

Summary of November 20, 2006 WIRAB Meeting

The following members participated in the November 20, 2006 Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) conference call meeting and constituted a quorum:

British Columbia:	Ed Higgenbottom
California	Bill Chamberlain
Idaho	Marsha Smith
Montana	Art Compton
Nevada	Rebecca Wagner
New Mexico	Joanna Prukop
Oregon	John Savage
South Dakota	Dusty Johnson
Washington	Tony Usibelli
Wyoming	Steve Ellenbecker

Also joining the call were Rosie McMahill (Texas PUC), Tim Texel (Nebraska Power Review Board), Larry Chaset (California PUC), and Doug Larson/Tom Carr (WIEB)

Summaries of November 6 and 16, 2006 WIRAB Meetings

Tony Usibelli (WA) moved and Steve Ellenbecker (WY) seconded a motion to approve draft summaries of the November 6 and November 16 WIRAB meetings. Motion was approved.

Public Comments

There were no requests to make public comments.

Election of WIRAB Vice-Chair

Noting that the WIRAB Bylaws require the election of a vice chair, Chairman Savage (OR) opened the floor for nominations. Marsha Smith (ID) moved that Rebecca Wagner (NV) be elected vice-chair. Tony Usibelli (WA) seconded the motion. Marsha Smith amended her motion to propose that Rebecca Wagner be elected by acclamation. WIRAB members voted their concurrence.

Advice to FERC on Section 215 Funding for Western Reliability Centers (RC)

Doug Larson (WIEB) reviewed WIRAB's decision at its November 16 meeting to draft advice to FERC regarding the Commission's denial of statutory funding for WECC Reliability Centers (RCs). The advice would endorse the Western Electricity Coordinating Council's (WECC) petition to rehear the issue and argues that there are no alternatives to Section 215 that are non-discriminatory and in the public interest.

Following discussion of the draft advice, Joanna Prukop (NM) moved and Bill Chamberlain (CA) seconded a motion to approve the draft advice and submit it to FERC by Wednesday, November 22, provided that staff reviews the final WECC filing to ensure that it remains compatible with the WIRAB advice. Motion was adopted. Chairman Savage (OR) directed staff to seek the votes of the four WIRAB members who were not on the conference call.

Briefing on NERC's 2006 Long-Term Reliability Assessment

Doug Larson (WIEB) set the stage for a briefing on NERC's *Long-Term Reliability Assessment* by noting that this is not an immediate issue for WIRAB action but it is an issue of significant importance to the region. Bill Chamberlain (CA) noted that WIRAB needs to ensure that its work on this topic falls within its statutory obligations under Section 215(j) of the Federal Power Act. He also noted that the statute does not empower WECC, NERC or FERC to set resource adequacy standards. However, he did highlight that NERC has a Resource Adequacy Assessment Standard Action Request (SAR) pending.

Grace Anderson, chair of the West-wide Resource Adequacy Team of the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation, briefed WIRAB on NERC's *Long-Term Reliability Assessment*. She noted that difficult task NERC faces in developing such a reliability assessment for North America and believes the NERC recommendations are generally on target. She highlighted ten potential issues WIRAB might want to address, highlighting that the NERC Assessment:

1. Seems disjointed and is opaque regarding regional inputs and changes thereto;
2. Contains conclusions that cannot be tracked directly to WECC analyses/data;
3. Relies on load forecasts that have not been vetted with states/provinces;
4. Uses eastern-centric approaches to categorizing resource availability;
6. Applies proprietary (non-transparent) consultant data/analyses on the status of independent power producer generation;
7. Judges Western Interconnection adequacy relative to what some might consider "low" reserve margins;
8. Portrays uncommitted resource estimates that may be optimistic;
9. Aggregates results to four Western Interconnection sub-regions, potentially masking shortages; and
10. Contains conclusions regarding adequacy that could deter investment in the Western Interconnection.

Next Steps

- WIRAB agreed to move its next meeting from December 15, 2006 to December 18 at 2:00 PST / 3:00 MST / 4:00 CST To connect to all WIRAB calls dial 973/935-2026; passcode 311861. The agenda for the December 18 call is:
 - WECC briefing on issues of concern to the western industry in FERC's October 20, 2006 NOPR proposing to approve 83 standards proposed by

NERC. (Tom Carr (WIEB) reported on WECC's work to date to identify issues raised by the NOPR.)

- Review NERC's uniform compliance monitoring and enforcement filing which is expected to be filed with FERC in the near future.
- Review the NERC-WECC delegation agreement that will be filed by NERC shortly.
- Receive a staff briefing on germane issues raised in comments on NERC's non-governance compliance filing.
- A proposed December 4 webinar on compliance monitoring and enforcement will likely be rescheduled for a later date.
- Staff was directed to schedule a conference call for new WIRAB members to acquaint them with the organization, its responsibilities, functions and advice. This will likely occur in January after newly-elected governors and their staff's have taken office.
- Staff was also directed to propose a face-to-face WIRAB meeting in late March or early April. Part of the meeting is to be devoted to a strategic discussion of issues and priorities for WIRAB.