



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Minutes

Board of Public Utilities Work Session

*Robert Gibson, Chair; Eric Stromberg, Vice-chair
Matt Heavner, Charles Nakhleh and Jennifer Hollingsworth, Members
Philo Shelton, Ex Officio Member
Anne Laurent, Ex Officio Member
Suzie Havemann, Council Liaison*

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Public Participation: in person or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84348385574>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

This work session of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 1000 Central Ave., Council Chambers. Board Chair Robert Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Members of the public were notified of the ability to attend and provide public comment either in person or over Zoom. The following board members were in attendance:

Present - 7: Members Gibson, Stromberg, Nakhleh, Heavner, Hollingsworth, Shelton and Laurent

Remote - 0

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson opened the floor for public comment on any item; there was none.

No action was taken on this item.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Gibson called for discussion or a motion on approval of the agenda. Member Stromberg did comment that the agenda header incorrectly lists Ms. Theresa Cull as Council Liaison. Ms. Suzie Havemann, was elected Council Vice Chair in January and is the current Council Liaison.

Member Stromberg moved and Member Heavner seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Gibson

No: 0

4. PRESENTATIONS

- 4.a. [19573-25b](#) Update on the New Mexico Municipal Energy Acquisition Authority

(NMMEAA) Natural Gas Supply Agreement

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply provided an overview of his introductory presentation to the board on January 15, 2025. He then introduced Mr. George Majors of The Majors Group who provided a deeper discussion and knowledge of the financial and structural arrangements of the NMMEAA 2025 renewal. Mr. Majors introduced four gentlemen from RBC Capital Markets: Michael Drever, Daniel Curry, James Losty and Jason Gross, who provided relevant details, New attachments were handed out and **attached to the minutes**.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Hollingsworth
2. Mr. Olbrich
3. Mr. Majors
4. Member Heavner
5. Mr. Gross
6. Member Nakhleh
7. Mr. Curry
8. Member Stromberg
9. Member Gibson
10. Ms. Kendall
11. Mr. Shelton

No action was taken on this item.

4.b. [19436-25](#) Electric Rate Design Proposal

Ms. Karen Kendall, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration presented the electric design update. She stated that the electric rate design closely follows the recommendations provided in the May 1, 2024 Electric Cost of Service Rate Study prepared by GDS Associates, Inc. She noted that the department is still in budget development and the rate design proposal is subject to change.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for questions and comments from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Heavner
3. Member Hollingsworth
4. Member Nakhleh
5. Member Gibson
6. Mr. Shelton

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment. The following individuals spoke:

1. Mr. Paul Parker

No action was taken on this item.

RECESS 8:00 - 8:13 pm

4.c. [19568-25](#) Business Planning for Foxtail Flats

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply presented. He shared that The Foxtail Flats solar and storage projects are underway. When Foxtail Flats power and energy deliveries are at full capacity in 2027 there will be more capacity than needed to

meet the Los Alamos Power Pool's load. The Electric Production division is evaluating several options for managing the excess capacity, considering costs, risks and resilience. This presentation (included in the meeting packet) provided current status on this evaluation. The plan is for DPU Electric Production staff to continue managing Foxtail Flats development, schedule and risk, seek 5-year solar sales agreements and pursue long duration storage.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for questions and comments from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Heavner
2. Member Hollingsworth
3. Mr. Shelton
4. Member Gibson
5. Mr. Shelton

Chair Gibson then provided an opportunity for public comment.

1. Mr. Paul Parker, emailed BPU on 12/10/24
2. Ms. Marissa Naranjo, Honor Our Pueblo Existence from Santa Clara Pueblo

No action was taken on this item.

4.d. [19437-25](#) Status of Draft ECA 2025 - 2035

Mr. Philo Shelton, Utilities Manager presented. He shared that DOE was to furnish a draft of the Energy Coordination Agreement (ECA) 2025 - 2035 by the end of this month. Instead DPU received correspondence via email, which was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Shelton shared that an alternative is to request a six month extension while negotiations of the draft of the Energy Coordination Agreement (ECA) 2025 - 2035 continue. The mechanism to do this in through an agreement modification that would be called #24.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for questions and comments from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Mr. Heavner
2. Ms. Hollingsworth

Chair Gibson then provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none.

No action was taken on this item.

5. BUSINESS

Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Heavner seconded that the Board defer agenda items 5.a., 5.c., and 5.d. to a later date and address item 5.b.

The motion passed by the following vote:

**YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heaver, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Gibson
NO - 0**

5.a. [19373-25](#) Semiannual Update: Transactional Survey Report for July through December of 2024

Deferred - no action was taken on this item.

5.b. [19374-25](#) Schedule and Selection of Members to Attend B&C Luncheons for the 2025 Calendar Year

Chair Gibson reported that Regular County Boards & Commissions luncheons are scheduled to give these groups an opportunity to work with one another and with Council representatives. Only one representative from each board or commission is asked to attend. Luncheons occur in each quarter on the second Thursday of March, May, September, and November in Council Chambers from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Each representative is asked to give a brief written update for their respective board or commission. The attending board member should submit their written BPU updates for each luncheon no later than the Wednesday morning prior and email to philo.shelton@lacnm.us and kathy.casados@lacnm.us.

**Four board members volunteered to represent the BPU on these scheduled dates:
March 13, 2025 - Member Gibson
May 8, 2025 - Member Hollingsworth
September 11, 2025 - Member Heavner
November 13, 2025 - Member Stromberg**

5.c. [19418-25](#) Review & Possible Action on Recommendations from the BPU Self-Assessment Working Group

Deferred - no action was taken on this item.

5.d. [19423-25](#) Annual Review of Article V of the Charter

Deferred - no action was taken on this item.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson provide an opportunity for public comment on any topic; there was none.

No action was taken on this item.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm

APPROVAL

Board of Public Utilities Chair

Date Approved by the Board

Minutes transcribed by: Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

ATTACHMENTS

(in agenda order)

4.a. NMMEAA Attachments

4.b. Electrical Distribution Historical Financial Snapshot