



County of Los Alamos

Minutes

Board of Public Utilities

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Robert Gibson, Chair; Matt Heavner, Vice Chair
Eric Stromberg,, Charles Nakhleh and Jennifer Hollingsworth, Members
Philo Shelton, Ex Officio Member
Anne Laurent, Ex Officio Member
Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Public Participation ~ in person or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82180323960>

1. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Members of the public were notified of the ability to participate and provide public comment in-person, remotely, or via email.

The following board members were in attendance:

Present - 6: Members Gibson, Stromberg, Heavner, Hollingsworth, Shelton and Laurent

Remote - 0:

Absent - 1: Member Nakhleh

Others in attendance in Chambers:

Mr. Thomas Wymann, Assistant County Attorney

Mr. Clay Moseley, Deputy Utility Manager - GWS Services

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply

Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration

Mr. James Martinez, Senior Engineer

Mr. Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager

Ms. Paula Nelson, Management Analyst

Ms. Cathy D'Anna, Public Relations Manager

Ms. Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

Mr. Zachary Parlman, IM Technical Support Specialist

Mr. James Wernicke, Citizen

Zoom participants:

Vice Chair Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison

Ms. Sue Barns, ESB Liaison

Ms. Helen Perraglio, Administrative Services Director

Mr. Nick Nelson, Power Systems Supervisor

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment on the Consent Agenda or those not otherwise included on the agenda. There was none.

No action was taken on this item.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Gibson called for amendments to the agenda, discussion or a motion.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Nakhleh

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Gibson called for amendments to the consent agenda, discussion or a motion.

Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the consent agenda be approved as presented and that the motions in the staff reports be included in the minutes for the record.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Nakhleh

4.a. Approval of Board of Public Utilities Meeting Minutes - February 2026

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the February 4th and February 18th meeting minutes as presented [OR amended].

4.b. Award of Bid No. IFB 26-23 for the Purpose of the San Ildefonso Waterline Replacement Project in the Amount of \$1,617,673.80 and a contingency in the amount of \$346,384.40, for a Total Project Amount of \$2,078,307, including NMGRT

I move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend the Award of Bid No. 26-23 for the San Ildefonso 8" Waterline Replacement Project with the Base Bid Amount of \$1,617,673.80 and a contingency in the amount of \$346,384.40, for a Total Project Amount of \$2,078,307, including NMGRT and forward to County Council for approval.

4.c. Approval of the Calculation of Revenue Transfer from Electric & Gas Funds for Operations during Fiscal Year 2025 and Approval of Budget Revision 2026-48

I move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend transferring 5% from the Electric and Gas funds to the General Fund during fiscal year 2026, and that these amounts be redirected for use within the Joint Utility Fund for the purposes designated by Council in accordance with Incorporated County of Los Alamos Ordinance 02-324.

I further move that the Board recommend Budget Revision 2026-48 as summarized in Attachment D, and that the attachment be made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

I further move that these actions be forwarded to Council with a recommendation for approval.

I further move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend Council extend the profit transfer redirection option per County Code Section 40-63(d) for an additional year to FY2031.

5. PRESENTATIONS (none)

No action was taken on this item.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS (none)

No action was taken on this item.

7. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

7.a. Approval of the DPU FY2027 Budget

Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration presented. A copy of the proposed budget and supporting documents were included in the meeting packet. Budget Option 3 was not included in the meeting packet, but was presented during the meeting. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Gibson
3. Mr. Clay Moseley
4. Mr. Philo Shelton
5. Member Heavner
6. Member Hollingsworth

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

1. Mr. James Wernicke

Chair Gibson then asked for further discussion or a motion. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Heavner
2. Mr. Shelton
3. Member Stromberg

Member Heavner moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve the Fiscal Year 2027 budget (substituting gas fund option 3) as presented and forward to Council for adoption.

He further moved that the Board of Public Utilities approve the FY2027 budget option as presented and forward to Council for approval.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Nakhleh

7.b.

Approval of Modification 26 to Extend the Contract Term by One-Hundred and Twenty-Days of the Electric Coordination Agreement (ECA) between the Incorporated County of Los Alamos and the United States Department of Energy (DOE)

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply presented. A copy of his report and supporting documents were included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none. Chair Gibson then provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none. He then called for further discussion or a motion.

Member Heavner moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend Council approve Modification 26 to the Electric Coordination Agreement (ECA) between the Incorporated County of Los Alamos and the Department of Energy (DOE).

Member Gibson proposed a friendly amendment to add "and forward to Council for approval" to the end of the motion, which the Board accepted.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Nakhleh

7.c.

Approval to Execute a Power Purchase Agreement in an Amount not to Exceed \$3,833,000 Plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax, to Meet Forecasted Los Alamos Power Pool Load for the Months of April 2026 through June 2026

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply presented. A copy of his report and supporting documents were included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none. Chair Gibson then provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none. He then called for further discussion or a motion.

Member Stromberg moved and Member Heavner seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend approval of a Power Purchase Agreement with a yet-to-be determined provider, competitively selected on March 31 2026, in an amount not to exceed THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,833,000.00) plus applicable gross receipts tax, to meet forecasted Los Alamos Power Pool load for the months of April 2026 through June 2026, plus applicable gross receipts tax, for the purpose of buying power and energy to serve the Los Alamos Power Pool's electric load, and forward to Council for approval.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Nakhleh

- 7.d. Approval of Services Agreement No. AGR26-36 with Loftin Equipment Company for a Mobile 560kW Generator and Maintenance Services in the amount of \$436,603.00 Plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the term of Seven Years

Mr. Clay Moseley, Deputy Utility Manager - GWS Services presented. A copy of his report and supporting documents were included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Heavner
2. Member Stromberg
3. Member Gibson
4. Member Hollingsworth

Chair Gibson then provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none. He then called for further discussion or a motion.

Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend approval of Services Agreement No. AGR26-36 with Loftin Equipment Company for a Mobile 560kW Generator and Maintenance Services in the amount of \$436,603.00 Plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the term of Seven Years and forward to Council for approval.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Nakhleh

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.a. Chair's Report

Chair Gibson reported that

1. Mr. James Alarid began his retirement the afternoon of March 18th.
2. Member Eric Stromberg is running for County Council.
3. He worked with Ms. D'Anna to revise the Gas usage numbers on the Annual Report and his suggested calculation method will now be used on future Annual Reports.

Chair Gibson provided the opportunity for comments or questions from the board; there were none.

No action was taken on this item.

8.b. Board Member's Reports

The following board members reported:

1. Member Heavner shared information from a recent article in Science Magazine. He will share the article with Mr. Shelton who will forward the information to BPU members.

No action was taken on this item.

8.c. Utilities Manager's Report

Mr. Philo Shelton reviewed his report which was included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg

No action was taken on this item.

8.d. County Manager's Report

Ms. Anne Laurent provided highlights from recent Council Meetings and Work Sessions:

1. The Police and Fire Department were re-accredited.
2. Interim Fire Chief Wendy Servey is retiring,
3. The County received \$40 million in bonds for broadband project.
4. Ms. Laurent, Vice Chair Hermann, and Ms. Danielle Duran will be in Washington D.C. next week meeting with congressional delegation.
5. Departments are wrapping up their budgets and hearings will be held in April.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

8.e. Council Liaison's Report

Vice Chair Herrmann provided highlights from the Council Work Session on March 17th. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

8.f. Environmental Sustainability Board Liaison's Report

Ms. Barns reported remotely over Zoom. She provided a written copy of her report and that is **attached** for the record.

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

1. Member Gibson

No action was taken on this item.

8.g. General Board Business (none)

No action was taken on this item.

8.h. Board Expenses

8.h.1. BPU Training Opportunity: APPA National Conference, June 26 - July 1, 2026

Mr. Philo Shelton introduced this topic. Details were included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Hollingsworth - stated that she is interested in participating.
2. Member Gibson - stated that he is interested in participating.

Since both members need to check their schedules and other details, action is deferred for a future meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

9. STATUS REPORTS

9.a. DPU Quarterly Report - Fiscal Year 2026/Quarter 2

Ms. Cathy D'Anna presented. A copy of the report was included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Heavner
2. Member Hollingsworth
3. Mr. Moseley
4. Member Gibson

No action was taken on this item.

9.b. Status Reports - February 2025

Chair Gibson called for comments or questions from Board Members There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

10.a. Tickler File: March - June 2026

Chair Gibson opened the floor for comments and questions on the tickler. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson asked members to update Ms. Casados if their planned attendance at the next few meetings changes.
2. Member Stromberg asked whether the annual LANL presentation would be scheduled soon.
3. Mr. Shelton responded that he had just heard back from LANL and the presentation will be placed on the tickler for April 15th
4. Member Gibson requested that an item be added to the "Parking Lot:" Electric Distribution Under Grounding

No action was taken on this item.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment on any topic. There were none

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7: 33 p.m.

APPROVAL

Board of Public Utilities Chair

Date Approved by the Board

Minutes transcribed by: Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

ATTACHMENTS

(in agenda order):

8.c. Utilities Manager Report 3/18/2026

8.f. ESB Liaison's Report

Utilities Manager's Report
March 18, 2026

1. We ran into a contractor license requirement issue on the bid received for the caisson foundation and DPU cannot award the bid. Instead, Procurement is having R&M Construction prepare a task order to perform this specialty work. We hope to bring this back on April 1st for BPU review and approval. For the tie line, LANL has installed the poles, and today completed the overhead wiring. The remaining work is for our team to complete the risers and bypass switches before it is energized.
2. For Elk Ridge, 100 homes are now on with the new gas system. What remains is 17 homes with green tags to get cut over to the new system, and 14 more homes requiring a CID's Mobile Home inspections. Seven inspections are scheduled for this Friday, and seven more the following week. The project is getting closer to the finish line.
3. Recruitment status: We received a retirement notice from our Public Relations Manager Cathy D'Anna and GWS Superintendent Sammy Maestas. DPU completed interviews for Deputy Utility Manager for Engineering and Senior Management Analysts and is now working with HR to finalize these recruitments. Made an offer to a Water Production Electrician who is considering the offer. Open recruitments include a Lineperson, Electric Engineering Project Manager, Electrical Engineering Manager, and Engineering Aid for utility locates.
4. Active negotiations continue for the new ECA. Kutak Rock wrote language for the ability to renew the new ECA for another ten years ten years after this one expires in 2036 and a provision should we want to develop a large capital project like a SMR or Geothermal plant to have a PPA contract term for 30 years through WAPA to reduce project risk to the County. The site office and DPU staff have worked with Exeter, DOE's consultant, to estimate the contract value at \$425 million and it is under review with Albuquerque procurement office. Next steps are to incorporate these changes and hold one more attorney review meeting to assure that all the loose ends are correctly addressed. I asked to set up a meeting with the team in the next week or two.
5. The Jemez Fire Protection Project finally received a notice of award for FEMA funding. DPU had to revise the project cost estimate because some of the work was completed along with the waterline construction. The remaining work is estimated to cost \$3.7 million with \$2.8 million of federal funding from FEMA. Staff have been modeling a special rate for delivery of water because of the additional energy needed to raise this water up to the base of the mountain. This special rate will be introduced with the proposed water rate increases. Finally, the pump house and control work is currently out for bids.
6. For Foxtail Flats, the final COD remains on June 18, 2027. This leaves 12 calendar days of float remaining in their contracted schedule. Partial mobilization is underway, they have a team upgrading the roads, and a cultural team has been on site flagging sites in advance of full mobilization. Full site mobilization is still scheduled for April 30, 2026.

7. For UAMPS, the Geothermal projects are still on hold because both projects need transmission access from Pacific Corp. However, Rodatherm has begun to dig their pilot geothermal well with no cost share to the project required.
8. For Chromium Plume, met with NMED new Resource Protection Division Director and discussed options to get the project reinitiated.
9. The 18-inch water production line repair in Two Mile Canyon, staff has received comments back from LANL on the permit and next step is to submit for the Army Corp permit. This will be a difficult project to repair because of access to the canyon bottom. Staff are working with our on-call contractor to cost the project, and a task order and budget revision will be presented to BPU.
10. Souder Miller is on schedule with the tank cleaning and corrections for the sanitary survey items for correction on our drinking water system. However, some of the tank cleaning identified corrosion that will need additional repairs in the future.
11. DPU received additional clarification on how the PFAS settlement class action suits. If there were PFAS detections of any level prior to summer 2023 and it was a known detection in the public records, then it will be placed on the Phase 1 list. This is good news because we will be on the expedited payout schedule. We will have a meeting in early April to learn more.
12. For the vertical switch gear project, LANL notified me that they had to suspend work pending completing some other emergency work and there will be some delay costs as a result. I will need to report back once work resumes.
13. Attended the APPA Legislative Rally and the theme this year was discussing affordability, equity when it comes to impacts by data centers and supercomputing, and permit reform. Chair Ryti and Public Relations Manager Duran joined me on our Capitol Hill visits with our congressional delegation.

From: [Sue B](#)
To: [Casados, Kathy](#)
Subject: ESB liaison report to DPU, March 18, 2026
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 7:26:07 PM

from tonight's meeting:

Environmental Sustainability Board Liaison Report
Susan Barns, March 18, 2026

The ESB now has a full 7-member board, and Councilor Melanee Hand is our new Council Liaison.

At our January meeting, we appointed David Hampton to Chair, and Erik Loechell to Vice Chair positions, as well as approving our 2026 Work Plan.

We received a report from BARCO in Albuquerque on the recycling audit they did for us. Not much has changed, we're doing well with low contamination rate of 18%. Please keep separating your cardboard and using the cardboard dumpsters, if possible. And remember that plastic bags, film and styrofoam do not belong in your blue bins!

At our February meeting, we heard presentations on the final drafts of the Fleet Conversion and Community Wide EV Charging plans, which the ESB approved unanimously. These were also approved by Council last night, 6-0. The Board and our EV working group greatly appreciate BPU's helpful input into these plans.

We've started planning for Earth Day, April 18, as well as numerous festivals, markets and other events for sustainability education and outreach in 2026.

It was also reported that New Mexico now has a state-wide Climate Action Plan, and the ESB has requested a presentation on this in the near future.

At our March meeting tomorrow night we'll hear a presentation by Mozart/Devco on proposed waste to energy plant at Ohkay Owingeh. Mr. Michael Dwinnell, Co-Founder and Principal with Mozart Devco, will present an overview of the plant, project schedule, and regional partnerships including how Los Alamos County may participate through landfill waste diversion of municipal solid waste for clean energy production.

Sue Barns



Join me in [pledging 10% of income to effective charities](#)