

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 18, 2023

9:30 AM

The ARPA Operating Committee met at the Las Animas City Council Chambers, 532 Carson, Las Animas, CO., at 9:30 AM on May 18, 2023. Committee members in attendance included Randy Holland (Holly), Bill Jackson (La Junta), Lynn Wright (Las Animas) Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), Dave Bachicha (Trinidad) and Heath Piper (Springfield). Also in attendance was Joe La Salle (La Junta), and ARPA staff members Rick Rigel, Aarin Ritter and Arvenia Morris.

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

Approval of Agenda.

The agenda was approved as received.

Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2023 and April 12, 2023. The minutes of the February & April meetings were approved unanimously by motion from Bill Jackson, second by Randy Holland.

Operating Committee Member Reports: Lamar: Houssin reported the Lamar Utilities Board lost 20 poles in a fire on the east end of the system. The Town of Holly was able to put the ARPA-Holly Caterpillar generator online and carried the load for Hartman and Bristol. There was a 2nd fire at Fort Lyon a few weeks later that burned in an area that was mostly steel poles; however, 2 structures were damaged. The line crew was able to avoid replacement by stubbing the damaged poles. Bill Jackson announced the La Junta Municipal Utilities will be using the mobile substation when they take down a tie breaker at the industrial park. This would be a good opportunity to have a “live” training on mobile substation interconnection/usage. Once they are ready to do the work, they will let the Committee know so a training date can be arranged. **a. Update on Solar Installations.** The number of solar installations reported by members includes Lamar, 28; Las Animas, 9; Holly, 0; Trinidad, 9; Springfield, 1 currently in the process; La Junta, 22. **Battery Installations.** The number of battery installations reported by the members includes Lamar, 1; Las Animas, 2. *Interconnection or processing fee.* The Members reported on the fees they are charging their solar customers for processing due to extra time and attention that is required with solar accounts. **b. Discussion of HB23-1282-Colorado Consumer Protection Act.** HB23-1282 would expand the definition of “person” to include a public utility under the Colorado Consumer Protection Act. In doing this a consumer of a public utility could file a claim against the public utility. HB23-1282 was DEFEATED.

Safety Training – Poletop and Bucket Truck Rescue Training. The safety training will be held on June 20 (poletop and bucket truck) for line workers, and June 22 (bucket truck) for personnel who work from a bucket truck. The training will be held in La Junta at the command center beginning at 9:00 AM and will be led by personnel from Trinidad and La Junta.

Update on Federal and State Funding Opportunities: **a. Distribution System Planning Services - Review CLPE Agreement.** ARPA received a proposal from City Light and Power for engineering services for distribution planning. Rick reviewed the proposed schedule and tasks, as outlined in the proposal. CLPE’s highest estimate was a “Not to Exceed” cost of \$271,200. **i. Discussion on Funding Alternatives.** ARPA anticipates a 25% - 30% funding match for the grant through the Colorado Energy Office. Rick reviewed

three funding alternatives for distribution planning services if the grant application is not funded or is not fully funded. These options will be brought before the ARPA Board of Directors at their meeting on May 25. **ii. Reports/Meetings with Governing Boards.** Rick would be available to attend city council meetings to make a presentation regarding the grant funding upon request. **b. Microgrid Operations.** Rick reported that CAMU, at their Annual Conference in Breckenridge on July 20-21, will have “Lessons Learned” regarding microgrids. The members were encouraged to attend.

Colorado Energy Office – EvaluateCO Dashboard. The Committee received a handout of the EV charging stations that are currently showing on the EvaluateCO website. The latest update on the EvaluateCO website was September 2022. Recently CAMU had requested its members report the number and locations of the EV charging stations in their communities. The information received will be used to update the EvaluateCO website.

Miscellaneous Operations: a. NMPP Rate Studies Update. Rick reported that NMPP is undergoing some changes and that some of the services (e.g., cost of service studies, distribution services) the ARPA members are currently utilizing through NMPP, may be discontinued, or transferred to MEAN. An NMPP Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for June 1 where additional information will be available. **b. Member’s Plants Capacity Sale.** Guzman Energy is seeking additional capacity and would be interested in the Member’s emergency generation in Trinidad, Holly and Las Animas to provide that capacity.

Member’s Usage Report. The members received the operating statistics for the 1st quarter of 2023 including the renewable generation resource (RGR) report.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date. The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be August 24, 2023 in Las Animas beginning at 9:30 AM.

Adjourn. The meeting concluded at 11:23 AM.



Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman