



Western Area
Power Administration

WAPA's New Office of Infrastructure Asset Management and Planning

**Briefed to
The Irrigation & Electrical Districts
Association of Arizona
(IEDA)**

**Bart Barnhart
Sr. VP & Rocky Mountain Regional Mgr**

February 18, 2025



Agenda

- Introduction
- Key Infrastructure Decisions
- Implementation Team
- Questions

Introduction

“It has become increasingly clear that our energy and transmission infrastructure landscape is entering a transformational phase and likely will for the next decade. The manner in which we approach our own long term transmission planning and construction ... going forward presents challenges in agility and efficiency, particularly as we face aging transmission and related facilities (infrastructure), unprecedented growth and evolving market demands. To continue our leadership in the energy sector and to position WAPA for the decades to come, we must evolve.”

-- Tracey A. LeBeau



United States Government

Department of Energy

MEMORANDUM

Western Area Power Administration

DATE: October 17, 2024

REPLY TO: Tracey A. LeBeau, Administrator and CI

ATTN OF: Infrastructure Organization and Organizational Realignment

TO: Senior Leadership Team – Heads of A0000, A0200, A0500, A0700, A2000, A7000, A8000, A9000, L0000, G0000, J0000, N0000, B0000

It has become increasingly clear that our energy and transmission infrastructure landscape is entering a transformational phase and likely will for the next decade. The manner in which we approach our own long term transmission planning and construction, while robust relative to our separate capital projects, going forward presents challenges in agility and efficiency, particularly as we face aging transmission and related facilities (infrastructure), unprecedented growth and evolving market demands. To continue our leadership in the energy sector and to position WAPA for the decades to come, we must evolve.

Our recent WAPA-wide organizational analysis, coupled with the invaluable feedback from our dedicated staff, and the abundant opportunities facing WAPA, have ignited a collective drive for positive change. As we heard from our staff, they want and need updated clarity on roles and responsibilities, fortified by updated written policies and procedures, to propel us towards a clearer, more aligned future. Our analysis and extensive assessment engaged over 600 colleagues through interviews, virtual talks, and surveys.

What we heard consistently is the need for more clarity, more alignment, and a unified approach that balances two critical and paramount propositions: instituting a cohesive, enterprise-wide strategy and respecting the unique strengths of WAPA regional authorities. Based on my own assessment, employee feedback, recommendations from an external subject matter expert, alongside conversations with everyone on the senior team, the following final set of decisions will be implemented in the coming months:

Creation of the New Infrastructure Asset Management & Planning organization:

- This organization will be WAPA's infrastructure strategy's center of gravity and excellence and will be established in the Office of the Chief Operating Officer (OCOO).
- Our new senior executive service (SES) position/leader, to be recruited and hired during Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, will unify our existing Asset Management and Long-term Transmission Planning functions. This will be achieved through functional staff re-alignment, integrating critical expertise, identifying, prioritizing, and implementing infrastructure projects.
- The new SES infrastructure leader will also take on the following strategy ownership roles: infrastructure policy and wildfire strategy.
- OCOO/Enterprise Portfolio Management Office will re-establish policy ownership for Construction Project Management to support a consistent approach to construction project management across WAPA. The COO will be the POC for re-establishing the

Key Infrastructure Decisions

Infrastructure Asset Management & Planning Organization



- Asset Management
- Long-Term Transmission Planning
- Infrastructure Policy
- Wildfire Strategy

Natural Resources Policy



- OCAO is the WAPA-wide Policy Owner
- Natural Resources = Environment, Lands and Environmental Compliance

Transmission Infrastructure Program



- Realigned to the OCOO, reporting directly to the COO

Construction Project Management Standards



- OCOO's Enterprise Portfolio Management Team will re-establish policy ownership

Aligned Training Functions



- Electric Power Training Center realign to OCAO
- Knowledge Management realign to OCAO

Regional Managers



- Regional Managers will report to the COO



Implementation Team



Implementation Team



Implementation Team



Implementation Support



Questions?

