

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

**November 16-17, 2022
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe**

The sixth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Senator Michael Padilla, chair, on November 16, 2022 at 10:04 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Michael Padilla, Chair
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Vice Chair
Rep. Linda Garcia Benavides
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (11/16)
Sen. Harold Pope

Absent

Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Jason C. Harper
Sen. Mark Moores
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Sen. William P. Soules

Advisory Members

Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo (11/16)
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Andrea Romero

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Gail Chasey
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)
Sabina Gaynor, Staff Attorney, LCS
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, 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 on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Wednesday, November 16

Welcome and Introductions (10:04 a.m.)

Senator Padilla welcomed the committee, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Cybersecurity Update (Legislators Only) (10:06 a.m.)

The committee went into executive session to hear from Raja Sambandam, chief information security officer, Department of Information Technology (DoIT). Mr. Sambandam discussed the current status of cybersecurity within state agencies. Peter Mantos, secretary-designate, DoIT, described the newly created Cybersecurity Planning Committee that is working as a task force to review cybersecurity within all entities in the state.

New Mexico Exchange Carrier Group (NMECG) Broadband Update (11:30 a.m.)

Matejka Santillanes, executive director, NMECG, and Jay Santillanes, lobbyist, NMECG, discussed the status of broadband in rural New Mexico and how the current statutes that regulate telecommunications and the State Rural Universal Service Fund could be amended to include broadband expansion.

Approval of Minutes (11:46 a.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the October 27-28, 2022 meeting.

DoIT Looking Toward 2023 (1:05 p.m.)

Mr. Mantos described the current status of the DoIT and discussed the plans for a rewrite of the Department of Information Technology Act. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%202%20DoIT%20Plans.pdf>.

Overview of Public Safety Radio Communications and the P25-Digital Trunked Radio System Project (1:56 p.m.)

Michael Rohrbacher, director, Public Safety and Radio Communications, DoIT, discussed the infrastructure facilities of the public safety network in New Mexico and the current project implementing a digital trunked radio system. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%203%20P25%20%E2%80%93%20Digital%20Trunked%20Radio%20System.pdf>.

New Mexico Bioscience Authority Update (2:43 p.m.)

Richard Larson, M.D., Ph.D., president, New Mexico Bioscience Authority, and vice president of research, University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center, provided an update of the New Mexico Bioscience Authority and requested support from the committee to ensure the growth of the bioscience industry in the state. Dr. Larson discussed two requests: 1) a co-investment program with a request of \$50 million from the state to encourage investing in new bioscience companies; and 2) a bioscience business accelerator program with a request of \$650,000. Four board members, including Sarah Boisvert, founder, New Collar Network; Paul Laur, chief executive officer, Spartina Biotechnologies; Gregory Byrnes, executive director, New Mexico Biotechnology and Biomedical Association; and Donald Godwin, dean, UNM College of Pharmacy, addressed the committee about their experiences with and support for the New Mexico Bioscience Authority. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=11/16/2022&ItemNumber=4>.

Picuris Energy Project Update (3:52 p.m.)

Abbas Akhil, former state representative, District 20, and principal, Renewable Energy Ventures, LLC, described the vision of the members of the Pueblo of Picuris to develop energy independence and resiliency over their entire tribal lands. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%205%20Picuris%20Pueblo%20Energy%20Self%20Sufficiency.pdf>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:21 p.m.

Thursday, November 17

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Update (9:04 a.m.)

Frances Chadwick, staff director, LANL, provided an update on staffing and research and development activities at LANL. Kathy Keith, director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL, discussed the economic development efforts at LANL, including collaborative efforts with state government and potential entrepreneurs. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%206%20Director%20Chadwick%20--%20Los%20Alamos%20National%20Laboratory%20Update.pdf>.

Technology Readiness Gross Receipts Tax Credit Update (10:17 a.m.)

Mariann Johnston, deputy program director, Richard P. Feynman Center for Innovation, LANL, and David Kistin, manager, Technology and Economic Development, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), presented a progress report on the technology readiness initiative and the

impact of the technology readiness gross receipts tax credit. William Kurtz, chief operating officer and founder, IR Dynamics, LLC, described the technology that uses a thermochromic nanotech coating to make windows more energy efficient and how the Technology Readiness program assisted the company in developing its business. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%207%20Technology%20Rediness%20Gross%20Receipts%20Tax%20Credit%20Update.pdf>.

State Education Network Update (10:41 a.m.)

Ovidiu Viorica, program manager, Broadband and Technology, Public School Facilities Authority, described the architecture of the state education network infrastructure that supports New Mexico public schools, libraries, private schools and higher education institutions. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%208%20State%20Education%20Network%20Update-PSFA.pdf>.

Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) Update (11:29 a.m.)

Kelly Schlegel, director, OBAE, DoIT; Dianne Lindstrom, deputy director, OBAE, DoIT; and Mr. Viorica described the accomplishments of the OBAE since organizing in September 2022. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%209%20Office%20of%20Broadband%20Access%20and%20Expansion%20Update.pdf>.

Public Comment (1:35 p.m.)

Jan Williams, fellow, Society of Women Engineers, requested that committee members continue their support of science, technology, engineering and mathematics projects by minorities, women, indigenous people and low-income people whenever possible.

SNL Status Update (1:39 p.m.)

James S. Peery, Ph.D., director, SNL, described the work at SNL and detailed several programs in its outreach efforts. Dr. Peery also discussed the staffing needs of SNL and detailed issues that SNL face with hiring and retention. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%2010%20Sandia%20Nat%20Labs%20Status%20Update.pdf>.

Education and the Economy: The Importance of Research and Development (2:19 p.m.)

Mark Saavedra, director, New Mexico Council of University Presidents, representing Joseph Shepard, Ph.D., president, Western New Mexico University; Matthew Gallegos, executive director, Tech Transfer Collaborative Office, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT); Nelia Dunbar, Ph.D., interim vice president for research, NMIMT; David Hanson, Ph.D., assistant vice president for research, UNM; Ganesh Balakrishnan, Ph.D., director, New Mexico Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research; and Luis Cifuentes, Ph.D., vice president for research, New Mexico State University, discussed the impact

of research universities and how the research projects and dollars integrate into the ecosystems of these educational institutions. Stephen Wells, president, NMIMT, made additional comments in regard to the collaboration of the institutions on research projects. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20111622%20Item%2011%20NM%20Universities%20--%20Education%20and%20the%20Economy.pdf>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.