

WIRAB Monthly Meeting

December 6, 2024



Introductions



Outline



WECC Activities:

WECC Update



WIRAB Activities:

WIRAB Discussion: 4.9 Review

WIRAB Accomplishments



Upcoming WIRAB Meetings



WECC Update

December 5, 2024

Matt Evans
Stakeholder Engagement
Specialist

Winter Reliability Assessment

- NERC recently released the [2024-2025 Winter Reliability Assessment](#), a forward-looking examination of the risk scenarios and industry preparations for the upcoming winter.
- This year's report found that, though winter demand for electricity is rising, there are no key risk elements found in the Western Interconnection under normal conditions due in part to efforts by regulators and industry.
- In general, the report found that resources are adequate for expected peak conditions; however, extreme winter conditions could pose reliability challenges.

2024–2025 Winter Reliability Assessment
November 2024



Wildfire Summary

The Western Interconnection [Wildfire Summary 2024](#) is now available

- Among the takeaways:
 - Interconnection-wide, the number of fires was flat compared to the five-year average
 - Oregon reported that 2,039 fires burned 2 million acres, breaking the state record set in 2020
 - Washington reported that 1,686 fires burned 288,000 acres, which is more than double the 10-year average
 - Wyoming reported its largest wildfire season since 1988

Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy

- WECC has released the [2024 Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy](#)
- Among the findings:
 - 172 GW in new generating capacity is planned to be built over the next decade
 - If all planned generation is added on schedule, the interconnection is largely resource adequate through 2034
 - 76% of planned resource additions were added on schedule between 2018 and 2023

Board of Directors

- December 10–11
- [Agenda and registration](#)
- Technical session, 2:30–3:30 p.m.
MT, December 10
 - [Interregional Transfer Capability Study](#) and how it complements transmission planning efforts in the West





WECC Organizational Review: Overview



Required by Section 4.9 of WECC's Bylaws



Conduct a review every five (5) years



Collaborate with the WIRAB and MAC

WIRAB Representatives: Laura Rennick and Mary Throne

MAC Representative: Chris Parker



Review whether WECC is fulfilling its Mission and Vision

WECC Organizational Review: Scoping Items



Review WECC Bylaws

- Minor updates and edits to reflect current practice
- More substantive items

Areas for Potential WIRAB Comment

- Organizational Characteristics:
 - Maintain WECC as a steward of data access
- WECC Structure and Governance Review (Section 4.9):
 - Oppose elimination of Section 4.9 to ensure a purposeful review every 5 years
- Board Member Qualifications:
 - Expand qualifications to include new/emerging technology experience (i.e. IBRs)

WECC Organizational Review: Next Steps



2024 Strategic Initiatives



Initiative 1:

- Advise WECC to continue to serve as an unbiased source of interconnection-wide information regarding the resource adequacy of the Western Interconnection and work collaboratively with the regional resource adequacy programs in the West.

Initiative 2:

- Advise WECC to add value to transmission planning in the West by conducting reliability assessments on long-term transmission trends and disseminating transmission planning information to stakeholders in the Western Interconnection.

Initiative 3:

- Advise WECC to work with WIRAB to engage state and provincial regulators and policymakers in the West to better understand the reliability impacts of energy policymaking in the Western Interconnection from diverse stakeholders.

WIRAB 2024 Accomplishments



Resource Adequacy:

- Provided feedback on WECC's Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy
- Effectively advised WECC to adopt a Reliability Risk Priority to address the lack of coordinated planning for building out resources and transmission
- Elevated resource adequacy discussions with regulators and policymakers at Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting
 - **Progress made on 2024 Strategic Initiative**

Transmission Planning and Reliability Assessments:

- Advocated for WECC to support the WPP WestTEC initiative through funding the effort with Peak Reliability funds.
- Discussed WECC Long Term Studies lesson learned to improve data, modeling, and methods for future long term planning effort
- Effectively encouraged WECC to discuss how the ITCS complements transmission planning efforts in the West.
 - **Progress made on 2024 Strategic Initiative**

WIRAB 2024 Accomplishments



Inverter-Based Resources:

- Contracted with Elevate Energy Consulting to develop an IBR Risk Assessment and Recommendations to identify critical gaps and propose actionable recommendations to address risk associated with uncoordinated adoption of IBRs in the Western Interconnection
- Effectively advised WECC to include IBRs Risks as WECC Reliability Risk Priority

Energy Policy Impacts:

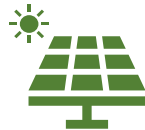
- Supported WECC's addition of Potential Effects of Energy Policies in the West as Reliability Risk Priority though identifying ways WECC contribute to mitigating this risk.
- Highlighted the importance of Reliability as a Public Good with WECC participation at Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meetings
 - **Progress made on 2024 Strategic Initiative**

WIRAB's 2025 Strategic Initiatives



Transmission Planning (WestTEC)

Initiative 1: Advise WECC to work collaboratively with the Western Power Pool and Western stakeholders to develop an investment-grade transmission plan that effectively improves reliability in the Western Interconnection.



Inverter-based Resource Risk

Initiative 2: Advise WECC to work collaboratively with Western regulators and stakeholders to address and proactively mitigate risks associated with the uncoordinated interconnection of inverter-based resources in the Western Interconnection.



Inter-regional Transfer Capability

Initiative 3: Advise WECC regarding a process for ongoing assessments and prudent upgrades for inter-regional transfer capabilities in the Western Interconnection to ensure reliable power flow when the system is stressed.



Extreme Weather Event Analysis

Initiative 4: Advise WECC to conduct a systematic review of recent extreme weather events that have tested the grid, focusing on the challenges of maintaining grid reliability during increased demand, unexpected outages, system stress, and near-miss incidents in the Western Interconnection.



Grid Enhancing Technologies for Reliability

Initiative 5: Advise WECC to assess the reliability implications of innovative grid solutions used to maximize the potential of the existing transmission system as utilities modernize the grid in the Western Interconnection.

Upcoming Meetings



WIRAB Monthly Meeting

First Thursday of the Month

January 2, 2025 Meeting Canceled

Next Meeting: February 6, 2025 at 11:00 AM MT

Spring 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

TBA

<https://www.westernenergyboard.org/meeting-calendar/>

Thank You!

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