

Amending the requirements to protest a proposed Generation and Transmission rate change – NM Senate Bill 357 seeks to amend the current statute concerning regulation of Generation and Transmission (G&T) Cooperatives in NM.

Currently, as you know, G&T cooperatives such as Tri-Sate have no oversight from the NMPRC unless 3 of their member distribution cooperatives protest a proposed rate increase. In addition, transmission-only customers of G&T's have no standing at the NMPRC or other venue to protest the transmission rates charged by G&T Cooperatives. As an example, Tri-States transmission rates have increased 23.4% since just 2016 or 7.8% per year and there has been little to no Tri-State transmission investment in New Mexico.

This legislation seeks 3 changes:

- 1) Reduce the required number of customer protests to one customer or member in order to require the Commission to review the rates and make a determination regarding whether the filed/proposed rates are Just and Reasonable. (Reduce customer protests from 3 to 1)
- 2) Adds the definition of a "Transmission Customer"
- 3) Includes "Transmission Customers" as an eligible party (member or customer) who can file a protest of proposed rates by a G&T.

As a Tri-State Transmission Customer, SEC members should be interested in this legislation and willing to call/email/write your senators and representatives to express your support for these changes. There are other municipal and cooperative utilities in New Mexico who are particularly interested in this moving forward. Support and votes needed to get it done. This is particularly important to rural and small town New Mexico communities.