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NEWS RELEASE

Commission Grants EPE's Application For Demand Response Pilot Program

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) on Wednesday, February 22 granted an application submitted by El Paso Electric Company (EPE) for expedited approval to implement the company's Demand Response Pilot Program.

Demand Response is a program that encourages utility customers to reduce their electricity demand, or load, during peak hours or under certain conditions. Peak electricity demand typically occurs on hot summer days when households are operating refrigerated air conditioning units.

EPE's Demand Response Pilot Program will accept qualifying customers on a voluntary basis. In order to qualify, customers must have central refrigerated air conditioning controlled by an eligible smart thermostat provided by and installed by the customer.

Through the eSmart Thermostat Program, EPE will remotely communicate with the smart thermostats to control participating customer's central refrigerated A/C thermostats in an attempt to reduce electrical load use during Demand Response events. During these events, EPE will send a signal to the customer's smart thermostat to modify the temperature setting in an attempt to reduce overall load demand.

EPE will accept up to 3,000 residential and small general service customers for enrollment in the Demand Response program. The eSmart Thermostat Program will be effective for three Demand Response seasons for New Mexico customers located in Doña Ana, Sierra, Otero and Luna counties as well as west Texas customers. Demand Response seasons begin on June 1 and end on September 30 each calendar year.

Customers who opt to participate in the Demand Response Pilot Program will receive a one-time enrollment incentive of \$125, and an annual participation incentive of \$25.

The Commission granted EPE's Demand Response Pilot Program application without a formal hearing in order to expedite EPE's ability to implement the program for the upcoming summer peaking season.

EPE will launch a public marketing campaign by late March 2017 in order to reach potential volunteering customers in time for enrollment before June 1.

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, N.M., and the Pipeline Safety Bureau.

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