

**OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 23, 2024**  
**9:30 AM**

The ARPA Operating Committee met at the Las Animas City Council Chambers at 9:30 AM on October 23, 2024. Committee members in attendance included Randy Holland (Holly), Bill Jackson (La Junta), Lynn Wright (Las Animas) Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), Heath Piper (Springfield) and Dave Bachicha (Trinidad). Also in attendance was Linda Vigil (Trinidad), and Chris Arguello (La Junta). ARPA staff members Rick Rigel, Aarin Ritter and Arvenia Morris were also in attendance.

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

**Approval of Agenda.**

The agenda was approved as received.

**Minutes. a. August 22, 2024. September 19, 2024.** The minutes of the August 22 and September 19 meetings were approved as presented.

**The Ferguson Group (TFG). a. Grant Process.** Nicole Sibilski, TFG, attended the meeting by ZOOM and provided an overview of the DOE-GRIP program.

**Federal and State Funding Opportunities. a. Identifying Projects for Funding.** The Members received a preliminary list of the projects of which the estimated cost of would be in line with the matching funds the members thought they could commit to. This list will be refined as the members are able to further review the distribution system studies performed by CLPE and determine their highest priorities. **i. Matching Funds.** The grant will be under ARPA's name. ARPA will pay the upfront cost of the upgrades. If ARPA is awarded the grant, the Committee discussed that beginning with the grant start date (January 2026 used for planning purposes), ARPA will invoice each member for 1/60<sup>th</sup> of their matching funds over a 5 year period. It was discussed that ARPA, and the Member, enter into a Letter Agreement for repayment of the matching funds. The details of the grant funding, and repayment, will be brought before the Board at its meeting on October 31. **ii. State Funding.** None of the Members will be applying for state funding. Springfield is waiting on the report from CLP Engineering regarding its microgrid planning grant. **iii. Federal Funding.** It was previously understood that the grant application package must exceed \$10 million; however, it was brought before us by Ms. Sibilski (TFG), that the package must exceed \$20 million.

**CLP Engineering Update.** The first amendment to the Agreement for Technical Assistance for Distribution Planning Services Agreement was extended through September 2025. Two tasks identified in the amendment include refining the project scope and cost of construction for grant applications, and (2) Performing the system impact studies for Sandhill's solar field developments.

**ARPA Cost of Service Study Update – Incremental Rate.** The Committee reviewed the language in Schedule F-Incremental Rate regarding new loads or an expansion of an existing load. Schedule F will be brought before the Board for review at its meeting on October 31. Once reviewed, and approved, the rate will be adopted as part of the Wholesale Rate at the December 5 meeting of the Board.

**Operating Committee Member Reports. a. General Operations.** Randy Holland (Holly) reported he had to decline an EV Charging Stations because of system restraints. Houssin Hourieh (Lamar) reported one of the fast charge EV stations located at the Welcome Center-train depot is on the disconnect list. Houssin also provided a status update on the natural gas pipeline work currently underway. Heath Piper (Springfield) reported a new business came to town and was inquiring about putting solar at their facility. Lynn Wright (Las Animas) reported he has a conference call scheduled with the school personnel in Las Animas to discuss a solar installation for the school. **b. Update on Rooftop Solar and Battery Installations.** For the year-to-date 12-month total rooftop solar generation, ARPA has credited back to its members 87% more kWh in 2024 compared to the same time in 2023.

**Power Supply Options – Update on Proposed Solar Installations.** Rick provided an update on the proposed solar installations. The site developments are progressing as expected. The environmental survey crews will begin their work over the next few weeks. Sandhills and ARPA will do a cost share for the engineering work for the Interconnection System Impact Studies for the solar fields.

**Update on TextPower Messaging Service.** Staff will touch base with TextPower on the status of the Service.

**Miscellaneous. Request for Bid for Equipment Testing and Transformer Oil and Switchgear Testing.** If any of the Members have comments on the Request for Bid for both the Equipment Testing and the Transformer Oil and Switchgear RFBs, they were encouraged to let Arvenia know. Houssin Hourieh, (Lamar) reported CAMPOS is on site. They are in the process of filling the pipeline with nitrogen and expect to have the job completed in 2 weeks. **Mobile Substation Training.** There were 19 attendees at the mobile substation training that was held on October 9 in La Junta.

**Next Meeting Date.** Considering the grant project discussion, the Committee's next meeting will be by ZOOM. A Doodle Poll will be sent to the Committee members to determine a date for the meeting.

**Adjourn.** The meeting concluded at 11:29 AM.

  
Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman