



June 26, 2017

Integrated Resource Plan
Public Advisory Group: Public Input and Requests
Meeting Date: May 25, 2017

1. Will the cost of Renewable Energy Certificates be factored into the least cost analysis where EPE falls short of the Renewable Portfolio Standard?
 - A. No.
2. Will EPE consider early closing of plants if it is cost effective to replace them with cheaper resources?
 - A. Retirement planning is a function of many variables. When an existing unit is approaching the end of its operating life, El Paso Electric ("EPE") will analyze life extension versus retirement. This review will consider various aspects of operating and maintaining the plant as well as the impact on cost of service.
3. Will you show specific cost information, any capacity constraints, transmission constraints, cost adders, and other parameters used in modeling resources as part of the presentation of the IRP draft 60 days ahead of submission to PRC?
 - A. Yes. As part of the Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") filing, EPE includes specific cost information, expansion unit characteristics, Operations and Maintenance ("O&M"), heat rates and other parameters used in the expansion plan optimization modeling. This information will be provided as part of the IRP draft and EPE will provide a table of modeling inputs for discussion as information becomes available.
4. Current Renewable Resources as a percent of capacity are listed at 5%. What percent of energy generated in MWh do they represent?
 - A. The "Renewable 5%" shown on slide No. 21 of EPE's kick off meeting presentations entitled "Existing Portfolio Resource Mix (Capacity)" represents 3 percent of EPE's 2016 Total System Energy Mix (MWh). As a reminder, this excludes Distributed Generation.
5. Please notify us when the RFP is issued and make it available to us.
 - A. EPE will notify the Public Advisory Group ("PAG") when the All-Source Request for Proposal ("RFP") is issued this summer and also when it is posted on EPE's website.

6. Please provide the detailed Loads & Resources table at the next meeting in the format that will be included in the IRP.
 - A. The 2017 10-yr Loads & Resources Document will be provided at the next meeting, July 6, 2017.
7. What tools/resources will EPE use to ensure accurate cost estimates are used for portfolio modeling given project scale having such a large impact on pricing?
 - A. EPE will utilize industry accepted sources for projections and will also compare to recently disclosed filings to verify reasonableness. EPE understands that impacts associated with economy of scale can affect cost estimates. The resources utilized by EPE in the past, including the 2015 IRP, provided utility scale cost estimates.
8. Can you show us the rates for community solar customers versus standard residential customers?
 - A. Community solar customers pay the same rates as other customers for their retail service. The Community Solar tariff is provided on the following link: <https://www.epelectric.com/community/2017-18-public-advisory-group-meetings>
9. Given the success of fully subscribing EPE's community solar project, are there intentions to expand the program in the near-term?
 - A. EPE is considering expanding the Community Solar program to New Mexico.
10. What is included in Native System Load? Please provide a list clarifying which customers are included and which are not.
 - A. It is a system value that includes retail customers in both Texas and New Mexico jurisdictions, and one full requirements wholesale customer in Texas.
11. Please schedule the Public Advisory Group meetings at a time when working people could participate. I'd propose the same dates but at a time of 5 pm or 6 pm. Please avoid attributing the larger turnout to the change in time. There is a very different level of interest in this process than there was 3 years ago.
 - A. The venues that EPE has booked for the Public Advisory Group meetings until now only operate during normal business hours. In addition, EPE has requested feedback from the Public Advisory Group and has received largely positive feedback on the 2 pm meeting time. For these reasons, EPE does not intend to change the meeting times for now.
12. Is the purpose of the Public Advisory Group "to help EPE develop its Integrated Resource Plan" as stated on page 4 of May 22, 2014 Kickoff Meeting or "to receive public input and solicit public commentary" as stated on page 9 of the May 25, 2017 kickoff meeting?

A. As described in 17.7.3 NMAC, the purpose of the public advisory process is to receive public input and solicit public commentary concerning resource planning and related resource acquisition issues.

13. Slides: print is often too small. When printing 4 to a page, make each larger, margins smaller

A. EPE will provide the slides in a larger format on the page.

14. Slides handout: when printing colors, choose colors so B/W photocopies are readable.

A. EPE will provide color copies if presentations are in color.

15. Would it be possible to produce the hard copy of the presentation in color since much of the information is graphical and color coded?

A. Yes. EPE will provide color copies if presentations are in color.

16. Rate hikes for solar – when will this be discussed?

A. Rates will be discussed in the August 3, 2017, PAG meeting.