

**OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**May 23, 2024**  
**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 23, 2024. Committee members in attendance included Lynn Wright (Las Animas) Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), Heath Piper (Springfield), and Dave Bachicha (Trinidad). Also in attendance was Chris Arguello (La Junta) and ARPA staff members Rick Rigel and Arvenia Morris. Ben Sadler and Dalton Shaffer from CLP Engineering (CLPE) attended the meeting from 9:30 – 11:00 AM.

**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 15, 2024.** The minutes of the February 15, 2024, meeting was approved as presented.

**CLPE Distribution System Planning Services. a. Update on Engineering. i. Schedule for Preliminary and Final Reports.** Ben Sadler and Dalton Shaffer of CLPE provided an update on the status of the engineering and schedule for the final reports. **b. GIS Mapping Proposal.** CLPE provided a proposal regarding GIS (ESRI platform) mapping for the ARPA members. Rigel will draft a summary to accompany the proposal and provide it to the Committee.

**Update on Federal and State Funding Opportunities. a. Discussion on Funding for Infrastructure Improvements (match for grant funds).** With the completion of CLPE's engineering for the member's infrastructure upgrades, Rick brought forth some ideas for matching funds for federal and state grants for the upgrades and improvements. He also reminded the group about the Colorado Clean Energy Funds that may be able to provide low interest loans (potentially forgivable) for the match. **b. Update on Microgrid Planning Grants.** DOLA has notified Springfield they are close to finalizing the contract for the planning grant.

**Update on Cost-of-Service Rate Study. a. Options for ARPA Rate Structure and Future Rates.** John Krajewski of JK Energy Consulting is performing a cost-of-service study for ARPA's wholesale rates to address the significant decrease in power supply that will go into effect February 1, 2025. **b. Update on Member's COS Studies.** Krajewski will provide a proposal for conducting Cost of Service rate studies for individual members. We expect a proposal will be ready for review at the August meeting of the Operating Committee.

**Operating Committee Member Reports: a. General Operations.** Heath Piper (Springfield) brought a consumer issue before the Committee for discussion that he experienced regarding utility connections. Other Committee members reported how they handle similar types of issues. **b. Update on Rooftop Solar and Battery Installations.** Through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter solar credits applied in 2024 have more than doubled when compared to the solar credits applied in 2023.

**Power Supply Options: a. Update on Potential Solar Installations.** Rick provided an update on the purchase power agreement with Clay Creek, LLC.

**Update on MS Messaging Agreement (TextPower).** Rick reviewed the details of the TextPower Agreement. **a. ACTION ITEM: Review Policy for “Customer Communications via a Mobile Messaging Service” and Consider Recommending Adoption to the ARPA Board of Directors.** The Committee received a copy of proposed Policy No. 6, *Customer Communications via a Mobile Messaging Service*, for their review. Heath Piper (Springfield) moved to recommend to the Board of Directors that they adopt the Policy, seconded by Lynn Wright (Las Animas), passed unanimously.

**Safety Training and Equipment. a. Schedule Poletop and Bucket Truck Rescue Training.** ARPA Staff will distribute a doodle poll to find a date to hold the safety training. The Committee expressed their interest in obtaining a self-rescue trainer model to incorporate into the bucket truck safety training. **b. Schedule Mobile Substation Training.** Training on the use of the mobile substation will be scheduled in mid to late September. **c. Report on Use of Transformer Trainer.** Both Lamar and La Junta have had a chance to use the transformer trainer and reported it was a good training tool. The transformer trainer will be available to all the members. **d. Review and Approve Revision to the Training Reimbursement Guidelines.** The Committee received updates to the training reimbursement guidelines at the last meeting. Dave Bachicha (Trinidad) moved to approve the training reimbursement guidelines with the changes as discussed, seconded by Heath Piper (Springfield), passed unanimously.

**Miscellaneous Operations.** Rick shared that construction began in February for Tri-State’s 230 kV Burlington to Lamar transmission upgrade. He also reported the Net Metering Stakeholder’s Committee, facilitated by the Colorado Energy Office, discussed changes to the Net Metering legislation. ARPA and CAMU will monitor further discussion on this topic. Rick reported on the DOE transformer rules that will become effective July 8, 2024 and required after April 23, 2029. Rick provided an update on the following legislative bills: HB24-1454 (Grace Period for Non-Compliance of Digital Accessibility), and SB24-1168 (Live-streaming government meetings).

**Member’s Usage Report.** Usage reports were provided to the committee members.

**Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be August 22, 2024 in Las Animas beginning at 9:30 AM.

**Adjourn.** The meeting concluded at 12:29 PM.

  
Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman