

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 19, 2023

10:30 AM

The ARPA Operating Committee met by zoom at 10:30 AM on January 19, 2023. Committee members in attendance included Bill Jackson (La Junta), Lynn Wright (Las Animas) Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), Dave Bachicha (Trinidad) and Heath Piper (Springfield). Also in attendance was Chris Arguello (La Junta), Randy Holland (Holly), Linda Vigil (Trinidad), and ARPA staff members Rick Rigel, Aarin Ritter and Arvenia Morris.

Call to order: Chairman Hourieh called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved as received.

Discussion on Engineering Firms for Distribution Planning Services: ARPA is in the process of reviewing opportunities to acquire federal or state funding related to the Department of Energy (DOE) funding for Grid Hardening and Grid Resiliency to Reduce Outages. Funds directed toward uses categorized under this heading may provide opportunities for acquiring funding for infrastructure upgrades to Member's distribution systems.

One of the activities that is eligible for funding is technical assistance for Distribution System Planning. Staff is approaching this as a two-step process. Acquire funding for technical assistance for Distribution System Planning and then apply for funding for infrastructure upgrades based on the projects identified in the planning process.

Rick provided an update on interviews he had with four engineering firms that can provide distribution system planning services. Following discussion of how the 2-step process would work, Committee member Jackson moved to proceed with interviewing two engineering firms, Exponential Engineering and City Light and Power, to provide distribution system planning services for all the ARPA members. The motion was seconded by Committee member Wright, motion passed unanimously. This would be the first step in the 2-step process.

Miscellaneous: Wind Repowering and Solar. The Committee was updated on the status of the proposal from a developer to repower the wind turbine generators along with a solar installation. ARPA is performing an economic analysis, assisted by JK Energy Consulting, to compare upgrading the wind turbines verses keeping them as is and buying power from a big solar installation.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be February 16, 2023.

Adjourn: The meeting concluded at 11:18 AM.



Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman