

WIRAB Monthly Meeting

February 2, 2023



Introductions



Outline



- **WECC Activities:**
 - WECC Announcements
 - WIRAB Advice WECC's Role in Transmission Planning
- **Upcoming WIRAB Meetings**

WECC Announcements



- Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy Webinar
 - **Today** Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. MT
 - Focused for state regulators and policymakers
- WECC Board of Directors Meeting and Associated Meetings
 - March 7-8, 2023 in Salt Lake City, UT

WECC Transmission Planning Roles

Opportunity	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed
Data collection, compilation, and distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of model development Critical to WECC and stakeholder study efforts Centralized effort 	Certain efforts may not be directly in line with reliability objectives	Dependent on scope of work (0 to several new FTEs, power system modeling software, contracted services)
Support for longer-term transmission planning	Uses WECC's coordination and model development functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible duplication of effort Complexity of uncertainty Limited benefits 	1 to 2 new FTEs
Interconnection-wide transmission trends assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top-down assessment approach Complements existing processes 	New approach to planning—process and information needs not yet known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot in 2023 Possibly 2 new FTEs
Training	Can be built on existing processes (e.g., model building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competing with existing training programs Identification of specific interconnection-wide training needs 	1 new FTE

WECC Transmission Planning Roles (cont.)

Opportunity	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed
Engagement in state and federal approval processes	Uses WECC's interconnection-wide perspective and coordination abilities	Not in WECC's typical scope of reliability work	Dependent on scope of work (0 to several new FTEs)
Understanding of new technologies/techniques (e.g., DLR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May lead to modeling enhancements • Increased sensitivity analysis 	Modeling complexity and assumptions for planning models	Could be considered part of transmission trends assessment, but could also be one-off scenarios requiring contractor funding
Enhanced Project Coordination processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases stakeholder engagement in Project Coordination • Predefined process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible duplication of effort • Voluntary nature of existing process 	1 FTE and engagement from RAC

Proposed WIRAB Advice: Principles



- **Principles:**

Focus West-wide	Contribute Meaningfully	Driven by WECC	Utilize Best Practices	Leverage Staff Expertise	Maintain Independence	Support Reliability	WIRAB Rank
--------------------	----------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	---------------

- **Key:**
 - ✓ Opportunity Meets Principle
 - ☒ Opportunity Negatively Impacts Principle
 - Opportunity Neither Positively nor Negatively Addresses the Principle
- **WIRAB Rank:** High; Medium; Low

Proposed WIRAB Advice: Opportunities to Support



- **Data Collection, Compilation, and Distribution**

Focus West-wide	Contribute Meaningfully	Driven by WECC	Utilize Best Practices	Leverage Staff Expertise	Maintain Independence	Support Reliability	WIRAB Rank
✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	High

- **Interconnection-Wide Transmission Trends Assessment**

Focus West-wide	Contribute Meaningfully	Driven by WECC	Utilize Best Practices	Leverage Staff Expertise	Maintain Independence	Support Reliability	WIRAB Rank
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	High

Proposed WIRAB Advice: Opportunities Not to Support



- **Training**

Focus West-wide	Contribute Meaningfully	Driven by WECC	Utilize Best Practices	Leverage Staff Expertise	Maintain Independence	Support Reliability	WIRAB Rank
✗	✗	✗	✓	-	✓	-	Low

- **Engagement in State and Federal Approval Processes**

Focus West-wide	Contribute Meaningfully	Driven by WECC	Utilize Best Practices	Leverage Staff Expertise	Maintain Independence	Support Reliability	WIRAB Rank
-	-	✗	-	✗	✗	-	Low

Proposed WIRAB Advice: Opportunities to Scope



Opportunity	Focus West-wide	Contribute Meaningfully	Driven by WECC	Utilize Best Practices	Leverage Staff Expertise	Maintain Independence	Support Reliability	WIRAB Rank
Support for longer-term transmission planning	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	Medium
Understanding of new technologies/ techniques (e.g., DLR)	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	Medium
Enhanced Project Coordination processes	✓	✓	✗	-	✓	-	✓	Medium

Proposed WIRAB Advice



- Support WECC engaging in transmission planning activities in the West.
 - WECC has the expertise and a unique perspective that provides value
 - WECC should pursue *Data Collection, Compilation, and Distribution* and creating the *Interconnection-Wide Transmission Trends Assessment*.
 - WECC should **not** get involved in *Training or Engagement in State and Federal Approval Processes*.
- Recommend that WECC invest in skillsets and technology to adequately pursue these opportunities

WIRAB Advice: Next Steps



- January 5: WIRAB Monthly Meeting (today)
- January 9: Begin scoping WIRAB Advice and solicit input from WIRAB
- February 2: WIRAB Monthly Meeting – Discuss potential Advice
- **February 10: Send Draft Written Advice for WIRAB Review**
- **February 24: WIRAB Approval**
- **March 1: Submit to WECC Board**
- **March 8: WECC Board of Directors Meeting**

Upcoming Meetings



WIRAB Monthly Meeting

First Thursday of the Month

Next Meeting: March 2, 2023 (Tentative)

2023 Winter Wildfire Meeting

March 1-2, 2023 in Vancouver, B.C.

Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

April 12-14, 2023 in Incline Village, NV (Lake Tahoe)

Thank You!

Eric Baran

ebaran@westernenergyboard.org

