



Western Electricity Coordinating Council

# *Transmission Planning Role*

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Joint OR-WA EFSC Meeting  
October 28, 2010

# ***WECC Mission***

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- WECC's mission is to assure a reliable bulk electric power system in the Western Interconnection

# ***WECC FACTS***

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- Formed in 2002
- Predecessor, WSCC formed in 1967
- Largest geographic area of the eight Regional Entities
  - The Western Interconnection (1.8 million square miles) includes all or part of 14 U.S. states, 2 Canadian provinces and a portion of Baja California Norte, Mexico
- Non-Governmental
- Industry participants join together to promote system reliability
- Member-driven (209 members divided into 7 membership classes)
- Voluntary membership

# ***WECC Responsibilities***

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- Standards development
- Compliance monitoring and enforcement
- Reliability coordination

# ***WECC Responsibilities***

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- Transmission expansion planning
  - Management of a comprehensive planning database
  - Coordination of subregional planning processes
  - Analyses and modeling
- Studies
  - Model the system and perform studies under a variety of scenarios to set operating policies and limits
- Market-operations interface
  - Ensure that competitive power markets do not negatively impact reliability

# *System Reliability*

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- NERC and WECC are focused on reliability through the two overarching processes:
  1. NERC reliability standards and WECC criteria.
  2. WECC policies and procedures that provide sound practice and proper review of plans.

# *WECC Policies/Procedures*

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- These Policies and Procedures are comprised of three WECC processes:
  - WECC Regional Planning Project Review.
    - This is a process intended to inform others of the opportunity to participate in or review a project, and to solicit participation. It is intended to avoid duplicate projects and allow a new project to integrate others needs by mutual agreement.
  - WECC Project Rating Review.
    - This is a process intended to ensure that new projects are integrated into the existing system with a rating while recognizing protected ratings of other facilities.
  - WECC Progress Reports.
    - A process by which project sponsors report potential significant additions and changes to the interconnected system and WECC members are provided the opportunity to review and comment on these additions or changes.

**Figure 1**

**Regional Planning and Project Rating Process Sequence**

<b>Project Phases</b>	<b>Formation</b>	<b>Studies</b>	<b>Licensing</b>	<b>Construction</b>
<b>Regional Planning Process</b>	Assessment, Project Review ⋮			
<b>Rating Review Process</b>	Phase 1 Proposed Rating ⋮	Phase 2 Planned Rating ⋮	Phase 3 Accepted Rating ⋮	
<b>Progress Reports</b>	Progress Reports Are Required Throughout the Entire Planning Process			

Notes:

“Proposed Rating” – used at the initiation and throughout Phase I of the Project Rating Review Process

“Planned Rating” – is the final rating at the conclusion of Phase I of the Project Rating Review Process and used throughout Phase 2 of the Project Rating Review Process

“Accepted Rating” – is the final rating at the conclusion of Phase 2 of the Project Rating Review Process and is also the rating that is used when the Project is placed in-service

# *Peer Review*

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- WECC processes are designed to assure that interested parties have opportunity to review and comment regarding reliability issues. The rating process provides a framework for formation of a project review committee.
- Review project proposal for compliance with NERC and WECC Reliability Standards.
- The completed reports are approved by WECC:
  - Technical Studies Subcommittee
  - Planning Coordination Committee.