

Fall 2024 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

Wyndham Bayside
1355 N Harbor Drive
San Diego, California

Tuesday October 22, 2024	Wednesday October 23, 2024	Thursday October 24, 2024
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast	7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast	7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Joint States’ Committees Meeting	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Tour-Networking Activity	

Tuesday October 22, 2024 States’ Committees Meeting

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Joint States’ Committees Meeting

The leadership of the Western Energy Markets Body of State Regulators (BOSR), the Markets+ State Committee (MSC), the Western Resource Adequacy Program Committee of State Representatives (COSR), and the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation’s Transmission Collaborative (CREPC TC) invite CREPC-WIRAB participants to join them for updates from the individual committees.

11:30 a.m. Adjourn

Tuesday October 22, 2024
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

1:00 – 1:30 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 2024 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting, and representatives from California welcome you to San Diego. Round-robin introductions follow remarks from leadership.

- Megan Decker, Co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- Rich Stover, Co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- Mary Throne, Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Balancing Priorities: Reliability, Affordability, and Policies

Achieving a balance between affordability, policy goals, and reliability may be the biggest challenge for energy stakeholders. The complexities of maintaining affordable energy prices while meeting policy objectives and ensuring a reliable grid are exceedingly challenging in today's environment with extreme weather, rapid load growth, and rising supply chain costs. What are the trade-offs between cost, policy, and reliability, and how can they be managed effectively? How do different states and provinces approach this balance, and what lessons can be learned from their experiences?

- Moderator: Pat O'Connell, Chair, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
- Andrew McAllister, Commissioner, California Energy Commission
- Melanie Frye, President and CEO, Western Electricity Coordinating Council
- Mike Goetz, Senior Policy and Regulatory Counsel, NW Energy Coalition

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The Evolving State of Resource Adequacy in the West

This conversation follows the important revelations made during the Spring 2024 Joint CREPC-WIRAB meeting, where we learned how substantial our resource adequacy challenges are across the region. With news of the delay of the Western Resource Adequacy Program's (WRAP) first binding season, Western Power Pool (WPP) and the WRAP's Resource Adequacy Participants Committee (RAPC) have been hard at work all summer to forge a path forward

for the WRAP and its participants, resulting in a Revised Transition Plan (RTP) that seeks to address ongoing reliability and resource adequacy challenges ahead of the first WRAP binding season. The RTP was endorsed by the RAPC in August and was approved by the WPP Board of Directors in September. This session will focus on the details and implications of the RTP but also includes some insights gleaned from the improved data collection and program analyses as well as from events over the summer.

- Moderator: Dave Danner, Chair, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Rebecca Sexton, Director of Reliability Programs, Western Power Pool
- Grant Smedley, Director, Resource Planning, Acquisition, and Development, Salt River Project, and WRAP Resource Adequacy Participants Committee Chair

- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.** **Shaping the Western Energy Future: Federal Regulations and State Leadership**
- State and federal agencies have unique and pivotal roles in helping shape the energy landscape of the Western Interconnection, particularly in regulatory oversight, large-scale planning, and interstate coordination. This session will explore the roles and responsibilities of state utility commissions, energy offices, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). How can states, in their various roles, engage with federal agencies and regulations, such as FERC Order 1920, to ensure that planning and coordination of transmission and generation development in the West is meaningful and actionable?
- Moderator: Michael Freeman, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Montana Governor’s Office
 - David Rosner, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 - Gabriel Aguilera, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

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

Wednesday October 23, 2024
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Meeting Our Transmission Needs: Leveraging Planning into Action**

The number of transmission studies keeps pouring in, but the pace of new transmission infrastructure continues to crawl. This session will explore how the key learnings from the recently released [Connected West](#) study and key

objectives from the [WestTEC planning initiative](#) are converging to show us the potential for a unified, resilient grid for the future. How can all these transmission studies and planning initiatives drive action to enhance reliability and meet the region's energy needs, and what do states need to be watching for?

- Moderator: Megan Decker, Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission and CREPC Co-Chair
- Judy W. Chang, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Sarah Edmonds, President and CEO, Western Power Pool
- Matthew Tisdale, Executive Director, Gridworks
- Keegan Moyer, Principal, Energy Strategies

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. The Operational and Market Benefits of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Transmission

As the energy system rapidly evolves, the expansion of the transmission system is increasingly vital to support reliability, flexibility, resource adequacy, and affordability. HVDC is a promising technology that aligns with industry goals and has several potential advantages, such as the optimal use of right-of-way, the connection of asynchronous grids, reduced power losses, and cost-effective transportation of bulk power over long distances. However, it is not always well understood when and why HVDC transmission is preferable or how to incorporate it into our planning practices. This session will discuss HVDC's operational and market benefits and its suitability as a viable solution, alongside or as an alternative to conventional AC transmission.

- Moderator: James Lester, Senior Advisor, Transmission, Climate, and Energy, Colorado Energy Office
- Jay Caspary, Principal, TransGrid Advisors, LLC
- Ebrahim Rahimi, Senior Advisor-Transmission Planning, California Independent System Operator
- Allie Wahrenberger, Vice President-Engineering, Grid United
- Deral Danis, Assistant Vice President-Transmission, Pattern Energy

11:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. The Obligation to Serve: Planning and Paying for New Large Loads

The rapid growth of new large loads, such as data centers and industrial facilities, presents both opportunities and challenges for the energy sector. This

session will explore the planning and financial considerations associated with serving new large loads, focusing on strategies for ensuring reliable and cost-effective service. We will examine case studies and best practices, providing insights into effective approaches for meeting the growing demand while balancing cost, reliability, and sustainability considerations. How can utilities and regulators plan for and accommodate the demands of new large loads? What are the financial implications and cost-recovery mechanisms for infrastructure investments, and who pays?

- Moderator: Eric Blank, Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission
- Dylan Sullivan, Energy Market Development, North America West and Latin America, Google
- Brian Cole, Vice President of Resource Management, Arizona Public Service Company
- Antoine Lucas, Vice President of Markets, Southwest Power Pool

2:30 – 3:30 P.M.

Advancing Energy Sovereignty and Innovation with Tribal Nations

Tribal leadership plays a crucial role in advancing energy sovereignty and innovation within the Western Interconnection. This session will highlight the contributions to and role of tribal communities in the energy sector, exploring their unique perspectives, challenges, and opportunities. How can states and provinces effectively engage tribal leaders in energy planning and development? What are the success stories and lessons learned from tribal energy projects? We will discuss the importance of supporting tribal sovereignty and fostering partnerships that respect and leverage tribal knowledge and resources, providing a platform for sharing insights and strategies for empowering tribal leadership in the energy transition.

- Moderator: Darcie Houck, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
- Donald Williams, Principal Consultant, From the Light Consulting
- Karen Woodard, Administrator, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Tewana "Tee" Cervantes, MPA, Executive Director, California Tribal Solar for all Consortium

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Anchored in Collaboration

The Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) invites you to join us in an evening of networking with a hosted reception aboard the historic Star of India. This session provides a unique opportunity to connect with colleagues in a setting

that symbolizes endurance and innovation. As we gather on this beautiful vessel, we'll explore how our collective efforts can fortify our resilience and sustainability while keeping our eyes on the horizon.

- *Star of India ship at the Maritime Museum of San Diego, [1492 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101](#)*

6:00 p.m.

Recess

Thursday October 24, 2024
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Understanding the West-Wide Governance Pathways Step 2 Proposal

The Pathways Initiative crossed several milestones since the Spring 2024 Joint CREPC-WIRAB meeting. The CAISO Board of Governors and WEM Governing Body approved the Launch Committee's Step 1 proposal in August.

Additionally, the Launch Committee hosted multiple public workshops throughout the summer to get input from stakeholders on the various design elements for the [West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative Step 2 Draft Proposal](#) which was released for public comment in late September. Join Launch Committee members for a conversation on the progress made this summer and what comes next.

- Moderator: Kevin Thompson, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
- Kathleen Staks, Executive Director, Western Freedom
- Jim Shetler, General Manager, Balancing Authority of Northern California

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Demand Side Solutions for Enhanced Reliability and Affordability

Energy conservation, efficiency, and flexible load are key components in creating a reliable and affordable energy system. This session will explore how utility commissioners and policy makers can leverage these demand-side solutions to enhance grid reliability and affordability while ensuring safety and sustainability. How can conservation efforts align with affordability goals to ensure equitable access to energy? What regulatory and market frameworks are needed to fully realize the benefits of distributed resources?

- Moderator: Janine Benner, Director, Oregon Department of Energy
- Tammy Cordova, Commissioner, Nevada Public Utilities Commission
- Riley Peck, Senior Manager of Regulatory Strategy, Portland General Electric
- Cristy Sanada, Director of California Regulatory Affairs, California Independent System Operator
- Myles Collins, Policy Researcher, Energy Markets and Policy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Maximizing the Opportunities of Inverter-Based Resources

According to WECC, approximately 85% of new resources connecting to the Western Interconnection over the next 10 years will be Inverter-Based Resources (IBRs). As IBRs begin to make up a higher percentage of capacity installed on the transmission system, ensuring the necessary functionalities and operational reliability of IBRs is essential for overall grid stability and reliability. In this session, we'll explore IBR-related challenges and propose recommendations to enhance interconnection standards, require IBR essential reliability services, and mitigate reliability risks unique to the West.

- Moderator: Mary Throne, Chairman, Wyoming Public Service Commission, and Chair of WIRAB
- Branden Sudduth, Vice President, Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis
- Kyle Thomas, Vice President, Engineering and Compliance Services, Elevate Energy Consulting
- Mahesh Morjaria, Ph.D., Executive Vice President-Plant Operational Technology, Terabase
- [WIRAB Draft Inverter-Bases Resource Risk Assessment](#)

12:00 p.m. Adjourn