



Board of Public Utilities

Presentation to County Council

Robert Gibson, Chair

July 15, 2025

Board Members

				
<u>Member</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Robert Gibson	Eric Stromberg	Steve Tobin	Matt Heavner	2028
	Vice Chair	Member	Member	2030
		Member	Member	2024
				2026
				2027

Senior Management



Philo S. Shelton, III
—
Utilities Manager

Deputy Utility Managers



James
Alarid
—
Engineering
Division



Ben
Olbrich
—
Electric
Production



Stephen
Marez
—
Electric
Distribution



Clay
Moseley
—
Gas, Water
and Sewer
Services



Joann
Gentry
—
Finance and
Administration

DPU is a Large Enterprise

- Four utilities: Wastewater, Water, Natural Gas, Electricity (including DOE/LANL)
- Employees: 108 FTEs (stable, low turnover)
- Budget: \$109M for FY26
- Assets: \$297M

Utility's Main Day-to-Day Jobs



- Keep lights on - gas, water, wastewater flowing when and where they should
- Do it all safely for customers and employees
- Both went well in FY25

BPU/DPU Major Goals (*summarized*)

- Maintain high service level at reasonable cost
- Transition to non-CH electric supply
- Phase out Natural Gas
 - DPU has no authority to reduce gas service
 - DPU can educate customers in use reduction / electrification
 - DPU must have electric supply & distribution system capacity

Active Major Projects in Progress

- Jemez Mountain Fire Protection (Water & Electricity to Ski Hill)
- NM-4 Water Main Replacement (Completed)
- Denver Steels Water/Sewer Replacement
- Upgrade Billing System for TOU and Demand Rates (Target July 1, 2026)
- Direct Bury Cable Replacement (3rd year of ~10-year project)
- Encourage energy efficiency and electrification (ongoing)



Current Major Issues/ Projects Being Worked



- ECA renewal
- Foxtail Flats – FONSI, \$ viability, business plan
- Cove Fort (4 MW base load geothermal thru UAMPS)
- Elk Ridge gas distribution system

Current Studies

- Electrification – Burns & McDonnell / 1898 Co. – Due July 25
- EV Infrastructure (and Fleet)
 - CMO/Sustainability Coord.
 - Stantec – Due Dec 25
- NG Usage – UNM Dept. of Economics – Due Jun 26



Future Electric Challenges



- New non-CH electric resources
 - More PV?
 - Wind?
 - Storage – Li. Batteries, H2 (KCEC), CO2 (“Energy Dome”), ???
 - Nuclear?
 - Geothermal (“Advanced”)?
- Electric Distribution System 2.0 – including EV charging

Future Water Supply Challenges – New Well?

- PM-3 shut down long-term by Cr plume
- LANL (computer) cooling demand projected to rise
- In White Rock (Overlook Park?)
- Would tap San Juan/Chama surface right (1200 ac. ft./yr)



Summary

- Department running safely and well
- Keeping lights on and all fluids flowing when and where they should
- Important studies in progress: Electric Distribution, EVs, Natural Gas Usage
- Approaching major decision points: ECA, Foxtail Flats, Replacement Well
- Always seeking new carbon-free electric resources



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Questions?

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