RETA
New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority

Energy Storage and the Energy Transition

October 9-10, 2025

A Message from Our Chairman

New Mexico is a leader in energy policies, and energy storage has emerged as one cornerstone of a resilient, clean energy future. The "Energy Storage and the Energy Transition" workshop, hosted by the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA), brings together state regulators, utility executives, Tribal leaders, and industry innovators to explore the vital role of storage in enabling renewables integration, stabilizing the grid, and ensuring sufficient dispatchable capacity. Attendees will gain insights into policy strategies, technological advancements, and real-world projects—ranging from grid-scale batteries to microgrids and green hydrogen. With New Mexico's ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standard as a backdrop, this event highlights how storage is not just an enabler, but an essential driver of the transition to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy system for all New Mexicans.

— Robert E. Busch

Speakers

Mayane Chavez Barudin

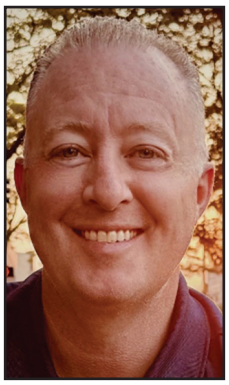
Founder & Executive Director, Sovereign Energy

A member of the Kewa Pueblo, Barudin is Founder of Sovereign Energy, and was instrumental in passing the 2021 Community Solar Act. She holds an MS in Environmental Change and Management, and serves on the SLO Trust Board, Sustainable Economy Advisory Council, RETA, and the Tribal Advisory Council for the PRC.

Bidtah Becker

Chief Legal Counsel, Navajo Nation

A member of the Navajo Nation, Becker serves as Chief Legal Counsel to Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Vice-President Richelle Montoya. Previously, she was Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. A champion for Indigenous arts, she is a member of the National Council on the Arts.



Waylon Clark

R&D Electrical Engineer, Sandia National Laboratories

Clark leads the Energy Storage Demonstration Project Team for Sandia's Energy Storage Program, which has installations ranging from Alaska to Puerto Rico. A Labs employee for more than 10 years, Clark has expertise in battery energy storage systems, medium voltage substations, and medium- and low-voltage distribution systems.

Thomas Conroy

Cofounder, Kinetic Power

Conroy is Cofounder of Kinetic Power, which is developing Carrizo Four Corners Hydroelectric Energy Storage Center. A power generation executive for 40+ years and recent President of Array Technologies, he has experience in pumped storage hydro, solar, wind, coal, and oil-generation plants and technologies. Conroy holds a BSME and an MBA.

David Ellmann

Cofounder/General Partner, UP. Abundance

Ellmann, a three-time founder, has helped launch more than a dozen startups. He dreams about New Mexico becoming the world's climate tech leader. At UP. Abundance, Ellmann and fellow Cofounder Brian Adams find and invest in climate tech startups that build from New Mexico, by raising venture capital from NMSIC-backed VCs.

David Hawkins

Vice President, System Planning and Operations Support, El Paso Electric

Hawkins started his career at PNM before joining El Paso Electric (EPE). Currently, he is responsible for the operation of EPE's electric grid, transmission and generation planning, and FERC interconnection. Hawkins holds BSEE and MSEE degrees from NMSU and serves on the board of the NM Chamber of Commerce.

Melanie Kenderdine

Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico EMNRD

Before joining EMNRD in 2024, Kenderdine was Cofounder, Principal, and Executive VP of the Energy Futures Initiative. She held high-level positions at the USDOE for two administrations, helping to create Mission Innovation, North American grid integration and security, modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and managed the Quadrennial Energy Review.

Zoë Lees

Regional Vice President of Regulatory Policy, Xcel Energy

Lees leads Xcel's regulatory strategic planning and policy for New Mexico and Texas, focused on new generation and transmission resources. Previously, she served as a Principal Attorney. A graduate of UNM School of Law, Lees sits on boards for the NM Chamber of Commerce and Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law.

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Noah Long

Director, State & Regulatory Affairs, Antora Energy

Long leads state and energy regulatory efforts for Antora Energy. He has worked with EDF Renewables, managing legislative and regulatory engagement; managed the Natural Resources Defense Council's western climate and clean energy work; and serves on the Conservation Voters NM Board. He has also served on several renewable energy boards, including RETA.

Greg Patterson

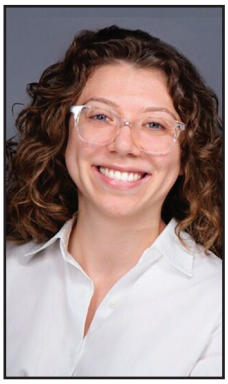
Director, Arizona Competitive Power Alliance

Patterson is also a Director with the NM Independent Power Producers Association. He served in the Arizona House of Representatives, as Director of the Residential Utility Consumer Office, and as Chief of Staff in the Arizona Senate. He is a CPA and licensed attorney in Arizona and New Mexico.

Kelsey Martinez

Director of Regional Markets, Lands, and Transmission Strategy, PNM

Martinez is Director of Regional Markets, Lands, and Transmission Strategy at PNM, concentrating on Western energy markets and RTO evolution. Previously, she was PNM's System Operations Manager, working at the Power Operations control center. She has an educational background in energy management and physics.



Nicole Pavia

Director, Clean Energy Infrastructure Deployment

In her role for the Clean Air Task Force, Pavia identifies and develops solutions to barriers to building utility-scale renewables and transmission. She has also worked at Boston Consulting Group and Energy Futures Initiative. Pavia holds degrees in Economics and Political Science and an MSc in Environmental Economics and Climate Change.

S. Vincent Martinez

CEO, NM Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Martinez joined NMRECA as CEO in May 2025. A retired colonel from the National Guard, he served as Senior Government Advisor for Tri-State G&T, Chief of Staff for NMPRC, Deputy Secretary for NMDOT, and Director of Transportation and Pipeline Safety for SCC/NMPRC. He and wife Amy have four children and four grandchildren.

Miguel Perez

Economic Advisor, NMPRC

Perez is an Economic Advisor in the Office of Technical Analysis and Policy at NMPRC, focusing on rate design and regulatory policy. He previously served as Senior Economist at the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. Perez holds an MA in Economics, specializing in Public Utility Policy and Regulation, from NMSU.

James Naranjo

Governor, Santa Clara Pueblo

Naranjo is Governor of Santa Clara Pueblo, a federally recognized Tribe in Northern New Mexico. He served seven terms as Lt. Governor and four terms as a Tribal Councilmember. He has retired from an illustrious career in law enforcement and has served on multiple commissions for the Santa Clara Pueblo.

Dylan Poindexter

Technical Systems Analyst, Sandia National Laboratories

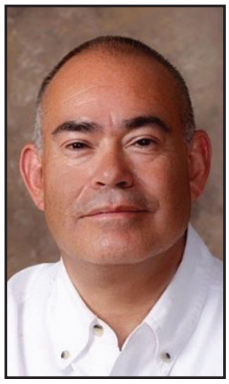
Poindexter joined Sandia National Laboratories in 2020. In his position, he focuses on energy storage policy analysis and development. His prior role supported the Energy Storage and Grid Reliability program. Previously, Poindexter worked in the legal field. He holds an MBA in Strategic Management and Policy from UNM.

Speakers *(Continued)*

Sarah Cottrell Propst

Senior VP of State Affairs, American Clean Power Association

Propst joined ACP in 2024. As Senior VP of State Affairs, she leads the team working on policy, legislative, and regulatory initiatives across the U.S. She has served as Cabinet Secretary of EMNRD, has been a former Executive Director of Interwest Energy Alliance, and holds an MPA from Princeton.



Luis A. Reyes, Jr.

CEO & General Manager, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

Luis A. Reyes, Jr. has been CEO & GM at Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) since 1993. Reyes led KCEC's diversification into propane and broadband services in 2000 and achieved its goal to build a 100% daytime solar and storage smart grid in 2022. KCEC is currently exploring green hydrogen.

Rikki Seguin

Executive Director, Interwest Energy Alliance

Seguin is Executive Director of the Interwest Energy Alliance, overseeing its six-state strategic agenda, managing Interwest's team of policy and technical experts, and building political power for the renewable energy industry. Interwest members are leading developers and manufacturers of utility-scale renewable energy.

Ashley Sgaliardich

Project Director, NextEra Energy Resources

Sgaliardich is Project Director at NextEra Energy Resources, where she leads development efforts across New Mexico, including grid-scale solar and energy storage projects from planning through commercial operations. Sgaliardich holds a BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering and an MBA from the University of Florida.

Ted C. Smith

CEO, Nuvve New Mexico, LLC

Smith is founding investor and board member of Nuvve Holding Corp., contracted to electrify NM's fleet infrastructure and deploy V2G technology. His business leadership experience spans multinational environments, including extensive compliance and regulatory experience. A qualified financial expert, Smith holds an MBA and a BS in Marine Engineering/Technology.

Mark Thompson

Senior Director, State Affairs, Form Energy

Thompson engages with state policymakers and regulators to unlock multi-day energy storage for customers. He was a commissioner at Oregon Public Utility Commission, a legal practitioner, and led regulatory affairs and policy work for utilities. He holds a degree in Conservation Biology and a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School.

Wayne Yazza, Jr.

Governor & Director of Utilities, Pueblo of Picuris

Yazza, of the Picuris and Santa Clara Pueblos and the Navajo Nation, serves as Governor and Director of Utilities for the Pueblo of Picuris. Focusing on solar and energy storage projects, his goal is Tribal energy self-sustainability. His core values are his cultural beliefs, preserving ancestral traditions, and respect to Mother Earth.