Good day,

As the COVID-19 pandemic reaches new heights in America, we are taking additional steps to protect the health of our grid operators and Energy Management and Marketing Office staff who are still required to work within WAPA facilities.

Our key measures to this point have been to maximize telework for all telework-eligible employees and provide more space between desks in the mission-critical areas. These measures provided more manageable workplaces and limited exposure to COVID-19 while employees are at WAPA.

This week we provided operators and EMMO staff their own guidance to help them continue working as safely as possible while also complying with rules and regulations.

The Administratively Determined and Qualified Operators and Associated Support Personnel Performing Essential Work Social Distancing Plan identifies guidance and graduated mitigation measures, much like its Maintenance counterpart. Currently, WAPA is at phase 2 of four phases. Mitigation measures for phase 2 include:

- Implemented personal cleaning procedures for each Operator and their work area
- Restricted access to the control center to all non-essential personnel
- Purchased supplies necessary for future phases
- Gathered list of qualified personnel for contingency purposes
- Pursuing setup of alternate sites within each regional office to further separate operators to prevent exposure
- Non-control center staff are 100% telework

The stages build on one another so stage 3 would include all previous measures and add more such as:

- Leveraging alternate sites and split shifts/crews where possible to segregate staff
- Implementing self-testing (temperature) and health check questionnaire for all staff prior to entering the control center
- Suspending standards of conduct to expand operator pool and coordination on use of generation resources

The Power System Operations Council is continuing to work on a stay-at-work plan, if that becomes necessary in one or multiple control centers. This plan, combined with acquiring personal protective equipment and COVID-19 testing and monitoring equipment, will support WAPA’s continued goal to keep the Operations and EMMO staff and workplaces as clean and safe as possible.

Thank you for your continued support of WAPA and our important mission. We will continue to keep you apprised of new information and efforts as they are available. We hope everyone is well in your organization and that you continue to stay safe in these challenging times.