

Good morning, Commissioners.

I am Carla Sonntag and calling on behalf of thousands of New Mexicans who want to make sure they have power for their homes and businesses and that it's affordable.

Regarding case 19-00195-UT, the CCAE-1 option reminds me of a blind date that's supposed to end in marriage! In that, you've got two parties who only know what the other has disclosed in the app, but no real validation to know if they're actually going to produce what is needed to make the relationship work.

In this case, what we know for sure is that the CCAE-1 portfolio will cost more and be less reliable than Sierra Club 2-4. What we DON'T know is how it would perform when the weather is hot, electric demand is surging, the wind isn't blowing, the sun isn't shining and regional supplies are short. When base load electric power plants like San Juan and Escalante have been retired, there's no place to turn for dispatchable power.

The Sierra Club in its Reply Exceptions state that CCAE-1 is reliable because, "when faced with shortage conditions, operators also have many solutions, including offering higher prices or reducing consumption through system voltage reductions."

They also argue that because PNM will be participating in an Emergency Imbalance Market that it can "take advantage of the geographic diversity in the EIM footprint, such as the solar resources in California that are still producing energy when solar in PNM's service territory may not be producing."

Have any of these theories ever been tested in real life? Do we really want to count on California having more solar energy than it needs when the sun isn't shining in New Mexico?

I urge this commission to approve Sierra Club 2-4 which the Hearing Examiners recommend as viable and less costly. It allows New Mexico to control its electric production destiny without relying on those untested measures. It is a balanced portfolio with renewables, batteries, and gas-fired generation that will run less than 10% of the time. That limited gas-fired generation will provide the reliability that consumers need as opposed to hoping a bunch of untried reliability theories actually work.

Sierra Club 2-4 is less costly and more reliable than the unproven theories of the CCAE-1 portfolio.

Please don't gamble New Mexico's energy future on a blind date, hoping things will work out. Approve Sierra Club 2-4, save consumers money and give them clean, reliable energy.

Thank you.