

WIRAB Monthly Meeting

May 1, 2025



Introductions



Outline



WECC Activities:

WECC Update

WECC 2026 Business Plan & Budget



WIRAB Activities:

Draft WIRAB Advice on WECC 2026 Business Plan & Budget

WIRAB's 2026 Strategic Initiatives

Harmonizing IBR Interconnection Requirements Across the West



Upcoming WIRAB Meetings

WECC Update

Matt Evans

Stakeholder Engagement Specialist

**Electric Reliability
& Security for the West**

May 1, 2025



Reliability in the West

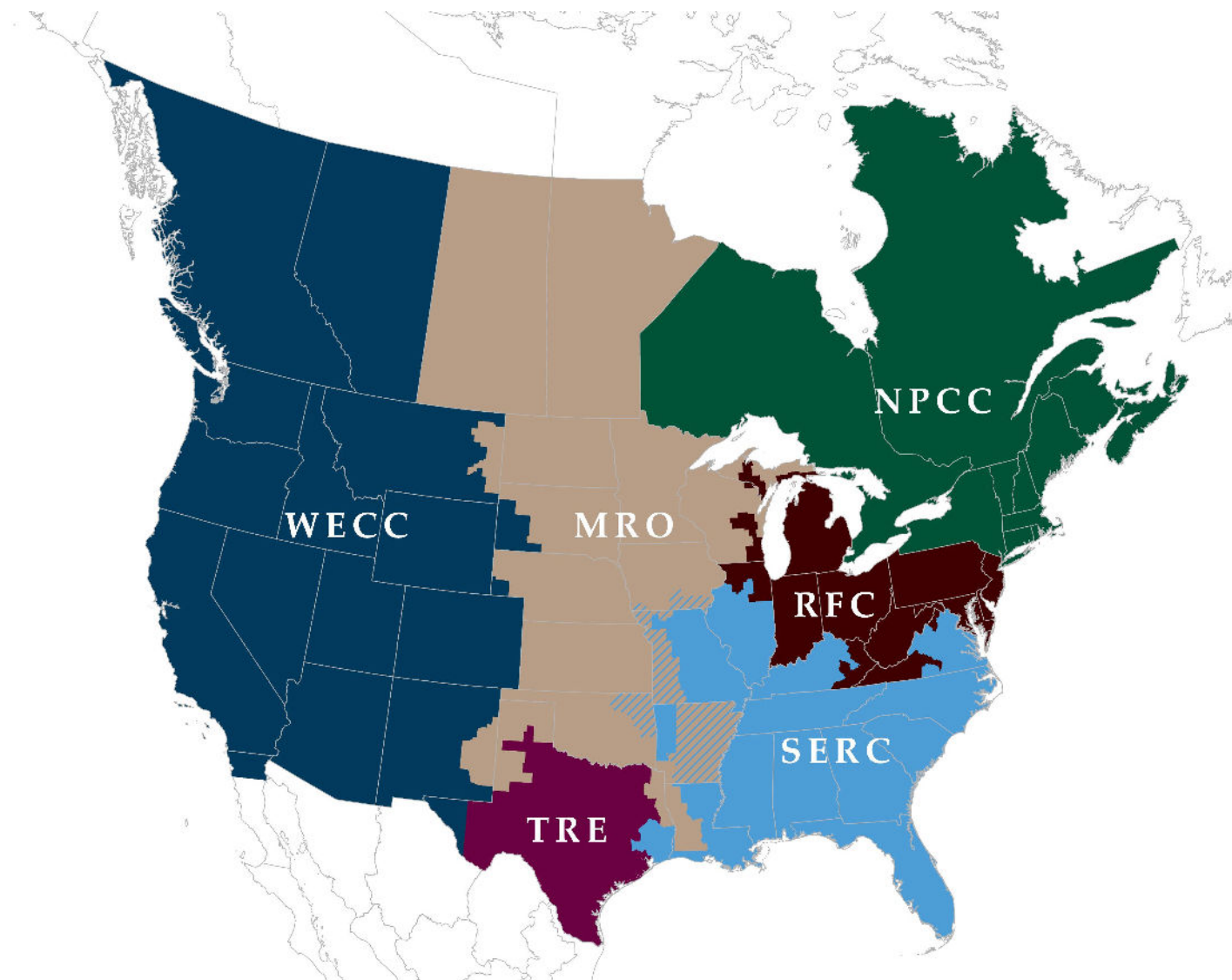
- **May 7, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. MT**
- **Topic: Summer Outlook**
- **Presenters:**
 - James Hanson, WECC's Manager of Operations Analysis
 - Vic Howell, WECC's Director of Reliability Assessments and Modeling
 - Sunny Wescott, Chief Meteorologist, U.S. Department of Homeland Security-CISA
- **Go to wecc.org for a link to the webinar**
- **Ideas for future webinars? Email engage@wecc.org**





Summer Reliability Assessment

- To be released in mid-May
- Annual assessment of the adequacy of electricity supplies in the U.S. and Canada for the upcoming summer
- Features recommendations and a risk assessment dashboard for each region within the Western Interconnection
- Can be found at [nerc.com](https://www.nerc.com)





State of the Interconnection

- **To be released the week of May 19**
- **A high-level look at reliability and security issues across the Western Interconnection in 2024**
- **Items of interest:**
 - >24 GW of new generation added
 - Slowdown in retirements
 - Increase in physical security and cybersecurity events
 - Extreme weather events occurred throughout the year
 - How one utility is contending with load growth

State of the Interconnection 2025



The Independent Voice of Bulk Power System Reliability in the Western Interconnection



WECC



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155 N 400 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84103, USA

2026 Draft Budget Overview to WIRAB

Jillian Lessner

Chief Financial & Administrative Officer



Long-term Strategy



Impact Area 1
Risk Mitigation



Impact Area 2
Partnership



Impact Area 3
Perspective



Impact Area 4
Independence



Impact Area 5
People

**The Independent Voice of Bulk Power System
Reliability in the Western Interconnection**



The Work: Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CMEP)

- Promotes strong culture of reliability and security with Registered Entities
- Monitors and enforces reliability standards
- Mitigates risk in the Western Interconnection





The Work: Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA)

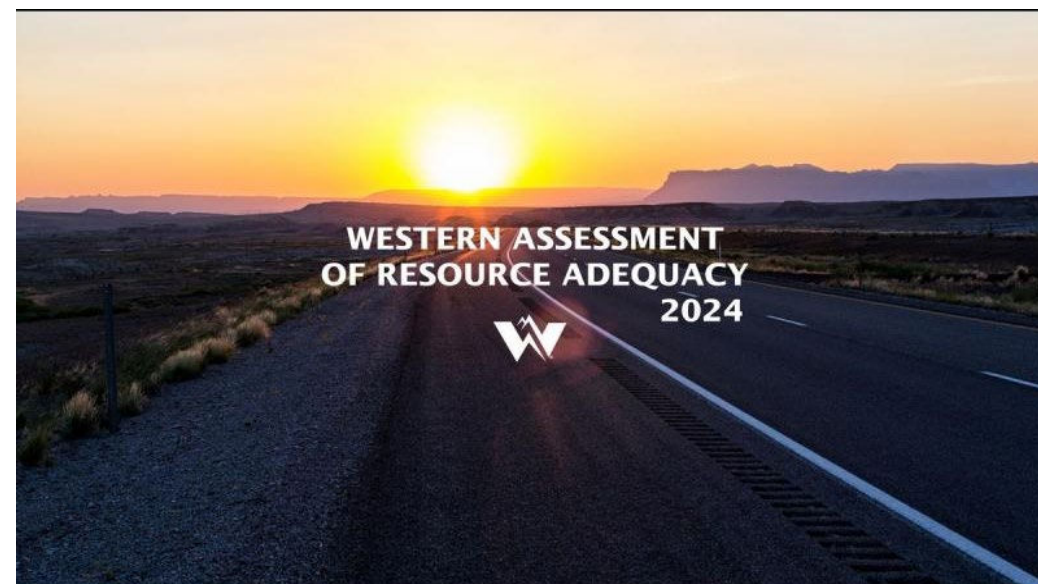
- Conducts studies and assessments
- Compiles and distributes reports and analyses based on the data
- Mitigates risk in the Western Interconnection





The Work: Strategic Engagement

- Promotes understanding of dynamics within the Western Interconnection
- Informs and educates stakeholders on the work of CMEP and RAPA
- Facilitates discussions across diverse stakeholder groups for the benefit of reliability





2026 Budget Context

- **Recognize growing complexity and pace of change**
- **Ensure adequate resources to support increasing workload**
- **Maintain working capital reserves**



Statutory Budget Overview

- **Budget increase—\$808K (2.1%)**
 - Budget total—\$40.1 million
- **3 additional statutory FTE**
 - 2 in CMEP, 1 in RAPA
- **Assessments increase—\$2.6 million (8%)**
 - Assessments total—\$35.6 million
- **Penalties collected and released—\$42K**



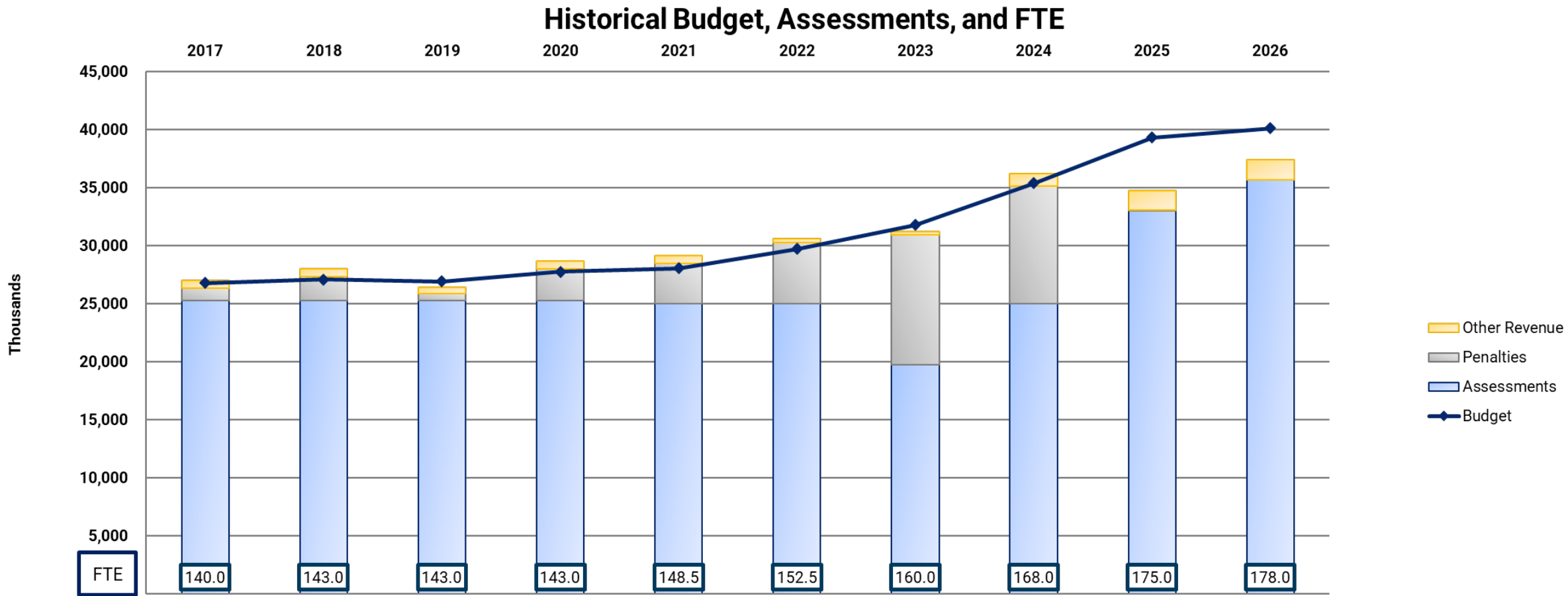
Budget Comparison—2025 to 2026

	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	Variance \$ Incr(Decr)	Variance % Incr(Decr)	Primary Drivers (>\$100K)
Funding					
Assessments	\$ 33,016,000	\$ 35,657,280	\$ 2,641,280	8.0%	Increase in budget, use of working capital reserves
Penalties	4,400	41,745	37,345	848.8%	
Other Income	1,703,541	1,757,506	53,965	3.2%	
Total Funding	\$ 34,723,941	\$ 37,456,531	\$ 2,732,590	7.9%	
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses	\$ 31,121,337	\$ 32,652,261	\$ 1,530,924	4.9%	3 FTE, 4% merit/market adjustment pool, vacancy rate adjustments
Meeting Expenses	1,697,461	1,655,128	(42,333)	-2.5%	
Operating Expenses	7,502,719	7,153,710	(349,009)	-4.7%	Enforcement contract labor, reduction in WestTEC project consulting
Indirect Expenses	(1,146,873)	(1,437,341)	(290,468)	25.3%	Increase in non-statutory FTE and Corporate Services budget
Total Expenses	\$ 39,174,644	\$ 40,023,758	\$ 849,114	2.2%	
Fixed Assets	\$ 150,713	\$ 109,116	\$ (41,597)	-27.6%	
Total Budget	\$ 39,325,357	\$ 40,132,874	\$ 807,517	2.1%	
Change in Working Capital	\$ (4,601,416)	\$ (2,676,343)	\$ 1,925,073	-41.8%	
 FTEs	 175.00	 178.00	 3	 1.7%	

¹ Depreciation excluded from these values



Trending—Budget and Funding





Next Steps

- **April 28—May 16 stakeholder comment period**
- **May 5 & 15—stakeholder overview webinars**
- **June 11—Board of Directors approval**
- **August—NERC BOT; FERC filing**
- **October—FERC Order anticipated**
- **November 15—2026 assessment invoices distributed**



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Proposed WIRAB Advice: WECC 2026 Business Plan & Budget



WIRAB should support WECC's proposal to expand the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) by adding 2.0 FTEs.

- This targeted staffing increase is necessary to manage the growing volume and complexity of compliance activities, particularly those related to the rapid growth of inverter-based resources.

WIRAB should support WECC's proposal to strengthen its Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA) program area by adding 1.0 FTE

- This addition reflects WECC's proactive approach to addressing emerging reliability risks posed by extreme weather events and ensure generator readiness.

Proposed WIRAB Advice Continued



WIRAB should support the allocation of Peak Reliability Donation Funds to continue to the financing of the Western Power Pool's (WPP) Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WestTEC) initiative.

- WECC's direct engagement will ensure that the WestTEC initiative adheres to principles of transparency, independence, and inclusivity, with due consideration for interconnection-wide transmission planning perspectives.

WIRAB should support the proposed Statutory Assessment of \$35.7 million, a \$2.6 million (8.0 percent) increase over the 2025 assessment.

- It appropriately funds WECC's operations and avoids artificially capping the organization's budget due to the lack of one-time penalty offsets.

Proposed WIRAB Advice Continued



WIRAB Staff Recommends:

WIRAB find the proposed 2026 statutory budget and assessment for WECC to be in the public interest

Advise the WECC Board approve WECC's 2026 Business Plan and Budget and Assessment.

Submit Advice into WECC public comment period and to the WECC Board of Directors

WIRAB Advice: Next Steps



May 15, 2025

WIRAB comments, feedback and approval due to WIRAB Staff



May 16, 2025

WECC comment period closes
Submit WIRAB Advice



June 11, 2025

WECC Board meeting for final WIRAB
Comment and WECC Board approval of BP&B

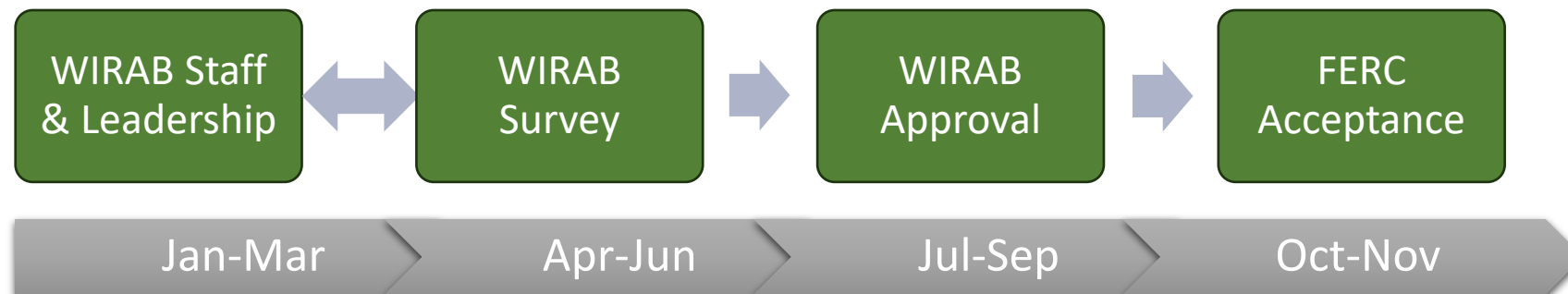
WIRAB Business Plan and Budget: Purpose of Strategic Initiatives



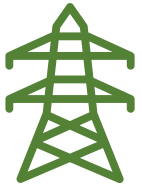
Why does WIRAB have Strategic Initiatives in BP&B?

- BP&B to serve as a policy document
- Regional Entity delegated responsibilities vs WIRAB Strategic Initiatives
- FERC highlights WIRAB initiatives in its Order accepting all ERO BP&B

How do the Strategic Initiatives get created?



WIRAB's 2026 Strategic Initiatives



Long-term Planning Data and Models

Initiative 1: Advise WECC to work with states, provinces, and planning entities to improve long-term planning assumptions, data, and models to meet evolving regulatory and reliability needs.



Large-load Performance Requirements

Initiative 2: Advise WECC, NERC, and stakeholders to develop common interconnection and performance requirements for large loads—especially data centers—to ensure reliable and secure integration into the Bulk Power System.



Resource Adequacy with Electrification and Large Loads

Initiative 3: Advise WECC to study the impacts of rapid electrification and large load growth on reliability, including regional and seasonal resource adequacy trends.



Energy Storage Reliability Standards

Initiative 4: Advise WECC and the ERO to assess whether reliability standards adequately reflect the growing role of energy storage technologies in supporting grid stability and essential reliability services

WIRAB 2026 Business Plan and Budget: Draft Timeline



Date	WIRAB BP&B Timeline
4/3/25	Via Email or at Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting: Provide Feedback on Strategic Initiatives
4/10/25	Circulate BP&B to WIRAB (Draft 1)
4/24/25	WIRAB BP&B Comments Due by WIRAB Members (Draft 1)
4/30/25	Draft BP&B due to NERC, Posted for Public Comment (Draft 2)
TBD	ERO BP&B package posted for comment and FAC webinar package posted
5/20/25	Conference Call & WIRAB Staff Presentation of BP&B to NERC FAC
6/12/25	WIRAB Monthly Meeting (rescheduled) with Presentation of Final Version for Approval
TBD	Conference Call & WIRAB Staff Presentation of BP&B to FERC
6/19/25	Hold Additional Webinar, If necessary
6/26/25	WIRAB Approval (Final Vote Due)
7/1/25	Submit Approved BP&B to NERC
8/13/25	NERC Open FAC, MRC, and Board meetings
8/31/25	Regulatory filings for NERC, RE, & WIRAB BP&Bs submitted to FERC

Harmonizing IBR Interconnection Requirements Across the West



Overview:

WIRAB and Elevate Energy are advancing a 2024 WIRAB recommendation to harmonize Inverter-Based Resource (IBR) interconnection requirements across the Western Interconnection.



Purpose:

Develop a publicly available template for Facility Interconnection Requirements (FIRs) for Transmission Providers.



Goals:

Increase IBR requirements education
Promote best practices aligned with IEEE 2800-2022

Encourage consistency and transparency across the West

Regular updates to WIRAB



Approach:

Hold monthly virtual stakeholder meetings (May–Dec 2025)

Review industry experiences

Draft and refine a FIR template

Facilitate regional information exchange



Industry Advisory Group:

Transmission Providers

Transmission Planners

Transmission Regulatory Compliance Specialists

IBR Developers

Other technical experts

Upcoming Meetings



WIRAB Monthly Meeting

First Thursday of the Month

June Meeting Rescheduled

Next Meeting: June 12, 2025 at 11:00 AM MT

Fall 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

October 1-3, 2025 in Portland, OR

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

Thank You!

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