

RAILBELT TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION (RTO)
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Million, GVEA, called the Railbelt Transmission Organization Governance Committee meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. ROLL CALL (for Committee members)

Curtis Thayer (Alaska Energy Authority [AEA]); Arthur Miller (Chugach Electric Association [HEA]); Sarah Lambe (Homer Electric Association [HEA]); Tony Zellers (Matanuska Electric Association [MEA]); Travis Million (Golden Valley Electric Association [GVEA]); Brian Hickey [City of Seward]; Ed Jenkin (Railbelt Reliability Council [RRC]).

3. PUBLIC ROLL CALL (for all others present)

Jennifer Bertolini (AEA); Karen Bell (AEA) Mark Billingsley (AEA) Bill Price (AEA); Matt Clarkson (CEA); Jessica Spuhler (HEA); Kim Henkel (MEA); David Pease (MEA); Jon Sinclair (MEA); Kody George (City of Seward); Tina Grovier (Stoel Rives, RTO); Jessica Wright (Stoel Rives); Shannon Bleicher (Stoel Rives) Carl Monroe (Munro Advisors, LLC); Andrew Jensen (Governor's Office).

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Miller to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Zellers.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES – February 13, 2026

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Thayer to approve February 13, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Miller.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve February 13, 2026, minutes passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Open Access Transmission Tariff, RCA Docket U-25-028

Tina Grovier, Stoel Rives, reported the RTO had its hearing before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, which began on February 17, 2026, and ran through March 12, 2026. The RCA is now deliberating, and their decision is due June 4, 2026. She said she has matters related to this topic, budgeting the RTO certificate and next steps related to the OATT to discuss in executive session, the immediate knowledge of which could have an adverse effect on the legal and financial position of the RTO and/or the Committee members or that are confidential under State, federal or local law.

B. Technical Subcommittee Update

Jon Sinclair, MEA, said the Technical Subcommittee has made progress on the RFP for a regional/local benefit allocator and losses and now has a draft. The allocator and losses were discussed at length at the hearing, and the subcommittee is moving forward with getting that study together. He explained it is not ready for review by the Governance Committee as some parties still need to comment, but there are a draft and a list of what will be studied. He speculated there will be a draft for the Governance Committee to review at the next meeting.

Mr. Sinclair said the Technical Subcommittee is also developing some business practices, which are also still in draft form.

C. Tariff Subcommittee Update

Karen Bell, AEA, said the Tariff Subcommittee resumed meetings this week after being paused for a few weeks during the RCA hearing. The subcommittee will continue to meet weekly going forward to address business practices assigned to the subcommittee. She reported that this week, the subcommittee walked through a draft business practice establishing the process that the RTO would use to update the OATT or business practices in the future. The subcommittee will continue to work on this business practice and will also begin reviewing business practices related to RTO postings and filing service agreements.

Ms. Bell said once the subcommittee has a recommendation that recommended business practice will be presented to the Governance Committee at a public meeting. She anticipated the subcommittee having some recommendations ready in the April to May time frame.

D. Finance Subcommittee Update

Karen Bell, AEA, said the Finance Subcommittee also resumed meetings this week and has established a weekly cadence to deal with the business practices and protocols assigned to the subcommittee in the Gantt chart.

Ms. Bell said the primary focus for the Finance Subcommittee has been developing a recommendation for the fiscal year 2027 budget for the RTO, which will be discussed later in this meeting under new business on the agenda. She explained the proposed budget is for costs related to outside services for the RTO and is based on the dates proposed by the RTO in the Gantt chart. She said the Finance Subcommittee does anticipate the budget will have to be revisited once a final order from the RCA is issued in Docket U-25-028.

Ms. Bell said the Subcommittee has also begun to discuss processes for filing the annual transmission revenue requirements, along with the development of protocols, potentially including an informal challenge process. She concluded that the Finance Subcommittee would continue to primarily focus on evaluating and developing recommendations for protocols over the next couple of weeks and once the subcommittee has a recommendation, it will come before the Governance Committee with that recommendation.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Zellers to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential financial matters related to the RTO finances and legal strategy. This is consistent with our Bylaws, which allow the Board to consider confidential matters in executive session. In this case, the RTO believes that these are subjects that would have an adverse effect on the finances of the RTO and are being discussed with an attorney, the immediate knowledge of which could have an adverse effect on the financial or legal position of the Committee or are protected by law due to rules protecting personal privacy and certain business information. Motion seconded by Mr. Miller.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to enter into Executive Session passed unanimously.

- 8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 12:27 pm. (Bylaws Section 5.12.3) To discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which could have an adverse effect on the finances or legal position of the RTO, the Committee or Authority, or that are confidential under state, federal, or local law.**

The RTO Governance Committee reconvened its regular meeting at 1:31 p.m. Chair Million advised that the RTO did not take any formal action on the matters discussed while in executive session, except as authorized by Bylaws Section 5.12.2, to give direction to an attorney or negotiator regarding the handling of a specific legal matter or pending negotiation.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. RTO FY27 BUDGET

Karen Bell, AEA, introduced the proposed FY 27 Budget and explained the proposed budget is only for the cost related to outside services and is based on the dates proposed by the RTO in the Gantt chart. For that reason, at this time, legal costs are projected to be less next year because there is only one filing anticipated in fiscal year 2027. She said according to the Gantt chart proposed by the RTO, the initial cost of service filing would not be until October 1, 2027, and at the earliest August of 2027.

Ms. Bell said an order in U-25-028 that has the RTO filing sooner than the dates proposed by the RTO will require an increase to the legal budget. She said one item not listed on the budget for the RTO administrative costs are the AEA staff costs. She explained those AEA staff costs are not included in this budget is because AEA has requested an appropriation from the state to cover those costs until the OATT becomes effective. She said the purpose of that appropriation is to pay AEA's costs until that time. The OATT does have an administrative charge that covers

both contractual costs and AEA staff costs, but contractual costs will need to be covered by the cost share agreement that is in place until the OATT becomes effective.

Ms. Bell said the proposed budget also includes \$750,000 for the estimated costs of the studies needed to implement the OATT as proposed by the RTO, including a uniform tier study, a regional local benefit allocator study, and a loss study. She said these estimates will be refined through a procurement process. She clarified the RCA's final order in U-25-028 may change how, if, and when these studies are performed, which could also result in a budget amendment coming before the Committee.

Ms. Bell noted the money requested by AEA from the State of Alaska is for FY27, July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The RTO has funding for FY26.

Mr. Million summarized that the proposed FY27 RTO Budget includes study money that was not in the budget this year and reduced legal services costs compared to last year, but depending on the RCA final order in Docket U-25-028, the RTO budget may have to be modified after the ruling.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Zellers to approve the FY27 RTO budget as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Miller.

10. MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Miller expressed appreciation for all individuals that were involved in the RCA hearing. He said Tina and her team did a great job and appreciated their efforts.

Mr. Thayer thanked Karen and Mark for dedicating 4 weeks of their life to the process. He thanked the staff for the updates and the budget.

Mr. Zellers echoed the comments and thanked the subcommittees for starting work on the business practices.

Ms. Lambe also echoed the prior comments and thanked Tina and her team as well as the witnesses, in particular Jon Sinclair, Karen Bell and Carl Monroe who did a very good job on the stand.

Mr. Jenkin appreciated all the comments and expressed appreciation for the subcommittees and their work to move things along.

Chair Million echoed the prior comments. He noted the hearing was almost three and a half weeks long and recognized a lot of work and effort went in behind the scenes.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD

Chair Million stated the next meeting date is to be determined soon.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.



Travis Million, Chair



Curtis W. Thayer, Secretary

