

**OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2021**  
**9:30 AM**

The ARPA Operating Committee met at 9:30 AM on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at the Las Animas City Council Chambers, 532 Carson, Las Animas, CO. Committee members in attendance included Ron Clodfelter (Las Animas), Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), Dean Duran (Trinidad) attended by telephone, Heath Piper (Springfield). Also, in attendance were Dustin Ramsey (Las Animas), Chris Kirmer (Holly), Rick Gumke, Ed Salazar, and Chris Arguello (La Junta) and ARPA staff members Rick Rigel, Arvenia Morris and Aarin Ritter.

**Call to order:** Chairman Clodfelter called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**Introduction of New Operating Committee Member(s):**

Heath Piper was introduced as the newest member of the Operating Committee. Heath was recently hired by the Town of Springfield as its electric superintendent. Chris Kirmer was introduced as the new Field Services Supervisor for the Town of Holly. Dean Duran, attending remotely, was recognized as the new Power and Light Electric Superintendent for the City of Trinidad and has also been officially appointed as Trinidad's representative on the Operating Committee.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes of the December 1, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

**Current Status of COVID-19 Operations:** **a. Status of Operations, Personnel, Supplies.** The Committee members updated the status of their operations and personnel as a result of COVID-19. **b. Mutual Aid.** The Committee members agreed if a mutual aid event would occur, they would still adhere to the COVID-19 protocols and wear personal protective equipment, maintain social distancing and continue segregation of crews. Staff distributed updated pages for the Mutual Aid Contact Book as there have been several personnel changes in the last few months. The Committee received a copy of the latest **Operating Report** (December 2020). Rick provided a short walk-thru of the report demonstrating the member utilities' data related to their demand and energy usage for a 12-month basis, and the associated costs, and their kWh sales on an annual basis.

**Discussion on Power Supply Proposals:** Responses from a recent Request for Proposal indicates there exists an opportunity for ARPA, and its members, to include up to 20-25 MW of renewable generation in ARPA's future power supply portfolio. **a. Solar Installations.** Rick reviewed what is allowed in the Organic Contract and Power Supply Agreement regarding members adding, or

replacing, generation capacity. Staff, and the Committee, will research options for solar relative to size of facility, or facilities, location, and substation capacity and defer consideration to the ARPA Board of Directors.

**Update on LUB Territorial Service Complaint with CPUC Against SECPA:** Houssin Hourieh provided an update on the Lamar Utility Board's territorial service complaint against the Southeast Colorado Power Association. The PUC hearing was virtual and occurred on January 24 and 25, 2021. The PUC is accepting public comments in the case. Las Animas Municipal Utilities has submitted comments to the PUC. Rick will forward a form letter to the other member municipalities if they wish to submit comments to the PUC on Lamar's behalf. According to the schedule, as outlined by Houssin, it is expected a ruling will be made in mid-June 2021.

**Miscellaneous: a. Update on Transformer Class.** The members provided comments on the on-line transformer class that was recently purchased from SD Myers. **b. Update on LRP Demolition.** Rick provided a report on the LRP demolition. He also reported the City of Lamar entered into an agreement with North Fork Grain for the North Side property which allowed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Mutual Release and Settlement Agreement between ARPA and the City to become effective as of February 8. **c. Bucket Truck/Pole Top Rescue Training Schedule.** Staff will work with the Operating Committee to schedule a tentative date for the bucket truck and pole top rescue training in the fall of 2021. The Committee also discussed having the **Mobile Substation training** in the Spring of 2022. Rick Gumke will inform the Committee if **Mesa Hotline School** will proceed in 2021. **d. Scholarship funding.** The Committee discussed the scholarship funding and if there was interest in providing the additional \$500 scholarship this year for COVID-19 hardship. It was a consensus among the Committee to return to the pre-COVID-19 funding, only.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting concluded at 11:03 AM.



Submitted by Ron Clodfelter, Chairman