

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

PRC Looks to Initiate Broadband Improvement Statewide

In an effort to initiate improved broadband service throughout the state of New Mexico, the Public Regulation Commission has announced plans to create a task force to do just that.

The initial announcement was made at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's open meeting, held February 25. The plan is to create a task force to advance the expansion of broadband services throughout New Mexico.

The first step in the process will be the issuance of an order that appoints members of a steering committee responsible for appointing members to the task force.

The steering committee will be directed to invite members of the New Mexico Department of Information Technology (DoIT) and the New Mexico Attorney General's Office to be on the task force.

Interested parties are advised to file a letter of interest with the office of Public Regulation Commission Chief of Staff Vincent Martinez.

The task force will be required to submit a report to the commission no later than May 26, 2015, defining broadband bandwidths, describing the current status of broadband in New Mexico, identifying infrastructure in place as well as underserved areas in the state, making recommendations for possible legislation and/or PRC rulemakings, as well as identifying possible funding sources that could be utilized for broadband deployment and any potential legislative roadblocks. In addition, the aim of the task force would be to identify areas where broadband services currently exist as well as the entities presently providing these services and to what degree.

This initiative will go before the full commission at the PRC's next meeting, set for Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., at the PERA Building's Fourth Floor Hearing Room, located at 1120 Paseo de Peralta in Santa Fe.

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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