Next Steps Towards Ending Institutional Racism, A Seat at the Tables of Change

By Jim Harvey, Executive Director, Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice

For more than 400 years Institutional Racism has been an intentional part of the fabric of this nation. Commerce, religion, education, and government alike invented convenient, albeit baseless justifications for slavery and all the measures necessary to maintain this lucrative institution. Early into the experience of slavery in the new colonies came the enforcement and maintenance that slave owners believed they needed to round up and punish runaway slaves and bring to heel, those that resisted enslavement in many forms.

What began as posses eventually became formalized police forces that enjoyed, in most instances, the full authority and support of this slave owning society. Just in case anyone had second thoughts about the brutality and inhumane treatment of their new “property”, we were regarded as less than human and Christianity’s Old Testament was an important reference for further supporting the beliefs and the behaviors that marked slavery as an acceptable and even necessary institution.

Thus came the institutionalization of not only slavery but along with it came the racism that became so deeply ingrained in society that even the poorest of whites bought into this notion of superiority. Whites who could barely eke out a living to support their families, who did not have a right to participate in decisions related to governance and often found themselves indentured due to debt were convinced of their superiority over these black commodities. Slaves that would generally fetch a higher dollar value than an entire family of poor whites were kept in line with the help of these new police forces, generally paid by collections from slave owners. You could say that the police culture has not changed much since the so-called abolition of slavery. Even though descendants of slaves now serve on many police forces and even lead some departments, the culture of oppression and suppression is so embedded in the belief systems that we see similar repetition of the George Floyds and Tamir Rices and Breonna Taylors and so many more, each and every day, somewhere in the U.S. We would also be remiss to not mention the intentional infiltration of the criminal justice system by white supremacists.

Case in point is the continuing and rapid appointment of right wing judges to the federal judicial system. These judges are being appointed to facilitate the dismantling of civil rights that have been legislated since the 1960’s. Then there is the Gates model of police recruitment introduced in the early 70’s by then Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates. Southern white men were purposely sought out and recruited to the LA police department and the means test for candidacy was a demonstrated hatred for Black people. Other police departments around the country soon adopted the same model. The results of this strategy remains a part of the culture in many police departments to this day. Witness the evidence.

This is a “normal” that has to end and we are fortunately living in a time where calls for change are being shouted around the world, not just here. Anti-colonial demonstrations are taking place in Africa, Europe, Asia, and Palestine and they are not just expressing solidarity with us here in the U.S. but they are challenging historic and current oppression where they live. Like here, monuments to slavers and colonial rulers are being torn down and demands for changes in racist policies of police and military units are being challenged. The marches and the rallies have to continue because the pressure being applied has begun to show some signs of success. We can’t let up.

But now is also the time to take steps for fundamental and permanent change to the culture that has plagued this nation for so long and victimized African Americans everywhere. We have to be at the tables where decisions are being discussed. We are encouraged by the news that Congress for example, is introducing legislation that if applied correctly, could be a guideline for policing standards across the country. Minneapolis, on the other hand is moving to make sweeping changes that could very well eliminate the police department entirely and replace it with something new and more encompassing of social services as a new level of response. Other jurisdictions are considering changes in incremental steps that lean towards reform. Incremental steps fall far short of what is needed. This nation should, for example, be witnessing a fire sale of military equipment owned by police departments. Funding should also be taken away from police budgets in order to pay for introducing social service and community service systems that would replace significant policing functions and yes, thinning out the ranks of police departments and re -training officers that show hope for change. But even these are merely first but still important next steps.

When it comes to policing across the country however, we are not naive when it comes to realizing that there will also be a lot of resistance and in many places threatening no change at all. This fight will have to be taken to those places too. A close examination of the strangle holds that police unions have over many jurisdictions is a huge firewall preventing real changes from even being considered. Perhaps these unions need to take a step back until new policy happens. It will take a national movement to face down these challenges, one department at a time. But we must be at the table.

Continued on pg. 3...
**Regularly Scheduled Events**

Many regular meetings and events at the Peace & Justice Center have taken new forms, and some have returned as they were. Not all of the usual items are accounted for, but here are updates about a few that were communicated to us. Please let us know of any additions, corrections or clarifications by email: monthlycalendar@abqpeaceandjustice.org

The Guild Cinema is still offering home-viewing options for upcoming & encore movies. Visit guildcinema.com for NOW PLAYING streaming options, and the link in each listing will walk you through. More info: 255-1848

Until further notice, all Sunday AUUF services will take place via Zoom calls. Visit abquuf.org for details. More info: 440-6688 or abquuf@gmail.com

St. Oscar Romero Catholic Community is hosting mass online Sundays at 1pm via fb.com/bloscaromero

Generation Justice is broadcasting NEW shows every Sunday, 7-8pm on KUNM 89.9FM & kunm.org

Indivisible Nob Hill meets via Zoom every Monday from 5:30-7pm. More info: indivisiblenobhill.com, fb.com/groups/IndivisibleNobHill

Chair Yoga is meeting at the P&J again, Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30pm. Free, donations accepted. For more info, email lisbethcarlisle@aol.com

Good Food Distribution is still happening every Saturday from 8-10am in the P&J parking lot. More info: 315-4167.

The Peace Center accepts food donations Friday, 11am-12:30pm

The local Activist Community Podcast still being done remotely, 2nd/4th Thursdays, 1-3pm. If you wish to call in for a broadcast, contact Tom Dent: 450-1268 or tldent4@msn.com.

Open Mind Discussion (NVC/TC) will be meeting 2nd & 4th Fridays, 11:30am-1pm at the P&J. Welcome to all for conversations about strategies for survival in these times. Please bring a mask, and observe social distancing. :-)

Coming to the Table (CTTT) meets via Zoom on 3rd Mondays at 6:30pm. For the Zoom Meeting info, email RacialJustice@OurBestTeam.com with “CTTT-ABQ” in the subject line. Info: ComingToTheTable.org

The Peace Center Coordinating Council meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. For further details call 268-9557 or email abqpeaceandjusticecenter@gmail.com.

The Necessary Conversations is meeting at the P&J again, 3rd Fridays from 1-2:30pm. brysondean.iowa@gmail.com

350NM meetings on 1st and 3rd Mondays are cancelled. Speaker Meetings on 4th Mondays are moved to Zoom for the time being. More info: contact tasolomon6@gmail.com

Gray Panthers meetings are cancelled until further notice.

**Resource and Research Center to Open in the P&J**

The Peace Center will be opening a Resource & Research Center soon and we are in need of a couple of extra computers to accommodate visitors. Please help us find computers for the Center. For information please call 268-9557.

The Resource Center will be available to people who are seeking employment or housing and the Research Center will be used to identify issues and actions around a wide range of challenges and developments locally and around the world that the Center may want to respond to or get involved with. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

**ALSO:**

We are always in need of volunteers willing to cover the front desk throughout the week, either on a regular basis or as an on-call substitute. Please stop by or call the office at 268-9557 if you’d be willing to help!

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**PEOPLE OF THE PEACE CENTER**

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<tr>
<th>Coordinating Council:</th>
<th>Web Calendar: Michelle Meaders</th>
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<tr>
<td>Samia Assed, President</td>
<td>Building &amp; Grounds Committee: Maureen Wright, Mollie Wilkie, Jim Bown, Nick Aragon</td>
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<td>Rashid Ahmad, Treasurer, Margarita Mercure Hibbs, Vernon Butler, Tonya Covington, Hope Alvarado, Tom Dent, Elizabeth Smith</td>
<td>Staff: Martha Engberg, Coordinator Derek Caudwell, Newsletter Rick Keeney, Cleaning Services</td>
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<td>Executive Director: Jim Harvey</td>
<td>Website: Derek Caudwell</td>
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<td>Finance Manager: Martha Engberg</td>
<td>Web Design: Melody Mock</td>
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<td>Students/Interns: Tristan Collar</td>
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<td>Front Desk Volunteers: France Daniels-Thompson, Maureen Wright, Sheryl Anderson, Eliza Schmid, Michelle Meaders, Julia Oviedo, Sarina Carruthers, Eduardo Silva, Mary</td>
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<td>Canines: Sasha, Pepie</td>
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Thursday, July 2 & 16, 6pm
**Nuclear Issues Study Group** continues *We Are Not a Wasteland*, a 6-part series of webinars to educate and inspire activism to stop the largest proposed high-level radioactive waste dump on earth, which would transport ALL of the high level radioactive waste in the U.S. and dump it in NM and TX. Watch it Live on facebook via fb.com/NuclearIssuesStudyGroup. More info: fb.com/events/553528465553385, and see also Noticias, pg. 5

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**Note:** Please double-check all events for any changes using the info provided in the listings.

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**We Are Not A Wasteland:**
Empowering Grassroots Resistance

**Web Series - NEW DATES:**
Thursdays at 6pm (MDT)
July 2nd, July 16th,
August 6th & Sept. 10th

Produced By Nuclear Issues Study Group

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Thursday, July 2, 6:30pm
**NM Interfaith Power & Light** presents Young Adult Conversations: Issues of Intergenerational Justice on our Collective Climate & Moral Crisis. Participants: Linda Sepulveda, Emily Syal, Arcelia Isais-Gastelum, Clara Sims and others TBD. Register with clara@nm-ipl.org before July 2 to receive Zoom invitation on July 2.

**Alternative Radio** still broadcasts every Saturday at 6pm on KUNM 89.9FM, online at kunm.org/listen. More info at alternativeradio.org. Proposed upcoming schedule:
July 4- Marc Lamont Hill & Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, “Dismantling the System”
July 11- Michael Eric Dyson, “White Privilege”
July 18- Robin DiAngelo, “White Fragility”
July 25- Camara Phyllis Jones, “Racism & Health”

Mondays, July 6 - Aug. 10, Noon-2pm
**Dismantling Whiteness: A 6-Week Course in Anti-Racism** on Zoom, led by Eileen O'Shaughnessy. Registration: tinyurl.com/y8rq6rhh More info: fb.com/events/1116296685422930 or ecsbaughnessy@gmail.com

Tuesday, July 7, 6:30-8 pm
**Retake Our Democracy** Zoominar, Health Security Act in NM, A Dream That Could Become Reality in 2021 with leadership from the Health Security for New Mexico Campaign. We are also arranging to have a doctor and legislator to join the panel. Register for this Zoominar: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OdIDTswYSoKaLjuXpsYX4w

More info: org/retake-zoominar-series

Wednesday, July 8, 1pm
**You are invited to the Peace Center** to help identify community needs of support and solidarity, and brainstorm the best ways to meet those needs. Judy Bierbaum and ACP&J Exec. Dir. Jim Harvey will facilitate. We will be respecting social distancing and ask that masks be worn!

Thursday, July 9, 3pm
**NRC public meeting to solicit public comments on a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** for Holtec International’s proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF). Access the webinar via usnrc.webex.com, event #199 943 8370. Password: HOLTEC. Telephone #: 800-475-0220 /Tel. passcode: 9575497. For more info, see Noticias, pg. 5

The final deadline for submitting comments is September 22, 2020. The NRC staff's goal is to hold in-person public meetings in NM; they will continue to monitor the public health emergency, and reassess these plans based on local circumstances.

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**Continued from Front page**

While police conduct is the front line expression of racism in this country, it is not the only institution in need of a cultural shift. Employment, healthcare, social services, education, the military, the so-called criminal justice system, and more are all places where racism lives and thrives and has resided there since the beginning of this nation and even earlier. Each institution has over time, become its own home to racist behaviors, beliefs and worse. Each of these institutions has enacted so much damage on African Americans that it will take generations for us to recover, if we ever do. But we must be at the table.

We believe that racism not only lives in these American institutions but it thrives there and gives life and justification to the perpetuation of individual racist beliefs, attitudes and behaviors. We cannot expect institutions that were built to suppress and oppress us to also protect us. Change will come but we must be at the table.
Saturday, July 11, 9am - Sunday July 12, 9pm
The Red Nation invites all left, progressive, and grassroots movements to Decolonization or Extinction, the 5th annual Native Liberation Conference, in Tiwa Territory (Albq, NM). We understand the urgency of the crisis to build a movement centered on the politics of love and solidarity. This year, we are convening the Red Earth Alliance as a vehicle for international social change, centering water, life, land, and ending US imperialism. The stakes are clear: decolonization or extinction. More info: fb.com/events/1394970380669465 or fb.com/therednation or therednation.org.

Saturday, July 11, 10am - 1pm
The Peace Center will be offering free COVID-19 testing. You will be able to register online or by phone for an appointment beginning July 1st. Walk-ups will be welcome too. Questions? Call the office at 268-9557

Tuesday, July 14, 6-7pm: Join Indivisible Nob Hill for a Zoominar on the NM Environmental Movement: panel discussion on Nuclear issues by Leona Morgan and Eileen Shaughnessy, health impacts of methane by Mario Atencio, and the Green Amendment by Maya Van Rossum. Register in advance for this meeting via us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrfu-prDMpGdG52rH8ftT8aM5DkLIKrMef to receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

Thursday, July 16, 11am
The 41st Annual Uranium Spill Commemoration at Red Water Pond Road Community on Navajo Nation is CANCELLED. Please check swuranumimpacts.org for details of an International Live-Stream event instead.

Friday, July 17, 1-2:30pm
Necessary Conversations resumes monthly meetings at the P&J, discussing Is Police Brutality Really About Race?, Chapter 6 in So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo. We will be adopting a "Circle" format with the use of a talking piece and a center in order to provide a format to encourage sharing based on the reading and the current situation we are experiencing. Questions: brysondean.iowa@gmail.com

Saturday, July 18, 6-10pm
Black Lives Matter ABQ-NM are organizing the It Can't Wait! March in Santa Fe, beginning at 63 Lincoln Ave. More info: fb.com/events/551613535509064 or fb.com/BLMABQ

Tuesday, July 21, 6:30-8 pm
Retake Our Democracy Zoominar, Redistricting in NM. Panelists will be Dick Mason and Kathleen Burke from Fair Districts New Mexico, and Senators Gerry Ortiz y Pino and Mark Moores. More details: retakeourdemocracy.org/retake -zoominar-series

Thursday, July 30, 9am
NM Oil Conservation Commission is holding an online public hearing on “Produced Water”. OCD (Oil Conservation Division) is proposing several small changes, amending the rules to say that the oil and gas industry's toxic wastewater can be re-used provided that companies comply with rules promulgated by the Water Quality Control Commission, which hasn't even made a decision to develop rules at this point. In amending rules that defer to the Water Commission, OCD is effectively forcing the Water Commission to move forward with rules that would actually allow fracking water dumping. Join the hearing via nmemnrd.webex.com/nmemnrd.

July 30 Meeting #: 967 682 712 / Password: R4SpDXpeu49, or join by phone: +1-408-418-9388 U.S. toll, Access code: 967 682 712
July 31 (if necessary) Meeting #: 963 288 479 / Password: ZjiqP9PET32, or join by phone: +1-408 -418-9388 U.S. toll, Access code: 963 288 479
For more info, email the Commission Clerk: florene.davidson@state.nm.us or (505) 476-3458 or visit OCD’s website: emnrd.state.nm.us/ocd, and see also Noticias, pg. 6.

Save the Dates:
New Mexico Indivisible United 2020 Conference. Indivisible groups in Albuquerque (Indivisible Nob Hill, Corrales Indivisible, Indivisible 505 and Rio Grande Indivisible) are hosting a statewide conference, which has been postponed to August, dates TBA. More info: indivisiblenobhill.com, fb.com/groups/IndivisibleNobHill
Dear Members and Volunteers: We are organizing some important committees and are looking for volunteers who can help us move forward with new and exciting services and activities here at the Peace Center. Below are descriptions of the committees we need to fill:

1. Communications...Creating a system of better internal information sharing. Strengthening our social media capabilities and reach and ensuring that everyone that needs to be reached is reached. Better news media relations.

2. Programs...Answer these questions: What programs/services that have existed here in the past worked well and should be salvaged or reintroduced? And, What new programs/services should we consider offering through the Center and which ones would you like to work on?

3. Policy... There will be two tracks for the policy committee. 1) Developing internal policy for the center, and 2) Creating policy/position papers on public policy matters like changes to policing strategies or answering why the City should not renew the police union’s contract until after some real policy changes have been introduced.

4. Volunteers...Create a volunteer handbook (Jim has templates) Develop a range of volunteer opportunities, complete with descriptions. Use the volunteer application as a guide. Create an orientation plan. Develop strategies for volunteer recruitment. Establish a volunteer communication plan and schedule.

If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact Jim Harvey: 268-9557 or kupona1@msn.com.

Resource and Research Center to Open in the P&J
The Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice will be opening a Resource and Research Center soon and we are in need of a couple of extra computers to accommodate visitors. Please help us find computers for the Center. For information please call 268-9557. The Resource Center will be available to people who are seeking employment or housing and the Research Center will be used to identify issues and actions around a wide range of challenges and developments locally and around the world that the Center may want to respond to or get involved. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

A Mural Tribute to George Floyd
Dear Friends of Peace and Justice: The Peace Center has designated wall space to be devoted to a mural commemorating George Floyd and other victims of murder at the hands of the police. This 40-ft. wall will honor their memories and serve as a reminder of what we must continue to stand against, and the desperate need for ending systemic racism. An invitation to artists was issued, followed by selection of the winning submission at end of June, and our goal is to have the mural completed by the beginning of August.

We Need Your Help! Your donations will allow us the funds necessary to award the winning muralist and assist them with purchasing supplies. You can contribute to the ACP&J Mural Fund by mailing your donations to the ABQ Peace and Justice Center (202 Harvard Drive SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106) or visit our website/paypal: abqpeaceandjustice.org/index.php/donate. Please help us make this tribute a reality.

New City Department—Call for Public Input
You may have heard about the City’s launch of the new Albuquerque Community Safety Department. This department will create a third group of first responders, who will refocus resources across the City to send trained professionals to calls where police are not the best response. More here: cabq.gov/mayor/news/mayor-tim-keller-to-refocus-millions-in-public-safety-resources-with-first-of-its-kind-civilian-response-department. We are engaging in a public input process as we develop this Department. To get involved in the development of this new department, please contact ACS@cabq.gov.

Make Our Voice Heard
The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will conduct another public meeting via webinar, soliciting comments on a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Holtec International’s proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel in Lea County, NM. The draft EIS evaluates potential environmental impacts of Holtec’s request to build and operate the proposed CISF. The meeting webinar is accessible to the public and will be held Thursday, July 9, 3-7pm MDT. Webinar details for the July 9 meeting will be available soon at nrc.gov/pmns/mtg. Members of the public can also continue to provide comments on the draft EIS to the NRC via e-mail (Holtec-CISFEIS@nrc.gov), at regulations.gov (search for Docket ID NRC-2018-0052), or mail comments to Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements & Editing Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Those wishing to present oral comments for the webinar are asked to pre-register by July 8, by contacting Ms. Antoinette Walker-Smith via e-mail: Antoinette.Walker-Smith@nrc.gov. See pg. 3 events for other info.
A United Community Responds to the Criminal Assault During Yesterday’s Demonstration in Albuquerque
Press Release from July 17, 2020: On Monday, June 16th in Albuquerque New Mexico, hundreds of Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics and allies gathered to protest the monument honoring the Spanish Conquistador, Onate. The statue had to go. Similar to the statues and other memorials celebrating the treason of the Confederacy, the recognition of these Conquistadors represents murder, genocide slavery and the lingering institutional racism that infects every American institution to this day. The brutality of racism is felt, not just in Albuquerque and not just in the U.S but it is felt all over the world and has sparked demonstrations around the planet.

We are angered over the appearance of white supremacist militia groups showing up at peaceful rallies here it is clear that these armed individuals are present for only one reason, to intimidate and create chaos. Monday’s rally went a step further ending in one of the protestors being shot and critically wounded by one of these gunmen. We want to state unequivocally that armed right wing militias have no place at our rallies and demonstrations. Citing the second amendment is not only inaccurate but needlessly threatening to peaceful protests.

We are also dismayed by the apparent “cozy” relationship that seemingly exists between members of the Albuquerque Police Department and the armed so-called militias. On at least two occasions now, it has been noted that the local police have been more permissive of the threatening behavior of these armed thugs. Once near UNM where after a friendly conversation between APD and the militia, the police simply walked away leaving them to continue their intimidation and harassment. And then there was Monday night at the site of the Onate statue. These same armed gunmen were finally escorted away reportedly “under arrest” but only after a peaceful protester nearly lost his life to gunshots.

Our coalition of organizations recognizes that we are facing years of racism deeply embedded in this and most other police departments around the country. While we also know that we also know that we cannot expect systems designed to oppress us to also protect us, the change to all these institutions has to begin now. We therefore put forth the following demands as steps toward systemic change:

1. While we welcome Mayor Keller’s new initiative for more service oriented response programs that will replace police answering non-violent calls, we demand that the funds for these new programs be taken from the APD budget. It makes no sense that APD should continue to enjoy the excessive funding levels it does while other essential programs suffer budget cuts.
2. We also recognize that, similar to too many jurisdictions around the country, police unions are often a major obstacle to real reform. Understanding this, we urge the Mayor to delay renewing the Police Union contract until major policy changes have been enacted. We are NOT anti-union but we are against any groups that would pressure to maintain the status quo.
3. We demand an immediate demilitarization of the Albuquerque Police Department. There is no need for APD to possess heavy artillery and armored vehicles to such an extent that they are deployed at nearly every disturbance, peaceful or not.
4. We demand that APD begin an immediate revisiting of the psychological assessments of all police officers.
5. We demand that APD begin a sincere introduction of cultural appropriateness and sensitivity for all officers through a return to Diversity Training.
6. We demand that the backlog of excessive force reports and officer involved shootings be referred to a newly empowered Citizens Police Overview Board endowed with greater enforcement authority.
7. We demand that as the Mayor begins to implement his new programs, the planning committee should be opened up to citizens drawn from the ranks of the organized and peaceful protestors that call attention to the racism and violence we have experienced for years.

What happened Monday night should never happen again, and the seemingly lengthy delay before medical attention arrived is inexcusable. Knowledge of the presence of armed right wing gunmen at a peaceful rally should have brought an immediate police presence, as policing is supposed to be.

These monuments to racist oppressions and genocide have no place in our society. Evil should not be celebrated.

Public Meeting & Hearing re: Fracking Water Rules
The New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission hereby gives notice that the Commission will hold the following public meeting and public hearing commencing on July 30, 9am, online and via telephone. The hearing may be continued to the following day if not completed. Oral comments may be made either on-line or by telephone. The Commission shall make available to the public a preliminary agenda for the meeting no later than two weeks prior to the meeting, and a final agenda for the meeting no later than 72 hours before the meeting. Case No. 21281: APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION TO AMEND THE COMMISSION’S RULES FOR PRODUCED WATER IN 19.15.2, 19.15.16, AND 19.15.34 NMAC; STATEWIDE. The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) proposes to (1) amend 19.15.2.7 NMAC to conform the definition of “produced water” with the definition found in the Oil and Gas Act, NMSA 1978, §70-2-33 (K) (2019); (2) amend 19.15.16 NMAC to add a section requiring the filing of a water use report for a hydraulically fractured well that provides the portion of the water used in fracturing which is potable, nonpotable, or recycled produced water; and (3) amend 19.15.34 NMAC to conform the language in 19.15.34 NMAC to the legislative changes in Laws 2019, chapter 197 (HB 546) concerning produced water. This notice can be found online at: emnrd.state.nm.us/OCD/documents/OCCHearingNoticeProducedWaterRule.pdf.
A Victory For New Mexicans

New Energy Economy is so excited to share some incredible news --- after literally years of battling PNM’s continued investment in Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station -- we’ve won! Today PNM has finally caved under the pressure and will not be purchasing expiring leases in Unit 1 and Unit 2. We have been fighting PNM’s nuclear investments since 2013 when we took a strong position against PNM’s use of nuclear as replacement power for the first closures at the San Juan Coal Plant. We opposed PNM’s nuclear investments in their 2015 rate case and won a Supreme Court victory (after PNM’s appeal) that resulted in the finding that PNM’s nuclear investment was imprudent. Last year, on Earth Day New Energy Economy and 26 ally organizations, filed a Joint-Petition Requesting PRC Investigation into PNM’s Planned Purchase of Expiring Nuclear Leases.

This victory will save New Mexicans more than $1.3 Billion dollars for the electricity alone over the next 22 years. This is especially important because 20% of New Mexicans live in poverty, 83% of whom are people of color. Higher nuclear generated electricity costs have disproportionately hurt them. In some cases, people facing poverty spend between 20-50% of their household income on electricity, causing enormous hardship. This will protect communities from the serious health and environmental concerns around nuclear produced energy and radioactive waste and is one small step toward rectifying a violent legacy of environmental racism and injustice against Indigenous people.

Huge gratitude to Larry King and Navajo Nation Council Delegate Daniel Tso, our Joint Petitioners, and thanks to all of you for standing by our side and continuing to raise your voices against PNM’s further nuclear investment, even when that position has been unpopular or has seemed unachievable. Together we persisted, and together we won!

A Supreme Court Victory for DACA

The Supreme Court decision returns the issue to the Dept. of Homeland Security, meaning the Trump administration cannot immediately end the DACA program, which protects hundreds of thousands of young people brought to this country as children by their parents, shielding them from deportation and providing them authorization to legally work in the U.S. Those affected by the ruling are known as Dreamers and include thousands of college students as well as recent graduates. An estimated 454,000 undocumented immigrant college students comprise roughly 2% of the U.S. higher education system. About half (216,000) are eligible for the DACA program.

Former President Obama established the DACA program in 2012. President Trump announced plans to end the program in Sept. 2017, but his attempts to do so were blocked by lower courts that held that his administration did not follow proper procedures in ending the program. Chief Justice John Roberts, a George W. Bush appointee, wrote the majority opinion, which the court’s four liberal justices signed on to in whole or in part. “We do not decide whether DACA or its rescission are sound policies,” reads the opinion authored by Roberts. “We address only whether the agency complied with the procedural requirement that it provide a reasoned explanation for its action.” The court found that it did not.
**July 2020: A Resource Guide in progress**


**Know Your Rights to Public Benefits:** [nmpovertylaw.org/food-and-income](http://nmpovertylaw.org/food-and-income)  
**Rental Assistance:** [cabg.gov/help/rental-assistance](http://cabg.gov/help/rental-assistance)  
To apply for **Unemployment Insurance** visit Workforce Connections at [jobs.state.nm.us](http://jobs.state.nm.us) or call 877-664-6984.  
The state’s **Child Care Resource & Referral** line: 1-800-691-9067; also visit [NewMexicoKids.org](http://NewMexicoKids.org).  
Fight For Our Lives also has a great resource guide on their web page, via **ABQ Mutual Aid:** [ffol.org/mutualaid.html](http://ffol.org/mutualaid.html)  
For updates and info about the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in New Mexico, visit [cv.nmhealth.org](http://cv.nmhealth.org).  
If you are experiencing symptoms, contact the **New Mexico Department of Health** at 1-855-600-3453.  
To get information on **Alcoholics Anonymous** meetings, visit [albuquerquenaa.org](http://albuquerquenaa.org) or contact 505-266-1900.  
The **New Mexico Crisis and Access Line** has counselors available 24/7 to speak with, at 855-662-7474.  
For information on **WiFi on Wheels** locations, visit [cabq.gov/wifi](http://cabq.gov/wifi) or call 311.  
**Domestic Violence** remains a huge problem in our communities and no one is exempt. If you are a victim of domestic violence or you have witnessed DV, we encourage you to speak up, call the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** at 800-799-7233, or the **Albuquerque Women’s Resource Center** at 242-7033. The **Child Abuse Hotline** is 505-841-6100. For **Adult Protective Services**, contact 505-476-4912. The **Agora Center** is available at 505-277-3013.

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On Monday, June 1st, local Black Lives Matter organizer, **Clifton White** was detained and arrested by the ABQ Police Dept. after lawfully observing the arrests of four teens during one of the demonstrations against police brutality in Albuquerque. Police had no reason to arrest Clifton. He has been targeted by APD for his work as an organizer for BLM in Albuquerque. Please help his wife Selinda Guerrero and everyone else fighting for Clifton by calling NM Gov. Lujan-Grimsham at 505-476-2200 to **demand the release of Clifton White and an investigation** into the practices and procedures of the APD and the Dept. of Corrections, so that no other individual in this state is targeted based on their work as a community organizer.

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Verso Books is currently offering **free e-book downloads** (donations if possible) of two books addressing Policing in America:  
Alex Vitale’s book, **The End of Policing**: “The problem is not police training, police diversity, or police methods. The problem is the dramatic and unprecedented expansion and intensity of policing in the last forty years, a fundamental shift in the role of police in society. The problem is policing itself.”  
David Correia and Tyler Wall’s book, **Police, A Field Guide** “is an illustrated handbook to the methods, mythologies, and history that animate today’s police.” It is a survival manual for encounters with cops and police logic, whether it arrives in the shape of officer friendly, Tasers, curfews, non-compliance, or reformist discourse about so-called bad apples.”  

**Police Use of Force Project:** [http://useofforceproject.org/#project](http://useofforceproject.org/#project)  
**Twitter Thread on Research-based Solutions:** [https://twitter.com/samswey/status/1180655701271732224](https://twitter.com/samswey/status/1180655701271732224)  
**What Can I Do?** [https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234](https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234)  
From Bryson Dean: Share this link with those who would appreciate and benefit from it. Some may be turned off by the preaching, but the policy is right on...  
NM Sierra Club is spearheading ACT-DONATIONS to Diné C.A.R.E.’s to support families facing COVID-19. There is a need at various locations around the Navajo Nation for basic items in response to the ongoing health crisis. Families are in need of tents to allow family members with the virus to isolate. We are also collecting masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning products, toilet paper, first aid materials, diapers, etc. To observe social distancing for donation drop off, email camilla.feibelman@sierraclub.org to coordinate logistics. If you would rather make a financial donation, visit [gofundme.com/f/far-east-navajo-covid19-relief](http://gofundme.com/f/far-east-navajo-covid19-relief).