RETA

New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority

Montana Legislature
Energy and Technology Interim Committee
January 15, 2026

RETA's Mission

The New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA) facilitates planning, financing, developing, and acquiring high-voltage transmission lines and energy storage projects to promote the expansion of carbon-free renewable energy use in state and regional markets and enhance economic development in New Mexico.

RETA Beginnings

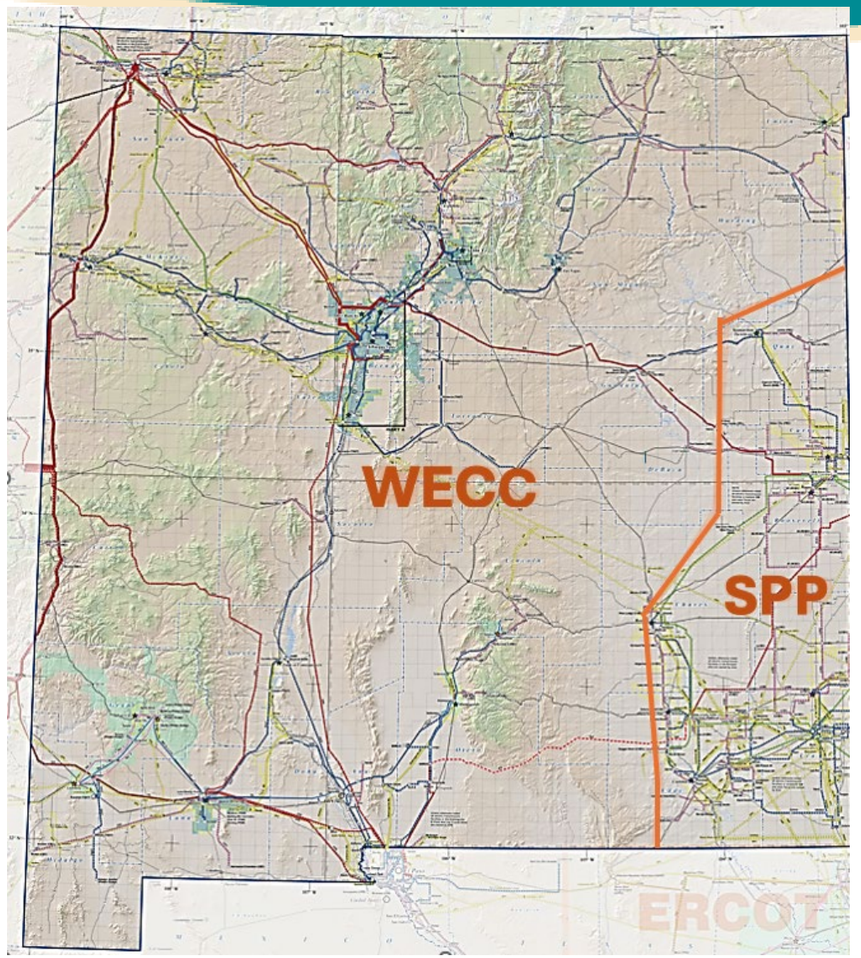
- The Renewable Energy Transmission Authority Act was passed by the New Mexico legislature and signed by Gov. Bill Richardson in 2007 to plan, finance, develop, and acquire high voltage transmission lines and storage projects to promote economic development in New Mexico.

  RETA is a ***"public body, separate and apart from the state, constituting a governmental instrumentality for the performance of essential public functions."***

- There are 6 voting members on the RETA Board:
  - 3 appointed by the Governor
  - 1 appointed by the Speaker of the House
  - 1 appointed by the President Pro-tem of the Senate
  - State Treasurer or designee
  - Secretary of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department serves as a non-voting ex-officio member

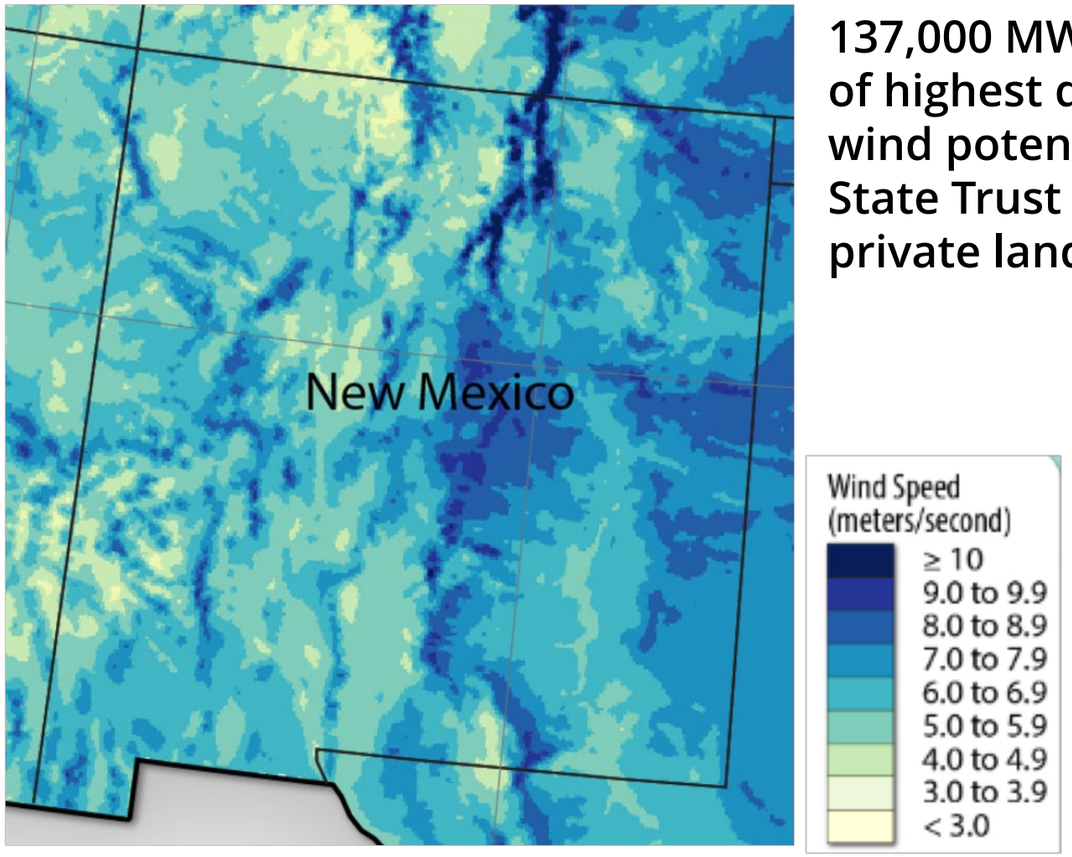
New Mexico's Grid

- Virtually unchanged since the 1980s
- Borders the seam of Eastern and Western Interconnections (Southwest Power Pool-Western Electricity Coordinating Council)
- WECC portion primarily fed from Four Corners coal plants both to export energy and to serve load throughout the state
- Grid is not configured to support economic development from expansion of renewable resources
- Compare this map to renewable resource potential on next slide



Wind Development Potential

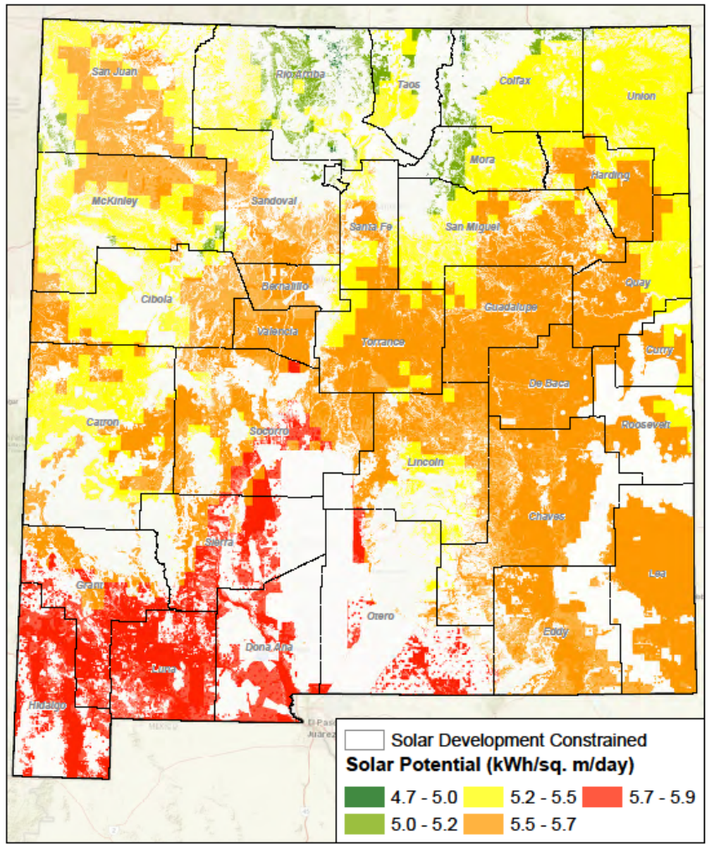
- Total developable land area for commercially viable wind equals 20,500 square miles
- 18,500 square miles on State Trust and private lands



137,000 MW of highest quality wind potential on State Trust and private lands

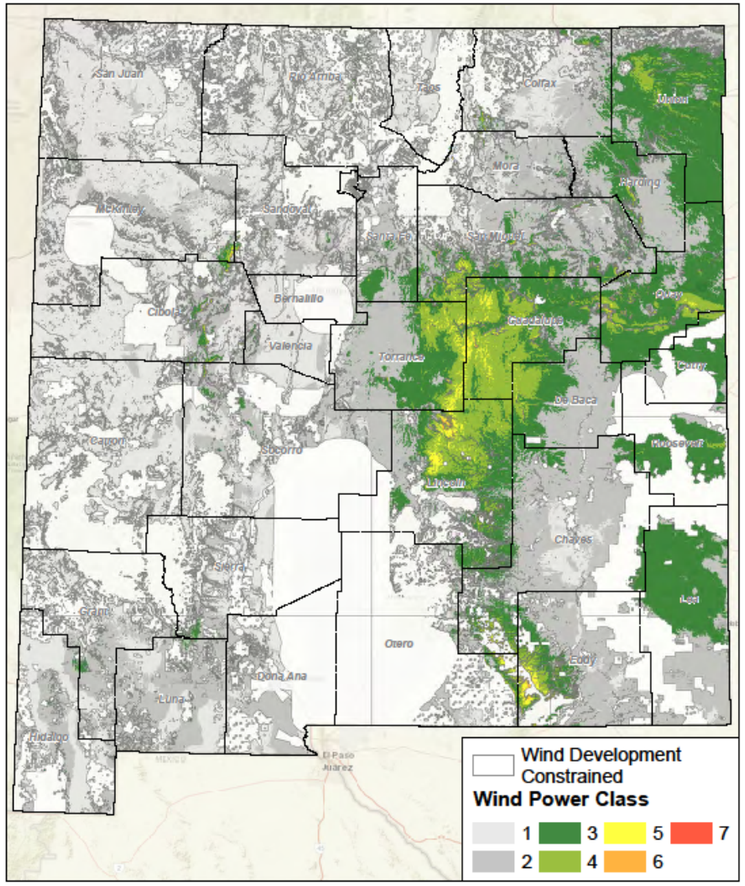
Solar Development Potential

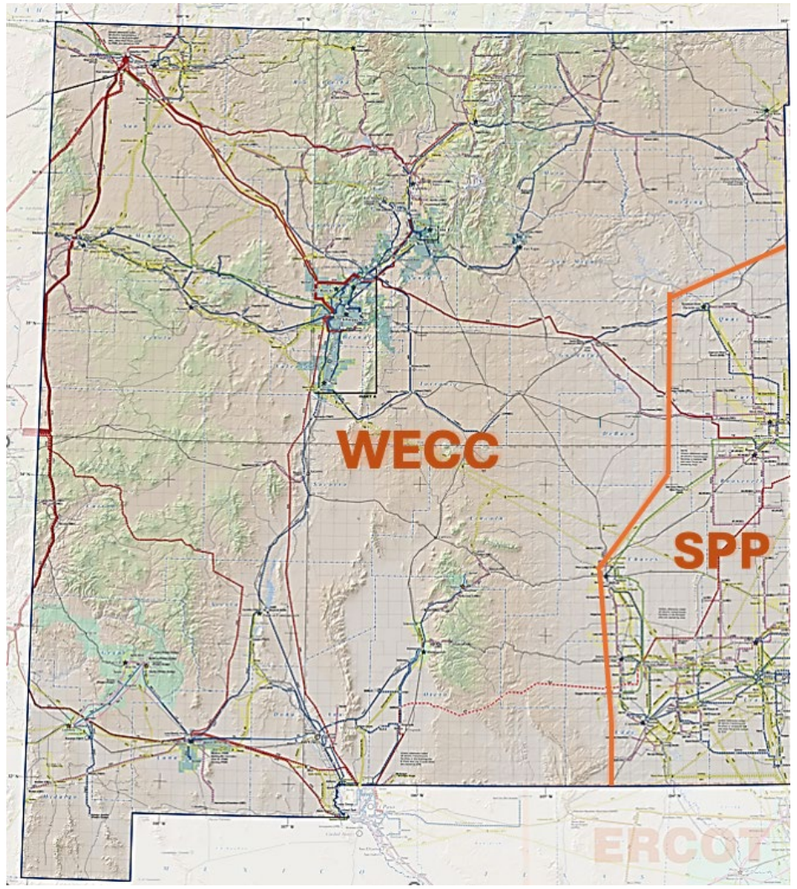
- Total developable solar land area equals 68,000 square miles
- 49,000 square miles on State Trust and private lands
- Over 9,300 square miles in highest output areas

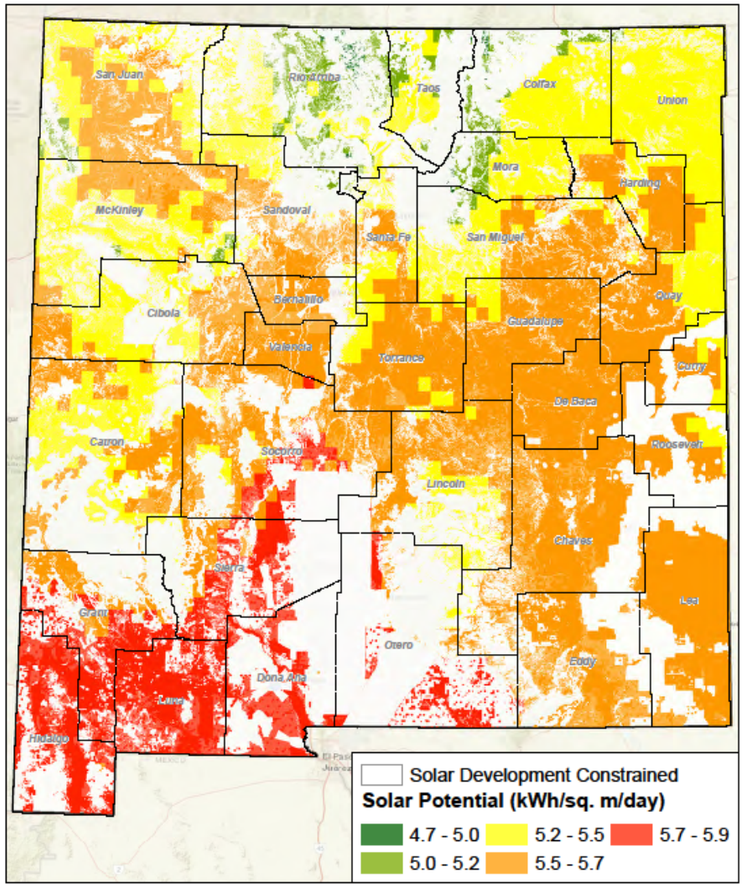


824,000 MW of highest quality solar potential on State Trust and private lands

New Mexico's Grid & Renewable Energy Resources







How can RETA help a project get built?

RETA's Benefits for Developers are Critical

- **Tax incentives**
  - Gross receipts and compensating tax deductions
  - Property tax exemption for real property and improvements
- **Assistance with permitting and siting**
  - Government-level relationships with State Land Office, Department of Transportation, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, other state and local agencies
  - Streamline permitting, without skirting environmental requirements
  - Powers of eminent domain
- **Reduced regulatory burden**
- **Bond financing**
  - Available for developers needing financing support (not often used)

RETA Project Relationships

- **Project selection process outlined in regulation - 17.8.2 NMAC (12/15/2011)**
  - Relationship levels – all beyond NDA require Board approval
    - ✓ Non-Disclosure Agreement
    - ✓ Letter of Support
    - ✓ Memorandum of Understanding (this step triggers notice provisions to utilities, Public Regulation Commission and public)
    - ✓ Acquisition, Co-Development and Lease Agreement
      - Enables tax, eminent domain, and regulatory benefits for project

RETA projects must transmit or store at least 30% of their energy from renewable resources. Most of RETA's current projects are planned to have 100% of their energy originate from renewable resources.

RETA's Transmission Projects:

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One Project Completed, One Under Construction, Six More in Development, Two Under MOU

- **Western Spirit (Pattern Energy) –** Sold to Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)
  - 150 miles, 345 kV AC, 800 MW capacity, ***2021 Commercial Operation Date***
- **SunZia (Pattern Energy) –** Under construction, central NM to south central AZ
  - 550 miles, 525 kV HVDC – 3,000 MW capacity, ***2026 estimated completion date***
- **Crossroads/Hobbs/Roadrunner (NextEra Energy Transmission) –** Under construction, southeastern NM
  - 140 miles, double circuit 345 kV AC, 1,500 MW, ***2026 estimated completion date***
- **RioSol (Southwestern Power Group) –** In late-stage development, parallel to SunZia
  - 550 miles, 500 kV AC – 1,500 MW, ***2028 estimated completion date***
- **Mora Line (Ameren Transmission) –** In development, northeastern New Mexico
  - 116 miles, 345 kV AC and 115 kV AC, 182 MW, ***2027 estimated completion date***
- **North Path (Invenergy Transmission) –** In development, northeastern t to northwestern NM
  - 400 miles, 525 kV HVDC – 4,000 MW, ***2032 estimated completion date***
- **Hidden Mountain Extension (Agua Fria, LLC) –** In development, central NM – would connect RioSol to PNM
  - 21 miles, 345 kV AC, 1,000 MW, ***2028 estimated completion date***
- **Eastern NM Connector (Southwestern Power Group II) –** Early-stage development, PNM's Pajarito to Blackwater substations
  - 278 miles, 500 kV AC, 3,000 MW ***estimated completion date TBD***
- **Southline, Phase II (Grid United, LLC) –** Under an MOU, southwestern to south central New Mexico
  - 108 miles, 345 kV AC, 1,500 MW, ***estimated completion date TBD***
- **Bosque Energy Storage System Project (Agua Fria Energy, LLC) –** Under an MOU, central New Mexico
  - Up to 400MW (lithium ion or newer LDES technologies), ***estimated completion date TBD***

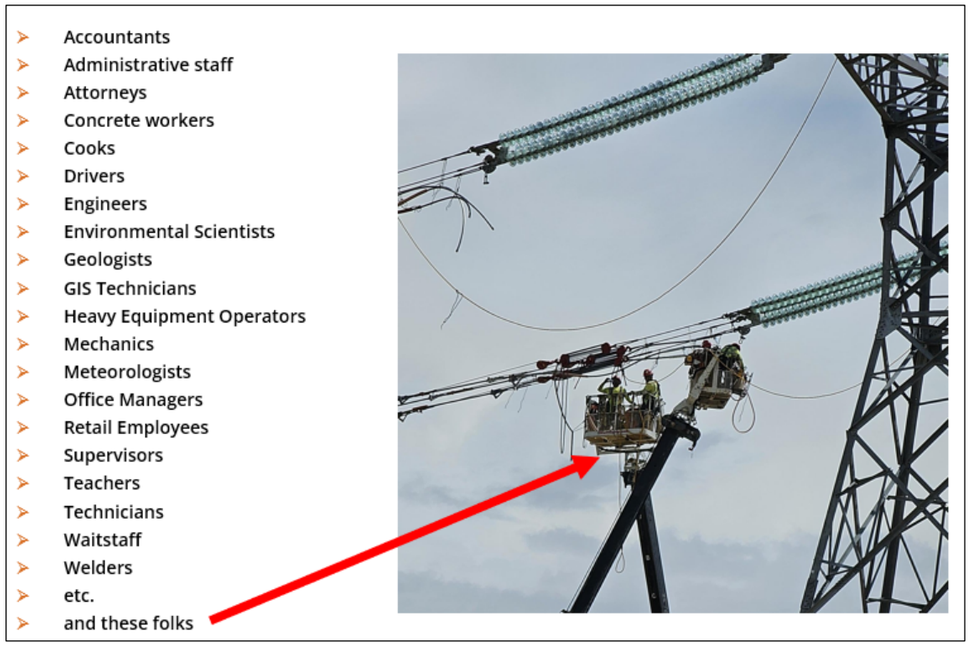
Project Capacity Summary

➢ **Western Spirit (Pattern Energy)**	800 MW
➢ **SunZia (Pattern Energy)**	3,000 MW
➢ **Crossroads/Hobbs/Roadrunner (NextEra)**	1,500 MW
➢ **RioSol (Southwestern Power Group)**	1,500 MW
➢ **North Path (Invenergy)**	4,000 MW
➢ **Mora Line (Ameren)**	182 MW
➢ **Hidden Mountain Extension (Agua Fria, LLC)**	1,000 MW
➢ **Eastern NM Connector**	3,000 MW
➢ **Southline Phase II (Grid United, LLC)**	1,500 MW
RETA Project Transmission Capacity Total	**16,482 MW**

(Compare to New Mexico's peak load of less than 4,000 MW)

Building Transmission Lines in New Mexico Builds Our Workforce

Billions of dollars of transmission projects and thousands of jobs are some of the benefits of completed projects and others in development. RETA is the essential link in allowing our state to make renewables work and upgrading our transmission grid. RETA transmission projects are supporting renewable energy development that will help meet the requirements of the Energy Transition Act.



An economic impact report recently completed for the RioSol transmission line showed:

- Project development began in 2008; development expenditures are anticipated to exceed $244 million through 2025.
- Project construction is estimated to begin in 2026 and continue through 2027 with total construction costs exceeding $1.75 billion.
- Operations and maintenance expenditures from 2028 create economic and fiscal impacts of nearly $12.3 million per year.
- These direct and indirect expenditures do not include the estimated $8.6 billion investment in the renewables unlocked by the construction of RioSol.

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Thank you

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505-699-0599

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