

## Summary of February 26, 2007 WIRAB Meeting

The following members participated in the February 26, 2007 Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) conference call meeting and constituted a quorum:

Alberta	Ian McKay
Arizona	Lori Faeth
British Columbia:	Ed Higginbottom
California	Bill Chamberlain
Idaho	Marsha Smith
Mexico	Marcos Valenzuela
Montana	Art Compton
Nevada	Rebecca Wagner
New Mexico	Joanna Prukop
Oregon	John Savage
South Dakota	Dustin Johnson / Brian Rounds
Washington	Tony Usibelli

Also joining the call were Tim Texel, Nebraska, Louise McCarren/Tom Schneider/Mike Welles, WECC, Pat Van Midde, SDG&E, Eric Olson, Navigant, and Doug Larson/Tom Carr (WIEB).

### Summary of January 26, 2007 WIRAB Meeting

Ed Higginbottom (BC) moved approval of the draft [summary of the January 26, 2007 WIRAB meeting](#). Tony Usibelli (WA) seconded the motion which was approved.

### Public Comments

There were no requests to make public comments.

### Status Report

Updates were provided on the following topics.

- Doug Larson (WIEB)/Bill Chamberlain (CA) reported on their February 9 meeting with FERC staff. FERC staff appears to be aware of WIRAB's issues. The impact of WIRAB's advice on the Commission's decisions is unclear. Larson/Chamberlain offered four avenues to improve the WIRAB/FERC working relationship: encourage FERC staff to participate in WIRAB calls; more frequent face-to-face meetings; FERC participation in the April 4 WIRAB face-to-face meeting; and requesting that FERC provide a written response to WIRAB advice.
- Marsha Smith (ID) reported on her recent discussions with FERC Commissioners, including whether and how the provisions in Section 215(j) that allow FERC to defer to WIRAB's advice could be implemented.

- Doug Larson/Tom Carr (WIRAB) reported on NERC's processing of WECC's request for approval of eight "tier 1" regional standards. NERC has not formally scheduled a Board of Trustees conference call to approve the WECC-proposed standards, although the NERC Board is meeting by conference call on March 13 for other purposes. According to the NERC CEO, NERC wants to see the nature of any comments received on the WECC proposed standards. The comment period closes on February 26. To date, only one minor comment has been received. In its February 8 advice to NERC, WIRAB asked NERC to approve the WECC standards by March 15 to allow time for FERC review so that the regional standards could be in place by June 1.
- Doug Larson reported that there are some links between Section 215 reliability standards and FERC's new 1200 page open transmission access order (Order 890). Staff will continue its review of the order.
- Doug Larson reported that to date NERC has remitted to WIRAB \$276,000 of the \$477,000 WIRAB 2007 budget.
- At the request of WIRAB members, staff is developing a tutorial on WIRAB (WIRAB 101). In the next few weeks staff hopes to have the material posted on the WIRAB web site and would be prepared to provide briefings to interested WIRAB members.

#### Potential WIRAB Advice to FERC on Proposed WECC Regional Standards

Staff was directed to develop draft advice to FERC in anticipation of the NERC Board sending the WECC-proposed regional standards to FERC in mid-March.

#### April 4, 2007 WIRAB Meeting

Staff was directed to extend invitations to FERC, NERC and WECC to participate in WIRAB's first face-to-face meeting on April 4 in Denver. See <http://www.westgov.org/wieb/site/wirab/wirabupco.htm> for details. Staff was also directed to circulate a proposed agenda for the meeting. There will be a dinner for WIRAB members the night of April 3. WIRAB members' travel expenses to attend the meeting will be reimbursed.

#### Next Steps

- The next WIRAB conference call meeting is set for March 26 at noon CST / 11:00 a.m. MST / 10:00 a.m. PST. To connect dial 404.260.1415; passcode 4290832. Likely agenda items include: approval of a summary of the February 26 meeting; updates on recent developments, including FERC's March 15 meeting, statutory funding for Western Interconnection Reliability Centers, and proposed regional standards for the Western Interconnection; review of a proposed 2008 work plan and budget; and potential advice to FERC on the eight regional standards proposed by WECC.
- Draft advice to FERC on approval of WECC's proposed regional standards will be circulated to WIRAB members in mid-March.

- A draft agenda for the April 4 meeting will be sent to WIRAB members by February 28.