

Summary of November 24, 2008 WIRAB Meeting

The following members participated in the November 24, 2008 Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) meeting and constituted a quorum:

Alberta	Ian McKay
Arizona	Lori Faeth/Jessica Youle
California	Bill Chamberlain
Idaho	Marsha Smith
Nebraska	Tim Texel
New Mexico	Joanna Prukop
Oregon	John Savage / Matt Muldoon
South Dakota	Brian Rounds
Washington	Tony Usibelli / Mark Anderson
Wyoming	Steve Ellenbecker

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

Summary of September 5 and October 29-30 Meetings

Lori Faeth (AZ) moved and Steve Ellenbecker (WY) seconded a motion to approve summaries of the September 5 and October 29-30 WIRAB meetings. Motion was approved.

Public Comment

Chairman Savage (OR) invited public comments. None were received.

WECC Report

WECC Proposed Revised Tier 1 Standards: Tom Schneider (WECC) reported that the NERC Board of Trustees approved 6 of 7 proposed regional standards. IROL 006 was tabled. The current status is:

- NERC staff believes four of the standards are responsive to FERC's 2007 Order, there were no substantive changes and thus these standards do not require extensive documentation before being sent to FERC.
- Two NERC Board-approved WECC standards require significant documentation. NERC needs to submit to FERC a compliance package that addresses 15 topics. WECC staff is developing a response for each of the topics.
- WECC staff held a conference call with NERC staff on November 21 on the tabled standard, IROL 006. Progress was made. However, if issues are not resolved by mid-December a meeting in WECC offices will be subsequently scheduled for January 6. In response to a question by Bill Chamberlain (CA),

Schneider explained that the disagreement revolves around different readings of the language on whether a transmission owner goes through various steps before shedding load. Schneider will provide WIRAB with the arguments WECC is making to NERC.

Schneider added that WIRAB's advice to the NERC Board of Trustees was very helpful.

Compliance Update: Louise McCarren (WECC) reported on the progress being made in reducing the backlog in the Compliance and Enforcement Management Program, including the "glide path" for reducing the backlog. Progress on processing mitigation plans is ahead of schedule; on-site audits are on track; off-site audits are lagging, but should achieve the goal by February; only two of seven settlements have been resolved but the rest should be completed in November, however as more notices of violations are issued, the settlements work load will increase; no hearings have been requested to date.

Reliability Centers: The deployment of the new WECC Reliability Centers is on time and on budget. Open houses will be held at the centers on December 8 and 9.

NERC and Regional Entity Performance Assessment: Under FERC regulations, NERC is to submit a performance assessment of itself and Regional Entities by July 20, 2009. As a first step, WECC is preparing a self review at the beginning of December. WECC will share that review with WIRAB. On January 8, the self assessments of WECC and other Regional Entities will be posted on the NERC website. Comments will be due on February 22. Staff recommended that WIRAB follow the performance assessment process and evaluate the implications of the assessment on the future of the NERC-Regional Entity delegated responsibility model.

McCarren also noted that FERC is auditing selected Regional Entities including FRR, ERCOT, SPP and WECC. One issue FERC is expected to examine is the separation of Reliability Center functions from compliance and other WECC functions. Based on the SPP experience, the FERC audit could be very time consuming.

NERC Developments

Doug Larson (WIRAB) reviewed recent developments at NERC, including staff's work with NERC to prepare the WIRAB element of a compliance filing pursuant to FERC's October 16, 2008 Order conditionally approving the 2009 proposed budgets for NERC, WECC and other Regional Entities, and WIRAB. FERC is seeking additional information on the proposed 2009 WIRAB budget.

NERC issued its 2008 Long-Term Reliability Assessment on October 24 and a Special Report on Electric Industry Concerns on Reliability Impacts of Climate Change Initiatives on November 10. After discussion, WIRAB directed staff to investigate a potential webinar on the NERC LTRA. WIRAB also wants to hold a webinar on the

findings from WECC's study of a low-carbon generation scenario. WIRAB requested the study.

FERC Developments

Doug Larson reviewed recent FERC orders (1) establishing a rulemaking process on WECC's proposed standard on automatic time error correction procedures, (2) establishing a rulemaking process on NERC's interpretation of frequency response and bias reliability standard, and (3) granting an extension of time to allow NERC to use its standards development process to develop violation severity levels. On October 16, FERC also revised its Standards of Conduct rules that should improve the integration of generation and transmission planning. The disconnect between generation and transmission planning has been a long-standing issue for western states.

Next Steps

- The next WIRAB conference call meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7 at noon PST / 1:00 p.m. MST / 2:00 p.m. CST. A draft agenda and information on how to connect will be posted on the WIRAB website <http://www.westgov.org/wirab/index.htm>.
- Staff will investigate the timing of potential WIRAB webinars on the NERC LTRA and WECC low-carbon generation scenario.