



NWPP Operating Committee Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: November 5, 2025

Time: 1300-1700 Pacific Time

Location: Arizona Public Service:

2122 W Cheryl Dr

Phoenix, AZ 85021

Chair: Adam Labuga, TID (Present)

Vice-Chair: Calvin Dacus, TEP (Present)

1. Welcome, Administrative Review, and Introductions

- OC meeting was called to order by Chairman Adam Labuga at 1300.
 - Justin Butler reviewed the Antitrust Compliance Statement with members.
 - Break schedule was announced.
 - Emergency protocols were established (evacuation, 911, and AED protocols).
 - The OC conducted a brief round of introductions of those in attendance at the APS Office.
 - ChaRee DiFabio took attendance and announced a quorum was established with 31 out of 40 Participants present at the start of the meeting
 - *Please see last page for listing of meeting attendees.*

2. OC Recognition

- The OC recognized Kevin Conway for receiving the WECC Armando J. Perez Award for Outstanding Contributor.
 - Ryan Roy further expressed his appreciation for Mr. Conway's contributions to WPP and the OC.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - 08/06/25

- The OC reviewed last meeting's minutes, which were posted and sent out to all members.
- Chair Labuga inquired if there were any objections or updates needed to the minutes.
 - With no objections stated, the minutes were approved as they were written. **Approved by consensus.**

4. Review of Action Items (Justin Butler, WPP)

- Distribute an indication of interest document to OC members regarding BAL-007 services.
 - A poll was sent to members to designate a day to meet and discuss interest in BAL-007. **Completed.**
- Schedule a meeting with Members and internal staff to discuss interest in WPP services for BAL-007.
 - A meeting was held on October 20th, 2025, with WPP staff and OC members. **Completed.**
- Send out Mr. Roy's OC presentation regarding potential services under BAL-007.
 - Mr. Roy's presentation was emailed to OC and TPC members. **Completed.**

5. WPP Corporate Update (Ryan Roy, WPP)

- Budget & Financial Update (FY 24-25 Closeout, 2026 Budget, Q1 Results):
 - Reviewed closeout of FY 24–25, 2026 budget update, and Q1 FY 25–26 results.
 - Recap provided on how OC costs are incurred (direct costs and indirect costs).
- FY 24-25 Closeout:
 - Ended the fiscal year 2% under budget (~\$27,746).
- 2026 Budget Update:
 - Estimated costs are approximately 2% lower than the May projection.
- Q1 FY 25-26 Results:
 - Direct project expenses aligned with expectations, reflecting the benefit of Source.Training revenue offsets.
 - Quarterly updates will continue to be provided at future OC meetings.
- Follow-Up Items
 - Mr. Roy will correct and redistribute the budget presentation to accurately show subscription revenue benefits and updated allocations.



6. OC Charter Revision - Officer Status Clarification (Kevin Conway, WPP)

- Current charter did not explicitly address whether an officer may continue serving if the move from one member company to another.
 - Proposed charter language clarified that:
 - Officers are individual appointees to their roles.
 - If an officer moves to another member company and remains the designated representative of that OC member, they may continue serving as an officer through the end of their term.
 - The purpose of the revision is to provide clarity and ensure continuity of officer service. The proposed charter language change was reviewed as a housekeeping item with no controversy identified.
 - Original motion to approve the charter revision was made by Lewis Spencer (WAPA) and seconded by Wei Shao (BANC).
 - After further review it was identified that the original motion must be made by an OC Representative and not an OC Guest. The original motion was rescinded, and a new motion was made by OC Reps Al Austin (WAPA) and seconded by Wei Shao (BANC).**Approved by consensus.**
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7. Operations Training Subcommittee - OTS Update (Keith Schreiner, WPP)

- Q3 Metrics:
 - Strongest Q3 on record; second-highest quarter overall (behind Q2).
 - 7,227.5 annual education credit hours delivered in Q3.
 - Year-to-date credit hours reached **24,252** at time of meeting, already surpassing 2024 totals.
- Platform Usage Trends:
 - Increased use driven by new subscribing entities.
 - Members integrating the platform into seasonal/rotational training.
 - Platform now approaching 125 continuing education hours available once pending updates are implemented.
- Course Access Policy Update (NERC Rule Change):
 - NERC now allows operators to retake courses as often as needed.
 - OC Training Subcommittee adopted a modified approach:
 - All courses treated as “Emergency Operations” courses.
 - Operators may take each course twice per cert year, with a 90-day separation between attempts.
 - Training coordinators may override the lock for documented remedial needs.
 - 90-day lock applies even across cert-year boundaries.
 - Extensive testing completed; platform update expected after completion of SOC/security audits.
 - Members will receive 48-hour notice prior to implementation.
- Subscriber Program Update:
 - Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) and Southwest Public Service (SPS) are completing procurement/vendor setup; both expected to join prior to year-end.
 - WAPA – Sierra Nevada approved internally but paused pending federal shutdown resolution.
 - LADWP evaluating budget and contract options for potential subscription early next year.
 - Expected additions: Two new subscribers for 2026 start. Two additional prospective subscribers are targeted for early next year.
- NERC Test Prep Expansion
 - NERC practice test now largely randomized; ~3–4 unique test versions currently available.
 - Additional 150+ questions being added to further increase randomization.
- Course Collaboration & Work Group
 - CAISO collaboration underway on an “RC Perspectives” course, planned for release in 2026.
 - Development aimed at clarifying interactions between RCs and BA/desk operators.
 - New OTS working group was formed to explore QTD/QTS-style functionality within Source.Training to reduce dependence on external tracking tools.
- Course Development Status



- Recently completed/posted:
 - AC Fundamentals
 - Synchronization
 - RSG Tech 1 & 2
 - Operations & Planning Podcast
- In final production/post-production (expected before next OC meeting):
 - Power System Overview
 - Real-Time Assessment (RTA)
 - OPCP 2025
- Committee confirmed alignment with planned course work and labor-hour utilization.

8. Modernization of Standard Processes and Procedure Presentation - MSPPTF proposal for Standards Development (Rich Hydzik, Avista)

- The OC received an overview of NERC's ongoing efforts to redesign and streamline the standards development process.
- Key objectives include reducing project timelines, improving early technical vetting, and increasing industry efficiency and engagement.
- The proposal introduces a new Standards Initiation Request (SIR) process, expanded technical review through a new RISC subcommittee, and a standing pool of subject-matter experts to support drafting.
- The redesigned approach emphasizes early consensus-building, improved drafting efficiency, and a simplified balloting process with a single confirmation ballot.
- A fast-track pathway is proposed for urgent regulatory directives.
- Additional changes include restructuring oversight roles and potentially disbanding the current NERC Standards Committee.

9. Standards Development & Compliance Coordination Committee - SDCC Update (Kevin Conway, WPP)

- SDCC has been active for six months and has seen continued growth of participation in the monthly meetings.
 - Members provided positive feedback on information sharing and WPP staff efforts to keep stakeholders updated on ballots, comments, and standards activity.
 - The OC's prior authorization to form the SDCC has proven effective in improving coordination and engagement in the standards development process.
- High-level review and current status updates were provided on the following:
 - NERC Standards Activities, Projects and Workshops
 - WECC Standards Projects
 - DOE Letter to FERC - Large Load Interconnection Rulemaking

10. Transmission Planning Committee - TPC Update (Chelsea Loomis)

- Recap of Engineers Forum 2025, held in Spokane, WA in partnership with Avista:
 - Strong engagement and open discussion; decision not to record future sessions to preserve candid participation.
 - Event continues to serve as a valuable networking and training opportunity.
- Engineers Forum 2026:
 - Planning has begun for the 2026 Engineers Forum.
 - Event is expected to include both in-person and virtual participation options.
- Members were encouraged to participate in TPC activities and Engineers Forum events to support regional knowledge sharing and technical collaboration.

11. BAL-007-01 Discussion (Ryan Roy, WPP)

- 10/20/25 meeting included a review of the BAL-007 standard and discussion of potential member interest in collaborative support.
 - Some entities indicated they are well positioned to meet the requirement internally; others expressed interest in exploring joint efforts.
- WPP will distribute an anonymous poll to assess member interest in:
 - Participating in a collaborative group effort.
 - Receiving WPP support.



- Possible formats (e.g., discussion forum, lightweight study support, or other assistance).
- Any optional support effort with incremental cost would be funded only by participating entities, not through a committee budget.

12. Monsoon Season Presentation (Justin Butler, WPP)

- Presentation provided on 2025 monsoon storm activity across the Desert Southwest (AZ, NM, NV, SE CA).
- 2025 season was significantly more active than 2024, with storms lasting into early October.
- The Conclusion of presentation resulted in proactive discussion amongst OC members highlighting, System & Regional impacts, Operational Experience, and Operational Coordination & Preparedness.

13. Current Operations Update

- OC Members shared updates on summer load conditions across their systems.
 - TID reported loads well below the 2022 peak.
 - Utilities in the Desert Southwest experienced significant heat, with multiple utilities (APS, SRP, others) breaking all-time peak records several times in July and August.
 - PNM noted adequate generation relative to load but highlighted challenges during periods with low solar or wind output.
 - Several Northwest entities experienced a comparatively mild summer with loads well below historical peaks.
- Discussion noted that lower summer loads can reduce retail revenue despite operational benefits.
- SRP provided an overview of its demand response (DR) programs:
 - Residential and commercial DR programs activated during high-risk days.
 - Typical DR events last ~2 hours and can initially provide 300–400 MW of reduction before load rebounds.
 - Programs may be called up to ~25 times per year and do not require an EEA declaration.
 - Incentives include bill credits and thermostat programs; participation levels vary.
 - Entities discussed differences in DR capabilities, validation requirements, and customer-sign-up challenges.
- Members discussed use of demand response during EEA-2 events, resource adequacy considerations, and interactions with EIM/Energy Markets.

14. Action Items

1. Ryan Roy will correct and redistribute the budget presentation to accurately show subscription revenue benefits and updated allocations.
2. WPP staff send out anonymous poll regarding support for a workgroup focused on meeting requirements for BAL-007.

15. OC Elections 2026

- OC Vice Chair elections will occur in May 2026.
- Members are encouraged to express interest or purpose nominees ahead of the election cycle.

15. Adjournment & Next Meeting

- OC meeting was adjourned at 1700.
- WPP Meeting Planning for 2027. WPP is considering restructuring the meeting schedule to consolidate OTS, OC RSG and the Members Meeting into the same week.

Next Meeting

MEETING TITLE:	DATE:	TIME:
Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting	Wednesday, February 4, 2025	1230-1700
LOCATION:	VIRTUAL DETAILS:	CALL-IN DETAILS:
Western Power Pool Offices: 7525 NE Ambassador Place, Suite M Portland, OR 97220	Join via Microsoft Teams: Meeting ID: 226 750 820 276 1 Passcode: KJ3Jk6qR	+1 469-998-7653 , 4902566#



OC Meeting Attendance

Company or Agency	Name
Turlock Irrigation District	Adam Labuga
Tucson Electric Power Company	Calvin Dacus
Arizona Electric Power Cooperative	Robert Bray
Arizona Electric Power Cooperative	Katie Hardman
Arizona Public Service Company (APS)	Marvin Bradt
Avangrid Renewables, LLC	Nick Parlee
Avista Corporation	Gordon Harvey
Avista Corporation	Rich Hydzik
Avista Corporation	Cole Youngers
Balancing Authority of Northern California	Wei Shao
Balancing Authority of Northern California	Saurabh Monga
BHE Montana Wind Holding, LLC (NAT)	Marcus Brown
Bonneville Power Administration	Dave Brown
Chelan County Public Utility District	Peter Graf
Douglas County Public Utility District	Jeff Heminger
El Paso Electric Company	Gerald Markey
El Paso Electric Company	Abraham Garcia
FortisBC (FBC)	Tim Bodell
Grant County Public Utility District	Chris McDarment
Grant County Public Utility District	Nathan Anderson
Gridforce Energy Management, LLC	CJ Ingersoll
Idaho Power Company	Gary Slayton
Imperial Irrigation District	Kyle Bryant
Imperial Irrigation District	Alonso Teran
NorthWestern Energy	Ansley Kulseng-Hansen
NorthWestern Energy	Jonathan Cox
NV Energy	Sam Ashmore
PacifiCorp (PAC)	Wesley Murar
PacifiCorp (PAC)	Daniel Koppes
Portland General Electric	Brian McGuirk
Portland General Electric	Cory McAlister
Powerex Corporation (PWX)	Raj Hundal
Public Service Company of New Mexico	Camille Chavez
Public Service Company of New Mexico	Jim Colsen
Puget Sound Energy	Thomas Bagnell
Puget Sound Energy	Evan Sorrell



Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District	Mike Pfeister
Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District	Nikki Dubberly
Seattle City Light	Michael Jang
Seattle City Light	Paul Haase
Tacoma Power	Cullen Ritchie
Tacoma Power	Mike Grohoski
Tucson Electric Power Company	Stephanie Lopez
Turlock Irrigation District	Jim Emmons
Western Area Colorado-Missouri	Marc Desmarais
Western Area Colorado-Missouri	Patrick Reamy
Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest	Todd "TJ" Crimmins
Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest	Al Austin
Western Area Power Administration Upper Great Plains	Chris Bultsma
Xcel Energy, dba Public Service of Colorado (PSCo)	Richard McLean
Xcel Energy, dba Public Service of Colorado (PSCo)	Britney Azcona

Western Power Pool Staff

Western Power Pool	Justin Butler
Western Power Pool	Justin Cochran
Western Power Pool	Ryan Colyar
Western Power Pool	Kevin Conway
Western Power Pool	ChaRee DiFabio
Western Power Pool	Aaron Hammack
Western Power Pool	Ryan Roy
Western Power Pool	Keith Schreiner
Western Power Pool	Harlan Tallman
Western Power Pool	Jessica Zamonis

Observers / Guest

Black Hills Power	Denton McGregor
Imperial Irrigation District	Ismael Gomez
Imperial Irrigation District	Elias Mireles
Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District	Eric Guenther
Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest	Lewis Spencer