



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fé

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March 19, 2018

Ms. Paula Montez
BLM Reality Specialist and Project Lead
BLM Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

ATTN: Talavera Substation EA

Dear Ms. Montez,

I am writing on behalf of my constituents in the Talavera area. I urge the BLM and El Paso Electric to move the proposed 24 kilovolt electric power substation in the Talavera subdivision.

El Paso Electric proposes to build the substation on a 3.7 acre site that is near existing homes. This proposal makes no sense considering that the substation could be built on other land nearby that is far away from homeowners. The New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission (PRC) has a stake in making sure this project is properly vetted. As such, I support the Dona Ana County Commission's decision to ask the Public Regulatory Commission (PRC) to look into the placement of the substation. I urge our PRC Commissioner Sandy Jones takes the lead to ensure his constituents, and mine, are heard and that their concerns are taken into consideration.

It is important that El Paso Electric show the PRC that this project is economically justified. I understand that upgrades to existing power lines and new lines are important, but I also know that these upgrades can be achieved without disrupting the property surrounding existing homes. Bottom line, there is plenty of land on which El Paso Electric could build a substation that will achieve the balance of new power and quality of life for homeowners. I call on El Paso Electric to set the record straight and make a public statement explaining exactly where the proposed substation will be built. This statement is the only way we can all avoid false information and misunderstandings of the approval process for building the substation. As we wait for El Paso Electric to clarify its intent, now is the time for Talavera residents to voice their opinions to the BLM. Residents should request the BLM look at alternative sites for the

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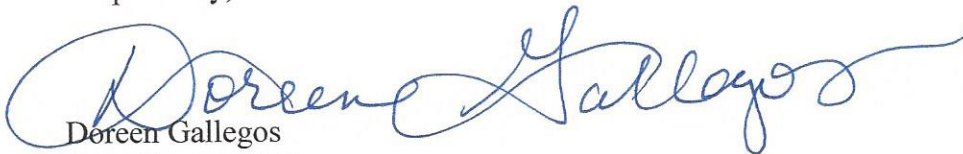
Courts, Corrections & Justice Committee

substation that are away from existing homes. I urge El Paso Electric to stand with their customers and officially request that you approve a construction site for the substation in a mutually beneficial place where residents won't be disturbed. The PRC should do the same to the BLM.

I believe we reach the best outcomes for the people we represent when we come together to solve problems. I hope we can do that here it would be unfortunate for this issue to go to court. That would be costly to all parties and delay a project that could be very helpful to many in Dona Ana County. A lawsuit means no one wins, especially if we can agree on the placement of a substation where everyone wins.

I am committed to ensuring my constituent's voices are heard. I offer to work with the BLM and El Paso Electric to hold public meetings so you may understand why it should move the substation. Let's put our heads together and find a reasonable solution.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doreen Gallegos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Doreen Gallegos
State Representative
District 52

cc: Comm. Sandy Jones
Mr. Rico Gonzales, El Paso Electric