Fall 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula
200 S Pattee St
Missoula, MT 59802

Tuesday October 13, 2026	Wednesday October 14, 2026	Thursday October 15, 2026
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting 3:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Networking Activity	9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Pre-Meetings

7:00 – 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

8:00 – 11:30 a.m. **State Committee Meetings (States and Provinces Only)**

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch (on own)**

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation (CREPC) and the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) welcome you to the Fall 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting. Round-robin introductions follow remarks from leadership.

- Gabriel Aguilera, Co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- John Jenks, Co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- Lea Márquez Peterson, Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body
- Siva Gunda, Vice Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. **Resource Adequacy Program Seams in the West**

The West already has three regional resource adequacy programs: the California Public Utility Commission's resource adequacy program, Western Power Pool's Western Resource Adequacy Program, and SPP's resource adequacy program. Now, a fourth program targeted at Extended Day-Ahead Market participants is also under development.

With all these different programs, what seams challenges does the region face, and are there ways to meaningfully minimize friction along these seams?

- Moderator: Letha Tawney, Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission Slides
- Judy Chang, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Ben Faulkinberry, Senior Power Marketer and Originator, PacifiCorp Slides
- Jim Gonzalez, Senior Director of Seams and Western Services, SPP Slides
- Anna McKenna, Vice President of Market Design and Analysis, California ISO Slides
- Rebecca Sexton, Chief Strategy Officer, Western Power Pool Slides

3:15 – 3:45 p.m. **Break**

3:45 – 4:30 p.m. **Conversation with Federal Power Marketing Administrators in the West**

While Federal Power Marketing Administrations are not state regulated, they do have an important impact on the energy landscape in the West and may have a strong influence on market footprints and the corresponding benefits to the region. In this discussion, we'll explore how the traditional roles of Power Marketing Administrations are changing with regional developments and share thoughts on how they may collaborate with other stakeholders to meet the region's future resource adequacy and load growth needs.

- Moderator: Ann Rendahl, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, *Confirmed*
- Travis Kavulla, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, *Confirmed*
- Tracey A. LeBeau, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Western Area Power Administration, *Confirmed*

4:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Update from U.S. Department of Energy**

Opening remarks by U.S. Department of Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary for Permitting and Planning, Holly Rachel Smith.

- Moderator: John Jenks, Director of Energy Market Development, Wyoming Energy Authority, *Confirmed*
- Holly Rachel Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Permitting and Planning, U.S. Department of Energy, *Confirmed*

5:00 p.m. **Recess**

Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Energy Efficiency, Demand-Side Management, and Grid Enhancing Technologies: How do we get more out of existing resources?**

Load forecasts are predicting sustained high load growth in the near term, leading to the need for new resources and transmission to be built across the region over the next decade. How can we maximize the use of existing resources to get the most out of the current grid to minimize costs to customers while allowing for new growth?

- Moderator: Janine Benner, Director, Oregon Department of Energy
- Akhil Mandadi, Supervisor, Resource Planning and Analysis, Arizona Public Service
- Lee Recchia, Director, Grid Operations, Portland General Electric
- Julia Selker, Executive Director, WATT Coalition Slides

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. **From Transmission Planning to Development: Making Long-Term Transmission Plans Actionable**

Earlier this year, the Western Transmission Expansion Coalition released a 10-year west-wide transmission study and is now finalizing its 20-year study, but what comes next? In this panel, we'll hear what is happening around WestTEC 2.0. Panelists will also discuss how to overcome the siting and permitting hurdle with developments from the Western Governor Association's Permitting Alignment and Coordination Task Force , federal efforts to help streamline transmission development, and insights from developers on what gaps may still exist.

- Moderator: Emy Lesofski, Director, Utah Office of Energy Development
- Sarah Edmonds, President and CEO, Western Power Pool Slides
- Marina Fennel, Director, Federal Permitting Programs, Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy Slides
- Dan Lloyd, Senior Manager, Community Relations, Grid United
- Janea Scott, Senior Fellow, Gridworks Slides

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch (on own)**

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Large Load Interconnection Tariffs**

This summer, FERC issued 206 filings to Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators in the U.S. asking them to submit justification for their current tariffs or modifications to their tariffs to address large load interconnections. Outside of the California ISO and SPP, the remaining West was not included in those

filings. In this discussion, panelists will discuss what tariffs utilities in the West may be considering, how Independent Power Producers are impacted by changes to large load interconnection tariffs, and how new large loads are navigating development in the Western Interconnection.

- Moderator: Lea Márquez Peterson, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission, *Confirmed*
- Erin Gardner, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs, NextEra Energy Resources, *Confirmed*
- Spencer Gray, Executive Director, Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, *Confirmed*
- Mike Green, Associate General Counsel, Northwestern Energy, *Confirmed*
- Jordan Weiszhaar, Senior Program Manager for Data Center Energy Strategy, Microsoft, *Confirmed*

2:45 – 3:30 p.m. **Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses**

In January, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a request for information from states interested in hosting a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus to modernize the nation's nuclear fuel cycle and lead the way in advanced nuclear energy, with the goal of the initial campuses being online in 2027. Several states, including some in the West, responded to DOE's solicitation and were selected to host these campuses. As we approach the end of 2026, where are those efforts now, and what work remains?

- Moderator: Sonja Nowakowski, Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Laurel Bauer, Branch Chief, Office of Advanced Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Slides
- Kara Colton, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
- Emma Redfoot, Senior Director of Early Deployments, Oklo Inc Slides

3:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Break**

3:45 – 6:00 p.m. **Connecting the West: A Networking Activity**

Join colleagues from across the Western Interconnection for a relaxed networking reception to continue the day's conversations. Reconnect with peers, exchange ideas, and build on key takeaways in a more informal setting. This gathering offers a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships and explore practical, creative approaches to the challenges discussed throughout the meeting.

- *Location: Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown (Bess Reed Park), 200 S Pattee St, Missoula*
- *Open to all registered meeting attendees. Please wear your name badge to the reception.*

6:00 p.m. **Recess**

Thursday, October 15, 2026
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Droughts, Floods, and Fires: How to maintain reliability with weather-related risks**

This past winter was warmer than usual with little to no snow in many areas of the West, leading to an active wildfire season and low water resources in some areas. Other parts of the West, however, saw heavy spring rains that led to flooding. In this session, panelists will discuss how these extreme weather risks can be managed to affordably maintain reliability across the Western Interconnection.

- Moderator: Ed Lodge, Chair, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
- Jeff Droubay, President and CEO, Western Electricity Coordinating Council
- Brandi Hellwinkel, Director of Asset Management, NorthWestern Energy
- Juliet Homer, Chief Systems Engineer, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Brian Lipscomb, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Keepers, Inc Slides

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Market Seams**

At the Spring 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB meeting, we heard that discussions had begun at the executive level of the market operators around how to minimize the negative impacts of day-ahead market seams. Since then, the California ISO has hosted several seams workshops, and SPP has a task force working on seams issues. FERC also issued an order over the summer that requested a joint update from SPP and CAISO that details their progress in coordinating operations along their seams. What progress has been made since spring, and what comes next?

- Moderator: Brian Rybarik, Chair, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Casey Cadle, Director of Seams Strategy, SPP Slides
- Paul Dockery, Manager of Market Strategy and Governance, California ISO Slides
- Bob Hellrich-Dawson, PhD, Senior Economist, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Slides

11:30 – 11:45 a.m. **Closing Remarks**

11:45 a.m. **Adjourn**