



# Western Interstate Energy Board/ WINB

## *Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation*

May 14, 2004

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**Douglas C. Larson**  
*Executive Director*

Louise McCarren, Chief Executive Officer  
Western Electricity Coordinating Council  
615 Arapeen Drive, Suite 110  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108-0353

Dear Louise,

One of CREPC's goals is to foster open planning that relies on a database that is transparent and available for states and sub-regions to use in a variety of Western Interconnection (WI) analyses. CREPC's West-wide Resource Assessment Team (WRAT) has been working with WECC, SSG-WI, PacifiCorp and others to develop a database of information needed to undertake a wide variety of WI energy assessments. The database consists of detailed information related to system operation, including loads and resources, transmission system configuration and transfer capabilities. As a starting point, it relies on the load forecast for the five WECC subregions reported in the WECC Load and Resources Summary Reports.

One key limitation we have faced in accomplishing our goal is that the load forecasts provided to WECC by the control areas are not available to us at a level of detail needed for meaningful analysis. We feel strongly that in order to provide a consistent foundation for future regional analyses it is critical that the control area forecast information be made available to parties other than the WECC staff.

In the absence of this first-hand forecast information, parties, including PacifiCorp, the California Energy Commission, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and private consultants such as Henwood Energy Services, have had to resort to developing their own manufactured estimates of future loads at a meaningful level of geographic detail. It is not clear that any of these forecasts are accurate. Thus, the value of subregional assessments is undermined and they cannot be compared to one another because the forecasts are not those provided by the control areas.

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The data that we are asking WECC to provide are control area forecasts of:

- monthly demand (MW) data of actual year and ten forecast future years;
- monthly energy (gWh) data for the actual year and two forecast future years; and,
- annual energy forecast data for the remainder of the ten-year period.

CREPC and the WRAT stand ready to work as a partner with WECC and its staff in developing and maintaining a high quality, consistent and current database of information needed for a better understanding of key aspects of the western integrated electricity system. Members of the SSG-WI Steering Group have indicated they are committed to an ongoing effort to maintain the database once it is developed. The WECC Board has approved WECC staff making a proposal to SSG-WI for database development and maintenance.

Making sure the load and resource information in the database is accurate and representative of the WECC control area forecasts is a high priority for energy (gWh) assessments needed this year and for transmission planning studies SSG-WI will be undertaking in fall 2004. I am hopeful that we can begin to rebuild the load forecast portion of the database this summer.

If you have any questions or if there is anything CREPC can do to facilitate your coordination with the control areas, please let me know. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Marsha H. Smith  
Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation

cc: Doug Larson  
Bob Dintelman  
Grace Anderson  
Bud Krogh  
Dean Perry