

## Summary of March 21, 2008 WIRAB Meeting

The following members participated in the March 21, 2008 Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) meeting and constituted a quorum:

Alberta	Ian McKay
Arizona	Jessica Youle
California	Bill Chamberlain
Colorado	Jeff Hein
Montana	Art Compton
Nebraska	Tim Texel
Oregon	John Savage
South Dakota	Brian Rounds
Texas	Jason Haas
Washington	Tony Usibelli/Mark Anderson
Wyoming	Steve Ellenbecker

Also present were Louise McCarren / Tom Schneider (WECC), Pat Van Midde (SDG&E), Rich Bayless (NTTG), Terri Eaton (Xcel), and Doug Larson / Tom Carr (WIRAB).

### Approval of the February 14 Meeting Summary

Steve Ellenbecker moved and Tony Usibelli seconded a motion to approve the draft summary of the February 14, 2008 WIRAB meeting. Motion was adopted.

### Public Comment

No public comments were received.

### Texas Event

Jason Haas reported on the February 26 load shedding event in Texas. A cold front moved into the western Texas between 5:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. causing demand to rise by 3,000 MW. Wind output decreased by 1,000 MW from the day-ahead forecast over a three hour period from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. At 6:40 p.m. generators held in reserve were asked to start their generators and interruptible customers were asked to drop load. The reserve generators did not meet anticipated schedules. The causes are being investigated. Within 10 minutes, 1000 MW of load was dropped by interruptible customers and voltage reduction was reversed. There was no need to use the emergency interruptible bids provided a few months earlier.

ERCOT had just started using wind forecasting models a month before. The models provided information that was more accurate than that provided by wind generators. Wind forecast modeling is being incorporated into ERCOT's operation. (A

more recent drop off in wind generation was better accommodated than the February 26 event.)

#### WECC Report [[presentation](#)]

Tom Schneider (WECC) reviewed WECC's work on compliance investigations (vegetation caused outages and relay problems are top priorities), table top audits, registrations, mitigation plans and staffing. More work is underway on standards and evidence to demonstrate compliance (See slides.) Several of the table top audits are showing no violations. About 20% of the mitigation plans being submitted to WECC have been rejected. WECC recently hired new staff and continues to search for open positions. Louise McCarren (WECC) said that the clean audit of one entity will be highlighted at the upcoming Compliance User Group meeting. Schneider reported that the issue of registration of Harquahala as a TO and TOP continues to be of concern. (Tom Carr reported on the Harquahala case as part of the FERC update.)

Louise 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. Bill Chamberlain reported that based on a call earlier in the day, the new RCs are on schedule and will be operational on January 1, 2009.

Chamberlain also reported that WECC Operating Committee approved seven regional standards. The WECC Board will consider approving these standards at its annual meeting in April. The standards were not as controversial as the voting procedures. One standard relating to automatic voltage regulation is likely to be debated at the Board meeting. The contingent reserve standard has been the most controversial, but it too received sufficient votes in the Operating Committee to advance the standard to the Board. The next step on reserves will be consideration of a Frequency Response Reserve standard.

#### NERC Update

Tom Carr reported on the February 26 outage in Florida which is being investigated by the Florida Regional Coordinating Council and NERC. The event was a category 4 on a scale of 1 to 5.

#### FERC Update

Tom Carr reported that at its February 20 meeting, FERC upheld its earlier ruling to register three entities in Florida as generator owners and operators. At its March 20 meeting, FERC approved: a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Nuclear plant coordination; an order proposing approaches for RTOs and ISOs to recover costs for reliability standard penalties; and an order requiring RTOs and ISOs to file status reports on queuing practices. Doug Larson reported that in another FERC action, the Commission approved NERC's proposal that WIRAB present its annual proposed budget directly to NERC. FERC stated, however, that WECC will remain responsible for

allocating portions of the WIRAB's approved funding to end users in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. This affirms current practices.

Tom Carr reported on Harquahala's February 4 appeal of NERC's decision to register the company as a transmission owner and operator (TO/TOP). By March 5, twenty-four entities filed interventions and/or comments. Key issues raised in this case are: (1) interpreting the applicable criteria to be registered as a TO/TOP; (2) whether the facility has a "material impact" on the grid; (3) whether there would be a "gap" in reliability; and (4) whether there is consistency among regional entities.

### WIRAB Annual Meeting

Doug Larson reviewed the agenda for the April 2 WIRAB meeting and the April 3 joint WIRAB/CREPC workshop on assessments. NERC, WECC and FERC staff will be joining the meeting. FERC identified two reliability topics they want to report on: work on cyber security; and coordination between the Reliability Office and the Office of Enforcement. WIRAB members were asked to email Larson suggestions on subjects that FERC should address at the April 2 meeting. It was proposed that Alberta, British Columbia and Mexico report on their approaches to standards development and enforcement. WIRAB will also be electing a chair and vice chair and reviewing the 2009 proposed work plan and budget.

The April 3 joint meeting of WIRAB and the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation will focus on WECC and NERC assessments (e.g., NERC's Long-Term Reliability Assessment, WECC's Power Supply Assessment, WECC's transmission expansion studies). The focus will be on the role of these assessments in evaluating the impacts of large amounts of renewable generation to comply with Renewable Portfolio Standards and potential future carbon constraints.

### Proposed 2009 WIRAB Work Plan and Budget

Doug Larson briefed WIRAB on the staff-proposed 2009 work plan and budget. He cited the following noteworthy changes from the current budget and work plan:

- Increased focus on assessments;
- Increase salaries to attract technical staff person while maintaining support from current staff;
- Decreased WIRAB member travel;
- Establishment of a \$100,000 reserve; and
- Reduced assessments in 2009 because of carryover from 2007, but increased assessments in 2010 as carryover disappears.

Larson also reviewed the assumed WIRAB priorities in Calendar Year 2009. WIRAB members were asked to provide staff with comments on the draft budget and work plan. The proposed work plan and budget will be discussed at the April 2 WIRAB meeting. WIRAB will act on a proposed work plan and budget in May.

Future WIRAB advice and meetings

- WIRAB will hold a face-to-face meeting and workshop on April 2-3, 2008.