

Fall 2017 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel
One South Lake Street
Reno, NV

***Monday
October 16, 2017***

*9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
EIM-BOSR Meeting*

*1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting*

***Tuesday
October 17, 2017***

*8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting*

*12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Women in Energy Lunch*

Monday October 16th Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

1:00 – 1:15 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**

- John Chatburn, co-Chair of CREPC
- Travis Kavulla, co-Chair of CREPC

1:15 – 3:30 p.m. **Utility Third-Party Contracting & the Future of Independent Power Producers**

Western utilities have typically relied on rate-based generation to achieve resource adequacy, as identified through an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). However, the practice of forward contracting with another utility with a surplus of capacity, an independent power producer (IPP), or a bank and other counterparties participating in the wholesale power market has also been an avenue to make ends meet for a utility's long-term supply/demand equilibrium. A review of recent utility IRPs suggests an increasing reliance on this type of arrangement for resource adequacy. This two-part panel asks questions directed at those buying power and those selling it in these arrangements. How should third-party arrangements be considered in an IRP and utility procurement process? What are the differences between third-party arrangements: take-or-pay PPAs vs. renewable PPAs vs. unit-specific tolling? What are the specific benefits and risks of each type of arrangement? What are the policy considerations associated with forward contracting? Should commissions require utilities to "test the market" for available resources before allowing a rate-base project to proceed? How do utilities "test the market"?

1:15- 1:35 p.m. **Introduction: Overview of Contractual Arrangements**

- Harry Singh, Vice President, Goldman Sachs and Chairman of WSPP

1:35-2:35 p.m.

Part I: Buyers

- Justin Thompson, Director Resource Operations and Trading, Arizona Public Service
- Chad Teply, Vice President, Strategy and Development, Pacific Power [[pdf](#)]
- David Mills, Senior Vice President, Energy Operations, Puget Sound Energy
- Frank Mossburg, Managing Director, Bates White Economic Consulting

2:35 - 3:30 p.m.

Part II: Sellers

- Steven Schleimer, Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Calpine [[pdf](#)]
- Kevin Nordt, General Manager, Grant PUD
- Bryce Freeman, Administrator, Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate [[pdf](#)]

3:30-3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Mountain West Transmission Group & SPP Market Expansion

The Mountain West participants and the Southwest Power Pool will discuss plans for a centralized regional wholesale power market covering the service areas of the Mountain West entities. The discussion will include an overview of MWTG's proposal to join SPP and specific aspects of the negotiated bargain, such as reserved filing rights for transmission owners, governance, cost allocation and stakeholder process.

- Steve Beuning, Director, Market Operations, Xcel Energy
- Sam Loudenslager, Principal Regulatory Analyst, SPP [[pdf](#)]
- Jennifer Gardner, Staff Attorney, Western Resource Advocates [[pdf](#)]
- Rebecca Wagner, President, Wagner Strategies
- Phillip Jones, President, Phil Jones Consulting LLC

5:00 p.m.

Recess

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7:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

8:00 – 9:15 a.m. **Retail Customer Choice and Direct Access**

Customer choice of a retail electricity supplier is re-emerging as an important regulatory matter in Western states. The panel will consider the different forms that retail choice can take and key issues for each. In addition, the panel will address how utilities and utility commissions are responding to key issues. How are transition fees to leave the system calculated? What are the notice requirements for returning to the system? What are the implications for utility resource planning? What requirements exist for resource adequacy?

- Joshua Weber, NV Choice Initiative, Davison Van Cleve [\[pdf\]](#)
- Sam Castor, Vice President & Deputy General Counsel, Switch Ltd.
- Michael Picker, Commissioner, CA Public Utility Commission
- Ann Rendahl, Commissioner, WA Utilities & Transportation Commission [\[pdf\]](#)

9:15 – 10:30 a.m. **Interventions in Coal Plant Closures**

With announced coal plant closures in the West, states are employing and considering a variety of strategies to ameliorate the societal effects. What measures are states and provinces considering? One proposed strategy is to reduce utility cost recovery of existing coal units by shifting to 100 percent debt financing and using a portion of the cost savings to help rural communities. Is this a promising strategy? What plans are local and state governments making and what other strategies are being considered?

- Christine Lazaruk, Executive Director, Strategy and Integration, Alberta Energy
- Jeff Fox, Montana Policy Manager, Renewable Northwest [\[pdf\]](#)
- Travis Greenwalt, Principal & Senior Economist, Highland Economics [\[pdf\]](#)
- Harriet Moyer Aptekar, Climate Initiative, Crest Consulting [\[pdf\]](#)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 – 12:00 p.m. **Energy Storage in Integrated Resource Plans**

How are utilities in the West evaluating hybrid resources like energy storage in the Integrated Resource Planning process and what guidance are their PUCs providing? What methods of evaluation and modeling tools are being used by utilities or proposed by PUCs? Are these efficiently and effectively capturing the costs and benefits of the resources system wide?

- Jeremy Twitchell, Energy Policy Advisor, WA UTC
- Elaine Hart, Power Analyst, Portland General Electric
- Lee Alter, Senior Resource Planner, Fuels and Resource Planning, Tucson Electric Power [\[pdf\]](#)
- Robert Rudd, Director Energy Storage and Microgrids, Tesla [\[pdf\]](#)

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 – 2:15 p.m. **Update on Federal Activities**

Representatives of federal agencies will provide updates on the many changes taking place in the U. S Government.

- Christopher Thomas, Manager, Division of Electric Power Regulation-West, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Travis Fisher, Senior Advisor, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy

2:15 – 3:15 p.m. **The Future of Baseload in the West**

DOE has performed a staff review assessing the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid and providing an overview of the evolution of electric markets. Key findings of the staff report are that changing circumstances are challenging wholesale power markets; wholesale power markets do recognize and provide for reliability, but must evolve to better address resiliency; and a combination of market and policy forces have accelerated the closure of a significant number of traditional baseload power plants and may potentially harm grid reliability and resilience. This has stimulated a debate over the assumptions upon which the report is based. Panelists will discuss the assumptions, methodology and conclusions of the DOE Staff Report on Electricity Markets and Reliability as it relates to the Western Interconnection and the results of other research relevant to the questions that it raises.

- Travis Fisher, Senior Advisor, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy [\[pdf\]](#)
- Susan Tierney, Senior Advisor, Analysis Group [\[pdf\]](#)
- Alison Silverstein, Independent Consultant [\[pdf\]](#)

Background: DOE Staff Report on Electricity Markets and Reliability
summary [pdf](#) | full report [pdf](#)

WIRAB Comments on DOE Staff Report [pdf](#)

The Role of Coal in the West (WIEB-Stanford) [pdf](#) | [video](#)

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. **Break**

3:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Western Energy Imbalance Market and California ISO Market Expansion**

The California General Assembly and CAISO consider plans for a centralized regional wholesale power market with a footprint extending beyond California while the Western Energy Imbalance Market continues to add participants such as Powerex and Portland General Electric. Topics of discussion will include an update on EIM growth and what it means for the market and the status of plans for extending the wholesale power market.

- Stacey Crowley, Vice President of Regional and Federal Affairs, CAISO

3:45 – 4:00 p.m. **Important Contributions of the Canadian Provinces to the Western Interconnection**

Exports of electricity from Alberta and British Columbia to the Western United States were significant in 2016. This trade provided economic benefits to U.S. customers in the form of lower overall retail rates. Generation in the Western Canadian provinces also provides important essential reliability services to the entire Western Interconnection. This presentation will highlight the important contributions of Alberta and British Columbia to Western electricity markets and serve as an invitation to attend the Spring 2018 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

- Christine Lazaruk, Executive Director, Strategy and Integration, Alberta Energy
- Amy Sopinka, Director, Transmission & Interjurisdictional Branch, Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources, British Columbia

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Weak Grid Issues in the West**

An important foundation for grid reliability and stability is grid strength. Strong grids are better able to survive faults on the system. With high penetrations of inverter-based technologies, such as wind, PV, batteries, etc., fewer conventional generators will be online and able to provide short-circuit strength to the system. Additionally, today's inverters depend on grid strength to

operate stably. Areas that have high penetrations of inverter-based resources and few synchronous resources may therefore be at risk. We will discuss at what point issues start arising, how to know which operating conditions put the grid at risk, and what can be done to mitigate these challenges.

- Debra Lew, GE Energy Consulting [[pdf](#)]
- John Schmall, ERCOT [[pdf](#)]
- Sebastian Achilles, GE Energy Consulting [[pdf](#)]

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn