

Summary of May 30, 2008 WIRAB Meeting

The following members participated in the May 30, 2008 Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) meeting and constituted a quorum:

Alberta	Ian McKay
Arizona	Jessica Youle
British Columbia	Shelley Murphy
California	Bill Chamberlain
Colorado	Jeff Hein
Idaho	Marsha Smith
Montana	Art Compton
Nebraska	Tim Texel
Nevada	Rebecca Wagner
New Mexico	Joanna Prukop
Oregon	John Savage
South Dakota	Brian Rounds
Texas	Jason Haas
Utah	Dianne Nielson

Also present were Tom Schneider / Steve McCoy (WECC), Pat Van Midde (SDG&E), Rich Bayless (NTTG), Matt Muldoon (OR) and Doug Larson / Tom Carr (WIRAB).

WIRAB Chairman John Savage (OR) asked for amendments to the proposed agenda. [[staff slides](#)]

WECC Report

Steve McCoy, WECC Director of Compliance, presented an [update on WIRAB compliance and enforcement activities](#). The discussion highlighted the following observations.

- The greatest reliability concerns are relay maintenance and testing, vegetation caused outages, operator training, cyber security, and mitigation plans.
- Table top audit documentation has been good. There are more problems with documentation used in on-site audits. Many of these documentation problems arise from entities newly subject to regulation which do not have an ongoing body of evidence of compliance to rely upon.
- The biggest concern is relay maintenance where there are serious issues in the Western Interconnection. WECC has a disproportionate number of relay maintenance violations although the number of violations is decreasing over time.
- Progress is being made on vegetation violations.

- Violations are being grouped or put in “batches”. Batch 1 will include violations found in 2007 audits and vegetation issues. This batch of violations will be issued shortly.
- Several hundred mitigation plans have not been submitted, in part, because entities are not required to provide mitigation plans until a violation letter is received.
- Some entities, many of which are smaller entities, have missed deadlines for actions specified in their mitigation plans resulting from self-reported violations.
- Roughly 20 percent of mitigation plans are rejected. When a mitigation plan is rejected, WECC staff does an investigation. Mitigation plan investigations are not showing major problems.
- There are more violations in WECC than other regions because: WECC has a larger number of registered entities (27 percent of all registered entities), there are a greater number of registered functions (30 percent of total registered functions) in the WECC; WECC has regional standards which other regions do not; and there are more Qualifying Facilities in the West than other regions. The disproportionate number of WECC violations compared to other regions may still reflect the residual effects from WECC’s aggressive outreach efforts.
- WECC has submitted to NERC about 100 violations from 12 entities. Initial information on how FERC views violations will likely come first from violations in three other regions.
- Of concern is the higher number of critical standards being violated in the post-June 18, 2007 period compared with the pre-June 18 period.

Approval of the March 21 and April 2 Meeting Summaries

Bill Chamberlain (CA) moved and Jessica Youle (AZ) seconded a motion to approve the draft summary of the March 21, 2008 WIRAB meeting. The motion was adopted.

Shelley Murphy (BC) and Ian McKay (AB) offered corrections to the draft summary of the April 2 WIRAB meeting. Ian McKay moved approval of the draft summary with the suggested corrections. Marsha Smith seconded the motion which was approved.

WIRAB 2009 Budget

Doug Larson (WIRAB) presented the proposed 2009 WIRAB budget which was unchanged from the budget presented at the March 21 WIRAB meeting. Bill Chamberlain (CA) moved and Brian Rounds (SD) seconded a motion to approve the proposed 2009 WIRAB budget. The motion was approved.

Net Energy for Load Calculation

Tom Carr (WIRAB) briefed WIRAB on the proposed net energy for load calculations applied for the WIRAB voting rules. (Bylaws provide that WIRAB approval

requires the votes of at least one-half of the participating jurisdictions representing at least one-half of the load.) The staff-proposed net energy for load numbers were presented at the April 2 WIRAB meeting. Brian Rounds (SD) reported on potential alternate sources of data that could be used to calculate state-by-state net energy for load. Ian McKay noted that the Canadian share would drop from 15 percent to 14 percent under the proposal. Marsha Smith (ID) moved and Brian Rounds (SD) seconded a motion to approve the proposed net energy for load calculation. The motion was approved. Staff will examine alternative data for calculating net energy for load among U.S. states.

Public Comment

Pat Van Midde (SDG&E) suggested that WIRAB examine NERC's proposed budget for its phaser project that would enable NERC to see all parts of regions. She reported that there may be duplication between what NERC is proposing to do and what is already being done in the West – NERC costs that should not be borne by the West.

WECC Revised Tier 1 Standards

Staff reported that the WECC Board approved revised Tier 1 regional standards at its meeting in April. NERC posted the WECC proposed revised standards for comment. The comment period closed on May 20. WECC will be reviewing and responding the comments.

Bill Chamberlain (CA) recommended that WIRAB offer advice to FERC on the proposed standards. Chairman Savage directed staff to draft proposed WIRAB advice once WECC has responded to the comments received.

Long-Term Reliability Assessment (LTRA) and WIRAB's Low Carbon Transmission Expansion Study Request

Staff reported on two WIRAB priorities related to the assessment of the adequacy of the western power system. WECC has proposed an approach to studying the impact on the western grid assuming 15 percent renewable generation. As part of its 2009 LTRA, NERC has directed the regions to study such a scenario.

After discussion, Chairman Savage directed staff to circulate proposed advice to NERC regarding the approach WECC is proposing to use to evaluate the impact of a 15 percent renewables scenario. Because the NERC Planning Committee is acting on the WECC proposal on June 4, votes on proposed advice to NERC were requested by noon on June 3. (Draft advice was circulated to WIRAB members on May 30.)

Staff also reported on WECC's response to WIRAB's advice that the Council evaluate the transmission expansion impacts of achieving carbon reduction goals. In its study, WECC is planning to assume 15 percent renewable penetration, significant additional energy efficiency in accordance with the Western Governors'

Association Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative goals, and a carbon adder sufficient to achieve the carbon reduction study goal. WIRAB staff is assisting WECC in the execution of the study.

NERC and WECC 2009 Proposed Budgets

After discussion, Chairman Savage directed staff to prepare proposed WIRAB advice to FERC on the consolidated NERC and Region Entity proposed 2009 budget once the NERC Board approves a budget at the end of July.

FERC Developments

Staff reported on FERC's decision to approve the registration of Harquahala as a transmission owner and transmission operator.

Future WIRAB advice and meetings

- Comments on proposed advice to NERC on WECC's approach to evaluating the impacts of a 15 percent renewables scenario are due at noon on June 3.
- The next WIRAB conference call will be on July 10 at 10:00 a.m. PDT (Arizona time) / 11:00 a.m. MDT / noon CDT.