

To: Markets+ State Committee
From: AESL Consulting and WIEB staff
Date: December 1, 2025
Re: MSC Capacity Building Plan

As Markets+ moves from Phase II and onto “go live” implementation in late-2027, the MSC’s role will evolve from providing input into the tariff and protocols to reviewing and providing feedback to SPP on M+ implementation and operations, and assessing its impacts and outcomes. In the end the MSC’s task is to ensure the M+ operates in ways that delivers customer benefits and protections as well as providing input into possible design responses and “course corrections.” To help effectively perform this evolved role, the MSC members will need to understand both the details of the M+ operations and their macro implications. Accordingly, we propose developing a formal “Markets+ State Capacity Building” plan that will include proactive education on the important M+ topics that are likely to have particular impacts on states and the West more generally; issues such as:

- resource adequacy,
- seams,
- governance,
- price formation,
- transmission rights, pricing, and availability,
- greenhouse gas accounting for pricing and non-pricing states, and
- market power mitigation.

Accordingly, we propose using the time between now and M+ Go-Live in late 2027, to develop a strong (and continuous) network of commissioners and staff expertise from (and within) all the MSC states to support the MSC involvement in the deep details of M+ operations as well as overarching policies so that M+ goals are met and end-use customers and stakeholders’ benefit. Beyond deepening state capabilities and capacities, such an effort will ensure continuity and consistency of regional and state-specific expertise within the MSC, as well as adaptability to the broader changes across the West.

While there are many ways to build the capacity AESL and WIEB propose to organize a 24-month (January 2026 to December 2027) educational plan consisting of:

- “deep-dive” 90-minute webinars with technical experts every two months;
- Occasional in-person workshops with commissioners, staff, and invited stakeholder groups on specific topics;
- Identifying readings and developing a resource library to accompany the learning sessions; and
- Potential other learning methods such as scenario simulations for hands-on exercises and tours and on-site visits to key facilities.

This proposal is subject to interest, time, and budget so we expect to work with and rely on SPP, its Stakeholder Learning program, SPP’s Market Monitor Unit for much of the substance, as well as other resources such as WIEB’s partnership with Stanford for expanded markets training, while integrating

other experts and public interest perspectives as needed and appropriate. Below is a potential schedule for consideration by the MSC.

POTENTIAL SCHEDULE

Markets+ State Capacity Building Plan & Schedule

Jan/Feb26: The M+ Path to Now...

- Review of the M+ “history” and tariff development process

Mar/Apr26: Overview of the M+ Tariff, Protocols, and Implementation

May/June26: Governance & Commissioner Oversight

- Markets+ governance structure: independent board, sectors, and commissioner role.
- Transparency, accountability, and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Interaction with FERC and stakeholder committees.

June/July2026 Market Foundations & States’ Role *(potentially in-person)*

July/Aug2026: Price Formation Fundamentals

- Overview of organized markets and Markets+ objectives.
- Locational marginal pricing, congestion management, uplift, and scarcity pricing.
- Day-ahead vs. real-time dispatch; implications for retail rates.

Sept/Oct2026: Market Power Monitoring, Mitigation & Long-Term Oversight

- Role of the Market Monitor
- Deep dive on IMM reports and enforcement pathways.
- Offer-cap design, mitigation triggers, and transparency.

Nov/Dec2026: Resource Adequacy & Reliability

- How resource adequacy is defined and enforced in Markets+.
- Reserve sharing, emergency protocols, and reliability coordination.
- Case comparisons

Dec26/Jan27 Greenhouse Gas Accounting & Policy Integration

- Reconciling carbon-pricing vs. non-pricing states.
- GHG tracking, attribution, and emissions leakage mitigation.
- Implications for fairness and state authority.

Jan/Feb27: Transmission Rights, Pricing & Availability

- Transmission service treatment and FTRs.
- Transmission constraints and congestion impacts on customers.
- Cost allocation principles and fairness across states.

Mar/Apr27: Seams & Interregional Coordination

- Seams and transaction inefficiencies.
- Coordination challenges and cost-shifting.

- Examples of seams settlements and joint initiatives.

May/June27: Market Integrity, Transmission & Seams

- Refresher on RA, pricing, transmission, and seams
- Market monitoring case studies.
- Seams tabletop exercise.
- Stakeholder panel on consumer transparency and cost impacts

June/July2027 Pricing & Customer Cost Impacts

- How market design affects retail prices.
- Benefit-cost modeling and ratepayer protection strategies.
- Addressing energy burden and equity in market outcomes.
- Translating market performance into consumer metrics.
- Designing enduring consumer protections and transparency mechanisms

July/Aug27: In-Person Workshop TBD/Final Pressing Issues

Sept/Oct27: Are we ready for M+ Go-Live? Now What?

Nov/Dec27: M+ Goes Live: What are we seeing

- Interregional coordination and seams simulation.
- Review of price-formation, RA, seams, and GHG lessons.
- Transmission planning for 2030+ resource mix.
- Evaluating benefit allocation for advanced technologies