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Data Centers in New Mexico: Air and Climate Impacts

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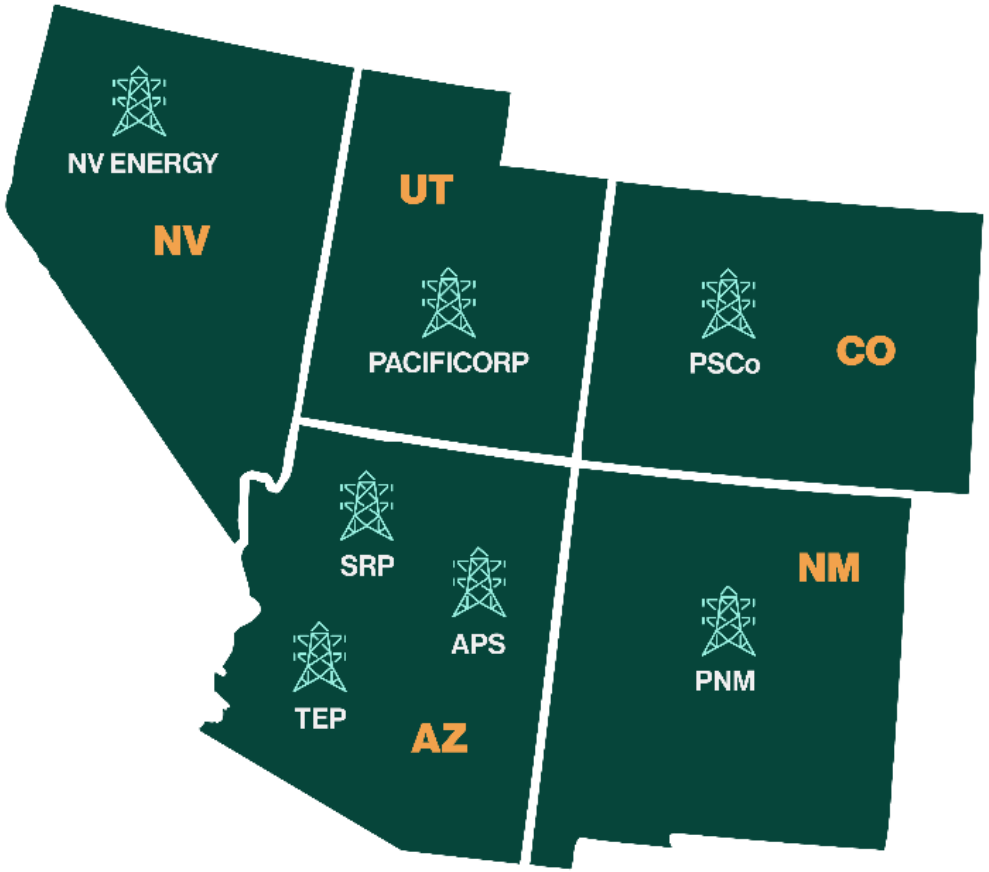
Electricity Demand is Soaring, Due to Data Center Boom

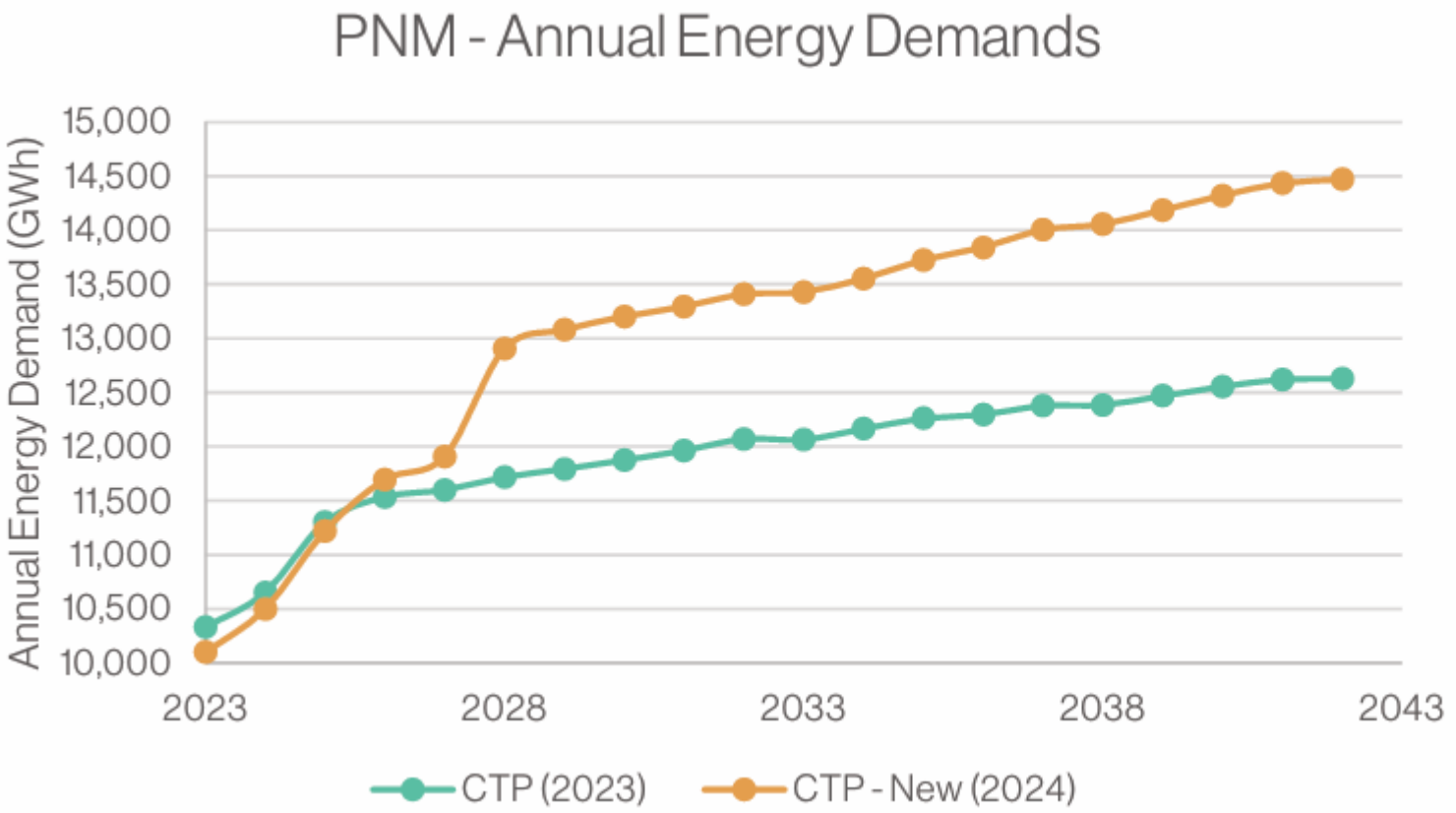


32%* higher in 2030

55%* higher in 2035

**Projected collective annual energy demands of the utilities relative to expected 2025 levels.*

Electricity Demand is Soaring, Due to Data Center Boom



PNM's annual energy demands under the Current Trends and Policy (CTP) forecast in the 2023 IRP and under the 2024 Supplemental Update to the 2023 IRP.

Without Safeguards, New Fossil-Fuel Power Plants Will Doom Climate Goals

Sector	2005 Base Emissions ($MMTCO_2e$)	2021 Interim Emissions ($MMTCO_2e$)	2023 Current Emissions ($MMTCO_2e$)	Change Relative to 2005 (%)	Change Relative to 2021 (%)
Electricity generation	16.33	10.31	6.60	-60%	-36%

Project Jupiter *alone* would emit more than all existing NM power plants combined, essentially wiping out progress since 2005

Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC - YGI Microgrid

Emission Summary - GHG

Unit	Description	CO_2 tpy
SOFC	Bloom Energy Server System	10,144,115
Total		**10,144,115**

YGI application uses short tons. Plant would emit 9.2 MMT, bringing sector emissions to 15.8 MMT—97% of 2005 levels

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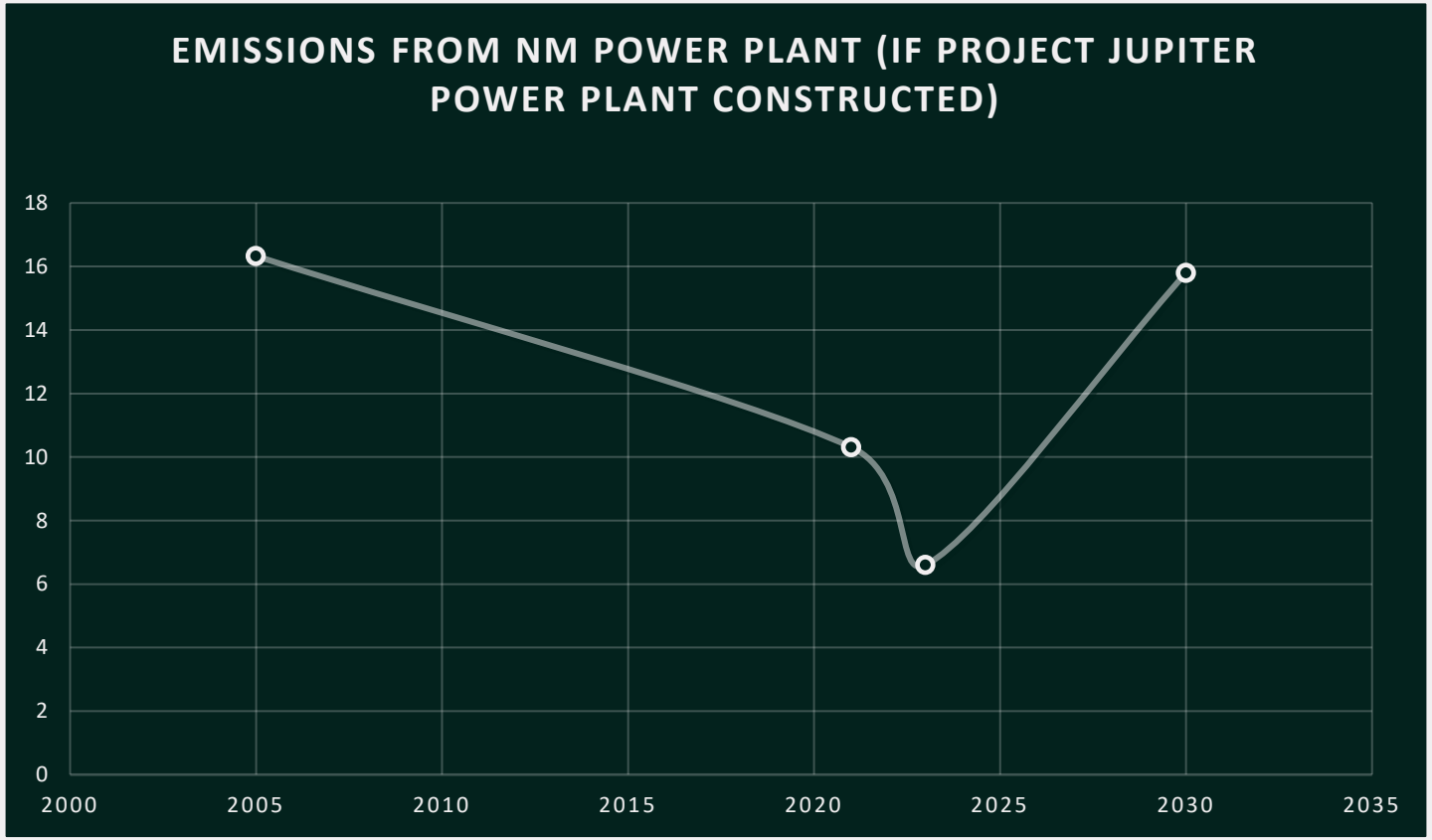

Y = million metric tons, X = year

Fossil-Fuel Power Plants Releases Other Dangerous Pollutants

Fossil power plants emit ozone-forming pollutants

Elevated ozone levels in NM contribute to heart attacks, asthma attacks, other health problems

American Lung Association
State of the Air

2026

Report Cards

County	Grade	Wgt. Avg.
Bernalillo	F	12.0
Dona Ana	F	14.5
Eddy	F	27.7
Lea	F	5.0

Fossil-Fuel Power Plants Releases Other Dangerous Pollutants

Each year in NM, ozone associated with **~259 premature deaths**

Ozone Pollution in New Mexico: An Economic Analysis of its Human Health Impacts and Damages[1]

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August 12, 2022

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Companies Can Build Large Data Centers with Renewables

Los Lunas / Meta: 885 MW of contracted solar and wind capacity, supplemented by 100 MW of battery storage

Meta now investing in Advanced Geothermal

Large Data Centers Powered by Renewables

ENERGY

Google to build data center in Minnesota with new solar, wind power and battery storage

- Google will build its first data center in Minnesota in a small town called Pine Island.
- The tech company will also bring 1,900 megawatts of new renewable energy to the state under an agreement with utility Xcel.

DIVE BRIEF

Meta to power Texas data centers with 600-MW solar plant

The facility's owner, Enbridge, will invest $900 million to finish the power plant near San Antonio.

Published July 24, 2025

Lamar Johnson
Reporter

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Other examples:

Eagle Mountain Meta Campus in Utah (over 800 MW)

Switch Citadel in Nevada (650 MW)

Ensuring that New Mexico's Clean Energy Laws Apply to Data Centers

The **Energy Transition Act** (ETA) requires all ***utilities*** to achieve zero-carbon power in New Mexico by 2045 (2050 for co-ops). Hyperscale data centers were unheard of when ETA was adopted, so ETA did not apply to **self-sourced power generation**

- The **Microgrid Oversight Act** (SB235) would have extended renewable energy standards to microgrids exceeding 20 MW, culminating in 100% zero-carbon generation by 2045
- Passed Senate but not brought to vote in House

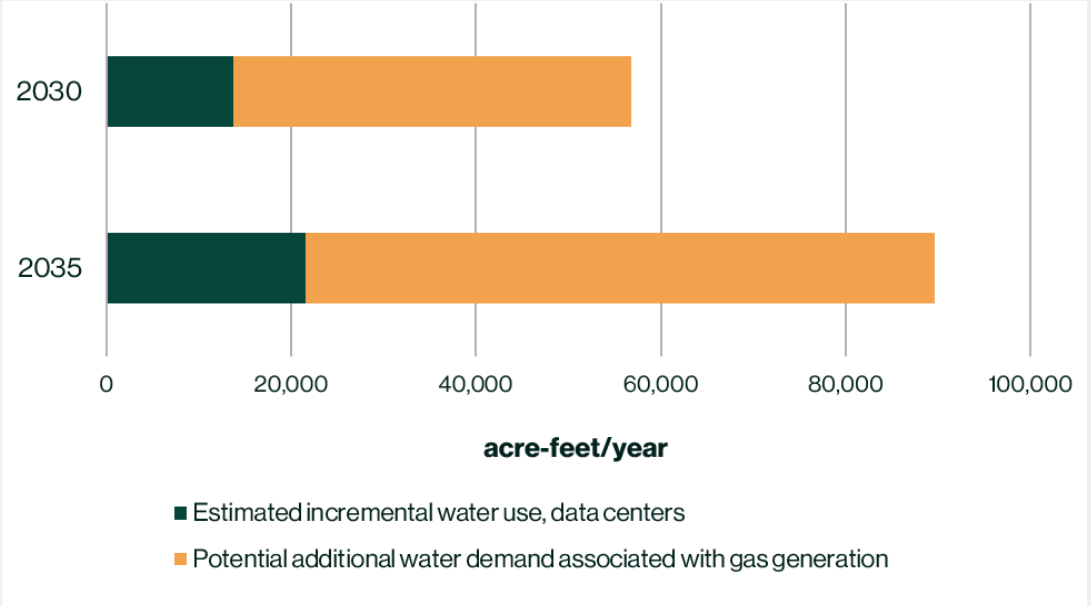
Restoring NMED Permitting Authority

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Obama-era rule that required more stringent review before construction of large GHG sources (>75,000 tons/year)

NMED could restore the rule, providing more oversight of data center emissions

Other Impacts to Consider

- Water use
- Land and habitat
- Waste heat
- Ratepayer impacts



For more information:
https://westernresourceadvocates.org/publications/data-center-impacts-in-the-west-policy-solutions-for-water-and-energy-use

Questions?

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