

## OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 16, 2025

9:30 AM

The ARPA Operating Committee met at the Otero College Student Center at 9:30 AM on October 16, 2025. Committee members in attendance included Chris Arguello (La Junta), Lynn Wright (Las Animas), Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), Randy Holland (Holly), Dave Bachicha (Trinidad), and Heath Piper (Springfield). Joe La Salle (La Junta) and Linda Vigil (Trinidad) and ARPA staff members Rigel and Ritter were also in attendance.

**Call to order:** Chairman Hourieh called the meeting to order at 9:46 AM.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

The agenda was approved as received.

**Approval of Minutes of the Meeting on August 13, 2025.** The minutes of the August 13 meeting were approved as presented.

**Safety One-Schedule Training Demonstration on Self-Rescue Equipment.** Rick updated the Committee on his communication with the Safety One representatives. The Committee had some questions regarding certification and the process for training others. Rick will follow up with Safety One for clarification.

**Operating Committee Member Reports. a. General Operations.** Rick provided a brief report with some key updates. The report included: energy sales and coincidental peak demands, with comparisons to both last year and the budget, and the avoided cost rate for September 2025 and 2024. Rick reviewed the A&G member services expenditures included in the proposed 2026 budget. The Operating Committee members each reported on their individual municipality's electric operations.

**Update on Proposed Solar Installations. a. General Update.** Rick provided an update on the solar installations. *Name that Solar Farm.* The Committee discussed the possibility of naming the solar fields in the 4 member municipalities. **b. Discussion on Distribution System Infrastructure Improvements.** None.

**Update on Grid Resiliency Grant Opportunities.** Staff researched the grants that the Colorado Energy Office has funded in the past. It does not appear their focus is on replacement of aged infrastructure equipment. Staff is of the opinion that it would be futile to apply for this CEO grant. The Ferguson Group believes the Department of Energy grip funding will go forward following the government shutdown.

**Miscellaneous. a. Report on Protective Relay/Substation Training Held October 2.** The Members thought the training went well and are interested in exploring additional training similar to the training provided by Walt Slade. They discussed several topics for additional training. Considering the topics discussed, Staff will explore some different training options.

**Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting date, February 12, 2026.

**Adjourn.** The meeting concluded at 11:13 AM.



Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman