

# Spring 2022 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

The U.S. Grant Hotel  
326 Broadway  
San Diego, CA

## [Webinar Information](#)

<b>Monday May 2, 2022</b>	<b>Tuesday May 3, 2022</b>	<b>Wednesday May 4, 2022</b>
<p>9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. <i>Spring 2022 WEIM-BOSR Meeting</i></p> <p>1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting</i></p>	<p>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting</i></p>	<p>8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting</i></p>

## **Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting**

### **1:00 – 1:15 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 Spring 2022 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting.

- John Chatburn, co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- Megan Decker, co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- Amy Sopinka, Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body
- Mary Throne, Vice-Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

### **1:15 – 1:45 p.m. Western Resource Adequacy Program**

The Western Power Pool (WPP) is leading a broad coalition of stakeholders to establish a Western Resource Adequacy Program. The program seeks to secure regional resource adequacy while maintaining existing responsibilities for reliable operations and observing existing frameworks for planning, purchasing, and delivering energy. The President and CEO of the Western Power Pool will discuss progress towards standing up the WRAP and provide her vision for the future of the WRAP in the West.

- Sarah Edmonds, President and Chief Executive Officer, Western Power Pool [\[pdf\]](#)

**1:45 – 2:45 p.m. Nameplate, Perfect, and Effective Capacity**

Nameplate, perfect, and effective capacity are a cluster of capacity concepts that are crucial to understanding the changing resource adequacy paradigm in the West. These concepts are taking on increased importance in utility Integrated Resource Planning and enable capacity accounting and verification in the Western Resource Adequacy Program. This panel will present these key concepts and discuss their importance to improved resource adequacy in the West.

- Nick Schlag, Partner, Energy + Environmental Economics [\[pdf\]](#)
- Ryan Roy, Director of Technology, Modeling & Analytics, Western Power Pool [\[pdf\]](#)

**2:45 – 3:00 p.m. Break**

**3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Natural Gas Pipeline Systems and Green Hydrogen Blends**

Hydrogen produced through clean pathways can be injected into natural gas pipelines, and the resulting blends can be used to generate heat and electric power with lower emissions than using natural gas alone. The design and condition of existing pipeline infrastructure and equipment may require operators to limit the concentration of hydrogen blends to ensure safe and uneventful transportation. Panelists will discuss the benefits of blending green hydrogen and natural gas and the challenges of transitioning existing natural gas pipeline systems, as well as how blending may or may not fit in with the broader discussions about hydrogen's role in a clean energy transition.

- Kellye Dundon, Environmental Policy & Programs Manager, NW Natural [\[pdf\]](#)
- Mark Thompson, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utility Commission [\[pdf\]](#)

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Electric Vehicle Growth -- Impacts on Electric Utility Distribution Systems**

Electric Vehicle (EV) charging represents a rapidly growing load which presents unique challenges to grid planning. The characteristics of EV charging loads vary greatly depending on the type of charging (Public Fast Charging vs Level 2 Residential, etc.) and the specific vehicle technology and vocation. The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has developed an agent-based modeling and simulation platform known as Caldera® to study the impacts of EV charging on various portions of the distribution network, the aggregate demands on generation, and the ability of novel control strategies to improve the integration of this load with the existing grid and future renewable generation. Can overnight residential charging be controlled to avoid capacity upgrades? Is workplace charging necessary to integrate more solar? How large of a battery energy storage system should be collocated with high power charging? Caldera assists researchers in answering these questions and more. This presentation

will include results from DOE funded research projects and INL initiatives.

- Timothy Pennington, Sr. Research Engineer in Vehicle Electrification, Idaho National Laboratory [\[pdf\]](#)

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

***Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>***  
***Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting***

**7:00 a.m.                      Continental Breakfast**

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m.              Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) have formed a joint federal-state task force on electric transmission. Members of this first-of-its-kind task force will explore transmission-related issues to identify and realize the benefits that transmission can provide, while ensuring that the costs are allocated efficiently and fairly. Western representatives on the joint task force will share their thoughts on making this effort impactful in the West.

- Thad LeVar, Chair, Utah Public Service Commission
- Cliff Rechtschaffen, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.              Barriers to Transmission Development in the West**

How do we get interregional transmission built in a timely fashion in the West? Will the policies proposed in the FERC rulemaking help? Should the states have a primary role in transmission cost allocation and planning? Should WECC reengage in transmission planning? Are there any creative idea to address the siting of transmission on Federal lands in the West?

Moderator: Debbie Lew, Associate Director, Energy Systems Integration Group [\[pdf\]](#)

Panelists:

- Rob Gramlich, President, Grid Strategies [\[pdf\]](#)
- Sharon Segner, Senior Vice President, Transmission Policy, LS Power
- Michelle Manary, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Electric Delivery Division, Grid Deployment Organization, U.S. Department of Energy [\[pdf\]](#)

**9:30 – 10:00 a.m.            Break**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.        Transmission Planning in the West**

How do we proactively plan for new generation? Where do we need new lines?

How do resource planners work with transmission planners to determine future needs? How do we prepare for longer term needs?

Moderator: Debbie Lew, Associate Director, Energy Systems Integration Group

Panelists:

- Neil Millar, Vice President, Infrastructure and Operations Planning, California ISO [\[pdf\]](#)
- Dave Angell, Vice President, Regional Transmission Planning, Western Power Pool [\[pdf\]](#)
- Keegan Moyer, Principal, Energy Strategies [\[pdf\]](#)

**11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Maximizing the Use of Existing Rights-of-Way**

What are the barriers to siting transmission along interstate highway system rights of way? What are barriers to siting additional transmission in existing rights-of-way? What lessons can we learn from the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority about facilitate the licensing, construction, and financing of high voltage transmission lines? Are these lessons transferrable across state boundaries?

Moderator: Debbie Lew, Associate Director, Energy Systems Integration Group

Panelists:

- Morgan Putnam, Founder, NGI Consulting [\[pdf\]](#)
- Nick Miller, President, HickoryLedge [\[pdf\]](#)
- Doug Howe, Board Member, New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority [\[pdf\]](#)

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch**

**1:30 – 2:00 p.m. U.S. DOE Funding Opportunities for Transmission and Distribution Grids**

In support of the Biden Administration’s commitment to modernize the nation’s power grid and infrastructure and deliver 100% clean energy to businesses and homeowners by 2035, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced the availability of up to \$15.5 billion in grants or assistance for efforts to improve and expand the nation’s transmission and distribution grid. Representatives of DOE will provide details regarding loan eligibility and features with a focus on state collaborations.

- Michelle Manary, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Electric Delivery Division, Grid Deployment Organization, U.S. Department of Energy [\[pdf\]](#)

**2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Potential Role for WECC in Transmission Planning in the West**

WECC’s mission is to effectively and efficiently mitigate risks to the reliability and security of the Western Interconnection Bulk Power System. WECC carries

out activities to fulfill its mission using fair and open processes that leverage sound technical and policy analysis. WECC has the expertise to develop, implement, and coordinate transmission planning processes, conduct transmission planning studies, and prepare Interconnection-wide transmission plans. Representatives of WECC will discuss the benefits and challenges associated with WECC engaging in transmission planning in the West.

- Melanie Frye, President and Chief Executive Officer, WECC
- Kris Raper, Vice President of External Affairs, WECC

**2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Break**

**3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Day-Ahead Market Design Challenges**

Both the California ISO and the Southwest Power Pool are currently designing regional day-ahead electricity markets that complement real-time markets but also stop short of providing all the services a Regional Transmission Organization. Developing a day-ahead electricity market presents specific design challenges, including establishing rules and procedures for transmission commitment and tests for resource sufficiency. The panelists will discuss challenges specific to the design of a day-ahead market as well as progress being made in design workshops.

Moderator: Caitlin Liotiris, Principal, Energy Strategies

Panelists:

- Scott Kinney, Director Power Supply, Avista Utilities
- Russ Mantifel, Transmission & Policy, Bonneville Power Administration
- Kathy Anderson, Senior Manager, Real Time Operations and Markets, Idaho Power Company

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Regional Transmission Organization Design Challenges**

Many energy advocates and policymakers view a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) as the ultimate end or objective of wholesale electricity market expansion. The legislatures in Colorado and Nevada have both passed laws requiring electric utilities join a full RTO. Going all the way to a full RTO presents specific design challenges, including balancing area consolidation and transfer of operational control of transmission assets. The panelists will discuss challenges specific to the design of a full RTO in the West.

Moderator: Caitlin Liotiris, Principal, Energy Strategies

Panelists:

- Carrie Simpson, Director, Western Markets, Public Service Company of Colorado
- Scott Bolton, Senior Vice President, Transmission Development, PacifiCorp
- David Rubin, Federal Energy Policy Director, NV Energy

5:00 p.m. Recess

**Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting**

7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Changing the RTO/ISO Debate in the West

Stakeholders across the so-called "market debate" agree that the energy policy objective is to achieve reliable decarbonization. Reducing emissions is an accepted goal, but decarbonization with degraded reliability invites political backlash. To achieve reliable decarbonization, we must avoid classic energy policy traps. Our approach is not designed to drive to an "RTO"; rather it is designed to drive toward a market structure that preserves what works and tries to solve for what does not. Markets need to be designed to meet the needs of the region they will serve — "by the West, for the West" is the best approach to achieving reliable decarbonization in the West.

- Raymond Gifford, Managing Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP
- Matthew Larson, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP

[\[pdf\]](#)

Changing the RTO/ISO Debate [\[pdf\]](#)

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. State Governance Principles

Numerous multi-state wholesale electric organizations are under consideration in the Western Interconnection. While the proposed organizations are not considered RTOs per se, most of the proposed organizations will introduce some incremental FERC jurisdictional oversight and all will affect costs that are ultimately incurred by electric utility ratepayers. State representatives have developed a set of principles to promote inclusiveness in governance, fairness in balancing diverse interests, representation of minority interests, and ongoing responsiveness of any regional market to all stakeholders, including and particularly states and the policies their legislatures have mandated.

Moderator: Letha Tawney, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utility Commission

Panelists:

- John Chatburn, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
- Eric Blank, Chair, Colorado Public Utilities Commission

Multi-state Electricity Organization Principles [\[pdf\]](#)

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break

**10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Board Independence and Regional States Committees**

Governing boards of multistate wholesale electricity markets should be diverse, represent a range of sectors and geographies, and be expert enough to substantively engage in decision making to balance diverse interests, including and beyond market participants. The board should be advised by a regional states committee that has full access, alongside market participants, during the policy development process and meaningful access to the independent board. Meaningful and open stakeholder engagement is critical. Stakeholders, including independent power producers and consumer advocates, are important to the long-term sustainability of the organization. The panelists will discuss progress towards achieving board independence, robust states committees, and broad stakeholder engagement in current regionalization efforts.

Moderator: Letha Tawney, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utility Commission

Panelists:

- Stacey Crowley, Vice President of External Affairs, California ISO
- Kara Fornstrom, Director of State Regulatory Policy, Southwest Power Pool
- Rebecca Sexton, Director of Reliability Programs, Western Power Pool

**12:00 p.m. Adjourn**