



Western Interstate Energy Board

TO: Western Interstate Energy Board

FROM: Laura Rennick

DATE: September 15, 2026

SUBJECT: **WIEB Annual Summary: August 2025-July 2026**

WESTERN INTERSTATE ENERGY BOARD (WIEB)

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

WIEB LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS AND GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

- On June 18, 2026, WIEB representatives elected the following officers:
 - WIEB Chair – Maren Mahoney** (Director, Arizona Governor's Office of Resiliency)
 - WIEB First Vice Chair – Janine Benner** (Director, Oregon Department of Energy)
 - WIEB Second Vice-Chair – Sonja Nowakowski** (Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality)
 - WIEB Treasurer – Emy Lesofski** (Director, Utah Office of Energy Development)
- In past year, the following appointments were made to WIEB:
 - Sonja Nowakowski**, Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
 - James Humm**, Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy
 - Erin Taylor**, Acting Secretary, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
 - Jennifer Grove**, Assistant Director of Energy, Washington Department of Commerce

WIEB Board Members		
State/ Province	Name	Title/ Agency
Alberta	Betsy Li Alward	Director, Generation, Transmission and Markets Policy, Utilities, Alberta Affordability and Utilities
Arizona	Maren Mahoney	Director, Arizona Governor's Office of Resiliency
British Columbia	Chris Gilmore	Assistant Deputy Minister, Electricity and Utility Regulation Division, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
California	Andrew McAllister	Commissioner, California Energy Commission
Colorado	Vacant	

Idaho	Vacant	
Montana	Sonja Nowakowski	Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Nevada	James Humm	Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy
New Mexico	Erin Taylor	Acting Secretary, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Oregon	Janine Benner	Director, Oregon Department of Energy
Utah	Emy Lesofski	Director, Utah Office of Energy Development
Washington	Jennifer Grove	Assistant Director of Energy, Washington State Department of Commerce
Wyoming	Rob Creager	Executive Director, Wyoming Energy Authority
U.S.	Vacant	WIEB Federal Representative

WIEB NEW HIRES

Over the past year, WIEB has continued to build its team to meet the needs of the states. Elliott Nethercutt joined WIEB in December 2025, as the new Program Manager for Resource Adequacy. In this role, he provides the independent staffing for the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) Committee of State Representatives (COSR). George Lynch joined WIEB in March 2026 as the new Deputy Director, adding senior leadership capacity and supporting coordination across WIEB's growing portfolio of regional programs.

The addition of the Program Manager for Resource Adequacy was the result of a broader review of needs for the Markets+ State Committee (MSC) and COSR. During fall 2025, this portfolio was separated to provide more focused support as both committees' responsibilities and workloads increased as WRAP and Markets+ move towards implementation. This change provides each committee with a designated program lead and improves overall capacity to respond to the increasingly complex issues before committees.

The past year culminated in the multiyear effort to strengthen WIEB's organizational capacity through various organizational improvements including separating key portfolios to add critical capacity and organizing staff to improve span of control, leadership, and oversight. The resulting structure reduces single points of failure, improves continuity across WIEB's programs, and positions staff to provide more consistent strategic and technical support to member states and provinces.

NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM

WIEB convenes two nuclear energy program committees for states. The High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee began in the 1980s to engage in spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste transportation issues in eleven Western states. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Transportation Technical Advisory Group (WIPP TAG) works with DOE to resolve issues related to the movement of defense-generated transuranic waste (TRU) to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

During this reporting period, WIEB worked with the WIPP TAG to update the WIPP Program Implementation Guide (PIG), which is the document that lays out the safety procedures for how TRU waste transportation to WIPP occurs in the Western states. The WIPP TAG went through each of the 13 sections of the PIG, which includes such topics as Independent Inspections, Public Information, and Emergency Response Equipment, updating references and considering whether operational changes were warranted. This update and review also included consideration of

the 80 supplemental documents that accompany the main PIG sections. Once the WIPP TAG members had concurred on the proposed updates and edits, WIEB staff sent the final packet to DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) personnel for their consideration on July 21, 2026.

The HLRWC and the WIPP TAG held their fall meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico, on November 5-6, 2025. There was a full-day meeting on November 5 and a tour of the WIPP site on November 6. Discussion topics included the Test Bed Initiative of grouted Hanford tank waste being transported and disposed of in Utah and Texas, and the 2025 nuclear-focused Executive Orders and their possible implications for the West. Elections for HLRWC and WIPP TAG Chair and Vice-Chair were also held; Landry Austin from Idaho and Josh Lindsley from Colorado held on to their HLRWC and WIPP TAG Chair positions, respectively, while Mark Reese from Oregon was elected HLRWC Vice-Chair and Justin Cochran from California was elected WIPP TAG Vice-Chair. The WIPP tour the day following the meeting included a look at the waste package receiving area and the underground emplacement panels.

In May 2025, the WIPP TAG began to have conversations with DOE’s Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) on possible shipments of waste contaminated with transuranic isotopes that would be moving from generator site national labs – such as Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) in California – to national lab sites with specialized processing capabilities, such as Idaho National Lab (INL). These proposed shipments would not fall under existing protocols such as the TRU Waste Transportation Plan or the WIPP PIG; hence, the WIPP TAG, DOE-EM, and NNSA began regular discussion about alternate transportation protocols. Some WIEB and WIPP TAG representatives continued these conversations during a site visit to LLNL on June 4, 2026.

The HLRWC and WIPP TAG held their spring meeting in Austin, Texas, on June 24, 2026, in conjunction with the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum Annual Meeting. The groups heard from the New Mexico Environment Department on its agency-initiated WIPP Permit Modification, which proposed the prioritization of waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) for emplacement at WIPP over other waste generator sites. The members also held a states-only discussion about the proper packaging for transuranic waste shipments that do not fall under existing TRU-WIPP protocols, such as the inter-site shipments being proposed by NNSA and DOE-EM.

At the end of July 2026, WIEB Board Chair Maren Mahoney and WIEB Executive Director Laura Rennick signed an updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between WIEB and U.S. DOE on “Regional Protocol for the Safe and Uneventful Transportation of Transuranic (TRU) Waste.” This MOA, originally signed in 1995 by the Western Governors’ Association Chair, on behalf of the Western states, and the Secretary of Energy, formalizes the two group’s shared commitment to the joint WIPP transportation program. The current MOA continues that tradition while recognizing WIEB’s role as the successor organization managing the Western states’ WIPP transportation cooperative agreement and the WIPP TAG. The partially signed MOA was then sent to DOE for signature by the current Secretary of Energy.

HLRWC Members			
State/Province	Name	Title/Agency	Member
Arizona	Brian Goretzki	Chief, Bureau of Radiation Control, Arizona Department of Health Services	Member
California	Justin Cochran	Nuclear Policy Advisor, California Energy Commission	Member
Colorado	Josh Lindsley	WIPP Grant Project Administrator, Colorado State Patrol	Member

Idaho	Landry Austin (Chair)	INL Oversight Program Manager, Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality	Member
Nebraska	Vacant		Associate Member
Nevada	Brian Scroggins	Administrator, Division of Planning, Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects	Member
New Mexico	Carrie DeAgüero	Hazardous Waste Planning Bureau Chief, New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources, Department	Member
Oregon	Mark Reese (Vice-Chair)	Nuclear Emergency & Radioactive Material Transportation Program Coordinator, Oregon Dept of Energy	Member
Texas	Vacant		Associate Member
Utah	Lawrence Kellum	Assistant Director, Nuclear Energy Regulatory Office, Utah Dept of Environmental Quality	Member
Washington	Suzanne Dahl	Tank Waste Treatment Section Manager, Washington Dept of Ecology	Member
Wyoming	Dillon Conner	Radiological Program Manager, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security	Member

WIPP TAG Members			
State/ Province	Name	Title/Agency	
Arizona	Brian Goretzki	Chief, Bureau of Radiation Control, Arizona Department of Health Services	
California	Justin Cochran (Vice-Chair)	Nuclear Policy Advisor, California Energy Commission	
Colorado	Josh Lindsley (Chair)	WIPP Grant Project Administrator, Colorado State Patrol	
Idaho	Landry Austin	INL Oversight Program Manager, Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality	
Nebraska	Brent Curtis	Preparedness & Operations Section Manager, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	
Nevada	Brian Scroggins	Administrator, Division of Planning, Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects	
New Mexico	Vacant		
Oregon	Mark Reese	Nuclear Emergency & Radioactive Material Transportation Program Coordinator, Oregon Dept of Energy	
Texas	Vacant		
Utah	Tyler Hegburg	Environmental Scientist III, Utah Dept of Environmental Quality	
Washington	Jacob Hursey	MCSAP/WIPP Manager, Washington State Patrol	
Wyoming	Dillon Conner	Radiological Program Manager, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security	

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 the staffing and support for CREPC. Over the past year, CREPC was co-chaired by James Lester, Senior Advisor at the Colorado Energy Office, and Gabriel Aguilera, Chair of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission; in July 2026, WIEB elected John Jenk, Director of Energy Market Development for the Wyoming Energy Authority, as its new Co-Chair to CREPC, following Mr. Lester's departure from the Colorado Energy Office.

CREPC, along with WIRAB, successfully hosted the Fall 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting in Portland, Oregon, and the Spring 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB meeting in San Diego, California, and is preparing for the Fall 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB meeting in Missoula, Montana.

WIEB activities supported by a subcontract with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) continued during this period. The NREL subcontract includes funding for WIEB staff to attend regional conferences such as NARUC and NASEO, funding for staff support of the CREPC Transmission Collaborative, and strengthens WIEB's support of CREPC regional electricity efforts and collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy. The funding also supported a workshop in conjunction with Stanford University held in Bozeman, Montana on March 11-12, 2026, which focused on a game scenario to help Western states understand how day-ahead markets work in comparison to bilateral trading. WIEB's subcontract with NREL expired on April 25, 2026, and was not renewed.

WIEB's Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office was delayed by several months, and WIEB received approval of its Budget Year 3 funding in May 2026. The total agreement term is for five years and supports the joint CREPC-WIRAB meetings as well as a WIEB Leadership Delegation trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with officials from DOE and FERC. The Cooperative Agreement also includes funding for some staffing with WIEB. An amendment to use carryover funding for a study on large loads and to hire a consultant to help with regional resource adequacy developments was submitted in April 2026 and is still pending approval.

The CREPC Transmission Collaborative (CREPC TC) continued to facilitate state and provincial representation and feedback in the Western Transmission Expansion Coalition ("WestTEC") effort being facilitated by the Western Power Pool, and discussed other transmission issues as they arose, including receiving updates on The Western Transmission Consortium as that effort evolves and starts to identify transmission projects for development.

The CREPC 1920 Ad Hoc Committee continued to convene the Regional State Entities (RSEs) in WestConnect and NorthernGrid to discuss requirements around regional planning transmission cost allocation. In April 2026, the RSEs in both regions voted to submit a state-approved cost allocation methodology and a State Agreement Process to the planning regions. In June, NorthernGrid adopted the State Agreement Process into its compliance filing, while WestConnect submitted it as an appendix along with comments in opposition. Both planning regions also included the state-proposed cost allocation methodology as an appendix along with comments in opposition. The CREPC 1920 Ad Hoc Committee is currently working on response comments to the planning regions. The compliance filings are pending at FERC. Gridworks continues to partner with WIEB supporting the CREPC TC and CREPC 1920 Ad Hoc Committee.

In February of 2026, states began to hear from entities that withdrew from WRAP that they were working to develop an alternative regional resource adequacy program specific to CAISO's EDAM. In May, more details began to emerge that the entities were going to hold a series of workshops throughout the summer to develop a proposal for the new Regional Organization for Western Energy's (ROWE) board by fall. CREPC has been convening states through an informal Resource Adequacy Advisory Group to provide feedback into the design of the proposal. Staircase Advisory,

GridLab, and Sylvan Analytics have been supporting and collaborating with WIEB to work with states on understanding the value proposition behind a regional resource adequacy program. While the timeline has been shifted to submit the proposal to the ROWE board in Spring 2027, the workshops are ongoing.

With the ROWE board formation, the evolving regional resource adequacy programs in the West (with WRAP shifting some of its operations to the MSC and the EDAM entities proposing an alternative program), attention is shifting back to the role of states in the governance structures of regional markets and associated regional programs. CREPC staff began to work with states in July 2026 to understand overarching governance concerns for states, with a focus on understanding the history and drivers of various outcomes.

CREPC Members				
	Representative Western Interstate Energy Board		Representative Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners	
State/ Province	Name	Title/ Agency	Name	Title/ Agency
Alberta	Betsy Li Alward	Director, Generation, Transmission and Markets Policy, Utilities, Alberta Affordability and Utilities	Cairns Price	Commissioner, Alberta Utilities Commission
Arizona	Maren Mahoney	Director, Arizona Office of Resiliency	Kevin Thompson	Chair, Arizona Corporation Commission
British Columbia	Chris Gilmore	Executive Director, Electricity Policy Branch, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation	Mark Jaccard	Chair and CEO, British Columbia Utilities Commission
California	Siva Gunda	Vice Chair, California Energy Commission	John Reynolds	President, California Public Utilities Commission
Colorado	Vacant		Eric Blank	Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Idaho	Cally Younger	Administrator, Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources	Ed Lodge	Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Montana	Sonja Nowakowski	Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality	Jeff Welborn	President, Montana Public Service Commission
Nevada	James Humm	Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy	Hayley Williamson	Chair, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
New Mexico	Anna Aguilera	Senior Policy Counsel to the Secretary, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department	Gabriel Aguilera (Co-Chair)	Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
Oregon	Janine Benner	Director, Oregon Department of Energy	Letha Tawney	Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission
Utah	Emy Lesfoski	Director, Utah Office of Energy Development	John S. Harvey, PhD	Commissioner, Utah Public Service Commission
Washington	Jennifer Grove	Assistant Director of Energy, Washington State Department of Commerce	Brian Rybarik	Chair, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Wyoming	John Jenks (Co-Chair)	Director of Energy Market Development, Wyoming Energy Authority	Chris Petrie	Deputy Chairman, Wyoming Public Service Commission

OTHER WIEB PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND INITIATIVES

WIEB'S RESERVE EXPENDITURE PROGRAM

The WIEB Board adopted the Reserve Expenditure Program (REP) on July 27, 2017. Under the REP, the Board invites member states and provinces to propose studies on energy and non-energy projects. The dual purpose of the REP is to attain a targeted level of financial reserves and produce useful studies and projects for WIEB's member states and provinces.

As of August 2026, WIEB has completed 12 REP projects since 2021. Two projects were completed over the last year: **Electrification in the Western Interconnection: Planning for Load Growth, Flexibility, and Reliability** and **The Challenges and Opportunities of Large Industrial Electricity Loads**.

The **Electrification in the Western Interconnection: Planning for Load Growth, Flexibility, and Reliability** project examined how transportation and building electrification are affecting load forecasting, resource adequacy, and long-term planning across the West. The paper reviewed 28 utility Integrated Resource Plans, state and provincial policies, and national research to identify emerging trends, including changing winter and evening peak risks, differences in electrification modeling across utilities, the growing importance of demand-side flexibility, and opportunities for improved regional coordination. WIEB publicly released the paper in March 2026 through a webinar featuring perspectives from the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG), WECC, and the California Energy Commission. WIEB staff also presented the project and its findings to the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC) Board and PNUCC System Planning Committee, providing an opportunity to discuss the findings directly with utilities and planners in the West.

The **Challenges and Opportunities of Large Industrial Electricity Loads** project was a four-part webinar series which culminated in a set of high-level policy principles for policymakers and planners in the Western Interconnection. The series explored how rapidly growing industrial loads are affecting grid planning, reliability, affordability, and system operations across the West. The first webinar established a foundation for understanding what constitutes a “large” electricity load and what makes these load profiles unique. The second explored the economic considerations of large loads, including tariffs, rate design, and implications for affordability and impacts on existing customers. The third session was highlighted at the Fall 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB meeting, and brought together perspectives from across the West to examine cross jurisdictional approaches to integrating large loads, highlighting the differences in planning frameworks and governance structures. Lastly, the final webinar explored how entities are approaching the prioritization and sequencing of large-load requests when near term system capability is constrained. Following the series, WIEB staff developed a set of high-level policy principles for addressing large industrial electricity loads in the Western Interconnection.

WIEB staff intends to announce a new round of study requests for REP projects beginning in January 2027. This new schedule will better align project proposals to the WIEB budget cycle.

SHULTZ ENERGY FELLOWSHIP

In 2025, WIEB hosted two Shultz Energy Fellows from Stanford University, Henry Daniels-Koch and Maya Arengo, to investigate existing resource adequacy framework and reliability challenges in the Western Interconnection. The fellows interviewed utility representatives, public utility commissioners, and other stakeholders across the region to explore their perspectives on the evolving nature of resource adequacy in the Western states. Working to enhance the understanding of resource adequacy frameworks, this project highlighted specific challenges stakeholders face

with regional coordination, resource planning, and implementation in the context of developing regional electricity markets. The fellows presented their findings during a public webinar on August 28, 2025.

In summer 2026, WIEB hosted Stanford University Shultz Energy Fellows Elli Rowley and Sophie Molins to examine wildfire resilience planning across the Western states. The fellows reviewed utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans and Community Wildfire Protection Plans and interviewed utility representatives, public utility commissioners, community advocates, and other regional stakeholders. Their research aimed at identifying challenges and opportunities for improving coordination between utility and community wildfire planning efforts. The fellows presented their findings during a public webinar in August 2026.

WEST-WIDE GOVERNANCE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

In July 2023, several state commissioners sent a letter to WIEB and CREPC leadership to propose “the creation of an entity that could serve as a means for delivering a market that includes all states in the Western Interconnection, including California, with independent governance,” known as The West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative (Pathways Initiative). In October 2023, with the help of the Regulatory Assistance Project, a Launch Committee was formed. Following the enactment of California Assembly Bill 825 (AB 825) in September of 2025, the Pathways Initiative transitioned from developing a framework for independent regional governance to implementing that framework. Since AB 825 was signed into law, the Pathways Formation Committee¹ has established the Regional Organization for Western Energy (ROWE) and undertaken the work necessary to stand up the new organization, including developing its governance documents, establishing its stakeholder and decision-making process, conducting the process for selecting its inaugural Board, and addressing organizational and startup funding needs. In parallel, CAISO has been undertaking the legal, regulatory, operational, and stakeholder-process work necessary to satisfy the requirements for transitioning governance of the WEIM and EDAM to the ROWE. While all states continue to monitor and engage in the initiative, responsibility for coordinating state engagement has been formally transitioned to the Western Energy Markets Body of State Regulators (BOSR). More information about BOSR’s work related to ROWE can be found in the BOSR Section below. WIEB also continues to maintain a [landing page for Pathways Initiative materials](#) on its website until the formal ROWE website is created.

WESTERN INTERCONNECTION REGIONAL ADVISORY BODY

The Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) is authorized under Section 215(j) of the Federal Power Act to provide advice to FERC, NERC, and WECC on matters related to the reliability of the Western Interconnection. WIEB provides staffing and support for WIRAB.

WIRAB, along with CREPC, successfully hosted the Fall 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting in Portland, Oregon, and the Spring 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting in San Diego, California, and is preparing for the Fall 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting in Missoula, Montana. WIRAB also continued to convene monthly meetings to provide members with updates and educational opportunities on emerging reliability issues and activities at WECC, NERC, and FERC.

WIRAB continued its active engagement with WECC, including providing Advice and comments on matters related to WECC governance, reliability assessments, strategic priorities, and its annual Business Plan and Budget. WIRAB

¹ The Formation Committee is a subcommittee of the Pathways Initiative Launch Committee established to coordinate with CAISO and stakeholders on the detailed development and formation of the ROWE contemplated by the Step 2 Final Proposal. The Formation Committee is responsible for advancing the organizational, governance, and transition work necessary to establish the ROWE, but is not itself a decision-making body.

participated in WECC's Section 4.9 Organizational Review and supported revisions to streamline WECC's governance while maintaining strong stakeholder engagement. WIRAB also reviewed WECC's 2026 State of the Interconnection Report and developed questions for WECC regarding how its reliability assessments, planning efforts, and compliance programs are adapting to the increasingly complex reliability challenges identified in the report.

WIRAB continued efforts to address reliability risks associated with inverter-based resources (IBRs), building on the WIRAB IBR Risk Assessment completed in 2024. In collaboration with Elevate Energy Consulting, WIRAB convened an Industry Advisory Group throughout 2025 to develop a publicly available template of Facility Interconnection Requirements for IBRs. The effort brought together transmission providers, planners, developers, and technical experts from across the West to share industry practices and identify opportunities to harmonize technical requirements. WIRAB also developed a companion technical resource to assist state regulators and energy officials in overseeing utility practices related to IBR interconnection, modeling, commissioning, performance, and ongoing compliance.

WIRAB has increased its engagement in NERC reliability standards and policy development. WIRAB provided Advice to the NERC Board of Trustees on the Modernization of Standards Processes and Procedures initiative, supporting improvements to the standards development process while emphasizing the importance of technical rigor, regional expertise, stakeholder engagement, transparency, and due process. WIRAB also continued to monitor NERC activities related to large loads, inverter-based resources, resource adequacy and assurance, and other emerging reliability risks important to Western states and provinces.

Large load integration became a significant focus of WIRAB's work in 2026. WIRAB launched an initiative with Elevate Energy Consulting to develop a technical resource for state regulators and policymakers addressing oversight of large loads, including data centers. WIRAB also launched an Industry Advisory Group focused on harmonizing technical interconnection requirements for large loads across the Western Interconnection. These efforts are intended to provide practical resources for states and industry while supporting greater consistency in how emerging large loads are studied, interconnected, and operated reliably.

WIRAB also continued engagement with FERC and other federal partners. WIRAB leadership participated in a WIEB Leadership Delegation trip to Washington, D.C., meeting with FERC Commissioners and staff to discuss WIRAB's reliability priorities, including IBR integration, large load growth, resource adequacy, and other emerging challenges in the Western Interconnection.

Finally, WIRAB continued efforts to strengthen and broaden state and provincial participation. During the period, WIRAB welcomed new representatives from Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nevada, Washington, and New Mexico and continued outreach aimed at reestablishing participation from Texas and Mexico. These efforts support WIRAB's goal of maintaining broad representation from jurisdictions throughout the Western Interconnection and ensuring that state and provincial perspectives are incorporated into regional and national reliability discussions.

WIRAB Members		
State/ Province	Name	Title/ Agency
Alberta	Sandy Lee	Director, Generation, Transmission and Markets Policy, Utilities, Alberta Affordability and Utilities
Arizona	Lea Márquez Peterson (Chair)	Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
British Columbia	Chris Gilmore	Assistant Deputy Minister, Electricity and Utility Regulation Division, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
California	Siva Gunda (Vice-Chair)	Vice Chair, California Energy Commission
Colorado	Vacant	

Idaho	Vacant	
Mexico	Vacant	
Montana	Sonja Nowakowski	Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Nebraska	Tim Texel	Executive Director, Nebraska Power Review Board
Nevada	James Humm	Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy
New Mexico	Ben Shelton	Deputy Secretary, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources Department
Oregon	Janine Benner	Director, Oregon Dept of Energy
South Dakota	Jon Thurber	Utility Analyst, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Texas	Vacant	
Utah	Emy Lesofski	Director, Utah Office of Energy Development
Washington	Austin Scharff	Senior Energy Policy Specialist, Washington State Department of Commerce
Wyoming	Chris Petrie	Deputy Chairman, Wyoming Public Service Commission

STATE AND PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

WESTERN ENERGY MARKETS BODY OF STATE REGULATORS

The Western Energy Market (WEM) Body of State Regulators (BOSR) continues to be actively engaged in California ISO activities that impact the Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) and Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM), consistent with its role and responsibilities under the WEM governance framework. Since August 2025, WEM BOSR has focused its efforts on the CAISO's Price Formation Enhancements Initiative and EDAM Congestion Revenue Allocation Initiative. The WEM BOSR has tracked the progress of these initiatives, receiving briefings from WIEB and CAISO staff on proposal developments, and highlighted the importance of these initiatives, along with their potential ratepayer impacts, in its [comments](#) to CAISO's annual Policy Initiative Catalog and Roadmap process.

With the launch of EDAM on May 1, 2026, the WEM BOSR is also closely following reports of market outcomes during the market's initial months. This includes tracking performance across key metrics such as energy prices, resource sufficiency evaluation results, and impacts on bilateral markets across the Western Interconnection.

The launch of CAISO's EDAM has also brought increased attention to market seams and the reliability and economic issues they can generate. WEM BOSR continues to emphasize the importance of comprehensively studying and addressing Western market seams issues. WEM BOSR Chair and Vice Chair, Commissioner Gabriel Aguilera and Commissioner John Hammond, respectively, shared their perspectives on seams issues at the first seams meeting hosted by CAISO and SPP on July 31, 2026 in Seattle, Washington. BOSR, alongside other state regulators, are working together to participate effectively in these discussions and developments.

In addition to its CAISO-focused activities, WEM BOSR has engaged in broader regional efforts, including the West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative (Pathways Initiative) and its work to establish the Regional Organization for Western Energy (ROWE). Following the enactment of California Assembly Bill 825 (AB 825) on September 19, 2025, the Pathways Initiative moved from developing the framework for independent regional governance toward establishing and implementing the new organization. During this period, and prior to FERC approval of the ROWE tariff, WEM BOSR has assumed dual roles and responsibilities—continuing to advise the WEM Governing Body while

also engaging in and providing input on the efforts underway to establish ROWE. Upon FERC approval the ROWE tariff, the WEM BOSR will transition into the ROWE BOSR.

In preparation for that transition, WEM BOSR has focused on ensuring that state regulators are appropriately positioned to fulfill their role within the emerging ROWE governance structure and stakeholder processes, including ensuring that state regulatory perspectives, authority, and interests are adequately reflected. As the Pathways Initiative developed the proposed ROWE stakeholder process, WEM BOSR closely reviewed the proposed Stakeholder Representative Committee (SRC), sector representation, voting framework, and remand process, with particular attention to how BOSR recommendations and positions would be presented to and considered by the ROWE Board. In that review, BOSR identified concerns regarding the absence of state regulators from the SRC and the implications for state participation in stakeholder policy development.

Additionally, as a formal representative on the ROWE Nominating Committee, WEM BOSR is participating in the selection of the inaugural ROWE Board and bringing state regulatory and public interest perspectives to the process. Commissioner John Hammond of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission serves as WEM BOSR's representative on the ROWE Nominating Committee.

As ROWE moves toward seating its inaugural Board and assuming governance responsibilities, WEM BOSR has also begun developing materials for the ROWE Board Briefing Book. These materials provide an overview of ROWE BOSR's role and highlight key considerations for state regulators, including the preservation of state regulatory authority and filing rights and the establishment of an effective mechanism for state regulators to communicate directly with and provide recommendations to the ROWE Board. Going forward, WEM BOSR will continue to monitor ROWE's development and engage on matters affecting state regulatory authority, state policy interests, and the governance of the Western markets.

In May 2026, WEM BOSR welcomed its new Power Marketing Administration (PMA) liaison to the committee, Alisa Kaseweter of Bonneville Power Administration. Doug Marker, who previously served as the PMA liaison from Bonneville Power Administration, retired earlier this year. WEM BOSR extended its appreciation to Mr. Marker for his many years of service and thoughtful contributions to the committee.

BOSR Members		
State/ Province	Name	Title/ Agency
Arizona	Kevin Thompson	Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
California	Darcie Houck	Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
Idaho	John Hammond (Vice-Chair)	Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Montana	Vacant	
Nevada	Hayley Williamson	Chair, Nevada Public Utilities Commission
New Mexico	Gabriel Aguilera (Chair)	Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
Oregon	Karin Power	Commissioner, Oregon Public Utilities Commission
South Dakota	Gary Hanson	Chairman, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Texas	Vacant	
Utah	John Harvey	Commissioner, Utah Public Service Commission
Washington	Milt Doumit	Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Wyoming	Michael Robinson	Commissioner, Wyoming Public Service Commission

BOSR Liaisons		
Sector	Name	Title/ Organization
Consumer-Owned Utility	Tony Braun	President, Braun Blaising Smith Wynne, P.C.
Consumer-Owned Utility	Agnes Lut	Regulatory Affairs, Regulatory Policy Strategy, Salt River Project
Power Marketing Administration	Alisa Kasewater	Intergovernmental Affairs, Bonneville Power Administration

MARKETS+ STATE COMMITTEE

The Markets+ State Committee (MSC) continues to be an active stakeholder in the Markets+ development as the program nears go-live in October of 2027. Over the course of the last year, the MSC has remained an engaged member of multiple Markets+ task forces, especially the Markets+ Greenhouse Gas Task Force (MGHGTF), and participated at two Markets+ Participant Executive Committee (MPEC) meetings where the MSC provides oral remarks on their ongoing work in the committee. Part of this work included the approval of the 2026 MSC Business Plan and Budget and an effort to better align the MSC's budget development process with the Southwest Power Pool's financial timeline for Markets+. In July 2026, the MSC approved the 2027 MSC Business Plan and Budget and presented it to the MPEC at their meeting on August 25, 2026. The budget will be presented to the Interim Markets+ Independent Panel (IMIP) for their consideration and approval in late September.

The MSC also began to review a governance issue previously raised by an MSC representative. The MSC worked to better understand the issue and how it has evolved as the Western electricity landscape has evolved. After discussions about how to resolve the governance issue at the May 2026 in-person MSC meeting, the MSC presented a resolution to the MPEC at their May 2026 meeting. To address the resolution further, the MSC reviewed the Markets+ governance with SPP representatives to further develop the issue and potential solutions. This work resulted in a memorandum that was delivered to the MPEC at their August 2026 meeting; After discussion with the MPEC, the Markets+ Interim Governance Task Force (MIGTF) will be creating a sub-group dedicated to this issue and to developing work that can be transitioned to the Interim Markets+ Nominating and Governance Committee (MNGC) in early 2027.

In addition to this work, the MSC has been focused on enhancing member education of Markets+ in preparation for market go-live. To support this, MSC staff developed the MSC Capacity Building Plan that outlines key areas of Markets+ that the MSC will review to bolster member and staff expertise. The Capacity Building Plan can be accessed on the WIEB website [here](#). Over the course of the year, the MSC has held educational sessions to review the history of Markets+ and where it is today, the Markets+ tariff development process and its implementation, and better understand commissioner oversight in the Markets+ governance framework. Future sessions will cover resource adequacy, seams, price formation, transmission rights, pricing, and availability, greenhouse gas accounting for pricing and non-pricing states, and market power mitigation.

As participation in the Western energy markets continues to evolve, the MSC has also undergone some changes to membership. Due to the market decisions of their regulated entities, Nevada and South Dakota have formally removed themselves from the MSC. The MSC thanks these representatives for their participation on the MSC throughout the years.

MSC Members		
State/ Province	Representative	Title/ Agency
Arizona	Nick Myers (Chair)	Chair, Arizona Corporation Commission
California	Vacant	
Colorado	Eric Blank	Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Idaho	John Hammond (Vice-Chair)	Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Montana	Vacant	
New Mexico	Pat O'Connell	Chair, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
Oregon	Letha Tawney	Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission
Utah	Vacant	
Washington	Ann Rendahl	Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Wyoming	Mike Robinson	Commissioner, Wyoming Public Service Commission

WESTERN RESOURCE ADEQUACY PROGRAM COMMITTEE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee of State Representatives (COSR) has remained actively engaged during a period of changes and refinements to the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) with continued preparation for its first binding season in Winter 2027.

A notable milestone occurred on October 31, 2025, when six participants submitted their required two-year notice of intent to withdraw from the program. Despite these departures, 16 participants representing more than 58,000 MW of peak load across the West committed to remain in WRAP. Prior to this announcement, COSR Leadership submitted an open letter on October 13, 2025 to the WRAP's Resource Adequacy Participants Committee (RAPC), reaffirming their support for WRAP and urging participants to continue program improvements. They further argued that a broad regional resource adequacy program is essential for maintaining electric reliability while reducing costs as the Western Interconnection faces rapid load growth, extreme weather, and potential capacity shortages.

The Committee introduced a leadership transition in early 2026. The COSR elected Brian Rybarik, Chair of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, to serve as Vice Chair. He succeeded Letha Tawney, Chair of the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC), who stepped down after being recognized for her significant contributions to the Committee. Chris Parker, Director of the Utah Division of Public Utilities, continued his service as COSR Chair.

Following this transition, the Committee played an active role in the development of the Program Review Committee's (PRC) 2026-2027 Workplan, which relied on input from the COSR and other stakeholders to review and prioritize program change proposals submitted during 2025.² In particular, the COSR supported near-term efforts to

² The 2026 PRC Workplan includes proposals for July 2026 through June 2027. COSR Comments for the 2026 Draft PRC Workplan are available here: <https://www.westernpowerpool.org/comments/submissions/pstrongtostrong-wrap-program-review-committeeppstr>.

address the treatment of large loads and data centers, as well as enhancements to how the program accounts for regional transmission and transmission as a capacity resource.

During the first half of 2026, the COSR submitted comments on seven WRAP-related initiatives, including the 2026-2027 PRC Workplan, three task force proposals, and three non-task force proposals. The most significant WRAP effort during this period involved significant proposed modifications to the WRAP's Forward Showing Planning Reserve Margin (FSPRM), adjustments to the program's capacity requirements, changes to the binding Winter Season duration, and updates to the Loss of Load Expectation (LOLE) study methodology. The Committee submitted comments in April with specific feedback for the PRC's consideration.³

The COSR continues to closely monitor two significant WRAP initiatives: the Day-Ahead Market Task Force (DAMTF) proposal and the Deficiency Charge Deferral Proposal. The DAMTF proposal addresses the structural changes required as the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) prepares to assume administration of the WRAP Operating Program in late 2028. Specifically, it outlines the impacts of transitioning key program functions from the WRAP Business Practice Manual and Tariff to the SPP Tariff, as Markets+ software will be used to identify and optimize resource adequacy solutions, particularly during capacity shortage events. The proposal also contemplates governance changes, including the creation of a working group under the Markets+ Participants Executive Committee (MPEC).

The COSR is also tracking the development of a proposal to modify the Forward Showing Deficiency Charge framework. These charges are a core element of the WRAP, designed to incentivize the timely procurement and development of sufficient qualifying capacity and may be assessed when participants fail to meet Forward Showing requirements during WRAP's initial binding seasons. The proposed Deficiency Charge Deferral mechanism would temporarily defer such charges while maintaining incentives to address capacity deficiencies, recognizing the unique challenges associated with WRAP's transition to binding operations.

The WRAP continues to evolve towards its first binding season in Winter 2027 and the COSR will remain focused on ensuring that program changes support reliability, transparency, and equitable outcomes for state-regulated utilities and their customers. The Committee will continue working with stakeholders across the Western Interconnection to strengthen resource adequacy planning and help advance the benefits of regional coordination.

COSR Members		
State/ Province	COSR Representative	Title/ Agency
Arizona	Nick Myers	Chair, Arizona Corporation Commission
California	Darcie Houck	Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
Idaho	Dayn Hardie	Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Montana	Vacant	
Nevada	Tammy Cordova	Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
New Mexico	Pat O'Connell	Chair, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
Oregon	Letha Tawney	Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission
Utah	Chris Parker (Chair)	Director, Utah Division of Public Utilities
Washington	Brian Rybarik (Vice-Chair)	Chair, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Wyoming	Chris Petrie	Deputy Chairman, Wyoming Public Service Commission

³ COSR Comments for the Planning Reserve Margin Proposal – PRC Workplan Task Force 2 are available here: <https://www.westernpowerpool.org/comments/periods/cosr-comment-on-planning-reserve-margin-proposal-p>.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

RECENT MEETINGS

FALL 2025 JOINT CREPC-WIRAB MEETING

October 1–3, 2025

Hilton Portland Downtown, Portland, OR

[Fall 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting Page](#)

SPRING 2026 JOINT CREPC-WIRAB MEETING

May 12–14, 2026

Wyndham San Diego Bayside, San Diego, CA

[Spring 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting Page](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

FALL 2026 JOINT CREPC-WIRAB MEETING

October 13–15, 2026

Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula, Montana

[Fall 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting Page](#)

GEOHERMAL ENERGY WORKSHOP

January 20–21, 2027

The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

More Details to Come

SPRING 2027 JOINT CREPC-WIRAB MEETING

March 23–25, 2027

Hyatt Regency San Francisco Downtown SOMA, San Francisco, CA

[Spring 2027 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting Page](#)