

Summary of January 4, 2008 WIRAB Meeting

The following members participated in the January 4, 2008 Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) meeting and constituted a quorum:

Alberta	Ian McKay
Arizona	Lori Faeth/Jessica Youle
British Columbia	Ed Higginbottom
California	Bill Chamberlain
Colorado	Jeff Hein
Montana	Art Compton
Nebraska	Tim Texel
Oregon	John Savage/Richard House
South Dakota	Dusty Johnson/Brian Rounds
Washington	Tony Usibelli
Wyoming	Steve Ellenbecker

Also present were Jason Haas (TX), Louise McCarren / Tom Schneider / Steve McCoy / Steve Rueckert (WECC), and Doug Larson / Tom Carr (WIRAB).

Approval of the November 30 Meeting Summary

No objections were made to approve of the draft summary of the November 30, 2007 WIRAB meeting.

Public Comment

No public comments were received.

WIRAB Work Plan Amendment

Doug Larson (WIRAB) presented a staff proposal to amend WIRAB's 2008 work plan to begin an examination of the adequacy and reliability of the Western Interconnection given an expected large increase in renewable energy generation and gas-fired generation. The proposed work plan amendments would include:

- A webinar on WECC's 2007 Power Supply Assessment on January 30 at 4:00 p.m. CST / 3:00 MST / 2:00 PST. Members of the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation would be invited to join the webinar.
- WIRAB will develop and submit a study request proposal for WECC's 2008 transmission expansion study work. A draft of the study request will be circulated to WIRAB members for approval and submitted to WECC by the January 31 deadline to file study requests. The study request will include reference to distributed generation.

- WIRAB staff will solicit NERC for a briefing on the definition of an “adequate level of reliability.” This may occur in a webinar or briefing at a regular WIRAB conference call.
- Staff will seek the participation of the ad hoc coalition of western CEOs in the April WIRAB workshop. See below.
- In conjunction with the April WIRAB meeting, WIRAB will sponsor a workshop on the reliability and adequacy implications of changes in the generation fuel mix in the Western Interconnection. Staff was directed to prepare and circulate a proposed outline of the workshop.

As part of the work under the work plan amendment, staff will explore potential activities related to the adequacy and deliverability of natural gas supplies and gas/electric coordination activities, such as may exist under various El Paso tariffs and settlements. Staff will distribute the Colorado PUC report on the gas/electric outage in February 2006.

WECC Report

Compliance: Steve McCoy (WECC) highlighted the following items:

1. Letter for violations without monetary sanctions have been sent out. Other violations, which involve potential monetary penalties, need to be processed through the penalty calculator.
2. There have been no vegetation caused outages in the past quarter. Based on FERC’s insistence, vegetation violations will probably be assessed on a violation per day basis. The daily sanctions would continue until the right-of-way for that segment of a line meets all vegetation clearing requirements.
3. Regarding audits, WECC is receiving self-certification forms over the period January 1-10. WECC staff will do spot checks of the self-certifications. Beginning in March 2008, WECC will do table top audits of all types of entities.
4. The list of actively monitored standards will be increasing from 2007 to 2009. In 2007, WECC actively monitored 50 standards. WECC will monitor 65 standards in 2008 and all FERC approved standards in 2009.
5. WECC is making some progress in hiring compliance staff with the addition of two new compliance engineers in January. WECC is focusing on acquiring skills in specific areas (e.g., vegetation management).

Reliability Centers (RC): Louise McCarren (WECC) thanked WIRAB for its support for the establishment of the Reliability Coordinating Committee which was approved at the WECC December Board meeting. She reported that the Board’s actions will accelerate deployment of the new RCs. In January 2009, two new RCs will replace the existing three RCs, the RCs will be using the West-wide System Model, and the RCs will be fully independent of any utility host facility. WECC is developing a budget amendment that will enable WECC to borrow \$6 million in 2008 to fund the accelerated RC deployment. WECC will file the budget amendment with NERC and FERC. The

amendment does not involve any new assessments in 2008. McCarren requested WIRAB's support of the WECC budget amendment at NERC and FERC. Chairman Savage directed staff to develop proposed advice to express WIRAB's support.

Replacement Standards: Steve Rueckert (WECC) reported on efforts to develop a standard to replace the existing FERC-approved reserves standard. FERC directed WECC to develop a replacement standard in one year when it approved the Tier 1 standards. A WECC drafting team has developed a draft replacement standard but there is concern that the WECC Operating Committee may not approve this proposal. In case this proposal is not adopted, an alternative proposal is being drafted that would apply the minimal NERC version and "NERCify" the existing 5%/7% reserve requirements. WECC is holding a workshop on the replacement standard in Portland on February 6.

FERC Update

Tom Carr reported on key developments from FERC's December 20 public meeting that included the following: (1) a rehearing order on Order 890 affirming key elements of its original order; (2) approval of three new reliability standards (FAC-10, -11, -14) that establish methodologies for standard operating limits for planning and operations; and (3) issued the first license for a hydrokinetic facility. On December 11, the Commission held a technical conference on interconnection queuing practices.

NERC Update

Tom Carr reviewed the following NERC filings to FERC: a budget compliance filing on December 14; a compliance filing on violation risk factors on December 17; a filing on December 19 seeking approval of an interpretation of 4 reliability standards (BAL-001, BAL-002, BAL-005, VAR-002); and a filing of five INT standards for WECC to eliminate waivers of e-tagging requirements on December 26.

Future WIRAB meetings

- The next WIRAB conference call meeting will be on Thursday, February 14 at 4:00 p.m. CST / 3:00 p.m. MST / 2:00 PST.
- A webinar on the WECC Power Supply Assessment will be held at 4:00 p.m. CST / 3:00 p.m. MST / 2:00 p.m. PST
- WIRAB will hold a face-to-face meeting and workshop on April 2-3, 2008.