

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 14, 2026

9:30 AM

The ARPA Operating Committee met at the Otero College Student Center at 9:30 AM on May 14, 2026. Committee members in attendance included Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), Lynn Wright (Las Animas), and Dave Bachicha (Trinidad). Joe La Salle (La Junta), Linda Vigil (Trinidad), Cannon Buford (Las Animas) and ARPA staff members Rigel and 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.

Approval of Minutes of the Meetings on February 12, 2026 and April 21, 2026. The minutes of the meetings held on February 12, and April 21 were approved as presented.

Operating Committee Member Reports. a. General Operations. Rick provided a brief report on general operations. The report included: average revenue year to date compared to 2025; energy sales and coincidental peak demands, with comparisons to last year, and the avoided cost rate for April 2026. The members each reported on their operations.

Discussion on Mobile Substation Use. a. Update on Trinidad Use. Rick updated the Committee on the process to secure a company to transport the mobile substation to Trinidad. L.A.R.C.C. Trucking, from Trinidad, will be on-site in La Junta at 8:00 AM, Monday, May 18, 2026, to move the substation. **b. Review Procedures and Policies for Mobile Substation.** Following the upcoming mobile substation usage in Trinidad, the Committee will evaluate whether the currently outlined procedures and policies need to be updated or changed.

Discussion on TextPower (ARCOS) Use and Fee Structure. Rick provided a brief review of the total number of texts the contract provides, as well as the number per municipality. ARPA was recently informed by TextPower there will be a fee for all new numbers uploaded after August 31.

Training. a. Schedule Mobile Substation Training. The Committee scheduled the mobile substation training on Tuesday, May 19 in Trinidad at the Municipal Power Plant beginning at 10:00 AM. **b. Bucket Truck/Poletop Rescue/Safety One Training – June 10, 2026.** The training will be held in La Junta on June 10 and will include bucket truck and poletop rescue. Safety-One will be onsite and will provide the training for the self-rescue systems. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM; first session begins at 9:00 AM, and the second session will begin at 1:00 PM. There will also be a lineman appreciation barbeque at noon for all participants.

Update on Proposed Solar Installations. a. General Update. Rick provided an update on the solar installations.

Update on BRIC Grant Opportunities. The BRIC grant consists of FEMA funding projects that strengthen facilities against natural disasters. ARPA is not eligible to apply; each member municipality would have to apply individually. There is a \$2 million maximum state benefit.

Use of Guzman Funds for 2026 (\$10,000). The Operating Committee discussed allocating the funds for 2026 to purchase a drone for use by all members. Rick will make inquiries regarding a purchase.

Miscellaneous. a. Legislative Report. Rick briefed the Committee on *HB26-1272 – Extreme Temperatures Worker Protections*. This bill provides for the collection of data on the impact of working in high/low temperatures. *HB26-1007 - Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources*. The bill creates requirements for portable-scale solar. Rick will provide the members with a copy of HB26-1007 for their information.

Next Meeting Date. The next meeting date is August 13, 2026, at the City of La Junta Utilities Board Room, 601 Colorado Avenue, beginning at 9:30 AM.

Adjourn. The meeting concluded at 11:02 AM.



Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman