

From: [WAPA Public Affairs](#)
Subject: WAPA Energy Markets Update – SPP RTO Federal Register notice
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 8:48:21 AM

BCC: Customers and Stakeholders

In collaboration with other major utilities in the West, WAPA's Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) and Rocky Mountain region (RM) are exploring full membership in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) and the Upper Great Plains region (UGP) is evaluating expanding its participation in the SPP RTO in the Western Interconnection. UGP's Western Interconnection transmission facilities are already under the SPP tariff, and its Eastern Interconnection facilities are already in the SPP RTO Integrated Marketplace.

Today, WAPA published a *Federal Register* notice (FRN) on its recommendation to pursue final negotiations regarding SPP RTO membership. WAPA recommends CRSP and RM pursue final negotiations regarding membership in the SPP RTO, and UGP expand its participation in the Western Interconnection. WAPA is seeking written public comments from its customers and stakeholders on the substance of the recommendation. Please tap or click on "[Public Comment Period Open](#)" for details.

The FRN does not represent a decision to join or expand participation in the SPP RTO. The purpose of the FRN is to provide an opportunity for written public comments to help inform the decision about whether to proceed to final negotiations. The FRN, background, basis for the recommendation, and explanatory material are posted in the documents section [SPP RTO Membership exploration](#).

Written comments received as part of this public process, along with WAPA's responses, will be posted after the close of the comment period [SPP RTO Membership exploration](#). WAPA will carefully consider all written comments received before the close of the comment period as we evaluate whether SPP RTO membership in the Western Interconnection will provide long-term value amid a rapidly changing electric industry.

WAPA anticipates deciding on whether to pursue final negotiations with SPP in summer 2023. WAPA will provide notice of its decision by posting on its website and sending a letter to customers and stakeholders. If WAPA decides to move forward with final negotiations with SPP, and those negotiations are successful, RM and CRSP will then execute SPP membership agreements and UGP will expand its participation in SPP. If an affirmative decision is made, SPP RTO go-live in the Western Interconnection is projected for spring 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A 45-day comment period opened on April 28, 2023, and will run through June 12, 2023. Please see the FRN for background information and instructions on how to provide comments. The FRN and the Recommendation Report referenced in the FRN are available [SPP RTO Membership exploration](#).

An informational webinar with a question and answer session will be provided:

Thursday May 11, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time

[Connection information](#) is available here

The presentation will be posted by May 4, 2023

The purpose of the informational webinar is to provide a summary of the Recommendation Report and respond to clarifying questions. Comments will not be addressed during the webinar. Comments must be submitted per the instructions in the [Federal Register Notice](#). A recording of the webinar will be posted approximately two business days after the event.

A follow up question and answer session will be provided:

Thursday May 25, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time

[Connection information](#) is available here

The presentation will be posted by May 18, 2023

The purpose of the second question and answer session is to provide an opportunity for entities to pose additional clarifying questions from the May 11 webinar. Entities that are not able to attend either session but have clarifying questions may submit them to SPP-Comments@wapa.gov by May 23. Questions (not comments) received by May 23 for discussion during the May 25 webinar will be addressed during that webinar, and a recording of the webinar will be posted approximately two business days after the event.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Comments will not be responded to during either webinar. To be considered, all comments must be provided in writing during the comment period which is April 28 to June 12. Please refer to the [Federal Register Notice](#) for additional information and instructions. Please note if you submitted a comment prior to April 28 and would like that comment considered, please re-submit that comment in writing.

WAPA will post comments and responses at the [SPP RTO Membership exploration](#) site after the close of the comment period and after full consideration by WAPA's Administrator and CEO.

WAPA will disclose other communications that occur during the comment period regarding the RTO initiative by posting them on WAPA's [SPP RTO Membership exploration](#) site. Additionally, WAPA personnel will continue to participate in industry activities and discussions regarding markets.

Thank you for your interest in WAPA's market activities. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure we are well positioned for the continued success of our mission to safely provide reliable, cost-based hydropower and transmission to our customers and the communities we serve.

If you have questions, please contact:

- **[Chrystal Dean](#)**, Vice President of Enterprise Portfolio Management, Office of the Chief Operating Officer
- **[Rebecca Johnson](#)**, Transmission and Power Markets Advisor, Enterprise Portfolio

Management

Office of Public Affairs

Western Area Power Administration | Headquarters

(O) 720-962-7050 | 24-hour media line: 720-962-7411 | publicaffairs@wapa.gov

--