Harmonizing Large Load Interconnection Requirements in the West

Large Load Industry Advisory Group

Meeting #5

September 24, 2026

WIRAB
Western Interconnection
Regional Advisory Body

Meeting Logistics

Recording

This meeting is being recorded and **may be posted publicly**. By participating, you consent to your name, voice, and image being part of the recording.

How to Participate

Use the **"Raise Hand"** feature to ask questions or provide input

Feel free to use the **chat** and make sure to send your chat to **Everyone**

We will be using **Slido** later in the meeting to solicit feedback

Audio Etiquette

Everyone came into the meeting muted

Please **mute yourself** when not speaking

If joining by phone, please identify yourself in the chat

Materials & Follow-Up

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

Contact information will be provided at the end for follow-up questions or comments

Outline

Introductions and Background	Overview of WIRAB's role and motivation for this effort Explanation of the Industry Advisory Group's role
Large Load FIR Template Draft 1	Review Proposed Structure Discuss on Technical Requirements
Interactive Discussion and Q&A	Open Discussion and Slido Polls
Closing and Next Steps	Preview of next meeting and schedule

WIRAB's 2026 Strategic Initiatives

Long-term Planning Data and Models

Initiative 1: Advise WECC to work with states, provinces, and planning entities to improve long-term planning assumptions, data, and models to meet evolving regulatory and reliability needs.

Large-load Performance Requirements

Initiative 2: Advise WECC, NERC, and stakeholders to develop common interconnection and performance requirements for large loads—especially data centers—to ensure reliable and secure integration into the Bulk Power System.

Resource Adequacy with Electrification and Large Loads

Initiative 3: Advise WECC to study the impacts of rapid electrification and large load growth on reliability, including regional and seasonal resource adequacy trends.

Energy Storage Reliability Standards

Initiative 4: Advise WECC and the ERO to assess whether reliability standards adequately reflect the growing role of energy storage technologies in supporting grid stability and essential reliability services

WIRAB Technical Resource State Oversight Resource for Large Load Interconnections

Purpose

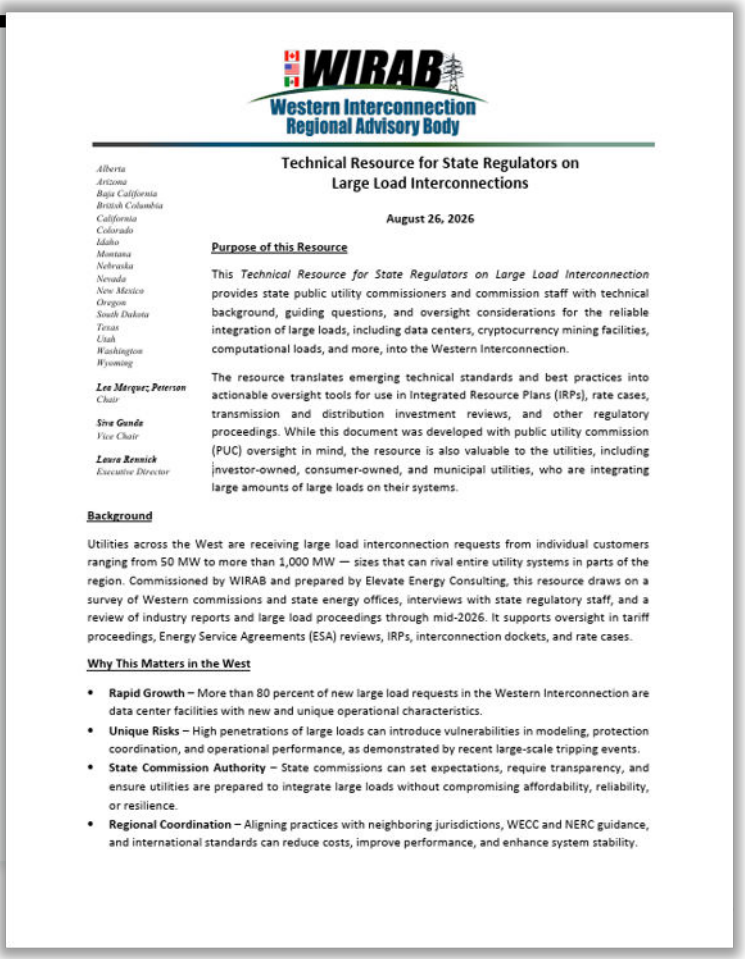
- Support informed state oversight of large load interconnections.
- Help regulators evaluate tariffs, contracts, resource plans, rate cases, and related proceedings.
- Protect existing customers, ensure reasonable rates and prudent investment, and maintain grid reliability.

How to Use This Resource

- Each topic provides a plain-language overview, reliability considerations, and practical questions.
- Questions should be adapted to each state's authority, utility system, and proceedings.

Available Now

- WIRAB released the Technical Resource on September 3, 2026.
- The webinar and Special WIRAB Meeting recording, slides, and resource are available on the project webpage.



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Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

Technical Resource for State Regulators on Large Load Interconnections

August 26, 2026

Alberta
Arizona
Baja California
British Columbia
California
Colorado
Idaho
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
South Dakota
Texas
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

Lea Márquez Peterson
Chair

Siva Gunda
Vice Chair

Laura Rennich
Executive Director

Purpose of this Resource

This *Technical Resource for State Regulators on Large Load Interconnection* provides state public utility commissioners and commission staff with technical background, guiding questions, and oversight considerations for the reliable integration of large loads, including data centers, cryptocurrency mining facilities, computational loads, and more, into the Western Interconnection.

The resource translates emerging technical standards and best practices into actionable oversight tools for use in Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), rate cases, transmission and distribution investment reviews, and other regulatory proceedings. While this document was developed with public utility commission (PUC) oversight in mind, the resource is also valuable to the utilities, including investor-owned, consumer-owned, and municipal utilities, who are integrating large amounts of large loads on their systems.

Background

Utilities across the West are receiving large load interconnection requests from individual customers ranging from 50 MW to more than 1,000 MW — sizes that can rival entire utility systems in parts of the region. Commissioned by WIRAB and prepared by Elevate Energy Consulting, this resource draws on a survey of Western commissions and state energy offices, interviews with state regulatory staff, and a review of industry reports and large load proceedings through mid-2026. It supports oversight in tariff proceedings, Energy Service Agreements (ESA) reviews, IRPs, interconnection dockets, and rate cases.

Why This Matters in the West

- **Rapid Growth** – More than 80 percent of new large load requests in the Western Interconnection are data center facilities with new and unique operational characteristics.
- **Unique Risks** – High penetrations of large loads can introduce vulnerabilities in modeling, protection coordination, and operational performance, as demonstrated by recent large-scale tripping events.
- **State Commission Authority** – State commissions can set expectations, require transparency, and ensure utilities are prepared to integrate large loads without compromising affordability, reliability, or resilience.
- **Regional Coordination** – Aligning practices with neighboring jurisdictions, WECC and NERC guidance, and international standards can reduce costs, improve performance, and enhance system stability.

Large Load Industry Advisory Group Meeting Schedule

Date	Topics
✅ May 28, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT)	Kickoff: Background, Goals, and Timeline
✅ June 25, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT)	Large Load Interconnection Requirements Review
✅ July 16, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT)	Large Load Interconnection Requirements Template Section #1
✅ August 13, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT)	Large Load Interconnection Requirements Template Section #2
September 24, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT)	Large Load Interconnection Requirements Template Section #3
October 22, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT)	Template Review and Finalizing
November 12, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT)	Template Finalizing and Next Steps
December 3, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT)	Industry and Public Webinar

Industry Advisory Group Participation

Introductions:
- **Name**
- **Organization**
- **Role**
- **What was your favorite fall activity?**

September 2026 Registration Snapshot: Registered Participants: 164; Organizations Represented: 130

Category	Registrants
Utilities & Power Providers	74
Government & Regulators	24
Reliability & Market Organizations	11
Developers, Large Loads & Technology	23
Engineering, Consulting & Legal	15
Research & Trade Associations	12
Other / Unclassified	5

Participant Engagement

53 Active Participants
- Interested in contributing directly to development of the Large Load Interconnection Requirements Template

111 Monitoring Participants
- Interested in receiving updates and reviewing project outputs

Thank You!

Next Industry Advisory Group Meeting

October 22, 2026 at 11:00 AM MT

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Large Load Interconnection Requirements Review

Industry Advisory Group (IAG) Meeting

Ryan D. Quint, PhD, PE, *President and CEO*
Kyle Thomas, PE, *COO / VP Engineering and Compliance Services*
Jiecheng "Jeff" Zhao, PhD, PE, *Manager, Engineering*

September 24, 2026

Disclaimers

- These views reflect the insights of Elevate Energy Consulting and do not necessarily reflect the views of Elevate's industry partners and clients.
- These views reflect learnings from working on multiple projects and all results have been genericized and anonymized to ensure confidentiality.
- These views are solely for informational purposes, discussion, and *elevating* industry understanding of practical and pragmatic issues.

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Last Meeting Recap

- Detailed review of the following requirements:
  - Operational Requirements
  - Initial framework of Modeling Reqs and Commissioning Reqs

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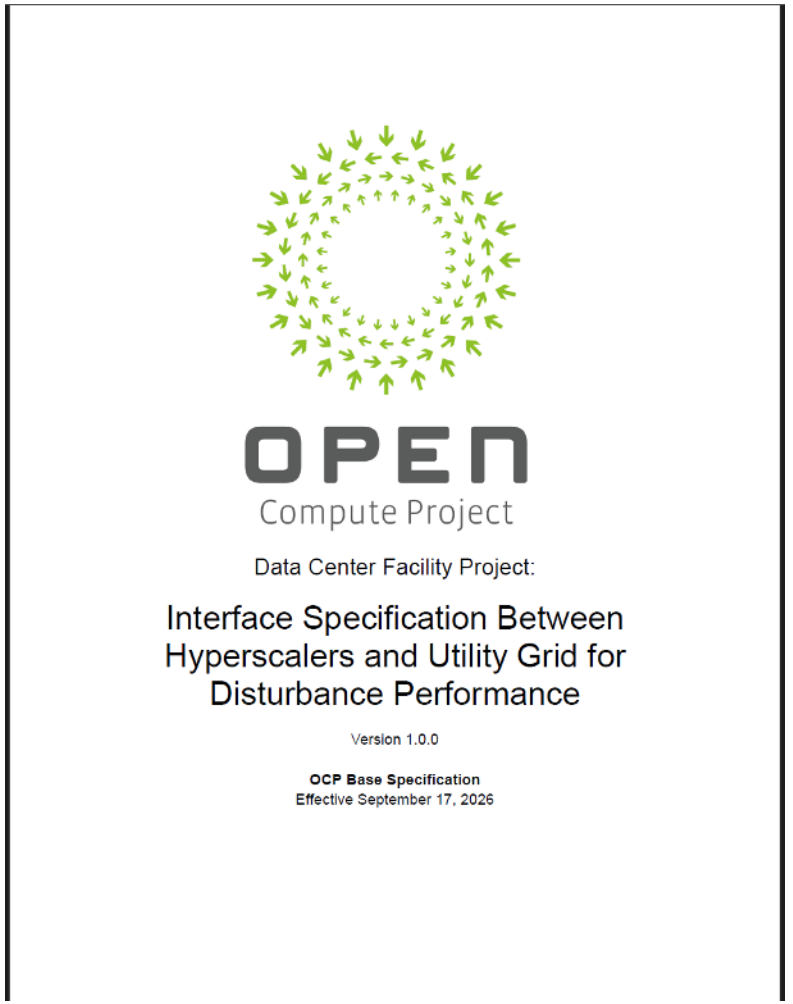
This Meeting Overview

- New Industry Reference: Open Compute Project Specification document on Data Center Disturbance Performance/Ride-through
- Review final completed sections:
  - Modeling requirements
  - Commissioning requirements
  - Qualified Change Definition section

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Open Compute Project (OCP) Specification document on Data Center Disturbance Performance/Ride-through

- OCP develops and publishes open hardware designs for data centers so the industry can build more efficient, lower-cost infrastructure from shared specifications
- Just released a new specification on data center disturbance performance/ride-through
  - Authored by Google, Microsoft, Meta, NVIDIA
- Drafted in response to the data center trip events seen since 2024
- Excellent reference overall and deep dive into the technical requirements and equipment performance & capabilities
- Will be comparing the template requirements to this new specification



https://www.opencompute.org/documents/ocp-base-spec-interface-specification-between-hyperscalers-and-utility-grid-for-disturbance-performance-pdf

Group Discussion

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Discussion Topics

- Technical discussion on requirements template
- Sharing industry efforts and activities
- Open Q&A and discussion

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