

Summary of the June 29, 2009 WIRAB Meeting

The following members participated in the June 29, 2009 Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) meeting, and constituted a quorum.

Alberta	Bevin Laing
California	Bill Chamberlain
Colorado	Morey Wolfson/Jeff Hein
Idaho	Marsha Smith
Montana	Tom Kaiserski
New Mexico	Joanna Prukop
Oregon	John Savage
South Dakota	Brian Rounds
Washington	Tony Usibelli
Wyoming	Steve Ellenbecker

Also present were Connie White / Brad Nickell (WECC), Pat Van Midde (SDG&E), Dave Warren (WPUDA), Matt Muldoon (OR PUC), Larry Chaset (CA PUC) and Doug Larson / Tom Carr / Jim Williams (WIRAB).

John Savage (OR) opened the meeting, and welcomed guests from WECC. He renewed the meeting agenda. Savage invited public comments; none were offered.

Approval of the May 22 WIRAB Meeting Summary

WIRAB Chairman John Savage (OR) asked for corrections or objections to the draft summary of the May 22 meeting. No corrections or objections were made, and the summary was approved.

WIRAB 2010 Work Plan and Budget

Doug Larson (WIRAB) reported that WIRAB needs to approve the proposed 2010 WIRAB budget for submission to NERC. The proposed budget was reviewed at previous WIRAB meetings. The budget reflects no change in labor costs from the 2009 budget; an increase in meeting and travel costs for two meetings per year; and retains a \$100,000 working capital reserve. After discussion, the motion “WIRAB approves the proposed 2010 budget that includes \$100,000 of working capital reserves” was made and approved.

WECC Update

Compliance and Enforcement Program: Connie White provided an [update](#) on WECC’s Compliance and Enforcement Program. WECC includes 463 registered entities (down slightly from the previous month) covering 1,243 registered functions (also down slightly from the previous month). As of late June, no violations in the Western Interconnection had been sent to FERC, but some are “on the way.” Thirty-eight violations by 14 entities have been sent to NERC, of which 11 have been approved by the NERC Compliance Committee but not yet sent to FERC. Two hundred

fifty violations from 22 entities are the subject of settlement agreements that are ready to be signed. One hundred sixty-nine violations from 22 entities are in the settlement process.

Critical Infrastructure Protection standards become applicable on July 1, potentially doubling the WECC CMEP workload.¹ White reports continuing uncertainty in the management of CIP standards compliance.

The Compliance Users Group is meeting on September 16-18. The CIP Users Group is meeting on September 23-24. The next monthly open mic compliance call is on July 16. WECC also has a compliance questions inbox.

Frequency Response Reserve and Flow-Based Transmission Management: Brad Nickell (WECC) discussed flow-based (vs. contract path) transmission management, as a possible means to make fuller use of the existing transmission grid. He is looking at examples (e.g. Southwest Power Pool has applied flow-based management) and at the software requirements.

DOE Transmission Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA): Nickell discussed WECC's [work to respond](#) to the DOE FOA, which will focus on the development of resource planning capabilities in the Western Interconnection, including the integration of variable resources, and the reliability implications of scenarios. WECC's proposed work will neither support nor derail existing projects; WECC does not intend to "pick winners and losers." The proposed WECC response to Topic A of the FOA will be considered by the WECC Board at its meeting in late July.

NERC Update

Tom Carr reported on the work of NERC's Reliability Metrics Working Group (RMWG), and its efforts to identify useful metrics of reliability in the bulk power system. The RMWG produced a report in May 2009, but the work is ongoing. The need for useful metrics was an early WIRAB observation.

WIRAB discussed the cost of cyber security audits of nuclear power plants. WIRAB directed staff to monitor this issue.

FERC Update

New Commissioner: Tom Carr noted that John Norris has been nominated as FERC Commissioner.

Demand response potential: FERC released a national assessment of demand response potential in June 2009.

WIRAB Update

Tier 1 standards: WIRAB reaffirmed that it plans to provide advice to FERC on WECC's revised Tier 1 standards once all the standards have been submitted to FERC by NERC.

¹ In the 2010 WECC budget, the CMEP budget is increased 35.8% from 2009, and CMEP direct costs are increased 53.5%.

WIRAB webinars: Tom Carr reported on several upcoming webinars being planned:

- June 30 on NERC's Integration of Variable Generation Task Force
- Beginning in July, webinars for utilities to explain how they used the Western Renewable Energy Zone model and identified their preferred renewable resources. This information is needed in WECC transmission planning and in future phases of the WREZ project.
- A potential webinar in August on WECC's draft 2009 Power Supply Assessment.

Next conference call meeting: WIRAB agreed to next meet by conference call on August 17 at 10:00 a.m. PDT / 11:00 a.m. MDT / noon CDT.