

April 28, 2006 Summary WIRAB Conference Call Meeting

The following WIRAB members participated in the April 28, 2006 conference call and constituted a quorum of current WIRAB members:

Arizona – Lori Faeth, Governor’s Office
California – Bill Chamberlain, California Energy Commission
Idaho – Marsha Smith, Public Utility Commission
Montana – Art Compton, Department of Environmental Quality
Nevada – Carl Linvill, Public Utility Commission
Utah – Laura Nelson, Governor’s Office
Washington – Tony Usibelli, Energy Policy Office
Wyoming – Steve Ellenbecker, Governor’s Office

Ed Higginbottom, British Columbia Ministry of Energy, a prospective WIRAB member also participated in the call.

Motion to Intervene in FERC’s Rulemaking on the ERO Application

Marsha Smith (ID) moved and Tony Usibelli (WA) seconded a motion that WIRAB file a motion to intervene with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on NERC’s application to become the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO). The motion was approved.

Discussion of the motion led to a consensus that WIRAB needs to explore with FERC a more appropriate mechanism than interventions to convey advice to the Commission. However, until an agreement is reached with the Commission on the appropriate mechanism to convey advice, the WIRAB will preserve all its options by filing a motion for intervention.

WIRAB Operating Procedures

Tony Usibelli (WA) moved and Steve Ellenbecker (WY) seconded a motion to approve the proposed WIRAB operating procedures with two amendments. The amendments deleted proposed language requiring a description of options and detailed vote counts on formal advice from the WIRAB. The motion was approved.

WIRAB Budget

WIRAB discussed a proposed Calendar Year 2007 budget. Staff was directed to include several wording changes in a revised draft which will be circulated to WIRAB members. The objective is to provide a draft budget to the WECC Finance and Audit Committee in advance of its May 18 meeting. WIRAB members also agreed to include

some resources for independent technical advice on reliability standards. WIRAB will use such independent expert consulting services on an as-needed basis to supplement the technical assistance it receives from WECC. Staff was directed to identify potential technical consultants for the WIRAB to consider.

Web-Based Seminar on Reliability Standards

WIRAB accepted an offer from WECC to receive a web-based briefing on: the physics and operation of the grid; activities different parties need to undertake to ensure system reliability; a high-level overview of the existing WECC Reliability Management System standards, the NERC Version 0 standards, the NERC Version 1 standards; and an overview of how and why NERC is transitioning from Version 0 to Version 1 standards. WIRAB members are also interested if and where the delineation is made between reliability issues and economic issues when setting standards. Staff was directed to work with WECC to determine if the briefing and any other future briefings could be stored for future reference.

WIRAB directed staff to meet with WECC staff to determine if the first web-based briefing could be held at 1:00 PDT/2:00 MDT on Tuesday, May 23. Other future web-based seminars may be proposed depending on the utility of the briefings and the identification of additional topics,

Invitations to Join the WIRAB

Invitations to Alberta, British Columbia, South Dakota, Nebraska and Texas to join the WIRAB are being coordinated with the Western Governors' Association. Staff was directed to do further research on the appropriate party in Mexico to invite to join the WIRAB.

Review of Schedule of Events

Staff will be developing a schedule of expected actions by WECC, NERC and FERC that may drive the timing of WIRAB activities. Future activities may include WIRAB representatives meeting with FERC commissioners and staff.

Identification of Issues

Staff was directed to develop an initial list of potential issues the WIRAB may want to address and will include on the list the criteria for approving the formation of control areas.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the WIRAB will be held via conference call on Thursday, May 25, at 1:00 PDT / 2:00 MDT.