

# NEW MEXICO RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### A. PURPOSE

The New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (“RETA”) wishes to conduct its business in a manner that is respectful and protective of New Mexico’s environmental, cultural, and natural resources. RETA’s very purpose is to facilitate the development of new transmission and storage infrastructure in order to access and utilize New Mexico’s clean, renewable energy resources. RETA’s work will allow the state and region to transition away from traditional carbon-based sources. RETA supports the goals of the Energy Transition Act and is fully committed to facilitating achievement of those goals in an environmentally responsible manner. RETA will seek to plan and work with developers and state and federal land management and environmental agencies and other stakeholders to minimize environmental risks and impacts from new transmission infrastructure, to the extent reasonably practicable.

### B. APPLICATION

This environmental policy is adopted to meet the unique needs of RETA and covers those activities approved by the RETA Board. This environmental policy applies to activities performed by RETA on its own behalf. This policy also applies to eligible facilities acquired or financed by RETA, as defined in the Renewable Energy Transmission Authority Act.

### C. POLICY

1. RETA will ensure that its activities and the activities of its development partners with respect to acquired or financed eligible facilities adhere with all applicable federal and state environmental and land use laws, including but not limited to:
  - a. the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4321, *et seq.*;
  - b. the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7401, *et seq.*;
  - c. the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251, *et seq.*;
  - d. the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, *et seq.*;
  - e. the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6901, *et seq.*;
  - f. the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2601, *et seq.*;
  - g. the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. § 136, *et seq.*;
  - h. the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1531, *et seq.*;
  - i. the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. § 668a-d;
  - j. the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. § 703, *et seq.*;
  - k. the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act, NMSA 1978, § 74-2-1, *et seq.*;
  - l. the New Mexico Water Quality Act, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-1, *et seq.*;
  - m. the New Mexico Solid Waste Act, NMSA § 74-9-1, *et seq.*;

- n. the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act, NMSA 1978, § 74-4-1, *et seq.*;
  - o. the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act, NMSA 1978, § 17-2-37, *et seq.*;
  - p. the NMSA 1978, § 75-6-1, which protects endangered plant species within the State of New Mexico; and
  - q. the New Mexico Cultural Properties Act, NMSA 1978, § 18-6-1, *et seq.*
2. In its assessment of environmental impacts, RETA may consider the following factors:
- a. existing state, local and private development plans at or in the vicinity of the proposed project location;
  - b. fish, wildlife and plant life;
  - c. noise emission levels;
  - d. interference with communication signals;
  - e. the proposed availability of the project location to the public for recreational purposes, consistent with safety considerations and regulations;
  - f. existing scenic areas, historic, cultural or religious sites and structures or archaeological sites at or in the vicinity of the proposed project location;
  - g. additional factors that require consideration under applicable federal and state laws pertaining to the location.
3. RETA will work with its development partners to ensure that RETA projects minimize environmental impacts and protect New Mexico's environmental, cultural, and natural resources to the extent practicable.
4. RETA will not require compliance with environmental standards other than those established by a state or federal agency with jurisdiction over a RETA project regarding particular environmental resources or concern.
5. RETA will educate and train its employees regarding applicable environmental best management practices.
6. RETA will monitor and regularly evaluate its activities and those of its development partners with regard to their environmental impacts. RETA will also keep abreast of applicable environmental guidelines issued by federal and state agencies to encourage such guidelines are employed to reduce the environmental impacts of its activities and those of its development partners.
7. RETA will regularly monitor and evaluate advances in best management practices and best available technology in order to encourage these measures where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis.
8. RETA will work with third parties involved with RETA's projects, such as suppliers and contractors, to encourage application of applicable environmental guidelines and best practices to the extent practicable.

9. RETA will actively collaborate with federal, tribal, state, and local governments on environmental issues.
10. RETA will continue to study New Mexico's future transmission needs, particularly as they relate to the development of new renewable energy generation, and work to identify and establish corridors for the transmission of electricity within the state in order to minimize environmental risks and impacts to the extent reasonably practicable.
11. RETA will periodically update and publish this environmental policy in order to communicate RETA's environmental aims and objectives to all staff, partners, customers, investors and the public.

This policy is adopted effective: May 19, 2021.