

Armijo, Alicia, HED

From: Walsh, Delilah <delilah.walsh@nmt.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Info, HigherEd, HED
Cc: Vanessa Grain; Alexander Garcia; Michael Jackson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on 5.3.10: NOTICE OF RULEMAKING - New Mexico Higher Education Department

You don't often get email from delilah.walsh@nmt.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Reviewers,

Please accept New Mexico Tech's support and comments regarding proposed rule changes to NMAC 5.3.10.

New Mexico Tech (NMT) supports the general intent of the proposed amendments, specifically the alignment of project thresholds with the 2025 State Board of Finance (SBF) updates. As a specialized research institution, NMT manages a high volume of complex, federally funded infrastructure projects relative to our student headcount.

NMT strongly supports the increase in free action thresholds. Elevating the thresholds for staff-level and committee-level reviews allows NMT to meet the rapid-response grant requirements necessary to remain nationally competitive. For an institution with limited administrative staff, reducing the frequency of formal hearings for projects under \$1.6 million represents a significant optimization of university resources.

We understand there is no intention to edit or remove the restricted funds exception in 5.3.10.8, which states: "The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology will be included with the over 1,500 FTE institutions when a particular project is entirely funded by restricted funds." We do support preservation of this exception.

In 5.3.10.6, NMT welcomes the explicit inclusion of renovations in the rule's objectives to provide legal clarity for facility updates. However, we suggest the Department consider providing separate guidance on the application of LEED Silver requirements for high-intensity research spaces (e.g., explosives testing bunkers or specialized chemical labs). These facilities often exceed 15,000 sq. ft. but possess unique ventilation and safety requirements that may conflict with standard energy-efficiency benchmarks.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued partnership in supporting New Mexico's higher education infrastructure. We are available to discuss these points further if needed.

Sincerely,
Delilah Walsh

--

Delilah A. Walsh

Vice President for Administration & Finance
Chief Financial Officer



575.835.5606 | delilah.walsh@nmt.edu

801 Leroy Place | Socorro NM 87801

www.nmt.edu