

WIRAB Monthly Meeting

May 7, 2026



Meeting Logistics



Recording

This meeting is being recorded and **but will not be posted publicly.**

By participating, you consent to your name, voice, and image being part of the recording.



How to Participate

Members entered as Panelists
All other participants entered as attendees

If you need to be promoted to Panelist, please **“Raise Hand”**

Feel free to use the **chat** for comments or clarifying questions



Audio Etiquette

Anyone can **“Raise Hand”** feature to ask questions or provide input

Please **mute yourself** when not speaking

If joining by phone, please identify yourself in the chat



Materials & Follow-Up

Slides and materials will be shared after the meeting and be made available on the webpage

Introductions



Agenda



WECC Activities:

WECC 2027 Business Plan and Budget
Current Activities



WIRAB Activities:

WIRAB Large Load Projects



NERC Activities:

Large Load Activities
Wildfire Report



Upcoming WIRAB Meetings

2027 Draft Budget Overview – May WIRAB Meeting

Jeff Droubay

Chief Executive Officer

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



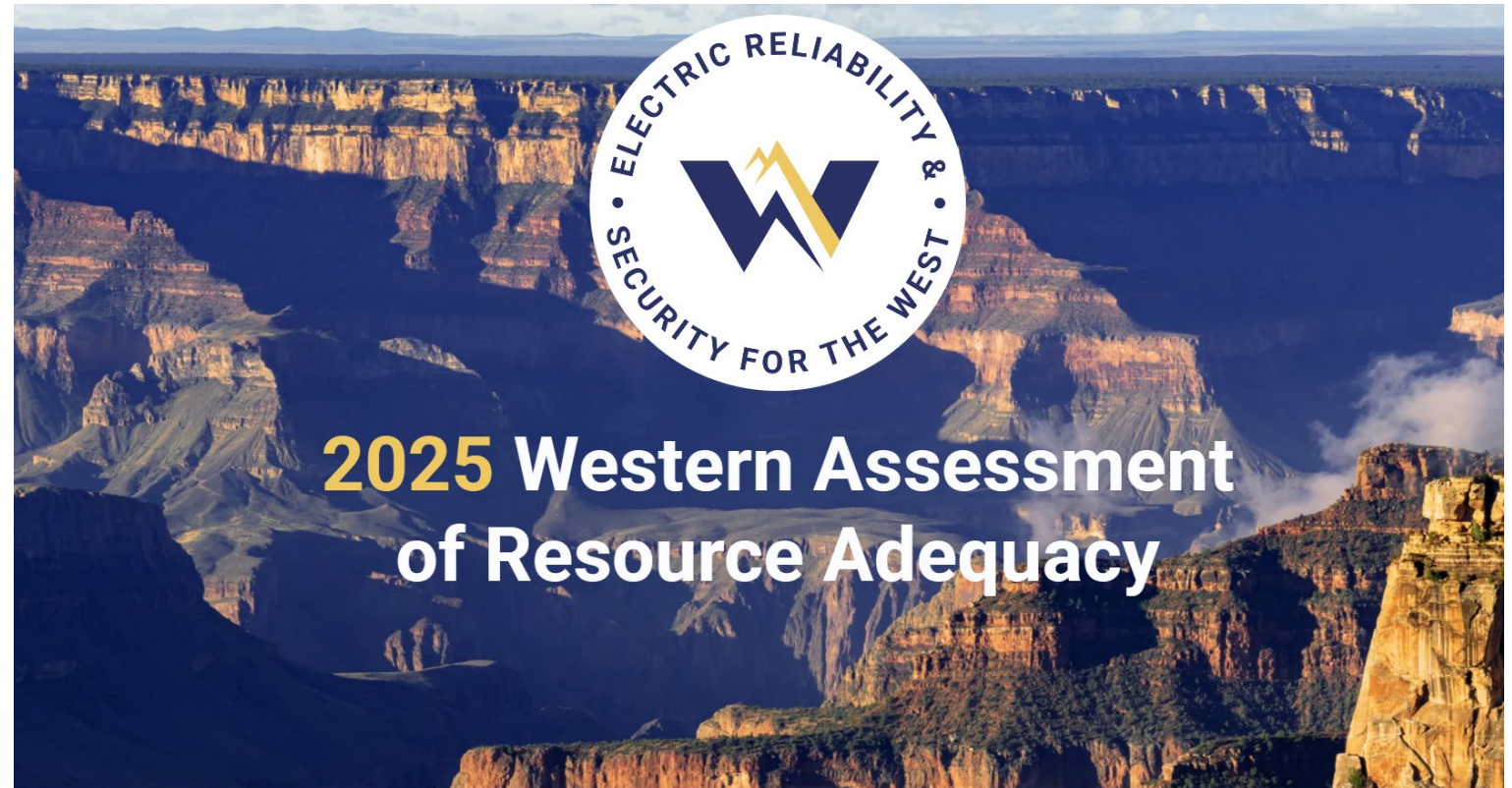
The Work: Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA)

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



The Work: Strategic Engagement

- Engages with stakeholders on the risk-related work of CMEP and RAPA
- Facilitates discussions across diverse stakeholder groups for the benefit of risk mitigation and reliability



WECC's annual Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy provides a high-level examination of risks to the reliability of the Western Interconnection related to resource adequacy over the next 10 years. Through an energy-based probabilistic approach, WECC examines the risks throughout the entire interconnection and eight subregions, across all potential hours at risk (unlike traditional peak load hour assessments). This work is intended to help stakeholders target specific areas and topics for deeper evaluation and mitigation.

2027 Statutory Budget Context

- Ensure adequate resources to mitigate risks to the BPS and to meet demands of increasing workload
 - Increase in number of registered entities is a major 2027 budget driver
 - Registration of ~ 150 CAT 2 GOs as of May; another 50 possible by year-end to total approximately 700
- Recognize the complexity inherent in the modern grid and the pace of industry and consumer change
- Maintain adequate working capital reserves



2027 Statutory Budget Overview

- Statutory budget – \$42.0 million— \$1.9 million (4.7%) increase
 - Percentage increase excluding one-time gas-electric interdependence study – 2.2%
 - Approximately \$270K less than 2027 projection compiled during 2026 BP&B cycle
- Nine additional FTEs, mostly in CMEP, due to increase in number of registered entities
- Assessments – \$38.5 million— \$2.9 million (8.0%) increase
 - Consistent with prior assessment stabilization work and MBS recommendations
- Penalties collected and released to date— \$0
- Reserve usage
 - Peak Reliability Donation Reserves – \$1.1 million
 - Working Capital Reserves – \$1.0 million

Major Statutory Budget Drivers

- Nine statutory FTE additions
- Merit and market adjustment pools
- One-time gas-electric interdependence study
- Increase in indirect allocation to non-statutory
- Reduction in R&S Workshops from two to one

Budget Comparison: 2026 to 2027

	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	Variance \$ Incr(Decr)	Variance % Incr(Decr)	Primary Drivers
Funding					
Assessments	\$ 35,657,280	\$ 38,509,860	\$ 2,852,580	8.0%	Budget increase, no penalties, assessment stabilization recommendation
Penalties	41,745	-	(41,745)	-100.0%	
Other Income	1,757,506	1,363,053	(394,453)	-22.4%	Lower interest rates, reduction of one R&S Workshop
Total Funding	\$ 37,456,531	\$ 39,872,913	\$ 2,416,382	6.5%	
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses	\$ 32,652,261	\$ 34,180,975	\$ 1,528,714	4.7%	9 FTE, 5% merit/market adj pool, refined tax/benefit rates
Meeting Expenses	1,655,128	1,552,548	(102,580)	-6.2%	Reduction of one R&S Workshop, increased travel costs and activity
Operating Expenses	7,153,710	7,838,874	685,164	9.6%	Gas-electric interdependence study, completion of WestTEC project
Indirect Expenses	(1,437,341)	(1,691,294)	(253,953)	17.7%	Increase in non-statutory FTE, increase in expense base for allocation
Total Expenses	\$ 40,023,758	\$ 41,881,103	\$ 1,857,345	4.6%	
Fixed Assets	\$ 109,116	\$ 132,187	\$ 23,071	21.1%	
Total Budget	\$ 40,132,874	\$ 42,013,290	\$ 1,880,416	4.7%	
Change in Working Capital	\$ (2,676,343)	\$ (2,140,377)	\$ 535,966		Lower use of reserves to offset assessments
FTEs	178.0	187.0	9.0	5.1%	

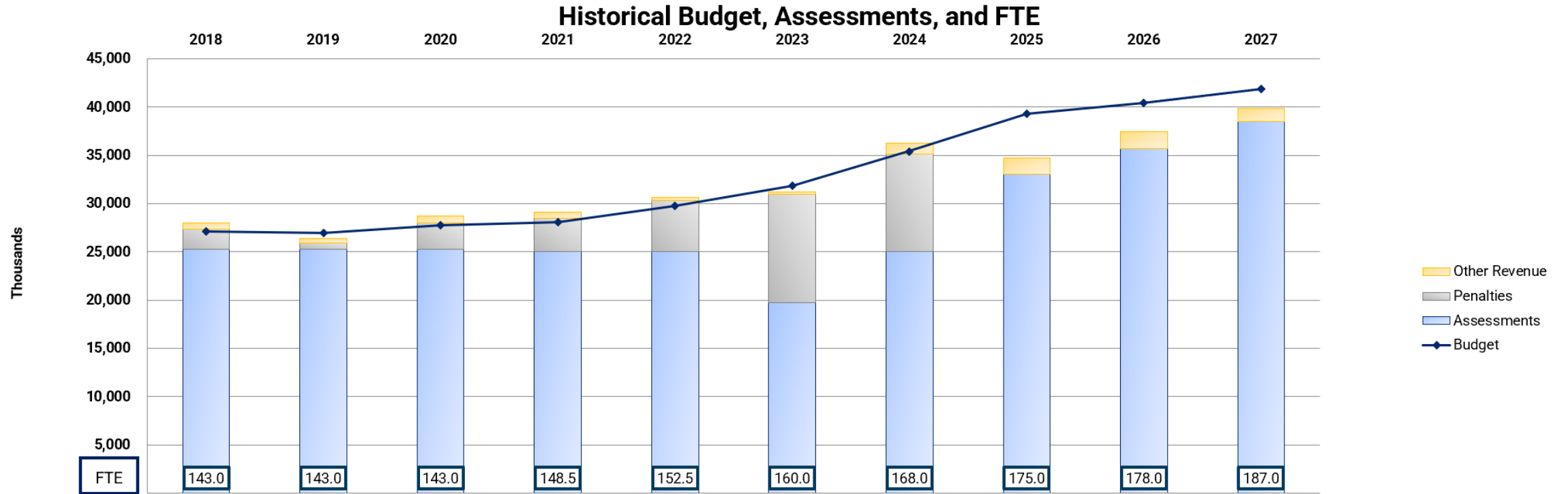


Budget Comparison: Draft 1 to Draft 2

	2027 Budget Draft #1	2027 Budget Draft #2	Variance \$ Incr(Decr)	Variance % Incr(Decr)	Primary Drivers
Funding					
Assessments	\$ 38,509,861	\$ 38,509,860	\$ (1)	0.0%	
Penalties	-	-	-	100.0%	
Other Income	1,610,303	1,363,053	(247,250)	-15.4%	Reduction of one R&S Workshop
Total Funding	\$ 40,120,164	\$ 39,872,913	\$ (247,251)	-0.6%	
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses	\$ 34,180,975	\$ 34,180,975	\$ -	0.0%	
Meeting Expenses	1,854,670	1,552,548	(302,122)	-16.3%	Reduction of one R&S Workshop and associated employee travel
Operating Expenses	7,848,124	7,838,874	(9,250)	-0.1%	
Indirect Expenses	(1,688,276)	(1,691,294)	(3,018)	0.2%	
Total Expenses	\$ 42,195,493	\$ 41,881,103	\$ (314,390)	-0.7%	
Fixed Assets	\$ 132,187	\$ 132,187	\$ -	0.0%	
Total Budget	\$ 42,327,680	\$ 42,013,290	\$ (314,390)	-0.7%	
Change in Working Capital	\$ (2,207,516)	\$ (2,140,377)	\$ 67,139	-3.0%	
FTEs	187.00	187.00	-	0.0%	



Budget Compared to Funding Sources



* Estimated based on current needs analysis.

2027 Non-Statutory Budget Context

- Successful implementation and support of the new custom software
- Overlap in costs for current software licensing and new software development
- Preparation for the December 31, 2027, contract-end with CleanCounts
- Positioning and set up of WREGIS for success as an independent, stand-alone entity effective January 1, 2028
- All spending related to software development and the establishment of the new entity are funded with WREGIS reserves



2027 Non-Statutory Budget Overview

- Fee revenue increase – \$820K (24.2%)
 - Increase is 14.5% above 2025 actual fee revenue
 - Consistent with volume growth trends
- Non-statutory budget increase – \$2.1 million (45.5%)
 - Budget total – \$6.7 million
 - Indirect allocation increase
- Conversion of some existing budgeted FTE to positions needed to support the custom software and the separation of WREGIS from WECC
- Three additional FTEs to support the stand-alone organization
- Reserve usage
 - Working Capital Reserves – \$2.4 million



Important 2028 WREGIS Context

- Current software licensing fees end in 2027
- Overhead allocation from WECC G&A ends in 2027
- Current projection for 2028 budget is close to break-even
- Continued refinement will occur



2026, 2027, and Projected 2028 Non-Statutory Budget Comparison

	2026 vs 2027				2027 vs 2028			
	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	Variance \$ Incr(Decr)	Variance % Incr(Decr)	2027 Budget	2028—YR 1 Budget	Variance \$ Incr(Decr)	Variance % Incr(Decr)
Funding								
User Fees	\$ 3,385,000	\$ 4,205,240	\$ 820,240	24.2%	\$ 4,205,240	\$ 4,457,554	\$ 252,314	6.0%
Other Income	182,500	127,500	(55,000)	-30.1%	127,500	100,000	(27,500)	-21.6%
Total Funding	\$ 3,567,500	\$ 4,332,740	\$ 765,240	21.5%	\$ 4,332,740	\$ 4,557,554	\$ 224,814	5.2%
Expenses								
Personnel Expenses	\$ 1,788,183	\$ 2,602,867	\$ 814,684	45.6%	\$ 2,602,867	\$ 3,185,776	\$ 582,909	22.4%
Meeting Expenses	51,480	50,785	(695)	-1.4%	50,785	105,000	54,215	106.8%
Operating Expenses	1,347,972	1,469,263	121,291	9.0%	1,469,263	1,025,320	(443,943)	-30.2%
Indirect Expenses	1,437,341	1,691,294	253,953	17.7%	1,688,276	-	(1,688,276)	-100.0%
Total Expenses	\$ 4,624,976	\$ 5,814,209	\$ 1,189,233	25.7%	\$ 5,811,191	\$ 4,316,096	\$ (1,495,095)	-25.7%
Fixed Assets	\$ 12,884	\$ 936,653	\$ 923,769	7169.9%	\$ 936,653	\$ -	\$ (936,653)	-100.0%
Total Budget	\$ 4,637,860	\$ 6,750,862	\$ 2,113,002	45.6%	\$ 6,747,844	\$ 4,316,096	\$ (2,431,748)	-36.0%
Change in Working Capital	\$ (1,070,360)	\$ (2,418,122)	\$ (1,347,762)		\$ (2,415,104)	\$ 241,458	\$ 2,656,562	
FTEs	16.0	19.0	3.0	18.8%	19.0	19.0	0.0	0.0%



Next Steps

- May 4 – first budget overview webinar for stakeholders
- May 7 – budget overview at WIRAB monthly meeting
- May 11 – second budget overview webinar for stakeholders
- May 15 – three-week stakeholder comment period ends
- June 10 – budget presented to WECC board for approval
- August – NERC board of trustees approval and filing with FERC
- October/November – FERC approval



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WIRAB Staff Recommendations and Draft WIRAB Advice



Support CMEP Expansion

- Increased registrations and reliability risks justify additional staffing
- Continued oversight needed as the resource mix and load evolves
- Consider how this will change with Large Load registration

Support AI & Data Reporting Investments

- New AI and reporting personnel can:
 - Improve organizational efficiency
 - Enhance data-driven decision-making
 - Support reliability-focused insights
- WIRAB encourages WECC to track and report measurable efficiencies

WIRAB Staff Recommendations and Draft WIRAB Advice



Support Use of Peak Donation Funds

- Opportunity to update and expand prior WECC gas-electric work
- Aligns with WIRAB 2027 Strategic Initiative:
 - Stakeholders, including WIRAB, will help inform study scope and development
 - WIRAB encourages the study to provide practical and actionable insights for decision-makers

Support WREGIS Transition

- Commends WECC's Transparency for WREGIS Separation

WIRAB Staff Recommendations and Draft WIRAB Advice



Support Assessment Stabilization Strategy

- Assessment increases align with WECC's long-term stabilization approach
- WIRAB Advice encourages:
 - Continued transparency on future assessment impacts
 - Ongoing review of overhead reductions following WREGIS separation

Encourage Workforce Adaptability

- WIRAB supports WECC's Knowledge Assessment Matrix (KAM) program
- Continued workforce development is important as the industry evolves

WIRAB Advice: Next Steps



Proposed Timeline

- **May 7:** Present draft comments to WIRAB members
- **May 6 – May 11:** Leadership Review
- **May 11 – May 21:** Member Review
 - Collect: Written edits, substantive feedback, suggested revisions, Member support
- **May 22, 2026:** Submit Final Comments to WECC
- **June 10, 2026:** Present to WECC Board of Directors

WECC Update

Matt Evans

Stakeholder Engagement Specialist

**Electric Reliability
& Security for the West**

May 7, 2026



Upcoming Reports/Events

- NERC Summer Reliability Assessment
 - May 19
- State of the Interconnection
 - May 28
- WREGIS Town Hall
 - May 20 at 3 p.m. MDT
 - More [information](#)
- Reliability in the West discussion series
 - Risk Management Program
 - June 3 at 11 a.m. MDT
 - More [information](#)
- Risk Management Program Town Hall
 - June 30 at 10 a.m. MDT
 - More [information](#)



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WIRAB Large Load Projects



Harmonizing Large Load Interconnection Requirements in the West

Project Goals:

- Develop a practical framework for large load interconnection in the Western Interconnection
- Improve consistency and transparency in how large loads are evaluated and studied
- Identify key technical and operational considerations necessary to maintain reliability
- Support Western states and regulators as they evaluate rapidly growing large load requests
- Provide a forum for utilities, system operators, regulators, and industry stakeholders to share practices and lessons learned

Industry Advisory Group



IAG will:

- Regularly convene western stakeholders including utilities, states, system operators, and large load developers
- Serve as the primary forum for technical discussion and stakeholder engagement
- Help inform the development of a Large Load Interconnection Requirements Template and related recommendations

IAG Kickoff Meeting: May 28th ([register](#))

WIRAB Large Load Projects



State Oversight Resource for Large Load Interconnections

- Project Goal: develop a state-focused technical oversight resource to support regulators and staff in asking informed, strategic questions when evaluating large load interconnection requests.
- Resource will address, at a minimum, the following topics:
 - Large load forecasting processes, assumptions, and uncertainty
 - Interconnection processes, timelines, and system impacts
 - Resource adequacy and transmission reliability implications
 - Cost allocation, customer protections, and risk management
 - Risk mitigation solutions
- Designed to complement the interconnection harmonization effort
- Ongoing scoping interviews (CO, MT, AZ, NM, OR...)



NERC Activities Update



1. [Level 3 Alert – Essential Action to Industry: Computational Load Modeling, Studies, Instrumentation, Commissioning, Operations, Protection, and Control](#)
2. [Wildfire Report and Wildfire Mitigation Guide](#)



NERC Level 3 Alert



[Level 3 Alert](#) – Essential Action to Industry: Computational Load Modeling, Studies, Instrumentation, Commissioning, Operations, Protection, and Control

- Highest NERC Alert Tier, issued May 4, 2026.
- Builds on NERC's prior [Level 2 Alert](#) (Sept. 2025) which issued recommendations on large load practices.
- Simultaneously, NERC released the [Reliability Guideline: Risk Mitigation for Emerging Large Loads](#) (approved April 30, 2026) — a 9-chapter voluntary document spanning data collection, interconnection studies, long-term planning, operations, stability, power quality, physical/cyber security, and resilience. The guideline is the third in a series of NERC LLWG work products following two prior white papers on characteristics/risks and gaps in existing practices.

NERC Level 3 Alert



Seven Essential Actions

1. Modeling Requirements (TP / PC / TO)

PERC1-based modeling; collect IT composition, ramp rates, protection settings, on-site generation.

2. System Studies (TP / PC)

Evaluate SOLs and stability margins; identify credible CILR contingencies; report MW exposure to BAs/RPs.

3. “Qualified Change” Definition (PC)

Update FAC-001/002 qualified change definition to include load growth, equipment changes, and repurposing.

4. Commissioning Process (TO)

As-built model verification; load testing; SCADA/RAS checks; pre-energization checklist with RC, TOP, BA.

5. Fault Ride-Through / Protection Coordination (TP / PC / TO)

No firm load loss from normally-cleared faults (TPL-001). Acquire protection settings; maximize ride-through.

6. Dynamic Fault Recording (TO)

Install digital fault recorders; supply data to TPs, PCs, RCs, and ERO for event analysis.

7. Interpersonal Communication (TOP / RC / BA)

Formal communication with load entities; issue operating instructions to prevent BES Emergencies.

NERC Level 3 Alert

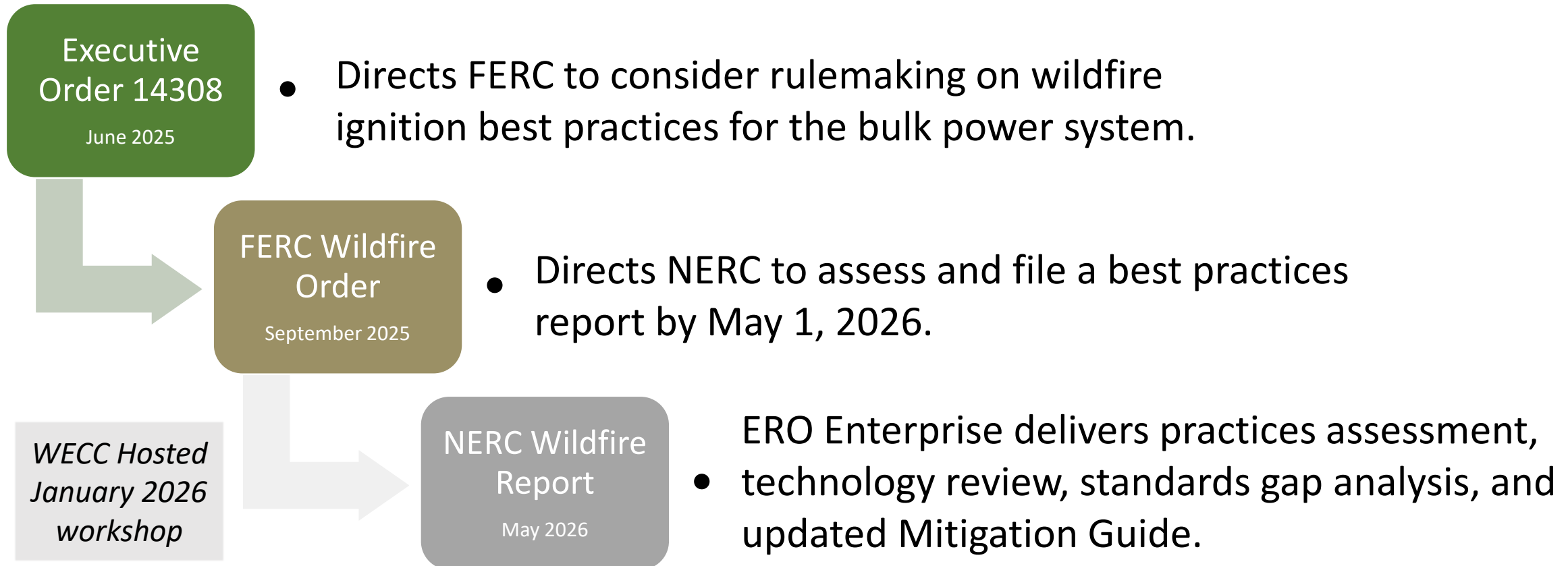


In plain terms:

- Utilities must now develop specific modeling requirements for computational loads and build those into interconnection agreements.
- Planning entities must study what happens when clusters of these loads suddenly drop off the system during a fault.
- Grid operators must establish direct communication lines and the authority to issue operating instructions with large load operators the way they do with generator operators today.

The alert is particularly focused on the CILR problem

NERC Wildfire Report



NERC Wildfire Report



Between 2017 and 2024, Western Interconnection wildfire data noted 1,425 transmission lines were impacted by wildfires.

43.5% on 100–199 kV facilities and 35.8% on 200–299 kV facilities.

2024 data showed a **1,350% increase** in events affecting WECC major paths.



Based on 2025 TADS data, 100–199 kV lines account for 86% of vegetation contacts and momentary and sustained outages.



NIST estimated wildfires cost the U.S. economy between \$87 billion and \$424 billion annually in 2022 dollars.

NERC Wildfire Report



The report distills leading practices across four areas:

1. *Operations*
2. *Vegetation management*
3. *Equipment maintenance*
4. *Protection*

Offers recommendations for NERC, Utilities, Federal Agencies, and States/Provinces.

Three systemic gaps emerge across the report:

- Inconsistent HFRA definitions across jurisdictions
- Siloed data and risk reduction decisions
- Land management policies that impede vegetation work (state/federal coordination)

NERC Wildfire Report



Recommendations for States/Provinces:

Adopt NARUC's [Wildfire Workbook for Utility Regulators](#) Chapter 7 criteria for measuring mitigation effectiveness

Develop standard WMP maturity rankings; consider integrating into [PNNL's Wildfire Mitigation Plans Database](#)

Collaborate on HFRA identification and contribute to a single-source national wildfire risk tool

Support utility education and outreach on vegetation management and defensible space for BPS transmission and distribution

NERC Wildfire Report



Other Recommendations for WIRAB to watch:

FAC-003 Standards Development
NERC's primary recommendation

DOE Federal Cross-Agency Committee
NERC recommends a DOE-led body to standardize HFRA definitions and streamline land access

FERC Follow-up
FERC may respond with a rulemaking, particularly on PSPS coordination minimums or the FAC-003 recommendation

Broader Standards Gap Review
Beyond FAC-003, NERC will review Prevention, Planning, and Detection & Response standards for wildfire gaps

Upcoming Meetings



WIRAB Monthly Meeting

First Thursday of the Month at 2:00 PM MT

Next Meeting: June 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM MT

Spring 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

May 12-14, 2026 in San Diego, CA

WIRAB Member Lunch on May 12

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

Thank You!

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