

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING
August 24, 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 August 24, 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 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 9:30 AM.

Approval of Agenda.

The agenda was approved as received.

Approval of Minutes: May 18, 2023. The minutes of the May 18 meeting were approved as presented.

Operating Committee Member Reports: Holly: Randy Holland reported they have received 3 new regulators. La Junta: Bill Jackson reported the City of La Junta has been affected by outages. Springfield: Heath Piper reported Springfield had to relocate a distribution line due to construction on the new hospital addition. **a. Update on Solar Installations.** Lamar: Houssin reported they have had one new rooftop solar installation.

b. Discussion on Request for an Exception to DG Policy. ARPA and the City of Trinidad have received a request from the Las Animas County Courthouse for an exception to our DG Policy. The courthouse is requesting they be allowed a 50 kW solar array with Net Metering. The Committee passed a motion recommending that the Board of Directors not make any exceptions to the DG policy regarding facility sizing. *Net Metering Standard.* The Committee was made aware of a CAMU meeting scheduled for August 29, and a "Listening Session" hosted by the Colorado Energy Office on August 30, both on the topic of the current Net Metering Standard. The Committee voted to recommend the sizing and threshold for the Net Metering standard remain the same.

Power Supply Options: **a. Potential Solar Installations.** Sandhills Energy submitted a LOI for RUS funding for up to 15 MW of solar to be developed in the Lamar, La Junta and Trinidad areas. Those Communities are working with Sandhills to identify areas for the developments as well as interconnection points. ARPA and Guzman Energy are discussing the potential for a larger solar development in the La Junta area. **b. Potential for Battery Installations.** ARPA has had discussions with Guzman Energy regarding pairing any large solar development with battery installations.

Update on Federal and State Funding Opportunities. **a. Technical Assistance for Distribution System Planning Services.** The Colorado Energy Office expects it will receive funding from the Department of Energy in early September. ARPA will proceed with the application for grant funding through the Grid Resiliency, Grid Hardening; however, once it opens it will take several months before grants are awarded. The Committee passed a motion recommending that ARPA move forward with the distribution planning study per the agreement with City Light and Power Engineering.

Miscellaneous Operations. a. Update on ARPA Wind Turbine T-4. Rick provided an update on the claim submitted to Chubb, CIRSA's excess insurer, for equipment breakdown coverage for the T-4 turbine. **b. NMPP Rate Studies Update.** Due to staffing changes and NMPP transitioning its services to MEAN, NMPP will no longer offer Cost of Service studies through its staff. **c. Customer Outreach/Communications via Texting.** The Committee received information and was made aware of TextPower SmartAlerts System, a service for communicating with its utility customers through texting. Rick will arrange a zoom call with TextPower so the members can get additional information.

Member's Usage Report. The members received the operating statistics for the 2nd quarter of 2023 including the renewable generation resource (RGR) report. *CAMU Rate Survey January 2023*. The Committee received a copy of the January 2023 rate survey published by CAMU comparing the residential cost of 700 KWh for southeast Colorado utilities.

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

Adjourn. The meeting concluded at 10:50 AM. A work session followed the meeting.


Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman