

Regional Organization for Western Energy
(ROWE)
Office of Public Participation (OPP)

Purpose:

The Office of Public Participation (OPP) is an internal office of the Regional Organization for Western Energy (ROWE) tasked by the Board of Directors with addressing barriers to participation for individuals, entities, and non-governmental interest groups in regional market issues and governance by providing accessible, reliable, and neutral explanations of ROWE processes and issues.

Mission:

The OPP's mission is to empower, promote, and support public voices in ROWE processes.

Scope:

The OPP's work product will complement the detailed technical and policy work available and performed by other staff. The OPP will not be responsible for or affiliated with any ROWE decision making and will focus its efforts on providing neutral information about ROWE processes and topics.

The OPP will perform the following responsibilities, as resources permit:

- Prepare a primer explaining how to participate in the ROWE processes
- Prepare explanatory materials on a variety of topics and processes including ROWE Governance and Board procedures
- Produce neutral explanations of policy proposals and roadmaps for public engagement on specific issues
- Proactively engage with members of the public across the region by hosting in-person and virtual meetings, publishing documents, and producing other content through a variety of media to explain issues being considered at the ROWE and the methods for further public participation
- Engage in external communications related to neutral education (not advocacy)
- Periodically review the ROWE stakeholder and decision-making processes to ensure effective and inclusive public participation
- Develop periodic reports to the ROWE Board that will be available to the public on the results of the review of stakeholder processes and suggest improvements based on these reviews

Staffing:

It is anticipated that a single staff member will be hired during the first year of operations after tariff funding is available. That staff person will be initially tasked with developing a work plan, which will be posted publicly and made available for comment, to implement the above responsibilities, including prioritization of tasks and reporting structure. The work plan will include scenarios demonstrating what can be accomplished within the initial budget and a proposal for potential expansion of scope consistent with additional budget and staffing. A scope of activities and staffing will be approved by the ROWE Board and Executive Director.