
Debra P. Hicks, PE/LSI

August 30, 2024

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Nominating Committee
P. O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269

Dear Committee Members:


Please accept this letter along with accompanying documentation as an indication of my strong interest in the position of Commissioner of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. I believe my personal and professional experience and my commitment to the State of New Mexico, would be of benefit to the Public Regulator Commission.

The following are my qualifications for office as a Commissioner:

- Graduate from New Mexico State University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (an ABET accredited program) and a Minor in Economics
- Licensed Professional Engineer No. 10871 New Mexico 07/11/1989
- 35+ years of professional engineering experience
- Voter Status: Active Registrant Republican

As an engineer my work is dedicated to the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. I have the ability to make well informed decisions. I have the core competencies necessary to perform the duties of Commissioner.

Thank you for your consideration.





Debra P. Hicks, PE/LSI

Debra P. Hicks, PE/LSI was born in Lovington New Mexico to Richard R. Pettigrew and Doris McClish Pettigrew. Her family homesteaded in the area in 1907 prior to the creation of Lea County in 1917. She is a fourth generation Lea County New Mexican. Debra lived on the family farm and ranch near McDonald in her early childhood attending school in Lovington and participating in 4-H. In 1972 her family moved to Clovis New Mexico. Debra's first summer job was at Pettigrew & Associates changing the oil, filter, checking fluids, differentials, etc. for the fleet. In 1979 she worked as a summer intern performing construction inspections at Jal Airport.

Hicks graduated from New Mexico State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Minor in Economics. She joined Pettigrew & Associates as an Engineer Intern and became licensed as a Professional Engineer in 1989. Hicks bought the firm in 1990 and proceeded to become the President & CEO.

Throughout her 40+ year career as a licensed Professional Engineer her experience has included multi-family housing projects, aquatic facilities, parks, education facilities, small and large-scale subdivisions, museums, hotels, racetrack/casinos, roadways, mining, hazardous materials facilities, uranium enrichment facilities, infrastructure, utilities, trail systems, airports and numerous other commercial and industrial developments.

Hicks has focused her community outreach involvement on improving the lives of others through such programs as Hobbs Boys and Girls Club, Junior Service League, founding director of MyPower Inc., Habitat for Humanity, Rotary Club, Palmer Drug Abuse Program, the Learning for Life Pettigrew Explorer Engineering Post/Boy Scouts of America, as well as the City of Hobbs Utilities Board and Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board.

Hicks has worked extensively to promote STEM education in Lea County and New Mexico through programs including MATHCOUNTS, Hobbs Community Math Task Force, Tatum Municipal Schools WERC mentor program, Career and Technical Education Center Hobbs (CTECH) Advisory Committee and Lea County Women's Network Mentor Program. At the state level Hicks education initiatives have included New Mexico Professional Engineers MATHCOUNTS, New Mexico Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee, and NMSU College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council. Education appointments include New Mexico Tech Board of Regents, New Mexico State Board of Regents, New Mexico Governor's Teacher Education Master Plan Committee, and New Mexico Education Workgroup.

Hicks has pursued sustainable economic development in southeast New Mexico for more than twenty years. Serving as a board member and president of the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County as well as member of the Lea County Quality of Life Initiative, Hicks worked tirelessly to drive initiatives including development of the Hobbs Industrial Air Park, single and multi-family housing developments, Zia Park, URENCO and the CORE. In 2008 Hicks was recognized by the State of New Mexico for Contributions in Economic Development.

Currently, Hicks serves as President of the American Council of Engineering Companies New Mexico, President of Lea County Community Improvement Corporation, and Vice Chair of the City of Hobbs Utilities Board. Additional directorships include Eagle Trust Foundation, Covenant Health Hobbs Hospital, NMSU College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council and member of the Southeast New Mexico Economic Development District Economic Recovery Team.

Debra was awarded the 47th Distinguished Frank Bromilow Lecturer for New Mexico State University College of Engineering. She was honored as Entrepreneur in Residence at the University of the Southwest in 2003, named New Mexico Woman of Influence by Albuquerque Business First in 2013, and Top CEOs in 2015. In 2019 she was inducted as a member of the Sociedad de Ingenieros as an Ingeniero Eminente in recognition of her outstanding service to the New Mexico State University College of Engineering.

COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY

- City of Hobbs Utilities Board
Appointed by Mayor Sam Cobb
 - Member 2021 to present
 - Vice Chair 2022 to present
- Lea County Improvement Corporation
Appointed by EDCLC Board of Directors
 - Director 2007 to present
 - Vice President 2011-2014
 - President 2014 to present
- Covenant Health Hobbs Hospital
 - Director 2021 to present
- Economic Development Corporation of Lea County
 - Past Chair 2007-2009
 - Chair 2006-2007
 - Vice Chair 2005-2006
 - Secretary 2003-2005
 - Treasurer 2002-2003
 - Community Member 2007 to present
- Carlsbad Department of Development
 - Executive Board 2013-2015, 2023
 - Director 2012 to present
- Lea County Quality of Life Initiative
Appointed by NMJC President Dr. Steve McCleery **2013-2016**
- Rotary Club
 - Member 1999 to present
 - Fellowship Chair 2000 -2001
 - Membership Committee 2001 - 2002
- Eagle Trust Foundation Inc
 - Director 2011 to present
 - Secretary 2011 to present
- Career and Technical Education Center Hobbs (CTECH)
 - Advisory Committee 2015 to present

- Hobbs Eagles Soccer Booster Club
Member 2005 to 2019
Treasurer
President
- Toy Tea Hostess 2000 to 2013
- Project 40:31
Director 2010-2013
- MyPower, Inc
Founder/Director 2008-2011
Camp Director 2010
- City of Hobbs
Appointed by Mayor Monty Newman
Oil and Gas Ordinance Committee - Member 2007
Police Chief Selection Panel – Member 2006
Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board 2004
- University of the Southwest
Trustee 2002-2016
Secretary 2013-2016
Institutional Resources Chair 2002-2012
Executive Committee Chair 2003-2004
Chair of the Board of Trustees 2004-2006
Daniels Fund (Presenter) 2003
- Hobbs Youth Soccer Association
U8 Coach, U10 Coach, U12 Coach 2004-2006
- Hobbs Knights Soccer Club – U14 Manager 2003-2006
- Hobbs Municipal Schools
District Needs Assessment Committee 2001- 2003
Community Math Task Force 2005-2006
Career Readiness 2010-2011
Career Days 1986-1988, 1991-1993
1995, 2002
- University of the Southwest
Area Community Advisory Council – Member 2000-2002
- Tatum Municipal Schools
Mentor (WERC Program) 1999
- First United Methodist Church

Member	1997-2023
Children's Council – Member	
Faith in God Committee - Member	
Finance Committee – Member	2004-2008
Sunday School Teacher	1999-2002
Kids for Christ	1998-1999
Education Team Leader	2003
Church Council – Chair	2003-2004
Stewardship Committee – Chair	2002
Mission/Ministry Fair Chair	2003
• Junior Service League of Hobbs	1996-2002
President	1999-2000
Corresponding Sec	1998-1999
Parliamentarian	1997-1998
Golf Committee Chair	1999-2001
Nominations Chair	2000-2001
• Walk to Emmaus Team Member	1998
Chrysalis Assistant Lay Director	2007
• Chamber of Commerce	
Career Days Committee (Presenter)	1997
• Trinity Lutheran Church	1984-1997
Treasurer, Council Member,	
Evangelism and Social Ministry	
Budget Committee	

STATE

- American Council of Engineering Companies New Mexico (ACEC NM)
 - Board of Directors 2011 to present
 - President-Elect 2021-2023
 - President 2023 to present
- Southeast New Mexico Economic Development District Economic Recovery Team 2022 to present
- New Mexico State University Board of Regents
 - Appointed by Governor Susana Martinez** 2015 - 2021
 - Vice Chair 2015 - 2016
 - Chair 2016 - 2018
- New Mexico Governor's Teacher Higher Education Master Plan Committee
 - Appointed by Secretary of Education Hanna Skandera** 2017-2018
- New Mexico Tech Board of Regents
 - Appointed by Governor Susana Martinez** 2013-2015
- New Mexico State University Presidential Search Committee
 - Appointed by NMSU Board of Regents** 2013
- New Mexico State Transportation Commission
 - Appointed by Governor Susana Martinez**
 - Commissioner District 2 2011-2012
- State of New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission
 - Appointed by Governor Bill Richardson**
 - Commissioner 2005-2006
- New Mexico State University
 - Academy of Civil, Agricultural, and Geological Engineering
 - Associate Member 1993-2004
 - Member 2004 to present
 - Board Member 2010-2018
 - President 2013-2015
 - College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council 2014 to present
- Leadership NM Core Program
 - Golf Committee Chair 2012-2014
 - Golf Committee 2009-2014
 - Board of Directors 2009-2012, 2014-2017

- New Mexico Education Workgroup
Appointed by Secretary of Education Hanna Skandera
Member 2013-2016
- NMJC Foundation Board
Member 2002-2014
Investment Committee 2002-2014
Vice Chair 2009-2010
Chair 2010-2011
- New Mexico State Student Council Convention
Presenter 2004
- New Mexico First
Board Member 2001
- New Mexico Engineering Foundation
Director 1996-2002
President 1997-1998
- New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers (NMSPE)
Chapter - Vice President 1986-87, 1989-90
Chapter – President-Elect 1987-88, 1991-92
Chapter - President 1988-89, 1992-93
Chapter MATHCOUNTS Coordinator 1985, 1989
Chapter MATHCOUNTS Fundraising Chairman 1986
State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator 1988-1990

NATIONAL

- American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL)
Civil Engineering Section Chair 1993-2001
Southern Division Treasurer 1998-2000
Southern Division Vice Chair 2000-2002
Business Practices Program Chair 2001-2003
Board of Directors 2007-2010
- National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
Public Relations Committee 1988-1992
Financial Development Committee 1993

Business & Professional Affiliations

- National Society of Professional Engineers, Member – 40+
- American Society of Civil Engineers, Member – 40+
- New Mexico Professional Surveyors, Member – 20+
- New Mexico Society for Professional Engineers, Member – 40+
- American Council of Independent Laboratories, Member – 30+

Honors and Awards

1982 Junior Woman of Achievement - Association for Women Students
1982 Washington Internship for Students in Engineering
1986 Outstanding Service Award - NMSPE
1987 Young Engineer of the Year - NMSPE
1988 Outstanding Service Award - NMSPE
1990 Outstanding Service Award - NMSPE
1990 Certificate of Service - Hobbs Chamber of Commerce
1992 Who's Who Among Rising Young Americans
1993 Order of the Engineer
2001 Preston Miller Award for outstanding contributions to the work and operations of ACIL
2001 Businessman of the Year of New Mexico
2002 Preston Miller Award for outstanding contributions to the work and operations of ACIL
2003 Preston Miller Award for outstanding contributions to the work and operations of ACIL
2003 Eagle Award – University of the Southwest
2003 Entrepreneur in Residence – University of the Southwest
2004 Academy of Civil, Geological and Agriculture Engineers – NMSU
2006 Women in History – New Mexico Junior College
2007 New Mexico Business Weekly Top 25 Engineering Firms
2007 New Mexico Business Weekly Top 50 Women-Owned Businesses
2008 New Mexico Woman Top 25 Women-Owned Businesses
2008 American Council of Engineering Companies NM Individual Community Service Award
2008 Certificate of Recognition for Contributions in Economic Development, State of NM
2010 *ZweigWhite* Hot Firm List
2011 *ZweigWhite* Hot Firm List
2012 Chapter Honor Member, Chi Epsilon NMSU Chapter No. 66
2013 Women of Influence Honoree Albuquerque Business First
2015 Top CEOs Albuquerque Business First
2018 Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award
2019 NMSU College of Engineering Ingeniero Eminente
2019 Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award
2023 47th Distinguished Frank Bromilow Lecturer for New Mexico State University College of Engr



Debra P. Hicks, PE/LSI

President & CEO/Principal Engineer

Debra P. Hicks, PE/LSI started as a summer intern at Pettigrew & Associates, P.A. in 1979. Upon graduation from NMSU, Mrs. Hicks joined the firm as an Engineer Intern in 1984. After several years of successful project completion, she purchased Pettigrew & Associates, P.A. in 1990 and is now sole owner and Principal Engineer. Mrs. Hicks serves as the Engineer of Record for design and construction engineering on all projects for which the firm is Engineer of Record. For more than 40 years, Mrs. Hicks served as the Professional Engineer/Project Manager in direct responsible charge of a wide range of projects including local streets, county roads, municipal arterials, State and Federal highways; locally, State and federally funded airport projects; commercial and industrial site development, water and sewer systems design, and recreation facilities. Mrs. Hicks has served as the Professional Engineer in Responsible Charge of all geotechnical and pavement investigations, design of concrete and asphaltic mixtures as well as materials testing for soils, aggregate, concrete, asphaltic mixtures for 40 years encapsulating more than 500 investigations predominantly in southeastern New Mexico.

Mrs. Hicks's highway project engineer, project management and responsible charge responsibilities have included agency coordination, public and stakeholder involvement plans, analysis of existing conditions, preliminary design, application for funding, subsurface investigations, geotechnical engineering, management/coordination of environmental investigations and documentation, civil design, bidding and negotiating services, construction engineering, inspection, staking, and project closeout, as well as overall assistance with any issues that arise.

Lea County Kansas Street Improvements | Lea County, NM 2020 - present

Phase I includes 1.1 miles between Davis Lane and Grimes Street including analyzing tie-ins to approximately 42 existing driveways, alleys and minor side roads, four four-way county road intersections, and three way county road intersections, as well as drainage improvements to three intersections. Phase II of the project between NM18/Lovington Highway and Davis Lane, approximately 2.3 miles including analyzing tie-ins to approximately 62 existing driveways, one minor side road, four way county road intersections, and eight three-way county road intersections, as well as drainage improvements to Kansas and World Drive intersection. Phase III of the project includes civil design between Grimes Street/Knowles Road and NM132/Dal Paso Street, approximately one mile including analyzing tie ins to approximately 27 existing driveways, one minor side road, one four-way county road intersections, and three three-way county road intersections. Much of this section of road is within or adjacent to a Regulatory Floodway, Zone AE with BFE, and Zone X flood zones. The project also includes geotechnical engineering, topographic and right of way surveys and construction services. Mrs. Hicks is the Principal Engineer in direct responsible charge, providing contract management and oversight for geotechnical and civil work on the project.

Alabama Street Reconstruction | Lea County, NM 2021 - present

Pettigrew & Associates was contracted by Lea County to provide professional services for the redesign of Alabama Street. Tasks included topographic survey for design, including existing ROW services (5.3 miles and 60' wide). Civil design for Phase I between N. Lovington Highway and N. Bensing Road included analysis and design tie-ins to approximately 78 existing driveways, three alleys and minor side

PROJECT ROLE

Principal Engineer

EDUCATION:

*Bachelor of Science,
Civil Engineering, 1984;
New Mexico State University;
Las Cruces, NM*

REGISTRATIONS:

*Professional Engineer
New Mexico 10871
Texas 79887
Kansas 15228
Arizona 75855*

Survey Intern

New Mexico 4264

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

National Society of Professional Engineers

American Society of Civil Engineers

NM Engineering Foundation – President (1997-1998)

New Mexico Society for Professional Engineers

New Mexico Society for Professional Surveyors

American Council for Independent Laboratories – Board of Directors (2007-2010)

American Council of Engineering Companies

AWARDS:

2015 NM Top CEOs

Albuquerque Business First

2018 Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award

2019 NMSU College of Engineering Ingeniero Eminente

2022, 2020 - 2016 NM Top Workplaces

2022, 2021 NM Family Business

*Order of the Engineer
NM Businessman of the Year*

*Entrepreneur in Residence,
University of the Southwest*

*NM Business Woman Top 25
Women-Owned Business*

*American Council of
Engineering Companies NM
Individual Community Service
Award*

*2013 - 2021 NM Women of
Influence*

COMMUNITY:

*New Mexico State University
College of Engineering
Dean's Advisory Council*

*Lea County Improvement
Corporation
President*

*City of Hobbs Utilities Board
Vice Chair*

*American Council of
Engineering Companies
New Mexico
President Elect*

*Carlsbad Department of
Development
Director*

*Eagle Trust Foundation
Director*

roads, one four-way intersection and six three-way county road intersections. Phase II included 2.3 miles from N. Bensing Road to NM 132 including analysis and design of tie-ins to approximately 34 existing driveways, five alleys and minor side roads, two four-way county road intersections, three three-way county road intersections. Drainage analysis between Bensing and Aztec for a cross culvert along the FEMA 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard flow path was also included. The project also included a Phase III pavement investigation and Phase IV traffic counts. Road design services included existing and proposed typical sections, removal of obstructions, final erosion control plan, civil details, traffic control plan, permanent signing and striping, drainage, proposed structure cross sections, intersection tie-ins, quantities and calculations and bidding services. Mrs. Hicks is the Principal Engineer in direct responsible charge providing contract management and oversight for geotechnical and civil work on the project.

Marathon Road Reconstruction | Lea County, NM 2020

Pettigrew & Associates provided design services for approximately eight miles of Marathon Road CR 27A. Reconstruction consists of widening the existing 24 ft. wide road to 32 ft. wide including shoulders. The road connects NM 176 with US 62. Design included topographic survey for design, civil design plans including status meeting/coordination, existing typical sections, proposed typical sections, length of project/design criteria, removal of structures and obstructions, final erosion control plan, plan and profile, civil details, control sheet, traffic control plan, sign face details, permanent signing and striping plan, drainage plan to modify existing structures, structure cross sections, utility plan, road cross sections, field verification, field review, quantities, specifications, bid documents and management. Mrs. Hicks is the Principal Engineer providing contract management and oversight for geotechnical and civil work on the project.

Mescalero Apache School Improvements Project Management | Mescalero, NM 2022 - present

Pettigrew & Associates was contracted through CES by Mescalero Apache Schools to provide project management for this \$3.1 million Design-Build project. Work includes management and inspection services through design, bidding/proposal, construction, post-construction and project close-out and final reporting. The project requires coordination and reporting with multiple agencies including the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs), engineers, architects, contractors and others. Expected completion is Fall 2023. Mrs. Hicks provides oversight and contract management.

Southern Heights Elementary | Hobbs, NM 2022 - present (portions completed through CES)

Pettigrew & Associates is providing professional services for Southern Heights Elementary in Hobbs, NM. Originally, the school district planned to remodel the existing elementary. However, after reviewing the information presented, it was determined the district would build an entirely new school on the current playground and upon completion, demolish the old school and build a new playground. Pettigrew provided a geotechnical investigation, survey and special inspections and testing for the project. Scope of survey work included: locating improvements within an approximate 10 acre area including building perimeter to include finished floor elevations, hard scape area to include sidewalks, asphalt, curbing and patios; outline landscaped areas; locate and map all utilities serving the building and crossing the project; full street improvements adjacent to the site; mapping requested indoor items; and research ROW and/or easements on or adjacent to property. Special inspection and testing procured through CES includes earthwork observations and testing, cast-in-place concrete testing, reinforced steel observations, floor flatness/levelness testing, grout and mortar testing, structural steel inspection, ultrasonic testing, fireproofing adhesion/cohesion bond and thickness. Mrs. Hicks provided contract administration and oversight for the project.

COMMUNITY:

*Covenant Health Hobbs
Hospital Board
Director*

*Daniels Fund
Scholar Selection Committee*

*Rotary Club of Hobbs
Member*

CES - Will Rogers Elementary Improvements | Hobbs, NM 2022 - present

Pettigrew & Associates was contracted through CES to provide civil and survey services for improvements at Will Rogers Elementary. Design services include a site plan for parking area improvements, site grading plan to include hardscape and ADA design, new ADA ramps, basic drainage calculations and proposed improvements to meet local agency requirements, construction administration including inspection services and project closeout and certification of public improvements. Survey work included a topographic survey and subdivision plat to vacate unused road ROQ as well as combine adjacent parcels. Mrs. Hicks is the Principal in Charge and provides oversight for the project. Construction has not started.

City of Eunice Water, Wastewater and Water Rights Professional Engineering Services | Eunice, NM 2021 - present

This on-call contract includes engineering design, construction oversight, testing, reporting and hydrogeological tasks. Scope of work also includes construction oversight for water resource projects, groundwater modeling, planning, wastewater plant and system improvements, environmental and permitting. A significant project under the contract is a \$550k engineering study for wastewater reuse and desalination, a water conservation plan and design of water and sewer lines. Mrs. Hicks is the Principal Engineer and contract manager for the on-call contract.

CES - City of Lovington Main Street Waterline Replacement | Lovington, NM 2021 - present (under construction)

Pettigrew & Associates was contracted through CES by the City of Lovington to provide civil design services, survey and coordination for the design of 4325 LF of new 12" waterline on NM18/Main Street from Ave E. to Jackson. The project required extensive coordination with a major construction project (NMDOT CN 2101380) through downtown Lovington. Waterline design included city/NMDOT coordination, design of new line, removal of old line, new fire hydrants every 500', tie-ins, future growth planning, NMED Application/Notification, bid phase services, construction administration, as-built survey and as-built construction plans. The project is valued at \$1.07 million and expected to be complete late 2022. Mrs. Hicks is the Principal Engineer providing contract management and oversight for geotechnical and civil work on the project.

FEMA DR 4199, FEMA Recovery Services | Eddy County, NM 2014 - 2019

Pettigrew & Associates provided engineering, surveying, environmental, geotechnical and construction services for Categories A-B emergency work- reconstruction of structures and crossings that were impassable. Approximately 100+ miles of roads were repaired to NMDOT specifications under this contract. Mrs. Hicks served as Principal in Direct Responsible Charge, Principal Engineer, Geotechnical Engineer, Contract Manager and Contract Administrator over all FEMA-related projects on behalf of Pettigrew. This 5-year Disaster Relief project included 31 roads and 13 water crossings. For term of this contract, Mrs. Hicks was responsible for managing biological and cultural resource investigations and documentation, environmental assessments, Finding of No Significant Impact requests/FONSI, Categorical Exclusion requests/documentation, Clean Water Act 401 and 404 permitting, Preconstruction Notifications (PCN), and wetlands studies, coordinating between the environmental subconsultants, USAFE, FEMA, BLM, NMDHSEM, SHPO, contractors and Eddy County from initial inquiry through project close-out.

Roads included: *County Road 12, County Road 24, Rockin R Red Road, Rock Daisy Road, Side Kick Road, West Wind Road, N. Joy Road, S. Old Loco Road, Barnaval Road, Dillahunty Road*, Gypsum Road*, White City Road, Harroun Road*, John D. Forehand Road, Roadrunner Road, Wilhoit Road, Plat Valley Road, Hobble Road*, Half Hitch Road, Duarte Road, Dog Town Road at Pecos River**, Fisherman Lane Road at Pecos River**, CR 748, John D. Forehand Road at Black River* **, CR 720, Black River Village Road at Black River**, CR 718, North Ogden Road at Black River**, CR 716, Higby Hole Road at Black River**, CR 731, Onsurez Road at Black River**, Armstrong Road, Dark Canyon Road, Bronc Road, Cross Buck Road ** indicates a low water crossing.*

NMDOT Construction Management Augmentation Services On Call | 2020 - present

Pettigrew & Associates is providing construction management augmentation services to the New Mexico Department of Transportation as part of a joint venture that enables the firm to provide inspectors and construction management staff to all districts of the state. Current projects include CN 4100821/Task Order D4-08-1 and CN LC00430/Task Order D4-08-1. Mrs. Hicks is the Principal in Charge and Contract Administrator for this on-call contract.