

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**PETITION TO AMEND 20.6.4.97 NMAC
TO MODIFY DESIGNATED USE OF THE
RIO GRANDE TO FOUR HILLS BRIDGE
REACH OF THE TIJERAS ARROYO**

No. WQCC 25-28 (R)

**National Technology & Engineering Solutions
of Sandia, LLC,**

Petitioner.

PRE-HEARING ORDER

On July 24, 2025, Counsel for the Petitioner and New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Bureau met with the Hearing Officer and staff from the Office of Public Facilitation to discuss scheduling of the hearing and public notice.

Based on that discussion, knowing that the parties were able to timely file notice in the New Mexico Register, and having reviewed the calendar, the Hearing Officer orders as follows:

1. The public hearing in this matter will be conducted in-person at the State Capital Building, with a virtual participation option, directly after the Water Quality Control Commission's regularly scheduled meeting beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, continuing as necessary to hear all testimony, evidence, and public comment.
2. The Commission may choose to deliberate on the Petition following the close of the record, or may choose to deliberate in a subsequent meeting.
3. The Commission Administrator is directed to work with the Petitioner and the Surface Water Bureau to assure that public notice of the hearing and prehearing deadlines is timely published in all appropriate locations, in addition but not limited to the New Mexico Register, the Albuquerque

Journal, the New Mexico Sunshine Portal, and the Commission webpage. The Administrator may identify those notices requiring arrangements for payment as the financial responsibility of the Petitioner. The hearing notice shall also be sent to both the Commission's interested parties email list and the Bureau's interested parties email list.

4. The Petitioner, Bureau, and Administrator shall work together to assure that all other administrative requirements are met to allow the Commission to hear the matter and to make a decision following the hearing. This includes, but may not be limited to, the drafting of a public involvement plan (PIP), letters to the Small Business Regulatory Advisory Commission and the New Mexico Legislative Council Service, and communication with the Environmental Protection Agency.
5. In the event of a dispute or confusion relating to responsibility for a particular element of administrative support to the Commission in connection with the hearing, any party may request a conference with the Hearing Officer.
6. At the hearing, Petitioners will present their evidence first, followed by NMED, and then other parties as decided following the submission of Notices of Intent to Present Technical Testimony (NOIs). The Hearing Officer retains discretion to deviate from that schedule, taking witnesses or issues out of order as necessary based on circumstances or time constraints that arise during the hearing.
7. Entries of appearance and NOIs for the direct technical presentations of parties planning to make them shall be filed pursuant to this Order and 20.1.6.202 NMAC on or before September 24, 2025. NOIs shall include a full narrative of anticipated direct testimony and all exhibits other than demonstrative exhibits, which may include PowerPoint presentations.

The NOI shall:

- (1) identify the person for whom the witness(es) will testify;
 - (2) identify each technical witness the person intends to present and state the qualifications of that witness, including a description of their educational and work background;
 - (3) include a copy of the direct testimony of each technical witness in narrative form;
 - (4) include the text of any recommended modifications to the proposed regulatory change; and
 - (5) list and attach all exhibits anticipated to be offered by that person at the hearing, including any proposed statement of reasons for adoption of rules.
8. NOIs and other documents submitted to the Commission Administrator shall be filed electronically and served electronically on all parties reflected on the service list maintained by the Administrator. The requirements in 20.1.6.104 NMAC to file multiple paper copies of documents are waived; one paper copy shall be delivered to the Administrator for the Hearing Officer's use.
9. The technical witnesses for each party shall not read their narrative testimony from the NOI during the public hearing but offer a summary of their direct testimony not to exceed 30 minutes, and a summary of any rebuttal testimony not to exceed 20 minutes, unless otherwise authorized by the Hearing Officer.
10. Demonstrative exhibits, including PowerPoint or other slide presentations, shall be shared or uploaded no later than noon on October 10, 2025, to a folder for which a link will be provided to all parties. This will allow for review by all parties and the members of the Commission prior to the hearing.

11. Public Comment: The Hearing Officer will provide an opportunity for non-technical public comment each day of the hearing in a manner that accommodates the public pursuant to 20.1.6.204 NMAC. This may require interrupting the technical testimony.
12. Members of the public wishing to offer non-technical public comment may do so once either in person or on the virtual platform with access provided and managed by the Administrator. Oral public comment is limited to 3 minutes; written public comment submitted to the Administrator is unlimited and must be received prior to adjournment of the hearing. Written public comment may be submitted electronically or as a single original document.
13. Although 20.1.6.301.C NMAC provides that any person who testifies at the hearing is subject to cross-examination on the subject matter of their direct testimony and matters affecting their credibility, the parties are encouraged to limit such cross-examination of non-technical witnesses, including the public, to avoid harassment, intimidation, needless expenditure of time or undue repetition. The Hearing Officer may take appropriate action to limit any such cross-examination.
14. Panels: Any party may present its witnesses for some or all of its presentation as a panel of no larger than three persons. If witnesses testify as members of a panel, clarifying questions and cross-examination will occur only after all panel members have testified.
15. The Commission members may ask clarifying questions and cross-examine individual witnesses or witness panels at the conclusion of all direct testimony by individual witnesses or witness panels. Thereafter, cross-examination by the parties will be in reverse order of their direct testimony.

16. If timely requested, the Commission Administrator is directed to arrange for Spanish-language interpreters and a Court Reporter to make a transcript of the proceeding and deliberations; the expense of providing simultaneous interpretation between English and Spanish and a full transcript to the Commission will be borne by Petitioners.
17. To the extent not in conflict with the above, the Rulemaking Procedures found in 20.1.6 NMAC apply.

Felicia L. Orth
Felicia L. Orth, Hearing Officer

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on August 26, 2025 a copy of the foregoing was emailed to the persons listed below. A copy will be mailed first class upon request.

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