



# Energy Conservation & Management Newsletter

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## UPDATES ON: THE NEW SOLAR MARKET DEVELOPMENT INCOME TAX CREDIT

ECMD hosted their first ever virtual public hearing, The New Solar Market Development Income Tax Credit Hearing via WebEx on July 23, 2020 at 1:00pm. ECMD staff received comments from the public and will move forward in the rulemaking process.

What are the next steps?

ECMD in collaboration with EMNRD's General Council met on each comment given and discussed whether the comment would be in correspondence with the statute.

Once the rule is finalized, it will need to be approved and signed by Secretary Cottrell Propst. After signature, the rule will be filed and registered with State Records and Archives.

ECMD will file the rule on August 13, 2020 to Published in Volume XXXI, Issue 16 on August 25, 2020. On August 25, 2020, the rule will officially be adopted. Therefore, ECMD will then be able to release the application forms and then be able to accept applications from the public.

## STAYING CONNECTED DURING THE TIME OF COVID-19

In the time of COVID-19, ECMD has been creative in how we have continued our important work for the state. A large part of our work is communicating with stakeholders to get input and feedback on projects and programs. Prior to COVID-19, ECMD held quarterly stakeholder meetings to share information and get feedback, but with the restrictions in place, we have gotten creative in how to engage with our stakeholders. With the help of modern technology and our IT department, ECMD has been able to continue engagement with stakeholders in new ways with virtual meetings, rulemaking hearings and virtual listening sessions. Along with these virtual meetings and hearings, we have encountered challenges, some difficulties and lessons learned:

- Fostering conversation and discussion with large online forums is difficult! ECMD is considering using breakout groups or smaller discussions to get deeper feedback in our stakeholder outreach.
- ECMD is looking to find the right balance of presenting information for the attendees and leaving enough open time for discussion and engagement.
- Discussion can wane. ECMD is learning tips and tools to be better at facilitating discussion and encouraging more participation.

By continuously learning from our experiences, we can help foster an engaged stakeholder group, even when we cannot meet in person. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can better foster relationships between stakeholders and ECMD, please go to our website: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/ecmd/> for ECMD staff contact information or contact [cherise.martinez@state.nm.us](mailto:cherise.martinez@state.nm.us) to refer you to the appropriate staff member.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECMDNewsletter>

Take our survey! We want to hear from you so we can improve our engagement and share information and news you want to hear.

## UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE RISK IN NM

The Climate Change Task Force has continued progress on its work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Another component of the Task Force's executive mandate is to integrate climate adaptation practices in state agency operations: even as we work to reduce the severity of climate change through our emissions reductions, New Mexico residents are already experiencing in our climate.

In June, ECMD kicked off a contract with the University of New Mexico's Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC) to develop a climate risk map tool intended for state agency and local and tribal government staff. The goal of the tool is to provide the public with a better understanding of the impacts on climate change on our state, how to plan ahead to mitigate climate-related risks, and to recognize work underway and already complete.

EDAC is gathering and compiling existing data from state agencies and national databases to characterize climate hazards, demographic and other factors that affect communities' sensitivity to these hazards, and what a recent Asian Pacific Environmental Network report calls "adaptive capacity factors:" resources such as medical facilities or infrastructure qualities that help communities mitigate these hazards. The tool will include data on climate hazards including heat, wildfire threat, flood risk, air quality, and drought.

ECMD plans to share an initial draft of the tool with stakeholders this fall. Please reach out to Laura Tabor, ECMD's Sustainability and Resilience Officer, at [laura.tabor@state.nm.us](mailto:laura.tabor@state.nm.us) if you would like to get involved!

## GRID MODERNIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT!

ECMD is pleased to announce we have kicked off the Grid Modernization Advisory Group (GMAG), an entity convened by EMNRD in response to 2020 HB 233, Energy Grid Modernization Roadmap and Grant Program. Invited experts will meet in September and October to discuss modernizing New Mexico's distribution grid system as the state moves toward achieving its energy transition goals. Three expert groups will produce public white papers with technological, economic, and policy recommendations to inform EMNRD's development of NM's Grid Modernization Roadmap by the end of 2020.

## WHAT'S NEW?

The New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (NM RETA) released findings in July from a landmark New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission and Storage Study that explored the state's renewable energy capabilities. EMNRD, as primary funding agent of \$400,000 and member of the advisory committee, helped RETA launch the study in the Fall of 2019 see it to completion.

The study covered 2020 to 2032 and concluded there are more than enough renewable energy resources for development in New Mexico to meet the Energy Transition Act's (ETA) requirement of 50% renewable electricity for utilities and rural electric cooperatives by 2030. Virginia-based ICF Resources researched the study in partnership with NM RETA. ICF is an international consulting firm with extensive industry knowledge, distinguished professionals, and innovative forecasting tools for complex energy issues.

The study also concluded there would be substantial surplus of energy to export wind and solar resources to customers in the western United States, but the renewable energy industry faces a significant hurdle in New Mexico in the lack of sufficient electricity transmission. Tapping into New Mexico's extensive renewable resources will require strategic expansion of power line networks. The study indicates that there is an opportunity for up to \$11 billion in private investment in New Mexico's renewable energy and transmission infrastructure to unlock 900-to-1,300 miles of high voltage transmission lines and an unprecedented expansion of 11,500 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy development. This tremendous investment in clean electricity would create 3,700 construction jobs; an additional 600 to 800 jobs would permanently exist beyond 2032.

## ECMD CONTACT INFORMATION

**Want to hear more about our exciting statewide initiatives?**

Please contact Cherise Martinez:  
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or look for more information at:  
<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/ecmd/>