



USDOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and
Programs/WAPA's Monthly Tribal Energy
Webinar Series
"Expanding Tribal Energy Development
Through Partnerships"



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY UTILITY AUTHORITY

WEBINAR PRESENTATION

TRIBES WORKING TOGETHER

OCTOBER 25, 2017

Agenda

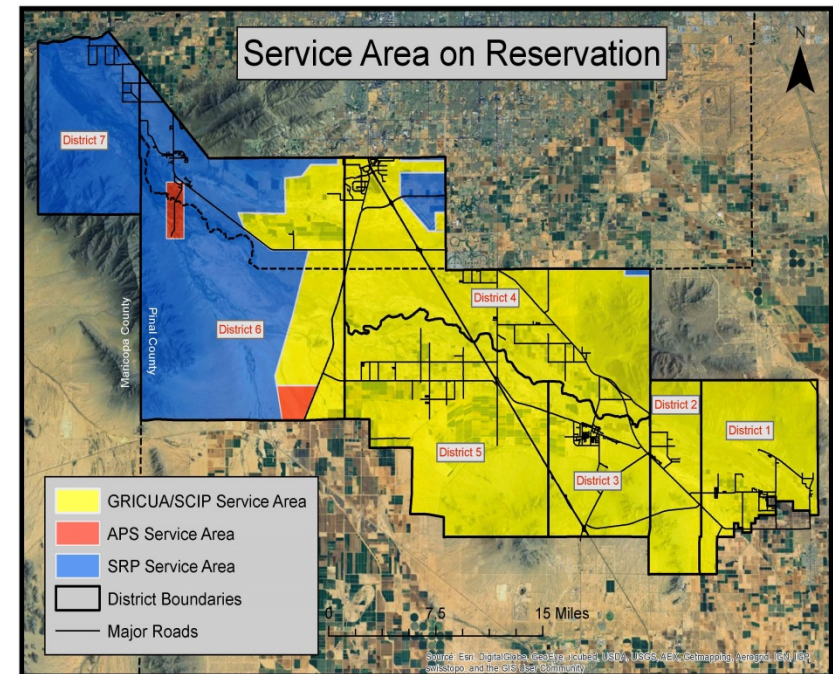


- What Is The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA)?
- Examples Of Organizations
- Why Join Electric Energy/Utility Organizations?
- Why GRICUA Has Joined Organizations?
- Why Tribes Can Benefit From Joining Organization(s)?
- Why GRICUA Joined SPPA?
- Why GRICUA Joined NRECA?
- Why GRICUA Joined ATEA?
- How Does GRICUA Interact With ITCA?
- Why GRICUA Joined IRSA?
- Questions?

What Is The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA)?



- An authority of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC)
- Provides electric service to Districts 1 – 5 and portions of District 6 as shown on map.
- Serves over 2,800 customers
- Service area is approximately 500 square miles
- O&M 414 miles of 12 kV;
85 miles of 69 kV and eight 69 kV to 12 kV substations
- Peak demand of about 36 MW
- Staff: 28 employees



Examples Of Organizations



- **National Public Power Associations**
 - The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
 - American Public Power Association (APPA)
- **Regional Tribal Associations**
 - Arizona Tribal Energy Association (ATEA)
 - Inter Tribal Council Of Arizona (ITCA)
- **Regional Non-Tribal Associations**
 - Southwest Public Power Association (SPPA)
 - Irrigation and Electrical Distracts Of Arizona (IEDA)
 - Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA)
 - Integrated Resources Scheduling Association (IRSA)

Why Join Electric Energy/Utility Organizations?



- **Pros**

- Strength in numbers
- Keep up-to-date on issues
- Share information
- Share costs analysis, studies, etc.
- Lobbying

- **Cons**

- May not understand tribal issues
- Cost of membership



Why GRICUA Has Joined Organizations?



- As a small tribal electric utility, GRICUA sought out organizations that could fulfil certain needs at reasonable cost including but not limited to the following:
 - Employee benefit services (Pension, health, etc.)
 - Information on industry issues
 - Group power purchasing
 - Pooling of power and transmission resources
 - Advocate for tribal issues
 - Operation & Maintenance

Why Tribes Can Benefit From Joining Organization(s)?



- Obtain information and knowledge about energy issues.
- Make informed decisions as to need for and level of involvement.
- Examples of possible important energy issues:
 - Serving utility rates
 - Serving utility reliability
 - Renewable energy
 - Tribal Utility formation
 - Energy pricing impact on water costs

Why GRICUA Joined SPPA?



- SPPA is made up of public power entities, including 3 tribal utilities.
- SPPA provides the following services:
 - Purchase Power
 - Planning
 - Transmission
 - Sharing Of Risk
 - Scheduling of power
 - Energy Imbalance

Why GRICUA Joined NRECA?



- NRECA is a national organization of electric cooperatives.
- The services GRICUA gets from NRECA membership include but are not limited to :
 - Information on national issues
 - Member services such as Pension, 401(k), medical
 - Board and staff training
 - Peer forums to discuss organizational, operational and maintenance topics
 - Reports and studies

Why GRICUA Joined ATEA?



- GRICUA was one of the founding members of ATEA.
- ATEA was formed in January, 2006 to fill a void – the lack of a tribal based electric utility association to focus on tribal energy issues.
- ATEA is open to all tribes.
- The purpose of ATEA is:
 - To promote the members' interests in Indian energy and utility matters;
 - To inform members about energy and utility-related regulatory, development, and policy matters;
 - To promote the members' interests in law and regulatory developments that relate to or affect energy and utility concerns on their respective reservations or in Indian country as a whole; and
 - To educate other tribes and the public about Indian energy and utility matters.
- ATEA works with entities such as the Western Area Power Administration, ITCA, and DOE to address tribal energy issues.

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How Does GRICUA Interact With ITCA?



- ITCA was established in 1952 to provide a united voice for tribal governments located in the State of Arizona to address common issues of concerns.
- ITCA's mission statement is, "To provide its member tribes with a united voice and the means for united action on matters that affect them collectively or individually"
- The members of ITCA are the highest elected tribal officials: tribal chairpersons, presidents and governors. These representatives are in the best position to have a comprehensive view of the conditions and needs of the Indian communities they represent.
- GRICUA interacts with ITCA through the Gila River Indian Community Council as well as through the ATEA to provide information on energy related issues.

Why GRICUA Joined IRSA?



- GRICUA has an allocation of federal hydroelectric power through Western.
- The IRSA was formed to schedule and pool this resource.



Questions?

