

TEP RPAC Meeting Minutes - August 28, 2025

Facilitators:

Lauren Briggs (Director of Resource Planning)
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Meeting Purpose:

Kick-off of the RPAC process leading to the 2026 Integrated Resource Plan.

Meeting Focus:

- Introductions and stakeholder alignment.
- Overview of TEP operations and planning context.
- Establishing ground rules and expectations for collaboration.
- Discussing industry trends, sustainability, and reliability.

Key Themes & Topics Discussed:

1. Introductions
2. Stakeholder Representation:
 - TEP
 - o Resource Planning
 - o Business Development
 - o Communications
 - Local government
 - o City of Tucson
 - o Pima County
 - Military
 - o Davis-Monthan AFB
 - Mining
 - o Hudbay Minerals
 - Consumer advocacy groups
 - o AARP
 - o Arizona PIRG
 - o Interfaith Community Services
 - Renewable energy and Environmental groups
 - o Sierra Club
 - o SWEEP
 - o Interwest Energy Alliance
 - Nonprofit social services groups
 - o Interfaith Community Services

- Education,
 - o University of Arizona
 - o TUSD
- Economic development/Business advocacy groups
 - o The Chamber of Southern Arizona
 - o Arizona Solar Energy Industry Association

3. Ground Rules & Collaboration Principles:

- Emphasis on respectful, inclusive dialogue.
- Avoid jargon and ensure clarity.
- Prioritize transparency and trust-building.
- Encourage active participation and preparation for all meetings.
- Utilize RPAC email for centralized communication.

4. TEP Overview:

- Service territory covers Tucson and the surrounding areas with a diverse energy mix
- Significant projects include battery projects and various renewable energy initiatives.
- Community programs including Smart Rewards and energy efficiency incentives.

5. Reliability & Grid Operations:

- Noted that TEP's reliability (SAIDI) exceeds national averages; outage causes including external factors (weather, equipment) with significant investments in grid hardening (\$1.7B since 2021).
- Emergency protocols align with NERC standards.

6. Sustainability & Planning:

- Discussed TEP's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 and ongoing review of interim targets.
- Stakeholder concerns about transparency and commitment consistency.
- Importance of aligning long-term plans with real-world developments (e.g., data center growth, policy changes).

7. Topics for Future Discussion:

- Regulatory lag and its concerns.
- Review of REC (Renewable Energy Certificates) related to solar PPAs and the preference between owned vs. PPA options.
- Discussion on Transwestern pipeline capacity and BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems) interconnection near the flightline at DMAFB.
- Cost comparison of aspirational technologies for net-zero strategies and how they relate to Scope 1 emissions.
- Distribution reliability challenges, including outages and equipment availability.

- Discuss the feasibility of a hybrid meeting format, with APS having previously implemented a listen-only option.

8. Questions

- Does TEP hold the RECs associated with our solar PPAs?
 - o Yes, TEP maintains the RECs associated with our solar PPAs. TEP may retire RECs on behalf of retail customers with special contracts.
- Does TEP have a preference between owned vs PPA resources?
 - o TEP prefers to have a mix of owned and PPA resources. This helps to ensure TEP's access to credit, which is important for TEP's ability to pursue future resources and investments.

Next Steps:

- Next Meeting: September 30, 2025
- Focus: Integrated Resource Plan assumptions and planning process.

Action Items:

- Stakeholders to review these notes and provide feedback.
- Generate suggestions for future agenda items.
- Further examine hybrid meeting options for improved accessibility.

These notes aim to encapsulate the discussions and outline the next steps for effective collaboration moving forward in the RPAC process.