

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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Commissioner Theresa Becenti-Aguilar Named NMPRC Vice Chair

SANTA FE – On Thursday, Aug. 11, members of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (Commission) appointed Theresa Becenti-Aguilar (District 4) Vice Chairman of the Commission during the agency’s regular open meeting.

Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar – who was approved by a 4-0 vote – replaces Commissioner Jerome D. Block as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar, a member of the Navajo Nation who represents constituents in District 4, thanked the Commission for its confidence and pledged to work in concert with her fellow commissioners to continue moving the agency forward.

“I’m both humbled and honored to be selected Vice Chairman of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission,” Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar said. “I want to see the PRC lifted in a better direction. I will continue to work toward building consensus and to ensure the citizens of New Mexico – including the Indian tribes – are well represented with regard to regulatory matters.”

The Vice Chair-elect said that she believes her hard work and dedication to the job are what led her colleagues to select her to serve as the Commission’s Vice Chair.

“It didn’t take long for me to rise to the occasion for my colleagues to view me as a careful thinker who is determined to make positive changes, building professional working relationships with PRC and other entities that fall under PRC jurisdiction,” she said. “Additionally, I continue to travel in my district to be sure that my constituents are informed and I stand ready – along with my staff – to assist with all concerns and inquiries that arise. Most importantly, I sense my hard work focusing on the Commission’s responsibilities has driven my colleagues to select me as the Vice Chair for the remainder of 2011.”

Becenti-Aguilar said New Mexicans need to know that she will hold the line with utility companies regulated by the Commission and make sure that Indian tribes have input into PRC decisions. She said she wants constituents to know that their wishes and concerns are being heard – especially in light of the current state of the state and nation’s economies.

“It’s especially important for us as Commissioners to make decisions that are fair to businesses and individuals alike,” the Commissioner said. “It’s getting harder and harder for many families to keep up financially; they need to know that we as a Commission are looking out for them and that we are looking carefully at rate increase requests.”

Visit the NMPRC on the web at: www.nmprc.state.nm.us

About the NMPRC

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal’s Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, New Mexico, Pipeline Safety Bureau and the Corporations Bureau, which registers state corporations. The NMPRC is also responsible for the oversight of the New Mexico Insurance Division and the state’s superintendent of insurance.