CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

Michelle Lujan Grisham
New Mexico Governor

Jeff Lopez
Broadband Director

Aquiles Trujillo
Deputy Director

Contact:
Office of Broadband Access and Expansion
Mike Curtis, michael.curtis@connect.nm.gov; (505) 231-4477

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2026

State launches permitting tool to expedite broadband expansion

New mapping application instantly finds providers' permitting needs

SANTA FE – New Mexico broadband providers can now identify every permit required for construction projects anywhere in the state with a new free online mapping tool, eliminating one of the biggest obstacles to expanding high-speed internet access.

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion has launched the New Mexico Permit Finder Tool, a public, interactive digital permitting map that shows internet service providers exactly what local, state and federal permits are needed for construction across any project area. The tool supports nearly $900 million in state and federally-funded broadband infrastructure projects and is available to all providers building in New Mexico, regardless of funding source.

"Problems and delays with permits can be a tremendous deterrent in getting broadband projects completed on time," said **Lane Camfield**, OBAE's permitting coordinator. "This new tool will help awardees kick off their permitting processes quickly and consistently across all land ownership and permitting jurisdictions."

The digital permitting tool allows providers to search for all permits within a given area or upload their network design to reveal the necessary local, state and federal permits they must obtain to construct the project. Areas requiring a permit will populate on the map, generating key information:

- Kind of permit needed (review, compliance or right of way)
- Agency requiring permits (local, state and federal)
- Agency contacts and application information
- Instructions for completing the permit processes

"What makes this extraordinary is that providers and subcontractors can see requirements across the entire project area and plan construction that optimizes work according to the expected ease of permitting," said **Natalie Runyan**, OBAE's GIS & data manager. "This saves time and money because some work can proceed while permitting continues in more complex areas."

"With these funding and contract commitments, it's essential that projects finish on time," said **Camfield**. "We believe expediting the permitting process is a critical path to achieving our mission to connect all of New Mexico with reliable and sustainable high-speed internet."

New Mexico is the second state in the nation to launch a broadband permitting tool. The Arizona State Broadband Office announced its Arizona Permit Finder in November 2025. The tool is a critical step toward the state's goal of 100% broadband connectivity.

To find the New Mexico Permit Finder Tool, visit here.

###

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is dedicated to serving New Mexico with a commitment to make high-speed broadband accessible to all New Mexicans. OBAE's mission is to expand and improve high-speed internet service with passionate leadership that drives bold, equitable, affordable and inclusive broadband solutions. OBAE seeks results that honor the state's rich heritage and elevate quality of life for all.

CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

Copyright (C) 2026 New Mexico Office of Broadband. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe