

<Public>

WIRAB Monthly Meeting

Special Meeting: Re-Introduction to WIRAB, WECC, and Their Roles

January 11, 2024



1

<Public>

Introductions



2

<Public>

Outline

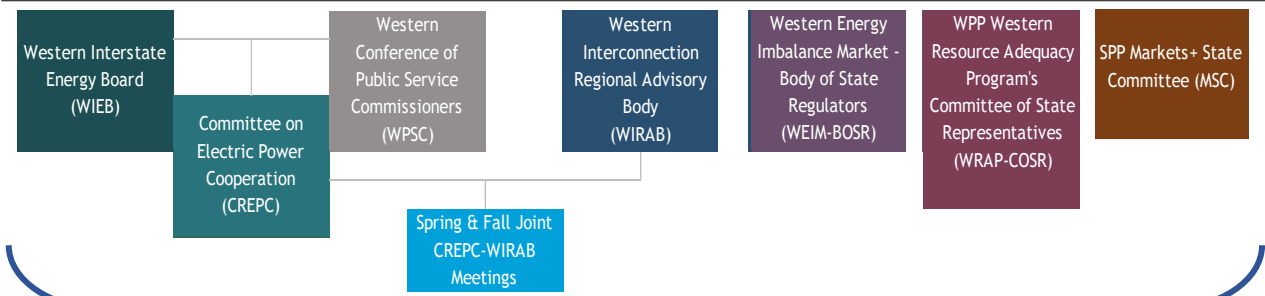


- WIEB Family of Organizations:** Brief introduction into the Organizations that WIEB Staff Supports
- WECC Overview:** WECC History and Purpose
- WIRAB Overview:** WIRAB History and Purpose
- Upcoming WIRAB Meetings**

3

<Public>

WIEB's Partner Organizations

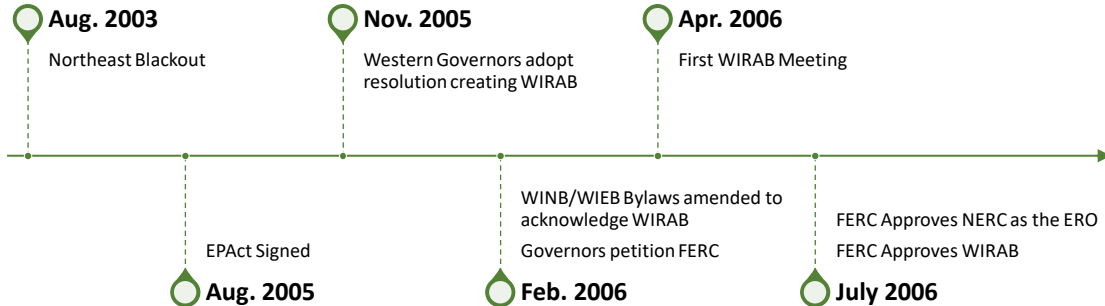


WIEB provides the tools and framework necessary to support cooperative efforts in the energy field and to enhance the economy of the West.

4

<Public>

WIRAB Formation



Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

5

5

<Public>

WIRAB's Statutory Authority: Section 215(j) of the Federal Power Act



“(j) REGIONAL ADVISORY BODIES.—The Commission shall establish a regional advisory body on the petition of at least two-thirds of the States within a region that have more than one-half of their electric load served within the region.



A regional advisory body shall be composed of **one member from each participating State in the region, appointed by the Governor of each State**, and may include representatives of agencies, States, and provinces outside the United States.



A regional advisory body may provide advice to the Electric Reliability Organization, a regional entity, or the Commission regarding the **governance** of an existing or proposed regional entity within the same region, whether a **standard** proposed to apply within the region is just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest, whether **fees** proposed to be assessed within the region are just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest and **any other responsibilities requested by the Commission**.



The Commission may give **deference** to the advice of any such regional advisory body if that body is organized on an **Interconnection-wide basis**.”

Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

6

6

<Public>

WIRAB Voting



Operates primarily on consensus but official actions of WIRAB:

1. Affirmative vote of at least one-half of the members of the WIRAB

and

2. Votes must represent at least one-half of the electric energy consumed among the states and provinces participating in the WIRAB.

State / Province	MWh	% of Western Interconnection
AB	56,504,900	6.6%
AZ	78,346,302	9.1%
BC	53,541,116	6.2%
CA	303,178,968	35.2%
CO	56,445,328	6.6%
ID	23,753,508	2.8%
MX-BCN	10,823,800	1.3%
MT	16,772,695	1.9%
NE	1,274,713	0.1%
NV	42,598,368	5.0%
NM	15,646,241	1.8%
OR	51,920,022	6.0%
SD	3,169,179	0.4%
TX	6,362,414	0.7%
UT	31,242,408	3.6%
WA	92,034,518	10.7%
WY	16,864,678	2.0%
Total	860,479,158	100%

Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

7

7

<Public>

WIRAB Official Membership



Alberta	Betsy Li Alward , Director, Generation, Transmission and Markets Policy, Energy Policy, Alberta Energy
Arizona	Lea Marquez Peterson , Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission**
British Columbia	Chris Gilmore , Executive Director, Electricity Policy Branch, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
California	Siva Gunda , Vice Chair, California Energy Commission
Colorado	Keith Hay , Director of Utility Policy, Colorado Energy Office
Idaho	Richard Stover , Administrator, Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
Mexico	Vacant
Montana	Michael Freeman , Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Montana Office of the Governor
Nebraska	Tim Texel , Executive Director, Nebraska Power Review Board
Nevada	Dwayne McClinton , Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy
New Mexico	James Ellison , Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
Oregon	Janine Benner , Director, Oregon Department of Energy
South Dakota	Greg Rislov , Commission Advisor, South Dakota Public Utility Commission
Texas	Vacant
Utah	Greg Todd , Executive Director, Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development
Washington	Elizabeth Osborne , Senior Energy Policy Analyst, Washington State Energy Office
Wyoming	Mary Throne , Chairman, Wyoming Public Service Commission*

Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

*WIRAB Chair; **WIRAB Vice-Chair

8

8

<Public>



WECC & WIRAB

101

January 11, 2024

Kris Raper

Julie Blair

Matt Evans

9

FERC, NERC, and WECC Federal Power Act of 2005

<Public>

- Federal Power Act, Section 215 calls for enforceable standards
- Industry develops standards, approved by FERC
- FERC certifies an Electric Reliability Organization—the ERO (NERC)
- NERC may delegate authority to Regional Entities; e.g., WECC

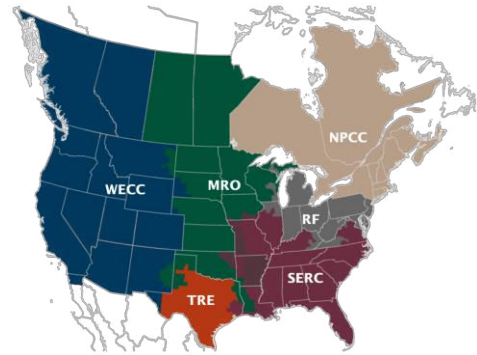


<Public>

The ERO Enterprise



NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION



11

11

<Public>

WECC

- **Largest** of six Regional Entities
- Designated as the **Regional Entity** for the Western Interconnection
- Has responsibility to help **create, monitor, and enforce reliability standards and promote activity that ensures reliability**
- Service territory
 - **Canada** (Alberta and British Columbia)
 - Northern part of **Baja California, Mexico**
 - All or parts of the **14 Western states**



12

12

<Public>

WECC's Role

- WECC monitors and enforces compliance with mandatory reliability standards, while maintaining a leadership role in reliability planning and performance assessments of the BES in the Western Interconnection.
- Trade organization v. independent regulatory body
 - While WECC began as a trade organization (initially known as the Western Systems Coordinating Council), WECC is now a formal regulatory body, funded through FERC-approved assessments with a clear charter established by the Federal Power Act.
 - In 2014, WECC was formally reorganized as a social welfare organization governed by an independent board of directors.
 - WECC is a 501(c)(4) social welfare non-profit corporation that exists to ensure a reliable Bulk Electric System in the Western Interconnection.
 - WECC is funded by Load-Serving Entity (LSE) assessments authorized by FERC under Section 215 of the Federal Power Act.
 - [WECC's Bylaws](#)



13

13

<Public>

WECC's Work

WECC has a responsibility to help create, monitor, and enforce reliability standards and promote activities that ensure the reliability of the Bulk Power System in the Western Interconnection.

Develop, monitor and enforce mandatory reliability standards

Analyze and evaluate system performance

Identify and assess emerging risks

Educate and share information



14

14

<Public>

International Jurisdictions

WECC's International Partners and Agreements:

- British Columbia and Alberta, Canada, and the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico

Jurisdiction:

- Governed by Canadian and Mexican regulators; not subject to FERC or NERC authority

Rules:

- Rules vary, informed by laws and regulatory frameworks in each jurisdiction

Reliability Standards:

- Assessment and applicable regulatory approval in each jurisdiction

Key Program Areas:

- WECC conducts registration assessments, compliance monitoring activities, enforcement and penalty recommendations, and situational awareness/performance analysis activities



15

15

<Public>

Our Stakeholders



16

16

<Public>

Partnering for Reliability

- Grid Fundamentals
 - February 27-28, 2024
 - Register [here](#)
- Reliability in the West – A Discussion Series
 - February 7, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. MT
- ITCS Update – January 31 at 2:00 p.m. MT
- Initiating quarterly touchpoints with commissioners, energy offices, and policy makers on key reliability concerns

<Public>

Section 215(j) of the Federal Power Act:

Regional Advisory Bodies

- The Commission [FERC] shall establish a regional advisory body on the petition of at least two-thirds of the States within a region that have more than one-half of their electric load served within the region. A regional advisory body shall be composed of one member from each participating State in the region, appointed by the Governor of each State, and may include representatives of agencies, States, and provinces outside the United States. A regional advisory body may provide advice to the Electric Reliability Organization, a regional entity, or the Commission regarding the governance of an existing or proposed regional entity within the same region, whether a standard proposed to apply within the region is just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest, whether fees proposed to be assessed within the region are just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest and any other responsibilities requested by the Commission. The Commission may give deference to the advice of any such regional advisory body if that body is organized on an interconnection-wide basis.

<Public>



<Public>

Significant Reliability Activities Since WIRAB Formation



2007	2009	2011	2014	2015	2016	2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
WECC designated as the Regional Entity Reliability Standards become Mandatory	Three Reliability Coordinators (RCs) consolidate under WECC-RC	Sep. 8, 2011 Southwest Blackout	WECC Bifurcated Reliability Coordinator Function Peak Reliability Formed CAISO WEIM Begins	FERC Order 1000 – Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation requirements	Blue Cut Fire Inverter-Based Resource Event	WECC Reliability Assessment Committee (RAC) formed eliminating PC and TEPPC	CAISO RC West, SPP, BC Hydro, and AESO standup Reliability Coordinators in the West Peak Reliability Terminates Operation	COVID-19 Pandemic August 2020 heat wave and rotating outages in California	WECC develops first Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy SPP WEIS Begins	WECC Reliability Risk Committee (RRC) formed eliminating OC and MIC	FERC Approves WPP Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) FERC Directs NERC to Create IBR Standards

<Public>

Highlights of Past WIRAB Advice



- \$ WECC Business Plan and Budgets (2007-2024)
- 💡 Advice to FERC on Implementation of Mandatory Reliability Standards (2006-2007)
- 👥 FERC Reliability Technical Conferences (2019, 2021, 2023)
- 🏢 Advice on WECC Governance, Organizational Reviews, Strategic Plans (2007-2023)
- ✓ Advice on Reliability Coordinator Services at WECC, Peak Reliability, and then CAISO RC West and SPP West RC
- ☁️ Advice on West Wide Data Sharing, Resource Adequacy, Transmission Planning
- 📈 Advice on Inverter-Based Resources and Primary Frequency Response

<Public>

Multi-state Electric Organization Principles



- Board Independence
- Active Stakeholder Engagement
- Role of a States in Policy Development and Decision Making
- States Committee's Access to Data and Information
- States Committee Staffing Model & Funding
- Independent Board Selection

<Public>

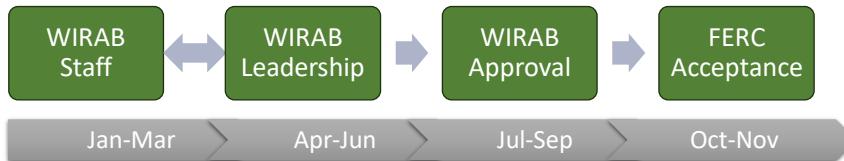
WIRAB Business Plan and Budget: Purpose of Strategic Initiatives



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?



Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

23

23

<Public>

2024 Strategic Initiatives



Initiative 1:	Initiative 2:	Initiative 3:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

24

24

<Public>

WIRAB's 2024 Additional Workplan Activities



- Update and Modernize WIRAB Bylaws
- Engage in WECC's Reliability Risk Priority Process
- Review WECC's 2025 Business Plan and Budget
- Identify WIRAB's 2025 Strategic Initiatives
- Approve 2025 Business Plan and Budget
- Engage in NERC Inter-regional Transfer Capability Study
- Participate in FERC Reliability Technical Conference
- Host Educational Sessions on Energy Policy Risks to Reliability

Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

25

25

<Public>

Upcoming Meetings



WIRAB Monthly Meeting
First Thursday of the Month
Next Meeting: February 1, 2024 at 11:00 AM MT

Spring 2024 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting
 April 24-26 in Denver, CO
www.westernenergyboard.org

Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

26

26

<Public>

Thank You!

Eric Baran

ebaran@westernenergyboard.org

720-897-4600 x 207

