



TO: Western Interstate Energy Board  
FROM: Laura Rennick  
DATE: August 4, 2023  
SUBJECT: **WIEB 2023 Annual Update**

## WESTERN INTERSTATE ENERGY BOARD (WIEB)

This memo serves as an annual progress report on activities undertaken by the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) over the past year. Additional information is available on [WIEB's website](#).

## WIEB LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS AND GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

- On June 30, at the 2023 Annual WIEB Board Meeting, WIEB representatives elected the following officers:
  - **WIEB Chair – Andrew McAllister** (Commissioner, California Energy Commission)
  - **WIEB First Vice Chair – Janine Benner** (Director, Oregon Department of Energy)
  - **WIEB Second Vice-Chair – Michael Freeman** (Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Montana Office of the Governor)
  - **WIEB Treasurer – Richard Stover** ( Administrator, Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources)
- Over the past year the following appointments were made to WIEB:
  - **Arizona:** Anna Tovar, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
  - **Utah:** Greg Todd, Executive Director, Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development
  - **Nevada:** Dwayne McClinton, Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy

## WIEB ADMINISTRATION

In March 2023, WIEB's long-serving Executive Director, Maury Galbraith, announced he would be moving on from WIEB at the end of March to assume the role of Executive Director for the newly formed Colorado Electric Transmission Authority. WIEB Board Chair Andrew McAllister thanked Maury for his eight and a half years of leadership and vision, noting that "WIEB has become a vital platform for critical Western dialogues, has attracted multitalented and highly capable staff, and is on enviably sound financial footing." The leadership of the WIEB Board and its associated committees conducted a search for a new Executive Director throughout the spring of 2023 and on July 1, 2023, Laura Rennick accepted and assumed the role of Executive Director.

## NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM

In November of 2022, WIEB's High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee (HLRW Committee) and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Transportation Technical Advisory Group (WIPP TAG) held their fall meeting in San Diego, CA. Agenda topics included spent nuclear fuel storage activities at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, a review of the rail transportation infrastructure at the Trojan independent spent fuel storage installation, a workshop to evaluate parts of the WIPP Program Implementation Guide, and program updates from the relevant Department of Energy offices and the states. Additionally, the HLRW Committee continued its partnership with the Southwest Research Institute on the Community Preparedness and Pilot Planning Framework Tool for spent nuclear fuel shipments, planning on identifying another two communities to evaluate using the Framework Tool. The WIPP TAG members continued to expand their training and emergency preparedness activities post-COVID, keeping up with the increase in transuranic waste shipments facilitated by accelerated waste emplacement in the WIPP underground.

In late January 2023, the HLRW Committee wrote two letters to the Department of Energy in support of Southwest Research Institute's and Boise State University's bids for consortia funding to explore consent-based siting of a federal spent nuclear fuel interim storage facility. Both groups were subsequently selected as consortia funding recipients. In May, the HLRW Committee and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Transportation Technical Advisory Group (WIPP TAG) held their spring meeting, in conjunction with the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum Annual Meeting, in St. Louis, MO. Agenda items at these conjoined meetings included the emergency management and other implications of a transportable microreactor; a demonstration of a pilot program to use V/R technology to help train state inspectors of trucks carrying radioactive materials; and an overview of the U.S.'s different regulatory regimes and their classifications of radioactive materials, using the Test-Bed Initiative at Hanford as a case study. Shortly after this meeting, Josh Lindsley from Colorado took on the position of WIPP TAG Chair.

## COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATION

The Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation (CREPC) is a joint standing committee of WIEB and the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners. WIEB provides primary staffing and support for CREPC. Over the past year, CREPC has secured additional resources for and formalized its role as the key joint convenor and resource for Western energy office officials and public utility commissioners.

In November 2022, CREPC adopted its first charter articulating the scope, role, and membership of the Committee. While the Charter specifies the formal membership as an energy office official and a regulatory utility commissioner from the Western states and provinces (i.e., Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming), it goes on to specify that all state and provincial agency personnel are welcome and encouraged to engage in CREPC's various forums.

In January 2023, the new members elected the following inaugural Co-Chairs:

- **Sarah Cottrell Propst**, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- **Megan Decker**, Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission

In the fall of 2022, WIEB began negotiating a new funding agreement with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to provide additional resources for CREPC. This agreement was fully executed in May 2023 and will provide for additional staffing, convenings, trainings, analysis, and travel in support of CREPC's charter and priorities.

## WIEB'S RESERVE EXPENDITURE PROGRAM

In 2017, WIEB adopted the Reserve Expenditure Plan to reduce excess financial reserves to support electricity and non-electricity energy projects that rise to the level of a priority in the West. WIEB invites Board Members to submit project proposals once a year for review by staff and approval by the Board. Once approved, WIEB serves as the project manager for selected REP projects.

In 2022, the Board approved two new REP projects which are currently in progress:

- Critical Minerals in the West
- GHG Accounting and Reporting Requirements of the Western States and Provinces

Projects completed over the past year include:

---

### INVENTORY OF CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES WEBPAGE

The purpose of the Inventory webpage is to provide a central source that summarizes energy policies of Western states and provinces in such areas as renewable portfolio standards, clean energy targets, greenhouse gas targets, energy efficiency, energy storage, and electric vehicles.

In October 2022, WIEB finalized the Inventory webpage. WIEB intends to work with the states and provinces on an annual basis to update and enhance the Inventory webpage and ensure that it remains an accurate source of information.

[WIEB Inventory of Clean Energy Policies Project Page](#)

---

### 2023 WESTERN WILDFIRE RISKS AND BEST PRACTICES WORKSHOP

The purpose of this project was to convene Western policymakers, regulators, subject matter experts, and utility representatives to discuss the evolving threat of wildfires in the West and to support regional collaboration on an evolving set of wildfire-related best practices for states and provinces. WIEB arranged an in-person wildfire workshop in Vancouver, British Columbia on March 1-2, 2023. This workshop brought together utility regulators, state energy office officials, scientists, national laboratories, and industry experts to discuss the pressing issues the Western Interconnection faces as it grapples with the impacts of wildfires. Attendees spent two days discussing the challenges that provinces and states are confronting and sharing strategic solutions on how best to mitigate wildfires and increase safety measures.

[Project Page](#)

---

### DEMAND RESPONSE POLICY SURVEY OF WESTERN STATES

The purpose of this project was to survey Western states and summarize the policy approaches they take to encourage and regulate demand response by electric utilities and how the programs are used to meet broader energy policy objectives. In September 2022, the Western Interstate Energy Board approved a report that discussed the results of the survey. As noted in the report, states differ on their regulatory and policy approaches to demand response. An important issue is whether states should require, through mandates, that their utilities develop and implement demand response programs or if the utility can pursue programs on its own without a requirement. The primary motivating factor for demand response is the operational benefits realized by the utility, but programs also provide financial benefits to utilities and their customers. More recently, states are beginning to encourage demand response as a tool to provide environmental benefits and curb greenhouse gas emissions. There have been a variety

of approaches when it comes to state policies regarding demand response. Western states must consider adequate regulatory frameworks, appropriate incentives, sufficient monitoring, and the necessary infrastructure when building out demand response programs.

[Project Page](#)

---

## TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION TRENDS IN THE WESTERN STATES—IMPLICATIONS FOR ELECTRICITY DEMAND, FORECASTING AND RESERVE MARGIN METRICS

The purpose of this project was to provide support and information to western states and provinces as they grapple with changing weather patterns and potential increasing weather-driven reliability risks. The objective was to improve our understanding of temperature and precipitation trends, their impacts on electricity demand and supply, and how these trends are addressed in utility planning. During the summer of 2022, WIEB hosted two Shultz Energy fellows from Stanford University to analyze trends in temperature and precipitation data in the West. Jake Hofgard and Evan Savage modeled temperature and precipitation trends and extreme weather events, explored modeling and uncertainty analysis techniques, and carried out expert interviews with utility planners, meteorologists, and load forecasters. On August 19, 2022, they conducted a webinar to share their research findings and provide recommendations on how utilities, regulators, and policymakers can better account for climate change in long-term planning.

[Project Page](#)

---

## OTHER WIEB PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND INITIATIVES

---

### WESTERN GREEN HYDROGEN INITIATIVE

Through the end of 2022, WIEB continued to work with its partners at the Green Hydrogen Coalition (GHC) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) to host and facilitate meetings for the [Western Green Hydrogen Initiative](#) (WGHI). Through this effort, the GHC, NASEO, and WIEB convened Western state energy officials, state regulators, industry leaders, utilities, and non-governmental organizations to accelerate progress for the clean hydrogen market and infrastructure development in the West. WGHI reviewed WECC modeling on long-duration energy storage and its role in maintaining the reliability of the Western Interconnection. At the Fall 2022 Catalyst H2 conference in Long Beach, CA, WIEB participated in a panel discussion on “The Role of Long Duration Energy Storage and Green Hydrogen for Electric Reliability in the West”. In 2023, WGHI is kicking off work to review the modeling limitations for long duration energy storage as well as work on energy equity and environmental justice associated with the potential of new hydrogen infrastructure in the West. WGHI will host two workshops in 2023.

---

### WESTERN STATES TRANSMISSION INITIATIVE

The [Western States Transmission Initiative](#) (WSTI) was initiated in the Spring of 2023 by Gridworks for the benefit of CREPC’s state energy office officials and public utility commissioners. The Initiative aims to address the challenges of the historic “bottom-up” approach to transmission planning and development in the West through data gathering, education, and recommendations. Gridworks is hosting a series of educational webinars over the summer of 2023, and will be conducting meetings of a recommendation working group in August and September. The discussions will culminate at the 2023 Fall Joint CREPC-WIRAB meeting when members review and discuss the recommendations developed in this process and determine potential next steps for CREPC.

---

## WESTERN STATE REPRESENTATIVES SUBMIT COMMENTS TO FERC IN DOCKET NO. RM21-17 ON REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING AND COST ALLOCATION

In coordination with the Western Representatives to the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission and the Western Interstate Energy Board, Western State Representatives from ten western states submitted [comments](#) in August 2022 to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission articulating a clear need for long-term interconnection-wide transmission planning in the Western Interconnection.

## WESTERN INTERCONNECTION REGIONAL ADVISORY BODY

The Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) recently elected new leadership:

- **WIRAB Chair: Chairman Mary Throne**, Wyoming Public Service Commission
- **WIRAB Vice-Chair: Commissioner Lea Márquez Peterson**, Arizona Corporation Commission

In the first quarter of 2023, WIRAB advised WECC on its potential role in Interconnection-Wide Transmission Planning and submitted written [Advice](#) to the WECC Board of Directors on opportunities WECC should pursue to add value to transmission planning in the West. In the second quarter of 2023, WIRAB selected Strategic Initiatives for 2024 and approved its [2024 Business Plan and Budget](#). Additionally, WIRAB provided [Advice](#) to the WECC Board of Directors on WECC's 2024 Business Plan and Budget and found the budget and assessment to be reasonable and in the public interest. WIRAB staff continues to engage with WECC's Study Program and WECC Technical Committees to identify and mitigate risks to the Western Interconnection's bulk power system.

## STATE AND PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

### WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET BODY OF STATE REGULATORS

The Body of State Regulators (BOSR) continues to be actively engaged in California ISO activities that impact the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) and Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM). In January 2023, the BOSR submitted [written advice](#) to the Western EIM Governing Body on the EDAM Final Proposal and the Western EIM Governance Review Committee's Phase Three EDAM Final Proposal. The BOSR supported both proposals in their entirety and emphasized its appreciation of the collaborative nature and tireless effort that was required by the California ISO and all stakeholders throughout both initiatives.

In April 2023, the BOSR filed [comments](#) to the California ISO on its Draft Policy Catalog and 2023-2025 Policy Initiatives Roadmap. At the BOSR's April meeting in Incline Village, Nevada, it selected and prioritized the initiatives it will actively engage in at the ISO: Greenhouse Gas Coordination, Price Formation Enhancements, and the Resource Sufficiency Evaluation Enhancements Phase 3 initiative. The BOSR has spent its last few meetings educating members on these various initiatives in preparation for the ISO stakeholder process. Additionally, recent changes have taken place at the Western EIM Governing Body. The Western EIM Nominating Committee, of which Vice-Chair Williamson is the BOSR representative, assembled earlier this year to address two openings on the Western EIM Governing Body, with the expiration of Anita Decker's term and Jennifer Gardner choosing to resign early from her position. The BOSR is pleased to share that Rebecca Wagner was appointed to serve as a member of the Governing Body and Member Decker was reappointed to a third term. Additionally, Andy Campbell is now the Chair of the Governing Body and Rob Kondizolka is now Vice-Chair.

## MARKETS+ STATES COMMITTEE

At the Spring 2023 CREPC Meeting in Incline Village, Nevada, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP)'s Markets+ State Committee (MSC) met for the first time to adopt their committee charter and elect their leadership. Chair Eric Blank from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and Commissioner Letha Tawney from the Oregon Public Utility Commission were elected to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair. While at the Spring Meeting, the MSC leadership worked with the Western Interstate Energy Board to approve funds for consulting services. WIEB contracted with Edward Garvey and David Boyd of AESL Consulting to support the MSC and provide technical expertise on all Markets+ matters through the end of 2023. Currently, the MSC consists of representatives from 13 states, and all members have been working to engage in the various Markets+ Working Groups and Task Forces and to provide feedback to SPP and stakeholders to help inform the Markets+ development.

In June 2023, the MSC began development and consideration of a set of guiding principles and evaluation criteria to help committee members assess the Markets+ process and the final draft tariff before it is presented to FERC. The MSC is set to adopt these guiding principles in August 2023 and incorporate them into their engagement in Markets+ and with the SPP and other Markets+ stakeholders.

## WESTERN RESOURCE ADEQUACY PROGRAM COMMITTEE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES

WIEB and the Western Power Pool (WPP) have finalized their Memorandum of Understanding for staff support to the Committee of State Representatives (COSR) in the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP). The WPP hopes to complete a dry run of the proposal development and review process with the various committees ahead of program implementation, and WIEB staff will work closely with the COSR at that time to fulfill their role in the WRAP process.

At the Spring 2023 CREPC Meeting in Incline Village, Nevada, the Committee of State Representatives (COSR) for the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) met for the first time to adopt their committee charter and elect their leadership. Commissioner Tammy Cordova of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and Commissioner Mark Thompson of the Oregon Public Utility Commission were elected to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Since the spring meeting, the COSR has been working with the team at Western Power Pool to provide education to COSR members and further develop the committee's scope as the WRAP continues to develop. The COSR is currently participating in the Program Review Committee (PRC) and the Resource Adequacy Participants Committee (RAPC), monitoring issue development amongst the WRAP participants, and beginning to file comments on the Business Practices Manual.

## MEETINGS

### RECENT MEETINGS

---

#### SPRING 2023 JOINT CREPC-WIRAB MEETING

[Spring 2023 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting Page](#)

The Spring 2023 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting was held in Incline Village, Nevada, from Wednesday, April 12 to Friday, April 14, 2023. Agenda topics included wholesale electricity markets, resource adequacy, transmission, and natural gas utility planning of the future.

---

SUMMER 2023 CREPC MEETING

[Summer 2023 CREPC Meeting Page](#)

The first ever Summer 2023 CREPC Meeting was held virtually on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm Pacific Time, 2:00pm to 4:00pm Mountain Time. The agenda included updates on WIEB initiatives and from the state and provincial committees that WIEB supports.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

---

FALL 2023 JOINT CREPC-WIRAB MEETING

October 4-6, 2023

Seattle Marriott Waterfront, Seattle, Washington

[Fall 2023 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting Page](#)

<b>Wednesday October 4, 2023</b>	<b>Thursday October 5, 2023</b>	<b>Friday October 6, 2023</b>
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <u>States' Committee Meetings</u>	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. <u>Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting</u>	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <u>Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting</u>
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <u>Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting</u>		