Industry Collaborations and Educational Outreach](#)
—Jake Douglass, Quantum Business Development Lead, Sandia National Laboratories
—Megan Ivory, Experimental Quantum Physicist, Sandia National Laboratories

10:00 a.m. (8) [Status of the Technology and Innovation Division of the Economic Development Department and the Quantum Initiative](#)
—Nora Sackett, Director, Technology and Innovation Division, Economic Development Department

11:00 a.m. (9) [Technology Readiness Gross Receipts \(TRGR\) Initiative](#)
—David Kistin, Manager, Technology and Economic Development, Sandia National Laboratories
—Candice Siebenthal, Program Manager, Feynman Center for Innovation, Los Alamos National Laboratory
—Kyle Guin, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, VastVision Technologies

11:45 a.m. **Lunch**

12:30 p.m. **Tour of Sandia National Laboratories (Legislators and Legislative Staff Only)**

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee [web page](#).

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

**August 25-26, 2025
New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
801 Stephen Moody Street SE
Albuquerque**

The third meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on Monday, August 25, 2025, at 9:55 a.m. at the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI) in Albuquerque.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Sen. Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (8/26)
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen (8/25)

Absent

Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Advisory Members

Sen. Jay C. Block (8/26)
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Charlotte Little (8/26)

Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Sen. Larry R. Scott
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)
William Mason, Staff, LCS
Joanne Montague, Senior Legislative Librarian, 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.

Monday, August 25

Welcome and Introductions (9:55 a.m.)

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

Welcome and Status Update (9:58 a.m.)

Heather Miller, Ph.D., superintendent, NMSBVI, and Justin Burks, facilities and capital projects coordinator, NMSBVI, welcomed the committee and provided updates on the school's Albuquerque and Alamogordo campuses. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Securing Artificial Intelligence to Strengthen Cybersecurity (10:19 a.m.)

Srinivas Mukkamala, Ph.D., chief executive officer (CEO), Securin; member, Board of Regents, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology; and member, Board of Directors, El Paso Electric, presented on the importance of using and securing artificial intelligence for cybersecurity purposes.

Sandia National Laboratories Status Update (11:18 a.m.)

Laura McGill, director, Sandia National Laboratories, gave an update on recent developments at the lab and discussed the lab's impact on economic development in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Modeling Electric Grid Resistance to Wildfire (12:58 p.m.)

Brian Pierre, manager, Electric Power Systems Research, Sandia National Laboratories, presented on Sandia National Laboratories' research in planning and modeling the interactions between power grids and wildfires. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

The Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for Broadband: Prospects for Upcoming Years and Needed State Response (1:40 p.m.)

Jeff Lopez, director, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion; Judd Hinkle, CEO, Smith Bagley, Inc.; and Guy Turley, chief operating officer, Smith Bagley Inc., discussed the history and function of affordability subsidies for telecommunications in the United States. Mr. Hinkle and Mr. Turley presented a proposal for New Mexico to sponsor broadband subsidies in order to take up shortfalls in federal funding. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (2:28 p.m.)

A list of individuals who made public comment is available in the meeting file.

Cybersecurity Office Status Update (2:35 p.m.)

Raja Sambandam, state chief information security officer, presented on the Cybersecurity Office's activities and achievements in fiscal year 2025. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Executive Session (3:20 p.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the committee entered a closed executive session regarding cybersecurity within state entities.

Tour of NMSBVI (4:18 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured the NMSBVI.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

Sandia National Laboratories — Quantum Industry Collaborations and Educational Outreach (9:08 a.m.)

Jake Douglass, quantum business development lead, Sandia National Laboratories, and Megan Ivory, experimental quantum physicist, Sandia National Laboratories, discussed quantum

computing programs and public-private collaboration in quantum technologies at Sandia National Laboratories. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Status of the Technology and Innovation Division of the Economic Development Department and the Quantum Initiative (10:06 a.m.)

Nora Sackett, director, Technology and Innovation Division, Economic Development Department, presented on the division's activities and provision of grants and other support for advanced technology investment in New Mexico.

Approval of Minutes (10:45 a.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the July 29-30, 2025 meeting were approved without changes.

Technology Readiness Gross Receipts (TRGR) Initiative (10:48 a.m.)

David Kistin, manager, Technology and Economic Development, Sandia National Laboratories; Candice Siebenthal, program manager, Feynman Center for Innovation, Los Alamos National Laboratory; and Kyle Guin, CEO and co-founder, VastVision Technologies, discussed the TRGR program, which provides funding to New Mexico technology companies working in partnership with the national labs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Tour of Sandia National Laboratories (12:30 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured Sandia National Laboratories.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Revised: September 17, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**September 22-23, 2025
Mesalands Community College, Building A
911 South Tenth Street
Tucumcari**

Monday, September 22

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
- 9:10 a.m. (1) **[Mesalands Community College \(MCC\) Welcome and Overview of Major Programs](#)**
—Allen Moss, Ed.D., President, MCC
—Nathaniel Alexander, Wind Instructor, North American Wind Research and Training Center (NAWRTC), MCC
—Terrill Stowe, Wind Instructor, NAWRTC, MCC
—Shannon Fries, Director, Nursing and Education, MCC
—Axel Hungerbuehler, Ph.D., Professor, Paleontology and Physical Sciences, and Dinosaur Museum Curator, MCC
- 11:00 a.m. (2) **[Department of Information Technology Status Update](#)**
—Manny Barreras, Secretary, Department of Information Technology
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (3) **[The Western Transmission Consortium](#)**
—Ray Gifford, Managing Partner, Denver Office, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
—Matthew Larson, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
- 2:00 p.m. (4) **[New Mexico's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(NM EPSCoR\) Update](#)**
—Ganesh "Gunny" Balakrishnan, Ph.D., Director, NM EPSCoR; Principal Investigator, New Mexico Sustainable, Modular, Adaptive, Resilient and Transactive Grid Center
—Selena Connealy, Ph.D., Associate Director, NM EPSCoR
- 3:00 p.m. (5) **[Spaceport America Update](#)**
—Scott McLaughlin, Executive Director, Spaceport Authority

4:00 p.m. **Tour of MCC, Including Wind Technician Training Facilities***

Tuesday, September 23

9:00 a.m. (6) **[Water, Agriculture and Energy Research Activities at Eastern New Mexico University](#)**
—John Montgomery, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Research and Graduate School Dean, Eastern New Mexico University

10:00 a.m. (7) **[Cybersecurity Needs at Institutions of Higher Learning — New Mexico Council for Higher Education Computing/Community Services](#)**
—Duane Arruti, Chief Information Officer (CIO), University of New Mexico
—Victor Leon, CIO, Central New Mexico Community College
—Michael Acosta, CIO, Western New Mexico University
—Raja Sambandam, State Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Cybersecurity Office
—Isaac Bush, CIO, Higher Education Department

11:00 a.m. (8) **[Cybersecurity Office: Looking at 2026 and Beyond](#)**
—Raja Sambandam, State CISO, Cybersecurity Office

12:00 noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. (9) **[Water Reuse Project and Bull Testing Program at Agricultural Experiment Station Update](#)**
—Jay Lillywhite, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University (NMSU)
—Marcy Ward, Extension Livestock Specialist, Range Improvement Task Force, NMSU
—Leonard Lauriault, Former Research Director, Rex E. Kirksey Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari, NMSU

2:00 p.m. (10) **[Department of Public Safety Intelligence-Led Policing Project](#)**
—W. Troy Weisler, Chief, New Mexico State Police Division, Department of Public Safety

3:00 p.m. (11) **[Virtual Power Plants: Using Distributed Generation and Storage to Increase Power Grid Flexibility and Meet Demand Fluctuations](#)**
—Jim DesJardins, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Industries Association of New Mexico

4:00 p.m. **Public Comment****

4:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Committee members and committee staff only.

**Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee [web page](#).

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

**September 22-23, 2025
Mesalands Community College, Building A
911 South Tenth Street
Tucumcari**

The fourth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 10:06 a.m. in Building A of Mesalands Community College (MCC) in Tucumcari.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Anita Gonzales (9/22)
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Michael Padilla (9/23)
Sen. Harold Pope (9/22)
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Absent

Sen. Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen

Advisory Members

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

Guest Legislator

Rep. Martin R. Zamora (9/22)

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

Staff

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

Monday, September 22

Welcome and Introductions (10:06 a.m.)

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

MCC Welcome and Overview of Programs (10:09 a.m.)

Allen Moss, Ed.D, president, MCC; Nathaniel Alexander, wind instructor, North American Wind Research and Training Center (NAWRTC), MCC; Terrill Stowe, wind instructor, NAWRTC, MCC; Shannon Fries, director, Nursing and Education, MCC; and Axel Hungerbuehler, Ph.D., professor, Paleontology and Physical Sciences, and Dinosaur Museum curator, MCC, welcomed the committee and gave an overview of MCC and its programs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Status Update (12:20 p.m.)

Manny Barreras, secretary, DoIT; Jason Habedank, deputy secretary, DoIT; and Raja Sambandam, state chief information security officer, Cybersecurity Office, DoIT, discussed the status and operations of the department in fiscal year 2025. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

The Western Transmission Consortium (1:04 p.m.)

Ray Gifford, managing partner, Denver Office, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP, and Matthew Larson, partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP, gave a presentation on the Western

Transmission Consortium's efforts to promote integration of regional power grids across the desert Southwest. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

New Mexico's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NM EPSCoR) Update (2:17 p.m.)

Ganesh "Gunny" Balakrishnan, Ph.D., director, NM EPSCoR, and principal investigator, New Mexico Sustainable, Modular, Adaptive, Resilient and Transactive Grid Center; and Selena Connealy, Ph.D., associate director, NM EPSCoR, discussed NM EPSCoR's advocacy of research in New Mexico and efforts to bring federal investment to research at the state's two- and four-year higher education institutions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Spaceport America Update (3:01 p.m.)

Scott McLaughlin, executive director, Spaceport Authority, gave a statement on Spaceport America's current status, discussed ongoing site improvement projects and highlighted recently signed agreements with new customers for the spaceport. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:42 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:02 a.m.

Water, Agriculture and Energy Research Activities at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) (9:05 a.m.)

John Montgomery, Ph.D., assistant vice president for research and Graduate School dean, ENMU, presented on ENMU's research programs and gave examples of university faculty and student research in the fields of water, agriculture and energy. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Cybersecurity Needs at Institutions of Higher Learning — Consortium of Higher Education Computing and Community Services (9:38 a.m.)

Duane Arruti, chief information officer (CIO), University of New Mexico; Victor Leon, CIO, Central New Mexico Community College; Michael Acosta, CIO, Western New Mexico University; Mr. Sambandam; and Isaac Bush, CIO, Higher Education Department, discussed the impacts of cybersecurity events on higher education institutions and the role of the Consortium of Higher Education Computing and Communications Services. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Executive Session (9:45 a.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the committee entered a closed executive session regarding cybersecurity within state higher education institutions.

Cybersecurity Office: Looking at 2026 and Beyond (11:38 a.m.)

Mr. Sambandam presented on the Cybersecurity Office of the DoIT's plans and projections for fiscal year 2026 and following years. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Water Reuse Project and Bull Testing Program at Agricultural Experiment Station Update (12:54 p.m.)

Jay Lillywhite, Ph.D., associate dean and director, Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University (NMSU); Marcy Ward, extension livestock specialist, Range Improvement Task Force, NMSU; and Leonard Lauriault, former research director, Rex E. Kirksey Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari, NMSU, presented on the Rex E. Kirksey Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari's research projects in wastewater reuse and livestock testing. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Department of Public Safety Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) Project (1:36 p.m.)

W. Troy Weisler, chief, New Mexico State Police Division, Department of Public Safety, provided an update on the status of the ILP project and discussed the advantages of the project's integrated law enforcement database.

Virtual Power Plants: Using Distributed Grid Generation and Storage to Increase Power Grid Flexibility and Meet Demand Fluctuations (2:22 p.m.)

Jim DesJardins, executive director, Renewable Energy Industries Association of New Mexico, gave a presentation on the "virtual power plant" concept and discussed the possibility of legislation to enable the implementation of virtual power plants in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=9/22/2025&ItemNumber=11>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Revised: October 21, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**October 23-24, 2025
Pan American Center, Barbara Hubbard Room
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces**

Thursday, October 23

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
- 9:10 a.m. (1) **[New Mexico State University \(NMSU\) Welcome and Overview](#)**
—Valerio Ferme, President, NMSU
- 10:00 a.m. (2) **[Office of Cybersecurity: Fiscal Year 2027 Legislative and Budget Priorities](#)**
—Raja Sambandam, State Chief Information Security Officer,
Cybersecurity Office
- 11:00 a.m. (3) **[Data Center Impacts on New Mexico: Policy Solutions for Water and Energy](#)**
—Deborah Kapiloff, Policy Analyst, Western Resource Advocates
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (4) **[Community Safety and Data Privacy: Current Impacts and Policy Solutions](#)**
—Lena Weber, Director, American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico
- 2:00 p.m. (5) **[Development of New Cash Crops for New Mexico: Prospective Production Areas and Markets](#)**
—Jay Lillywhite, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, NMSU
—Omar Holguin, Ph.D., Director, Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems, NMSU

- 2:45 p.m. (6) [**Institute for Applied Practice in Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Machine Learning: Leveraging AI for Agricultural Production and Medical Practice and Other Disciplines**](#)
—Enrico Pontelli, Ph.D., Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Special Advisor for Artificial Intelligence, Provost's Office, NMSU
—Lara Prihodko, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, NMSU
—Huiping Cao, Professor, Department of Computer Science, NMSU
—Mike Hout, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research, College of Health, Education and Social Transformation, NMSU

3:30 p.m. **Tour of the Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center***

5:00 p.m. **Recess**

Friday, October 24

- 9:00 a.m. (7) [**Types of Regulatory Guardrails to Ensure that AI Technology Is a Net Benefit to Consumers and the General Public**](#)
—Matt Scherer, Senior Policy Counsel and Project Lead, Workers' Rights and Technology, Center for Democracy and Technology
—Grace Gedye, Policy Analyst on AI, *Consumer Reports*
- 10:30 a.m. (8) [**Ensuring that AI Technology Is a Net Benefit to Consumers and the General Public Without Stifling Industry Innovation**](#)
—Renzo Soto, Executive Director, Texas and the South, TechNet
—Willy Chanes Martinez, Associate Attorney, Mariner Strategies
—Kyle Shannon, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, AI Salon
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (9) [**Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment: Overview of Federal Financing Programs**](#)
—Tom Hucker, Senior Advisor, Loan Programs Office, United States Department of Energy
- 1:15 p.m. (10) [**Leveraging the Physical Science Laboratory \(PSL\) for Recruitment and Development of New Mexico Aerospace Industries**](#)
—Patricia Sullivan, Ph.D., Interim Director, PSL and Associate Dean for Outreach and Recruitment, College of Engineering, NMSU
- 2:15 p.m. (11) [**Office of Broadband Access and Expansion \(OBAE\) Status Update**](#)
—Jeff Lopez, Director, OBAE
—Aquiles Trujillo, Deputy Director, OBAE

3:45 p.m. (12) **Introducing the New Mexico Nuclear Alliance**
—Scott Lopez, Chief Executive Officer and President, New Mexico Nuclear Alliance
—Bridget Hawn, State and Local Government Affairs Analyst, Kairos Power
—Alex Doniach, Head of Communications, Pacific Fusion

4:45 p.m. **Public Comment****

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Committee members and staff only.

**Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee [web page](#).

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

**October 23-24, 2025
Pan American Center, Barbara Hubbard Room
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces**

The fifth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 9:06 a.m. at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Sen. Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (10/24)
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Michael Padilla (10/23)
Sen. William P. Soules

Advisory Members

Sen. Jay C. Block (10/23)
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

Absent

Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen

Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. James G. Townsend

Guest Legislator

Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena (10/23)

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

Staff

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

Thursday, October 23

Welcome and Introductions (9:06 a.m.)

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

NMSU Welcome and Overview (9:16 a.m.)

Valerio Ferme, president, NMSU, welcomed the committee and gave an update on NMSU.

Approval of Minutes (9:45 a.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the August 25-26, 2025 and September 22-23, 2025 meetings were approved without changes.

Office of Cybersecurity: Fiscal Year 2027 Legislative and Budget Priorities (9:52 a.m.)

Raja Sambandam, state chief information security officer, Cybersecurity Office, gave a presentation on the office's budget needs for fiscal year 2027. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Executive Session (9:53 a.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the committee entered a closed executive session regarding cybersecurity.

Data Center Impacts on New Mexico: Policy Solutions for Water and Energy (11:37 a.m.)

Deborah Kapiloff, policy analyst, Western Resource Advocates, presented on the water and energy requirements of large data centers and discussed proposed legislation regulating data centers in New Mexico and other states. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Community Safety and Data Privacy: Current Impacts and Policy Solutions (1:24 p.m.)

Lena Weber, director, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of New Mexico, discussed the effects of online data collection on community safety and presented the ACLU's recommendations for laws protecting data privacy. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Development of New Cash Crops for New Mexico: Prospective Production Areas and Markets (2:19 p.m.)

Jay Lillywhite, Ph.D., associate dean and director, Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, NMSU, and Omar Holguin, Ph.D., director, Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems, NMSU, discussed NMSU's agricultural research and education programs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Institute for Applied Practice in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning: Leveraging AI for Agricultural Production and Medical Practice and Other Disciplines (2:51 p.m.)

Lara Prihodko, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, NMSU; Huiping Cao, professor, Department of Computer Science, NMSU; and Mike Hout, Ph.D., associate dean for research, College of Health, Education and Social Transformation, NMSU, discussed NMSU's new degree program in AI and plans for future expansion. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:22 p.m.

Tour of the Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center (3:23 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured NMSU's Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center.

Friday, October 24

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:01 a.m.

Types of Regulatory Guardrails to Ensure that AI Technology Is a Net Benefit to Consumers and the General Public (9:01 a.m.)

Matt Scherer, senior policy counsel and project lead, Workers' Rights and Technology, Center for Democracy and Technology, and Grace Gedye, policy analyst on AI, *Consumer Reports*, discussed possible regulations governing AI to provide consumer and individual protections. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Ensuring that AI Technology Is a Net Benefit to Consumers and the General Public Without Stifling Industry Innovation (10:25 a.m.)

Renzo Soto, executive director, Texas and the South, TechNet; Willy Chanes Martinez, associate attorney, Mariner Strategies; and Kyle Shannon, founder and chief executive officer, AI Salon, discussed the landscape of actual and proposed legislation regulating AI at the state and federal levels. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment: Overview of Federal Financing Programs (12:48 p.m.)

Tom Hucker, senior adviser, Loan Programs Office, United States Department of Energy, presented on the department's Loan Programs Office and the office's financing of energy technology and infrastructure projects. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Leveraging the Physical Science Laboratory (PSL) for Recruitment and Development of New Mexico Aerospace Industries (1:16 p.m.)

Patricia Sullivan, Ph.D., interim director, PSL, and associate dean for outreach and recruitment, College of Engineering, NMSU, discussed the PSL's contributions to aerospace

research and partnerships with other research bodies in the public and private sectors. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=10>.

Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) Status Update (2:02 p.m.)

Jeff Lopez, director, OBAE, and Aquiles Trujillo, deputy director, OBAE, presented on the current state of broadband access across New Mexico and discussed planned projects to improve that access. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=11>.

Introducing the New Mexico Nuclear Alliance (2:33 p.m.)

Scott Lopez, chief executive officer and president, New Mexico Nuclear Alliance; Alex Doniach, head of communications, Pacific Fusion; and Nikki Sizemore, government affairs manager, Kairos Power, presented on ongoing efforts to develop nuclear fission and fusion infrastructure in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/23/2025&ItemNumber=12>.

Public Comment (3:56 p.m.)

A list of individuals who made public comment is available in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Revised: November 10, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
SIXTH MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**November 12, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

Wednesday, November 12

- 9:00 a.m. (1) **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
- 10:00 a.m. (2) **Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Update and Reporting Tool**
—Manny Barreras, Secretary, DoIT
—Jason Habedank, Deputy Secretary, DoIT
- 11:00 a.m. (3) **Information Technology Best Practices**
—Waldo Jaquith, Government Delivery Manager, U.S. Digital Response
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (4) **Impacts of Federal Budgeting on Research Programs at State Institutions**
—Lique Coolen, Ph.D., Provost, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- 2:00 p.m. (5) **Effects of 2025 Federal Budget Reconciliation on New Mexico and Prospects for Reducing Electricity Costs**
—Rebecca "Puck" Stair, Director, Energy Conservation and Management Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- 3:00 p.m. (6) **Consideration of Legislation for Endorsement**
—TBD
- 4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

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

**November 12, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The sixth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, by Senator Heather Berghmans, vice chair, at 9:47 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Heather Berghmans, Vice Chair
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Absent

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen

Advisory Members

Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. James G. Townsend

Staff

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

Minutes Approval

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

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, November 12

Welcome and Introductions (9:47 a.m.)

Senator Berghmans welcomed everyone to the meeting. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Update and Reporting Tool (9:50 a.m.)

Manny Barreras, secretary, DoIT, and Jason Habedank, deputy secretary, DoIT, discussed how management of information technology projects is changing to incorporate modern management practices known as "agile management" and some of the expected benefits of that change. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=11/12/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Information Technology Best Practices (11:31 a.m.)

Waldo Jaquith, government delivery manager, U.S. Digital Response, gave a presentation on the benefits of using agile management practices for information technology projects and how agile management compares to the traditional "waterfall" management approach in achieving project success for government procurement of software and gave policy recommendations to implement those practices. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=11/12/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Approval of Minutes (12:18 p.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the October 23-24, 2025 meeting were approved without changes.

Impacts of Federal Budgeting on Research Programs at State Institutions (1:04 p.m.)

Lique Coolen, Ph.D., vice president for research, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, outlined the effects of recent changes to the federal budget on research at New Mexico's state research institutions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=11/12/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

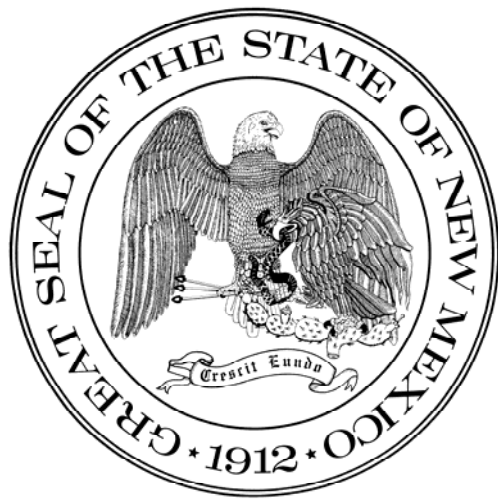
Effects of 2025 Federal Budget Reconciliation on New Mexico and Prospects for Reducing Electricity Costs (2:00 p.m.)

Rebecca "Puck" Stair, director, Energy Conservation and Management Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, presented on the energy impacts of the 2025 federal budget reconciliation, discussed other energy cost drivers and presented policy recommendations to counteract possible rising costs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=11/12/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO