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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 2008

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION ISSUES RULE FOR INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS FOR ELECTRIC UTILITIES

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) issued an order July 29, 2008 on standards for interconnection by electric utilities and customer-owned renewable generation facilities.

The order basically simplifies the application process that will allow utility customers to interconnect to local distribution systems like Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) with customer-owned photovoltaic, or other qualifying renewable resource, generating systems. Energy generated in excess of that consumed by the customer can be placed into the power grid and used by the utility to meet energy needs elsewhere. The customer is compensated by the utility for the extra energy produced by the customer.

The Commission ruling is part of its ongoing policy to encourage the state's utility companies and consumers to use renewable energy as an alternate source for power.

“We have worked hard and brought people together to eliminate barriers so consumers can produce alternative energy such as solar and wind, in their homes,” said NMPRC Commissioner Ben R. Lujan (Dist. 3). “Our work has positioned New Mexico as a leader in alternative energy. We must continue to work together to strengthen policies that increase renewable energy generation throughout our state.”

The Commission's order also adopts two rules that would help continue to define the process further. The first would establish interconnection standards and procedures for generating facilities with a rated capacity of up to and including 10 megawatts. The second rule would be used for interconnection to utility's distribution system for generating facilities with a rated capacity greater than 10 megawatts.

For more information, please contact the NMPRC Public Information Office at 505.827.4446 or by cell phone at 505.699.7991.

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