

Draft
Minutes of the February 21, 2006
Special Meeting of the Western Interstate Energy Board
Salt Lake City, Utah

Board Chair Joanna Prukop (NM) called the meeting to order with the following members attending:

Alberta	Not present
Arizona	Lori Faith
British Columbia	Not present
California	Bill Chamberlain
Colorado	Not present
Idaho	Marsha Smith
Montana	Art Compton (by phone)
Nebraska	Not present
Nevada	Rebecca Wagner
New Mexico	Joanna Prukop
Oregon	Larry Gray (for Mike Graine)
Saskatchewan	Not present
Utah	Laura Nelson
Washington	Tony Usibelli
Wyoming	Steve Ellenbecker
Federal Representative	Not present

Chair Prukop (NM) reviewed the agenda, discussed the purpose of the meeting, and provided background on reliability issues facing the Western Interconnection and potential policy options before the Board.

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

The Board reviewed the staff proposed amendments to the Bylaws. The proposed amendments would integrate the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) as an advisory committee within the legal structure of the Western Interstate Nuclear Compact, similar to the framework for the Western Interstate Energy Board. Bill Chamberlain (CA) proposed an amendment clarifying the conditions and parties to join WIRAB. The Board discussed numerous other clarifying edits to the draft document.

The Board voted to approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws, as amended, to provide for a WIRAB. The following signatories to the Western Interstate Nuclear Compact voted in favor of the proposal: AZ, CA, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WA and WY.

Briefings On Emerging Issues

David Meyer, DOE Office of Electric Deliverability and Energy Reliability

David Meyer joined the meeting by phone and briefed the Board on DOE's effort to implement Section 1221 of EAct on National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC). Meyer described DOE's statutory mandate, meetings with the Western Congestion Assessment Task Force (joint project among CREPC, SSG-WI, and WECC), the recent Notice of Inquiry issued by DOE, and potential criteria to designate NIETCs. Board members asked Meyer numerous questions regarding corridor designation including: when the clock starts for potential FERC pre-emption of state siting processes; guidance on criteria for designating NIETC; and the timing of designating corridors.

Louise McCarren, CEO of WECC

Following the discussion of NIETC designation, Louise McCarren recommended that states should take more control of the siting process by developing a strong list of minimum requirements that constitute a filing of an application and exercise proactive preliminary filing or scoping meetings. McCarren turned to the issue of WECC's relationship with NERC as the likely Electric Reliability Organization (ERO). WECC has been negotiating a delegation agreement with NERC and has made progress in many important areas. She envisioned no unilateral changes or outstanding changes to the current relationship between WECC and NERC. Two key issues were unresolved at that time. The first concerns ERO oversight and control of WECC's budget. The second involves the authority to issue penalties for violations of reliability standards. McCarren hopes to complete negotiations with NERC before the ERO filing which is expected in early April.

Petition to FERC Seeking Clarification or Rehearing on Reliability Rules

Bill Chamberlain (CA) drafted a joint petition on behalf of the Western Governors' Association and CREPC to FERC for rehearing and clarification on Order 672 regarding rules for reliability provisions under EAct. The initial FERC order does not appear to provide a funding mechanism for Regional Advisory Bodies, such as WIRAB, that are available for other reliability entities under EAct such as the ERO and regional reliability organizations. Chamberlain interpreted FERC's order on this point as either an oversight needing clarification or an incorrect reading of EAct. The Board unanimously adopted a motion to recommending that the Western Governors file a petition with FERC for clarification and rehearing on reliability rules dealing with funding of Regional Advisory Bodies.

Recommendation to Western Governors to Create a WIRAB

The Board discussed and unanimously adopted a motion to recommend to Western Governors with at least one-half of their state's electricity load in the Western Interconnection to file a petition with FERC to create the WIRAB. Bill Chamberlain (CA) volunteered to draft such a petition that will be provided to WGA.

Proposed Comments to DOE on NOI for National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors

The Board discussed draft comments on behalf of the WIEB to the DOE's Notice of Inquiry dated February 2 regarding criteria for designating NIETCs. The Board reached general agreement on revisions proposed during the meeting. A revised version of the comments was to be distributed to Board members and subject to final approval by Friday, February 24, 2006. [*Joint WIEB Board and CREPC comments on DOE's NOI were filed March 5, 2006.*]

WIEB Activities

The WIEB Board agreed to discuss with the WGA Staff Council and Executive Director future requests of WIEB for assistance, particularly related to the activities the Governors may direct the Board to take to implement recommendations of the Clean and Diversified Energy Advisory Committee.

The meeting was adjourned.