

Summary of August 25, 2006 WIRAB Meeting

The following WIRAB members participated in the August 25, 2006 conference call and constituted a quorum of current WIRAB members:

Arizona – Lori Faeth, Governor’s Office
California – Bill Chamberlain, California Energy Commission
Colorado – Drew Bolin, Colorado Office of Energy Management and Conservation
Idaho – Marsha Smith, Public Utilities Commission
New Mexico – Joanna Prukop, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources
Oregon – John Savage, Public Utility Commission
Washington – Tony Usibelli, Energy Policy Office

Ed Higginbottom (BC), Barry Smitherman/Mike Grable (TX), Ian McKay/Ann Denman (AB), and Doug Larson/Tom Carr (WIEB) also participated in meeting.

WECC Briefing

Louise McCarren, CEO of WECC, reported on:

- Potential difficulties that have arisen in reaching agreement with NERC on a delegation agreement in the area of the compliance enforcement program;
- Funding of Reliability Centers;
- WECC’s mock billing of entities in September;
- WECC’s outreach program to find parties that need to register (a good list should be developed by the end of October);
- Mandatory standards that would be ready to implement in the Western Interconnection;
- Progress in WECC contracts with Alberta and British Columbia; and
- WECC’s efforts to develop a report on the experience with the implementation of RMS standards, which WIRAB requested.

Approval of the Summary of the Last WIRAB Meeting

Joanna Prukop (NM) moved and Lori Faeth (AZ) seconded motion approving the draft summary of the July 21 WIRAB meeting. Motion was approved.

Staff Report

Doug Larson (WIEB) reported on:

- WIRAB’s request of WECC for a report on the experience with RMS implementation;

- Staff's ongoing review of the July 23 NERC budget submission to FERC (a staff paper will be available next week);
- Discussions with FERC General Counsel John Moot on the timing of future WIRAB advice to be most useful to the Commission; and
- The status of WIRAB membership (B.C. has sent a letter joining the WIRAB, letters have been developed but not yet sent from Alberta and Texas).

Tom Carr (WIEB) reviewed the draft staff paper on delegation agreements. Discussion focused on: the issues raised by Louise McCarren; how the delegation agreement contractual structure handles NERC rule changes; rebuttable presumption provisions; and WECC governance requirements on the board structure and committee voting rules (the WECC attorney is looking at this issue).

Next Steps

WIRAB members agreed that there would be value in a webinar on compliance and enforcement procedures. Staff was directed to outline the potential content of such a webinar and discuss with WECC and NERC their potential participation.

Staff was directed to explore with FERC staff and WECC a potential conference call/meeting on WECC Reliability Centers.

Staff will produce a draft paper on the NERC budget submission.

Staff was directed to develop a draft work plan and schedule to help WIRAB set priorities for the coming year. The draft will be available prior to the next WIRAB call.

WIRAB agreed to schedule monthly conference calls. The next call will be on Friday, September 22 at 11 a.m. CDT / 10 a.m. MDT / 9 a.m. PDT. The October call is tentatively set for Friday, October 20 at the same time as the September call.