

New Mexico

- 1. Is your office developing or expanding energy-related job creation/economic development initiatives in response to the economic impact of COVID-19? And, are you targeting any hard-hit economic sectors such as travel, tourism, or restaurants? Please describe.**

The economy of New Mexico has been confronted with unprecedented challenges and adverse forces due to the COVID-19 pandemic and dependence on the oil industry which severely injured the economic health of businesses and communities. The Governor's efforts to diversify the state's economy away from its dependence on oil and gas revenues and the Governor's Climate Change Task Force along with the Department of Higher Education, the Indian Affairs Department, and the Department of Workforce Solutions will help create diverse economic growth in the energy sector

In response to these challenges, the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resource Department (EMNRD), in conjunction with the Economic Development Department (EDD) has applied for U.S. Economic Development Administration to focus on recruiting and supporting renewable energy companies, provide educational training, and help to facilitate degree and apprenticeship programs within this industry.

This funding will be used to implement, improve and deploy programs and tools to aide in New Mexico's economic recovery and diversification post COVID-19 crisis.

- With this funding, EDD proposes to create a Comprehensive Statewide Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- EDD and EMNRD propose to hire a staff person within EMNRD to act as the Economic and Energy Diversification Coordinator to help facilitate and manage these efforts. \
- Within the CEDS, EDD will incorporate sections focused specifically on recovery efforts and long-term diversification. Developing a diverse field of industries will make New Mexico more resilient in times of economic recession or periods of low oil and gas revenues.

- 2. How is your office engaging on the recent FERC petition filed by the New England Ratepayers Association (NERA)?**

Our office did not directly engage FERC or provide any specific comments but supported NASEO's comments and intervention. We concurred that NERA's petition, if granted, would infringe on state policy directives, state legislation and state public utility commission authority over retail rates. In addition, all information was forwarded to our NM Public Regulation Commission for their consideration to provide comments.

- 3. Is your office engaged in any energy security/resilience activities with your state emergency management agency in light of the pending BRIC funding? And, are you engaged in any wildfire/utility discussions? Please describe.**

New Mexico is leveraging the expertise of multiple agencies on climate resilience planning across sectors and the New Mexico State Energy Office is working to hire a Resilience Coordinator to expand this work. This coordination includes the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Regarding the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, ECMD will be attending the Summer Engagement Series in preparation of the BRIC Rollout and Notice of Funding Opportunity.

4. What new energy legislation, executive orders, or regulations have been implemented in your state this year, and what implementation challenges are you facing?

This year, the New Mexico legislature passed HB 233 Grid Modernization Roadmap and Grant Program.

- To point the way toward grid infrastructure investments that support our transition to 100% zero-carbon sources. When the grant program is funded, the state will be able to directly support pilot projects related to electric grid infrastructure upgrades.

The New Solar Market Development Tax Credit “solar tax credit” Senate Bill 29 for New Mexico taxpayers. Homeowners and business owners, including agricultural enterprises, a 10% tax credit on solar system installation costs for qualified solar thermal and photovoltaic (PV) systems, up to a maximum of \$6,000.

House Bill 146 Expand Biomass Income Tax Credit allows a dairy or feedlot or their owners to claim a credit of \$5 per wet ton of agricultural biomass transported from the dairy or feedlot to a facility that uses the biomass to generate electricity or create fuels.