

Summary of February 14, 2008 WIRAB Meeting

The following members participated in the February 14, 2008 Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) meeting and constituted a quorum:

Alberta	Ian McKay/Bevan Laing
Arizona	Lori Faeth/Jessica Youle
California	Bill Chamberlain
Idaho	Marsha Smith
Montana	Art Compton
Nebraska	Tim Texel
Nevada	Rebecca Wagner
New Mexico	Joanna Prukop
Oregon	John Savage/Richard House
South Dakota	Dusty Johnson/Brian Rounds
Texas	Jason Haas
Utah	Ron Daniels
Washington	Tony Usibelli/Mark Anderson

Also present were Louise McCarren / Tom Schneider (WECC), Pat Van Midde (SDG&E), Armie Perez (CA ISO), and Doug Larson / Tom Carr (WIRAB).

Approval of the November 30 Meeting Summary

Joanna Prukop moved and Tony Usibelli seconded a motion to approve the draft summary of the January 4, 2008 WIRAB meeting. Motion was adopted.

Public Comment

Pat Van Midde (SDG&E) raised two issues related to registration of entities and compliance. As a result of the discussion, WIRAB staff was directed to examine issues associated with the registration of Harquahala as a Transmission Owner. Louise McCarren will also explore the issue with Pat Van Midde. Regarding compliance, SDG&E efforts to comply with self-reported violations has been made more difficult by delays in WECC reports on mitigation plans. McCarren will provide WIRAB with statistics on the status of mitigation plans and violation/penalty letters to registered entities.

WECC Report

Louise McCarren (WECC) reviewed current statistics on alleged violations, mitigation plans, and compliance audits. ([See slides.](#)) She thanked WIRAB for its support for NERC's approval of a 2008 budget amendment that will accelerate implementation of the WECC Reliability Center Strategic Initiative.

McCarren described WECC's expanding effort to understand the impact of large amounts of renewable generation on reliability. WECC is looking for staff to hire on issues relating to the integration of renewables.

Tom Schneider (WECC) described the process for reviewing transmission expansion planning study requests and noted that WIRAB's request will be a high priority for consideration.

FERC Update

John Savage reported on a February 7 five-hour meeting he and Doug Larson had with senior FERC staff. Savage noted that FERC staff:

- Supports implementation of the WECC Reliability Center Strategic Initiative;
- Is not concerned about the disproportionate number of violations in WECC compared with other regions;
- Is aware of the tension between significant penalties for violations of standards and the willingness of industry to consider developing new standards.
- Would like to see better resource adequacy assessments, including scenario analyses, and appreciates the progress made in improving WECC's Power Supply Assessment;
- Recognizes the need for comity between the U.S., Canada and Mexico in the setting and enforcement of grid reliability standards, but also believes it has a statutory responsibility to ensure standards in the U.S. protect reliability. Ian McKay (AB) noted the quarterly meetings between Canadian regulators and FERC and NERC's hiring of a new staffer from Ottawa to be liaison between NERC and Canadian entities.

Doug Larson added that FERC asked NERC to develop a definition for an "adequate level of reliability," a term found in Section 215. FERC is not requiring that the definition be filed and adjudicated at the Commission. The NERC Board approved the definition on February 12 and will make an informational filing with FERC. It remains unclear whether or how the standard, which is written in qualitative terms, will be used in the NERC standards development process. Per WIRAB's direction at its January 4 meeting, a webinar is being set up for NERC staff to explain to WIRAB the definition of "adequate level of reliability" and how it will be used.

Tom Carr reviewed FERC's final order on CIP standards and FERC's response to WIRAB's advice that the topic be remanded to NERC to enable greater comity with Canadian regulators. FERC approved the NERC proposed CIP standards and directed NERC to submit modifications to address specific issues. FERC elected not to remand the proposed standards to NERC, as WIRAB had proposed.

NERC Update

Doug Larson reported on the NERC Board of Trustees meeting on February 12 at which the Board:

- Approved WECC's 2008 budget amendment to accelerate the implementation of new Reliability Centers, and action which comports with WIRAB's advice;
- Approved a definition of "adequate level of reliability";
- Expressed growing concern about the impact of carbon limits and Renewable Portfolio Standards on reliability; and
- Considered a proposal to open the Transmission Owners and Operators Forum (TOOF) to observers from each of the classes represented on NERC's Members Representatives Committee. TOOF, which consists of some major transmission owners, opposes the proposal. The NERC Board asked the parties to work to develop a solution that they could act on at their May meeting.

Future WIRAB advice and meetings

- Early the week of February 18, staff will send WIRAB members proposed advice to FERC on the amendment of WECC's 2008 budget to accelerate deployment of new Reliability Centers. The advice will be similar to that provide by WIRAB to NERC.
- The next WIRAB conference call meeting will be on Monday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. PST / noon MST / 1:00 CST.
- Agreed to propose to NERC a one-hour webinar on the definition of "adequate level of reliability" tentatively planned for March 3 at 11:00 a.m. PST / noon MST / 1:00 p.m. CST pending discussions with NERC staff.
- WIRAB will hold a face-to-face meeting and workshop on April 2-3, 2008.