





Spring 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

San Diego Marriott La Jolla
4240 La Jolla Village Drive
La Jolla, California

Wednesday April 2, 2025	Thursday April 3, 2025	Friday April 4, 2025
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast	7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast	7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Joint States' Committees Meeting	8:00 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. Networking Activity	
		

Wednesday April 2, 2025 *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), the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation's Transmission Collaborative (CREPC TC), and the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) invite CREPC-WIRAB participants to join them for updates from the individual committees.

11:30 a.m. Adjourn

Wednesday April 2, 2025
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 Spring 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting. Round-robin introductions follow remarks from leadership.

- Gabriel Aguilera, Co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- James Lester, Co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- Mary Throne, Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body
- Lea Márquez Peterson, Vice Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Beyond Borders: Transmission, Reliability, and Regional Coordination

Electricity doesn't stop at market, state, or political boundaries—yet regulatory, operational, and policy differences can create challenges for reliability and transmission planning. As the West navigates evolving market structures, resource adequacy concerns, transmission needs, and state and federal policy developments, regional coordination remains essential to ensuring a reliable and resilient grid. This session will explore the importance of cross-border collaboration as a foundation to all our work. Panelists will discuss how states, utilities, and market operators can work together to strengthen reliability, optimize transmission investments, and support a cohesive Western grid.

- Moderator: John Hammond, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
- Melanie Frye, President and CEO, Western Electricity Coordinating Council
- Sarah Edmonds, President and CEO, Western Power Pool
- Keegan Moyer, Partner, Energy Strategies

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

The Realities of Wildfires: Safety, Operational Challenges, and Financial Impacts

Wildfires present a critical threat to both utility infrastructure and the communities they serve. While much of the focus has traditionally been on the wildland-urban interface, recent devastating urban fires across the West underscore the shifting risk landscape, where no area is entirely "low risk" under certain conditions. In this session, panelists will explore strategies for continuously improving wildfire risk management, highlighting near-term operational actions utilities can take while long-term infrastructure solutions are still in development. As states implement new legislation to address these evolving risks, the session will also examine how financial models are adapting to anticipate these threats, the financial liability borne by utilities, and the cascading impacts on the broader energy industry. Panelists will discuss practical operational mitigation strategies and actionable steps that are needed to build resilience in the face of these growing risks.

- Moderator: Letha Tawney, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utility Commission
- Mary Throne, Commissioner, Wyoming Public Service Commission, and Chair of WIRAB
- Michael Wara, Senior Director for Policy, Sustainability Accelerator, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability
- Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, California Natural Resources Agency
- Duncan Callaway, Chair, Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley [Slides](#)
- Spencer Gray, Executive Director, Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition

5:00 p.m.

Recess

Thursday April 3, 2025
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

A Conversation with FERC Chairman Mark Christie: Industry Opportunities and State Solutions

FERC Chairman Christie kicks off the day with a discussion on the pressing opportunities and challenges facing the energy industry today. With 17 years of experience as a state utility commissioner in the nation's largest RTO and over

a decade on the governing board of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI), Chairman Christie offers unique insights into how states can play an active role in developing solutions. As the West takes incremental steps with regionalization to address complex energy issues, this session provides a valuable opportunity for insights and an engaging dialogue.

- Moderator: Gabriel Aguilera, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, and CREPC Co-Chair
- Mark Christie, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Break

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Forging State-Federal Partnerships for Transmission Siting and Permitting

Building the transmission needed to meet energy reliability goals requires collaboration between states and federal agencies to navigate complex permitting processes efficiently. This session will explore opportunities for states to partner with federal agencies under programs like DOE’s Coordinated Interagency Transmission Authorizations and Permits Program (CITAP) initiative and FAST-41 to coordinate environmental reviews, expedite permitting decisions, and deliver better outcomes for communities and the environment. Panelists will recommend actions that states can take now in partnership with the federal government to leverage these tools to advance priority transmission projects effectively.

- Moderator: Janea Scott, Partner, Caliber Strategies
- Tina Francone, Senior Advisor, Grid Deployment Office, US Department of Energy
- John Jenks, Director of Energy Market Development, Wyoming Energy Authority
- Brant Johnson, SVP of Development, Grid United [Slides](#)

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. IBR Standards: Defining Responsibilities and Driving Action

Inverter-Based Resources (IBRs) are rapidly transforming the energy grid, but establishing clear standards for their integration remains a challenge. This session will explore the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in developing and enforcing IBR standards. Panelists will discuss who is responsible for ensuring grid reliability and performance, what actions are being taken to update and implement these standards, and how collaboration between regulators, grid operators, and industry leaders is driving progress in this critical area.

- Moderator: Lea Márquez Peterson, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission, and Vice Chair WIRAB
- Jim Robb, President and CEO, NERC
- Ryan Quint, Founder and President, Elevate Energy
- Jason Smith, Head of Onshore Transmission, Ørsted

11:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. A Conversation with FERC Commissioner Judy Chang: Navigating the Future of Energy Regulation

As regulatory frameworks evolve to address emerging challenges—ranging from resource adequacy and permitting reform to market design and state-federal coordination, FERC’s decisions have far-reaching impacts on the Western Interconnection. In this session, FERC Commissioner Chang will share insights on the Commission’s priorities, the role of federal regulation in supporting a reliable and resilient grid, and how states, market operators, and industry stakeholders can collaborate to navigate policy uncertainty.

- Moderator: Milt Doumit, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Judy W. Chang, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Break

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Connections on the Horizon

As we navigate the evolving energy landscape, the power of connection has never been more important. The Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) invites you to join us for an evening of networking with a hosted reception that blends fresh perspectives with fresh air set against the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean. This is more than just a chance to connect, it’s a time to reflect and look ahead and strengthen connections to carry us into a resilient future.

- *Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, CA 92037-4291*

Transportation to and from the Museum will be provided; buses start at 3:45 pm.

6:00 p.m. Recess

Friday April 4, 2025
Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Breaking Down Transmission Silos: Holistic Planning Solutions

Transmission planning often occurs in silos—focusing separately on reliability, regional, interregional, and public policy needs. To address these challenges, the Integrating Transmission Siloes Task Force has developed a groundbreaking report identifying synergies and strategies for a more unified approach to transmission planning. This session will delve into the task force’s findings, showcasing innovative frameworks to achieve holistic solutions that balance reliability, regional cooperation, and policy objectives.

- Moderator: James Lester, Senior Advisor, Transmission, Climate, and Energy, Colorado Energy Office, and CREPC Co-Chair
- James Okullo, Director of System Planning, Energy Systems Integration Group [Slides](#)
- Neil Millar, Vice President, Transmission Planning & Infrastructure Development, California ISO [Slides](#)
- Chelsea Loomis, Manager of Regional Transmission Planning Services, Western Power Pool [Slides](#)
- Kelsey Allen, Principal Engineer, Southwest Power Pool

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Break

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Powering the Future: Nuclear Energy and Large Loads

As data centers, AI, and industrial growth drive unprecedented electricity demand, states and utilities are exploring reliable, carbon-free solutions to power these large loads. Existing and advanced nuclear technologies offer a potential pathway, but challenges including grid integration and technology readiness remain. This session will examine the possible role that nuclear energy may play in meeting large-scale electricity demand. Panelists will discuss regulatory and market challenges, infrastructure needs, and opportunities for state and industry collaboration to ensure reliable, scalable energy solutions.

- Moderator: Laura Nelson, Regional Engagement Lead, Idaho National Laboratory [Slides](#)
- Katie Rogers, Manager of Reliability Assessments, Western Electricity Coordinating Council [Slides](#)

- Nate Hill, Head of Energy Policy, Amazon Slides
- Marcus Nichol, Executive Director, New Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Institute
[Slides](#)

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Navigating the Regulatory Pendulum: Ensuring Reliability and Leveraging Collaboration

The swings of the regulatory pendulum can challenge grid reliability, stall infrastructure development, and create investment risks, but can also create opportunities to tackle long standing challenges within regulatory processes. Thoughtful state collaboration and industry steadiness can help navigate these changes, ensuring a path through uncertainties that centers on a reliable energy system. This panel will explore how regulatory shifts impact reliability and planning in the West as panelists discuss how states and industry can work together to create stability while adapting to change, mitigate investment risks, and support long-term planning in a dynamic policy landscape.

- Moderator: Hayley Williamson, Chair, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
- Jack Waldorf, Executive Director, Western Governors Association
- Christina Hayes, Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid
- David Rubin, Federal Energy Policy Director, NV Energy

12:00 p.m. Adjourn