

Summary of May 25, 2006 WIRAB Conference Call Meeting

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

California – Bill Chamberlain, California Energy Commission
Colorado – Drew Bolin, Office of Energy Management and Conservation
Idaho – Marsha Smith, Public Utility Commission
Montana – Art Compton, Department of Environmental Quality
Nevada – Carl Linvill, Public Utility Commission
Oregon – John Savage, Public Utility Commission
Utah – Laura Nelson, Governor’s Office
Washington – Tony Usibelli, Energy Policy Office
Wyoming – Steve Ellenbecker, Governor’s Office

Meeting Summary

Tony Usibelli (WA) moved and Bill Chamberlain (CA) seconded a motion to approve the Summary of the April 28, 2006 WIRAB conference call meeting. The motion was approved.

WIRAB Operating Proceedings

Bill Chamberlain (CA) moved and Carl Linvill (NV) seconded a motion to amend the WIRAB operating procedures. The amendment modified the section titled “Formal Advice from the WIRAB” to read:

“Submission will include:

...
Minority reports as needed.”

The amendment deleted the phrase “and determined by the process” from the last line. The motion was approved.

Draft WIRAB 2007 Budget

John Savage (OR) moved and Steve Ellenbecker (WY) seconded a motion to submit to WECC the [draft WIRAB 2007 Budget](#) as a working document to help WECC develop its budget filings to the ERO and FERC. The motion was approved. Louise McCarren (WECC) indicated that the WIRAB budget would be included in WECC’s submission to NERC.

Web-Based Seminar on Reliability Standards

Several WIRAB members expressed their appreciation and satisfaction with the Web-based briefing by Ken Diggs of WECC on May 23. A second Web-based briefing by Steve Ruckert is scheduled for May 26.

Schedule for Reliability Standards Approval Process

Staff outlined recent developments at NERC and FERC that will influence WIRAB activities. FERC issued a staff paper on May 11 that evaluated the NERC proposed reliability standards. NERC will file a response by June 26. FERC will likely issue a NOPR on reliability standards in September. The time period between June 26 and September represents an important window for WIRAB to advise FERC on western concerns.

Louise McCarren (WECC) provided an update on the progress of reliability standards development and approval process. NERC originally planned to have all 102 proposed reliability standards ready for implementation by January 1, 2007. Recent statements suggest that NERC may be putting its scheduled target dates back by three months. She also expressed concern that the NERC plan does not build in a one-year transition period for implementation, something that was very effective in the implementation of the WECC RMS standards. She is concerned that there are many small entities that need to be notified and made aware of the new standards prior to enforcement with penalties.

FERC Chair Kelliher will be attending the WGA meeting in Sedona in June. During this meeting, staff intends to organize discussions with FERC staff to discuss how WIRAB can communicate with FERC on outstanding issues without triggering ex parte restrictions.

Briefing by Bob Dintelman

Bob Dintelman, consultant to WIRAB, provide a briefing on his paper "Key Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Issues." Dintelman provided an overview of key issues in developing reliability standards, enforcement, and areas that the Western Interconnection may differ from uniform standards proposed by NERC. In response to questions, he agreed to provide more information on recommended priorities for the WIRAB. (See attached updated paper which includes a section VI..)

WECC Webinar for WIRAB

On May 23, WECC staff held a webinar for WIRAB members on grid operation. A second webinar was set for May 26. Feedback from the first webinar was very positive as members found the presentations and discussion very valuable.

Electricity Consumption Data

Staff presented a draft table of estimated electricity consumption in the Western Interconnection by state and province. Several members indicated that the draft numbers for their state seemed low and discussed possible explanations and the degree of importance such differences will make in WIRAB voting. WIRAB members were asked to provide any assessment of the numbers to staff which will explore discrepancies and proposed consumption numbers to be voted on at the next WIRAB meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the WIRAB will be held via conference call on July 7, at 1:00 PDT / 2:00 MDT. The next in person meeting was tentatively set for August 3-4 in Denver or San Francisco.

Attached: Revised paper “Key Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Issues”