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

• Cons
  o May not understand tribal issues
  o 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

October 25, 2017
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:
  o To promote the members’ interests in Indian energy and utility matters;
  o To inform members about energy and utility-related regulatory, development, and policy matters;
  o 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
  o 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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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?