



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION NARUC-NASEO TASK FORCE ON COMPREHENSIVE ELECTRICITY PLANNING TASK FORCE FEBRUARY 2021 ANNOUNCEMENT

When this Task Force was first being created by NARUC and NASEO, Commissioner Bob Burns (then Chairman of the Arizona Corporation Commission (“ACC”)) was very much interested in distribution and transmission planning. He was particularly interested in what was being done in other states. Chairman Burns was concerned that in Arizona the electric utilities may have too much control over the State’s Integrated Resource Planning (“IRP”) process. His concern arose from his belief that the ACC relied almost solely on input from the utilities, with very little input from stakeholders and the public that would be directly affected by the results of the IRP outcomes.

Based on what the three Arizona members (Bob Burns, Steve Olea, Kristin Mayes) of the Task Force learned from their participation in the Task Force workshops, they were able to develop a draft set of rules for Chairman Burns to present to the ACC Commissioners for their consideration. The primary portions of Chairman Burns’ draft rules were accepted by the ACC in its proposed new IRP rules,¹ which may be voted on for formal adoption in March or April 2021. These major portions of Chairman Burns’ draft proposal are:

1. Formation of the Resource Planning Advisory Council (“RPAC”) for each IRP. The RPAC will consist of members representing the public, utility customers, environmental groups, specific industries, and others as needed.
2. The utility’s load forecast, after input from the RPAC, will be formally approved by the ACC. Members of the RPAC can request special review by the Commission if they believe the utility is not acting in good faith.
3. The utility shall issue an All Source Request for Information (“ASRFI”) to obtain information regarding how best to serve its needs based on its ACC approved load forecast. The language to be used in the ASRFI will be approved by either ACC Staff or the ACC itself to ensure it is fair, open and unbiased.
4. The utility’s proposed IRP shall be based on the responses it received to its ASRFI.
5. Once the utility receives an ACC approved IRP, the utility shall issue an All Source Request for Proposals to satisfy the requirements of the ACC-approved IRP.

Chairman Burns believes that the above details in the ACC’s proposed new IRP rules would not have come about if not for Arizona’s participation in the Task Force.

¹ During the Arizona Corporation Commission’s Special Open Meeting on Friday, November 13, 2020, Commissioners voted 4-1 to move forward with publication of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. For more information, visit: <https://www.azcc.gov/news/2020/11/13/energy-rules-proposed-rulemaking-update>