



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary
Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department presents
budget proposal to Legislative Finance Committee**

Santa Fe, NM – Today Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst will present a proposed FY22 budget to the Legislative Finance Committee. The proposed budget of \$68,013,100 balances the reality of the state’s current economic situation with EMNRD’s statutory obligations and policy goals.

If approved, the budget would allow EMNRD to continue to implement programs such as the recently enacted solar market development tax credit, effectively deploy fire crews, modernize our state parks system, bring lands impacted by mining back to beneficial use, and regulate the oil and gas industry.

Additional initiatives include:

- Finalizing a New Mexico electric grid modernization plan that will make our grid more secure while expanding reliable renewable energy across the state. This is a key step in getting the state to hit the goals of the Energy Transition Act.
- Improving customer service and efficiencies in the State Parks system by expanding online payment options and installing self-pay kiosks.
- A paperless initiative in the Oil Conservation Division to allow staff to work more efficiently. Improving efficiencies will be especially crucial as the Division moves forward with rulemaking on natural gas waste rules, a key component of Governor Lujan Grisham’s directives to take action on climate change.

“Our Department remains committed to responsible industry oversight, transparency, and forward progress on initiatives that protect human health and the environment,” said EMNRD Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “The FY22 budget request reflects these priorities and allows us to meet our goals. I’m proud of the progress made so far on meeting the directives of the Climate Executive Order, expanding renewable energy, and keeping industry accountable.”

Over the past year, EMNRD has made significant progress in creating a regulatory framework to reduce natural gas waste in the oil and gas sector, managing our forests for a changing climate, and installing solar panels in our state parks.

Secretary Cottrell Propst will present to the Legislative Finance Committee on Thursday, November 19th at 11:00 am. The hearing can be watched [via webcast](#).

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State agency budgets for FY22 will be finalized during the 2021 legislative session.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us>