

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

**November 15-16, 2021  
State Capitol, Room 322  
Santa Fe**

The sixth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on November 15, 2021 at 10:10 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Sen. Harold Pope  
Rep. Larry R. Scott  
Sen. William P. Soules

**Absent**

Sen. Michael Padilla, Vice Chair  
Sen. William F. Burt  
Rep. Jason C. Harper  
Sen. Mark Moores

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Rep. Christine Chandler (11/15)  
Rep. Gail Chasey (11/16)  
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill  
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew  
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert (11/15)  
Rep. Andrea Romero (11/15)  
Sen. Bill Tallman

Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo  
Sen. Leo Jaramillo  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Rep. Linda Serrato

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

**Staff**

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, LCS  
Erin Bond, Research Assistant, 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](http://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.

## **Monday, November 15**

### **Welcome and Introductions (10:10 a.m.)**

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

### **Sandia National Laboratories Update (10:12 a.m.)**

Dr. James S. Peery, laboratories director, Sandia National Laboratories, discussed the five major program portfolios of the work at Sandia National Laboratories and the laboratory's collaboration with New Mexico colleges and universities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111521%20Item%201%20-%20Sandia%20National%20Laboratories%202021%20Update.pdf>.

### **Build Back Better: Clean Energy Storage (10:55 a.m.)**

Athena Christodoulou, president and co-founder, CSolPower LLC; Nicole Olonovich, chief executive officer, CSolPower LLC; and Walter Gerstle, chief technical officer and co-founder, CSolPower LLC, discussed the initiative to transition to clean energy and the possibility of using thermal energy storage to provide clean energy storage. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111521%20Item%202%20-%20Build%20Back%20Better%20-%20Clean%20Energy%20Storage%20-%20CSolPower-STTC%20Nov15.pdf>.

### **Technology Research Collaborative (1:24 p.m.)**

Sherman McCorkle, chair, chief executive officer and co-founder, Sandia Science and Technology Park Development Corporation (SS & TPDC), and lead independent director and chief executive officer, Technology Ventures Corporation; Francis Bee, executive director, Gallup Business Improvement District; and Randy Wilson, chief financial officer, IX Power Clean Water, and treasurer, SS & TPDC, discussed a funding request to the Technology Research Collaborative to promote the commercialization of intellectual property resources. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111521%20Item%203%20-%20Technology%20Research%20Collaboratve.pdf>.

### **Carbon Management and Next Generation Carbon Capture Usage and Sequestration Technology (2:47 p.m.)**

Matt Thompson, director, State Government Relations, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, announced that his company had just changed its name to "Oxy" and described Oxy Low Carbon Ventures' research in carbon management. The presentation can be found here:

[https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%2011521%20Item%204%20OXY-StateGR\\_FINAL\\_Video%20Embedded.pdf](https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%2011521%20Item%204%20OXY-StateGR_FINAL_Video%20Embedded.pdf).

### **Spaceport America Update (3:38 p.m.)**

Scott McLaughlin, executive director, Spaceport America, described the current status of activities at Spaceport America and discussed the most recent activities at the spaceport. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%2011521%20Item%205%20--%20Spaceport%20America%202021%20Update.pdf>.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:21 p.m.

### **Tuesday, November 16**

### **Reconvene**

Representative Sariñana reconvened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

### **Update on Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)/Avangrid Merger (9:11 a.m.)**

Don Tarry, senior vice president and chief financial officer, PNM, and Sayuri Yamada, executive director, Government and Public Affairs, PNM, discussed the benefits of the potential merger between PNM and Avangrid. No presentation documents were provided.

### **Approval of Minutes (10:27 a.m.)**

The committee approved the minutes of the October 26-27, 2021 meeting without objection.

### **Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Grid Modernization Program Update (10:28 a.m.)**

Erin Taylor, acting director, Energy Conservation and Management Division, EMNRD; Dr. Abbas Akhil, founder, Renewable Energy Ventures, LLC, and former state representative, District 20; and Saif Ismail, manager, Energy and Sustainability Management Division, Department of Municipal Development, City of Albuquerque, discussed the energy grid modernization roadmap initiative created by House Bill 233 (2020) and the progress that the EMNRD has made to date. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%2011521%20Item%207%20EMNRD%20Grid%20Modernization%20Program.pdf>.

**Review of Proposed Legislation (11:00 a.m.)**

Senator Soules discussed legislation (.221152.2) that would create a research grants closing fund with an initial appropriation of \$40 million. Senator Soules requested endorsement by the committee and a motion was made and approved on a five-to-one vote to endorse this legislation.

Representative Sariñana discussed legislation (.221312.2) that would create the energy storage system income tax credit. Representative Sariñana requested endorsement by the committee and a motion was made and approved on a five-to-one vote to endorse this legislation.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.