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Good morning,

At midnight today, Upper Great Plains – West, the Colorado River Storage Project and Rocky Mountain region, along with the majority of utilities in the Western Area Upper Great Plains West and Western Area Colorado Missouri balancing authorities, successfully transitioned into the [real-time Western Energy Imbalance Service market administered by Southwest Power Pool](#).

Every five minutes the WEIS market will resolve the real-time mismatch between electricity demand and generation for the firm electric service loads and resources of Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program–Eastern Division in the WAUW BA footprint and the Loveland Area Projects and Salt Lake City Area Integrated Projects in the WACM footprint.

Concurrent with the cutover, the updated [Open Access Transmission Tariff](#) went into effect and is available on [OASIS](#).

We greatly appreciate the engagement from our customers during this transition. Over the course of 15 months, we held more than 200 meetings with our customers in the affected BAs, established new business practices and BA services agreements, modified our tariff, completed a short-term rate process for LAP and SLCA/IP, defined new settlements processes and coordinated with the generating agencies. This ambitious effort would not have been a success without the strong, collaborative partnerships we have with our customers and our mutual goals of providing affordable, reliable and secure electricity to communities.

Joining the WEIS market represents another major milestone in our journey to Power the Energy Frontier and attain a secure, relevant and valuable future for all of us. It builds on past successes such as UGP-East joining the SPP RTO as full members, and will soon be joined by other markets accomplishments, including DSW's projected decision regarding energy imbalance management this spring and Sierra Nevada's transition into the California Independent System Operator Western Energy Imbalance Market March 25. SN completed the final major preparation in their transition by beginning parallel operations Jan. 26.

Our markets efforts have been and remain the most critical activities we are undertaking as an organization after marketing affordable hydropower and safely operating a reliable grid. The evolution in the energy industry today is fundamentally changing the way we do business, and we must remain proactive and engaged in all the market opportunities before us to identify and leverage the many benefits and defuse and negate what could risk our historic legacy of providing renewable, reliable hydropower at the lowest rates consistent with sound business principles.

We have taken on a lot as an organization these past few years to evaluate the market developments in the West: energy imbalance markets, membership in the Northwest Power Pool Reserve Sharing Group, possible full membership in the SPP RTO for LAP and UGP-West, the CRSP/DSW combined transmission rate, our internal Organizational Approach to Markets initiative, the CAISO Western EIM Governance and Extended Day-Ahead Market Straw Proposal reviews and the Mountain West Transmission Group.

We are accomplishing all of these activities with existing staff and funds and continue to keep rates low, thanks to our commitment to continuous process improvement and other efficiencies that have streamlined our business model and allowed us to focus on the most critical issues facing WAPA today.

Our decisions regarding our future and specifically markets will serve the best interests of WAPA, the regions and our customers based on the unique needs and circumstances of each locality. We will continue to engage with all of you as we evaluate our options for the future and collaborate to create a bright and sustainable future for us all.

Thank you for your continued support of WAPA and our valuable mission.

Mark A. Gabriel | Administrator and Chief Executive Officer

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