

Western Area Power Administration

Powering the energy frontier

The energy industry, particularly in the West, is experiencing a rapid transformation that will define the future of the utility model—wholesale and retail, transmission and distribution—for decades to come.

WAPA has a long and successful history of anticipating, navigating and pursuing industry developments that make sense for our customers and regions based on their specific needs while also remaining committed to our statutory mission of safely and reliably marketing and transmitting hydropower at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business principles. Some of these examples include:

- In 2015, Upper Great Plains' Eastern Interconnection facilities joined Southwest Power Pool Regional Transmission Organization.
- In 2018, we collaboratively explored multiple partnership and market options, including a new RTO in the West, in the Mountain West Transmission Group.
- In 2021, the Colorado River Storage Project, Rocky Mountain and UGP-West joined the SPP Western Energy Imbalance Service market.
- In 2021, Sierra Nevada joined the California Independent System Operator Western Energy Imbalance Market.
- We are currently transitioning Desert Southwest into the CAISO Western EIM.

WAPA continues to actively explore and evaluate current market options, such as:

- Evaluating full membership in the SPP RTO for UGP-West, RM and CRSP.
- Participating in the evaluation of day-ahead markets proposals, such as SPP's Markets+ and CAISO's Extended Day-Ahead Market.
- Evaluating expanding our participation with the Western Power Pool to include the Western Resource Adequacy Program.
- Participating in numerous transmission and market studies to analyze and model energy market scenarios involving the Western and Eastern Interconnections.
- And WAPA has recently joined the Western Markets Exploratory Group with multiple other utilities to focus on collaboratively developing long-term solutions that will improve market efficiencies in the West.

This is a long list and an exceptionally busy time for WAPA employees, yet this work is imperative to ensure we can continue to successfully deliver on our mission in the future.

We will continue to participate in the multiple market developments, studies and dialogues underway in the Western Interconnection. We may not end up participating in some of them, but our footprint is simply too far and wide to not be at the table and situationally aware when so many of our partners and customers are gearing up to make long-term decisions.

We remain committed, as we always have, to fully analyzing, exploring and understanding alternative ways of doing business to ensure we are making the best decisions for WAPA and customers based on our core statutory mission, regional circumstances and needs.

Through all our evaluations, we will continue to work closely with our customers, generating agencies and others to identify the best path forward that protects the value of our hydropower and transmission services, as well as our power system assets, for the benefit of preference customers and the nation.

Thank you for your engagement, input and support of WAPA in these busy times. Together, we will ensure a bright future for our unique partnership for many years to come.

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