



# Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

March 12, 2007

*Alberta*  
*Arizona*  
*British Columbia*  
*California*  
*Colorado*  
*Montana*  
*Idaho*  
*Nevada*  
*New Mexico*  
*Oregon*  
*South Dakota*  
*Utah*  
*Washington*  
*Wyoming*

The Honorable Joseph T. Kelliher, Chairman  
The Honorable Suedeen G. Kelly  
The Honorable Philip D. Moeller  
The Honorable Marc Spitzer  
The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Kelliher and Commissioners:

*John Savage*  
*Chair*

The Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) submits the attached advice to the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission regarding statutory funding of Western Reliability Centers under Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA).

This advice is in response to the Commission's technical conference held on March 2, 2007, and builds upon our earlier advice of October 6, 2006 on the proposed NERC budget and our advice of November 24, 2006 on the Western Electricity Coordinating Council's (WECC's) request for rehearing.

The WIRAB advice was unanimously approved by the 15 members representing Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Mexico.

WECC's Reliability Centers are central to maintaining the reliability of the Western Interconnection. There is no practical alternative to statutory funding of the Centers. With statutory funding and with the implementation of WECC's Reliability Center Strategic Initiative, the Centers will have an interconnection-wide view and be capable of backing up one another. They will be independent from host entities and other users, owners and operators of the grid. WIRAB will monitor WECC's progress towards implementing its Reliability Center Strategic Initiative.

Honorable Joseph T. Kelliher and Commissioners  
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WIRAB appreciates the Commission's willingness to re-examine the issue of statutory funding for WECC's Reliability Centers and to convene a technical conference to consider the detailed technical issues in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Savage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Savage, Chairman  
Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

Attachments:

WIRAB Advice

cc: WIRAB members  
John Moot, General Counsel  
Joe McClelland, Director, Division of Reliability  
Rick Sergel, CEO, North American Electric Reliability Council  
Louise McCarren, CEO, Western Electricity Coordinating Council