

**NWPP Operating Committee**  
**February 7, 2024 – 1300-1700 Pacific Time**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Approval Items -\***

The meeting came to order at 1303.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

1. Introductions, Arrangements, and Agenda Changes Chris McDarment (CHPD), OC Chair
  - a. Quorum (50% of OC Membership and requires 2/3 majority of established quorum)  
A quorum was established with 20 out of 29 members present.
  - b. Anti-Trust Compliance Statement Kevin Conway, WPP  
The Anti-Trust Statement was read, and safety protocols were reviewed.

**ADMINISTRATION**

2. Western Power Pool – Corporate Update Ryan Roy, WPP
  - a. WPP Strategic Planning Update Rebecca Sexton, WPP  
Rebecca gave an update on the current status of the WPP Strategic Planning process. Last summer the first phase of the process was completed, this involved information gathering about markets, participants, and trends. This included getting the board up to speed on all the different programs and services at the WPP. In the fall and winter phase 2 began with idea generation with the Board, staff and town halls. At the end of January there was the first Members Meeting where there was a year-in-review update. The plan is now in phase 3 where the ideas are going through the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) process. This is leading up to documenting the Strategic Plan, including the mission and vision statements. A draft of the Strategic Plan should be out for a first review and feedback in spring or early summer.
  - b. NWPP OC Good Faith Estimate – YTD Overview 2023-2024 Ryan Roy, WPP  
Ryan Roy went over the year-to-date good faith estimates. The WPP is still working to get the November and December billings out. The RSG and SRSG has a significant number of hours due to the integration efforts. The WPP is growing and needs to add more administrative staff and the allocation of administrative costs has been more equitable across the committees. Administrative and IT costs are billed on a per-hour basis and this helps to explain why monthly billing can vary month to month. The goal is to ensure billing is more consistent and predictable for all the members.

The WPP is working to bring on RSG Support Staff, junior to Harlan, and a software engineer mostly for RSG support. Harlan has recently been given an upgrade in title. There continues to be more work than Harlan Tallman, Justin Cochran and the rest of the staff can manage on the IT side.

### 3. Meeting Notes –

#### a. November 1, 2023 – \*Accept by Consensus McDarment, CHPD

The legacy practice of documenting meeting notes was discussed. After review by WPP staff, it is apparent that meeting notes are actually meeting minutes. They are documented to capture discussions and action items by the OC when business is conducted. This is consistent with Robert’s Rules of Order that the committee uses as guiding principles for conducting it’s meetings. There was some discussion regarding the potential loss of detail if the committee is moving to meeting minutes. WECC has been going the more formal route for writing minutes, and the committee wants to avoid losing discussions for the benefit of someone who cannot make the meeting. Kevin Conway stated that there shouldn’t be that much difference, and the intent of the discussions taking place will still be captured.

A secondary discussion took place about recording the meetings, what the recordings are used for, and how long they are maintained. There is currently no policy in place to manage the recordings, but they are, and have been, only a source for staff to write up the meeting notes. The recordings are not dispersed. Kevin Conway commented that this can be resolved with updated OC charters and policies that the staff plans on working on as they have time this summer.

**Thomas Bagnell made a motion to approve the notes of the November 11, 2023 meeting. That motion was seconded by Raj Hundal. The motion was approved by consensus.**

#### 4. Circulation of Member List for Verification of Representatives Kevin Conway, WWP

A paper copy of the members list was circulated around the room for verification of designated contacts and contact information. This will go out electronically once it is updated from the meeting. This was supported by a request to distribute the list to all members, so everyone has a current contact list.

## OC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

#### 5. Operations Training Subcommittee – Status Update Keith Schreiner & Jessica Zamonis, WPP

- ##### a. Metrics Update –
- Keith walked through the OTS Metrics and the deliveries of training to the various members. The Metrics show the success of the program and a healthy trend of utilization of the WPP training. The program continues to see a three-year trend of increase in CEHs delivered. 2023 delivered approximately 6,000 more CEHs than 2022. Data was then shared on a per-company basis, showing the participants use of the program, the CEHs delivered by company, CEHs per person, and per certification. The 2023 Q4 top 5 courses were:
- 1) Reserve Sharing Essentials
  - 2) Reserve Sharing Qualifying Events

- 3) Emergency Preparedness
- 4) System Restoration, and
- 5) FERC Standards of Conduct

This has been driven a lot by the integration of the SRSG.

The RC's completion rate of RSG Courses was discussed. RC's can unlock more training when they complete the RSG Courses. SRSG utilization was strong in the second half of the year, as would be expected. Overall Q4 sees the most training with System Operators catching up on delayed training, and perhaps more opportunity to train at their organizations.

CEH utilization was discussed, and how this represents how much the entities could potentially save through source training. The chart also helped to illustrate how much more utilization is available. CEH costs drop dramatically by utilizing the WPP training, but it was admitted that there is not much opportunity for simulator training yet.

The 2023 top 5 overall course were:

- 1) Disturbance Reporting
- 2) Reserve Sharing Qualifying Events
- 3) Reserve Sharing Essentials
- 4) Space Weather
- 5) System Restoration

**b. Training Program Update**

The pilot subscription program has started and has been successful. We now have non-members joining. Three CAISO BA, Onward Energy, and Redding Electric Utilities are subscribing with a few contracts out and waiting to be delivered. Most of this lift has impacted the Training groups workload, and the money collected has paid for all the capital costs for improving the training studio. This helps to reduce the costs to the members. This is a huge value to the members and the platform.

The WPP continues to develop material for simulation, there is now a half hour of simulation in the new Reserve Sharing Essentials training, due out on May 1st. Reserve Sharing Essentials, Reserve Sharing Qualifying Events, and the three courses just completed in person for the RSG are all being updated and should be available on-line soon. Every course moving forward will be evaluated for a simulation component. In late spring or early summer there will be a switching class with simulation hours.

c. **\*Approval of 2 Additional Training Personnel**

Keith went on to discuss his need for 2 additional training personnel, someone who can assist in editing, and another who can keep updating the existing library. Basic upkeep demands significant time and resources. The program is a victim of its own success. These requested resources will help to lighten the workload that is compounded with new NERC standards and requests for more training by the members. At the last OC meeting this was discussed and would be considered at this meeting. There was discussion regarding potential qualifications and expectations of the new personnel, and the cost. Keith said the fully burdened cost would be right around \$420,000 total, representing highest end of the candidates, but he hopes that he can come in below this number. A question came up about outsourcing, and if full time is necessary. Keith said that they have looked at that, but the workload is too unique. He is looking at the options with some universities to help with some peak work, but it risks losing some continuity of the product.

**Ty Kristensen made a motion to approve the hiring of two new training team members, and it was seconded by Kathy Downey. The motion was passed unanimously.**

6. **Nominations for OC Offices**

McDarmont, CHPD

Chris McDarmont discussed the upcoming elections for new officers. Adam Labuga (TID) requested to be more involved with the OC. Vice-Chair Jeff Heminger agreed to step down and allow Adam to fill the Vice-Chair position.

**A motion was made by Michael Jang and seconded by Thomas Bagnell, to have Adam Labuga fulfill the remainder of Jeff Heminger's time as Vice-Chair of the OC and ascend to Chair of the OC in August. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

Adam thanked everyone for the support.

We will be electing new leadership at the next meeting and they will take effect in August. There was discussion on the support that staff provides the officers and that filling the leadership roles in the committee are not heavy lifts. Members should think about bringing any nominations to the next committee meeting.

7. **Discussion Regarding January 13, 2024 Cold Weather Event**

McDarmont, CHPD

Chris McDarmont led a discussion on what was seen by the entities during the cold weather event in January. At Chelan, as a BA, they were fine, but they did see significantly higher loads than what was forecast. This was despite already forecasting peak loads. Chelan continues to see changes in the load profile and load diversity is not what it was 20 years ago. The third day seems to be when the load impacts really are seen.

Grant PUD did peak during the event. Grant did experience a couple of EEAs. Their System Operators found they could not rely on some of the forecasts and had a difficult time filling the deficiencies.

Avista commented that the gas transmission problems had a significant impact on their gas and electric sides. The event lasted about 32 hours and included the Jackson Prairie storage facility, which was a significant outage. This event was very significant for the Northwest and if there was another issue during this event, it could have resulted in a very bad outcome for a good portion of the Northwest.

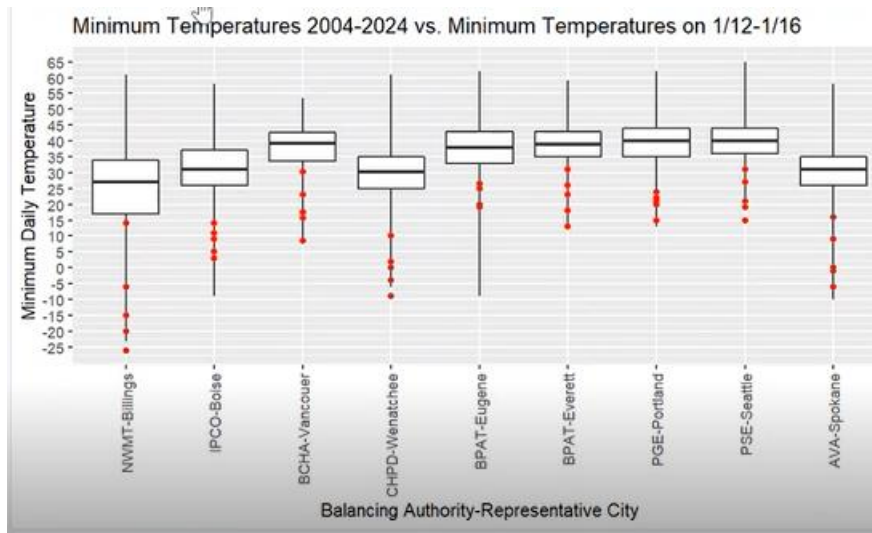
Chelan added that they experienced times where distribution load steady states were actually above the 600 amp relay settings on the substation feeders. This was a problem to balance protection from being sensitive enough to trip against low duty faults but also being able to serve the load. This made restoration difficult.

A discussion followed on the NWPP Energy Emergency Plans (EEP) that were developed by the OC and tested yearly some years ago. It may be time to refresh the EEPs, these could help with coordination and communication during these events.

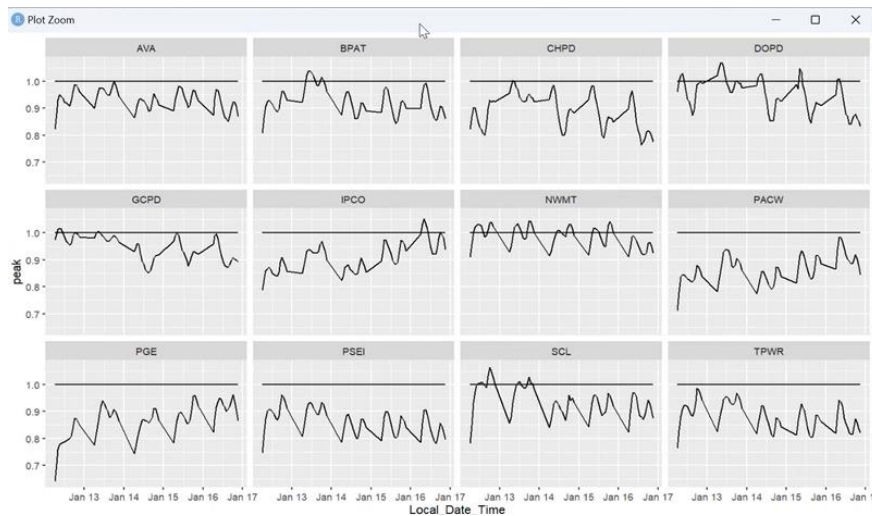
**There was an action item to review the last EEP as an agenda item where WPP staff will distribute the latest version for further consideration and discussion.**

**There was another action item to make it a practice for a standing agenda item for the May and November meetings to review the EEP.**

Idaho Power experienced EEAs on a couple of different days with an EEA3 on Saturday. The forecast was very off in terms of wind during the event, requiring them to scramble. They set a peak the following day. Power Pool staff showed a whisker graph of the minimum temperatures and load data from public sources. Northwestern stated that they hit as low as about 40 degrees Fahrenheit below zero near the control center, however there were temperatures to about 70 degrees below zero in other areas of the state.



Ryan also compared the event to historically high peaks from public data



8. (Moved up to Item #6) RC Updates order will vary on availability of presenters (1345)
  - a. SPP RC Derek Hawkins, SPP  
No Update
  - b. BCRC Bryan Wolosnick, BCRC  
No Update
  - c. AESO Kevin Stinson, AESO  
No Update
  - d. RC West Raja Thappetaobula, RC West

RC West gave a brief update on current operations. During January there were a number of EEAs (7 EEA1s, 1 EEA3) generated due to the cold weather in the Pacific Northwest, but there was no load shed as part of the cold weather. There was a number of lessons learned at RC West. Mostly, RC West needs to collect more information from the BAs during these events and build more displays for these type of events.

9. **Transmission Planning Committee/Transmission Services – Updates (1500)** Chelsea Loomis, WPP  
Chelsea Loomis discussed FERC 881 and ambient adjusted ratings. There was a short discussion with TPC members, and the Operations Group, the other day. They were asked about their plans in response to FERC 881 during the meeting. Chelsea and Ben will be hosting more meetings like this to help bridge the gap between planning and operations. This discussion will also extend to next month's TPC meeting. The conclusion from the meeting was that there are some utilities that are well positioned for being ready for ambient adjusted ratings. They have plans and have been discussing processes and talking to vendors. Others are still trying to figure out their plans and found the discussions to be helpful in helping them continue to move forward. OC Members have been invited to the TPC meeting where screen shots, and other information about implementing strategies to meet 881 requirements.

The TPC meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2024. There will be a presentation by WebLineR, a vendor, to discuss FERC 881.

10. **WECC RRC Risk Management Process (1515)** Greg Park, WECC  
Greg Park along with Scott Brooksby discussed the WECC RRC Risk Management Process and how the Risk Register works. Scott explained what the Risk Register is and how it will work to prioritize work efforts of the WECC and RRC. This is based on the ISO 31000 Risk Management Model. As part of the process risks need to be identified, assessed, and then prioritized. There are about 10 overall categories of risk, and each category has individual risks. This will be an ongoing effort and updated yearly, or as new risks are identified. Scott shared where on the WECC website the Risk Register and the Risk Management Process could be found for more information.

Depending on the risk, mitigations could include studies, trainings, SARs, planning activities or other actional activities. These mitigations will be determined by the RRC.

11. **Reporting ACE Standard Drafting Team Update** Greg Park, SDT Chair, WECC  
Greg stated the FERC Order 901 prioritized the work that NERC will be focusing on. Due to the possibility that work on this issue may not progress right away the ACE terms went out for ballot and were approved at the end of last year. The next steps are to have the NERC Board of Trustees approve them at their meeting on February 15-16, 2024. Once approved they will be

filed with FERC for review and approval, which could take some time. Once approved by FERC, there will be a 12-month implementation for entities to update their documentation based on the new definitions. The RSG is expected to have to do some minor modifications to its documents.

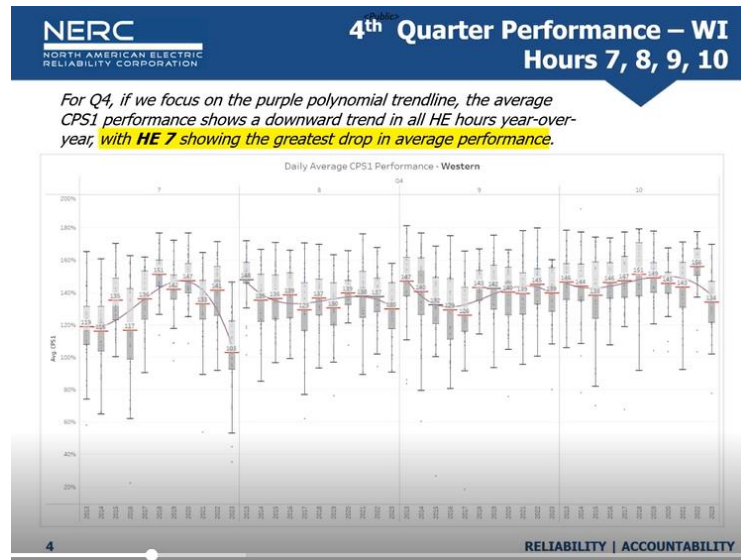
## 12. CPS1 Trends at the Interconnection Level

Greg Park, NERC RS Chair, WECC

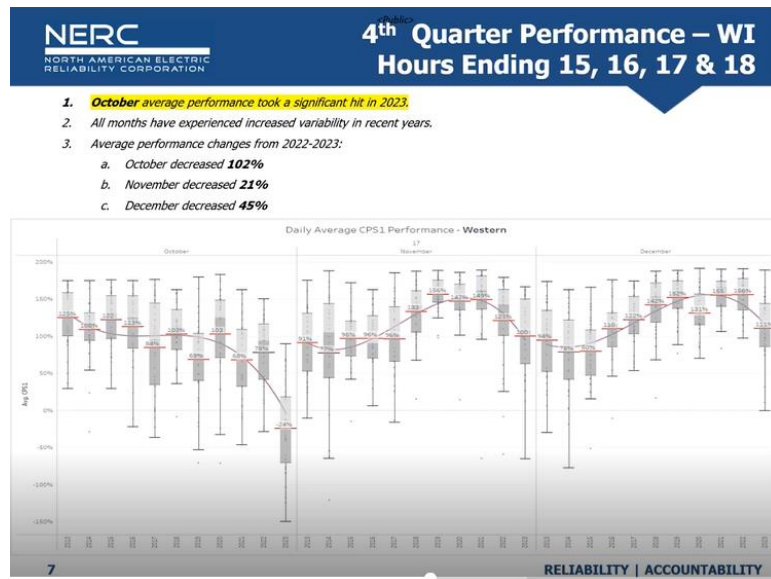
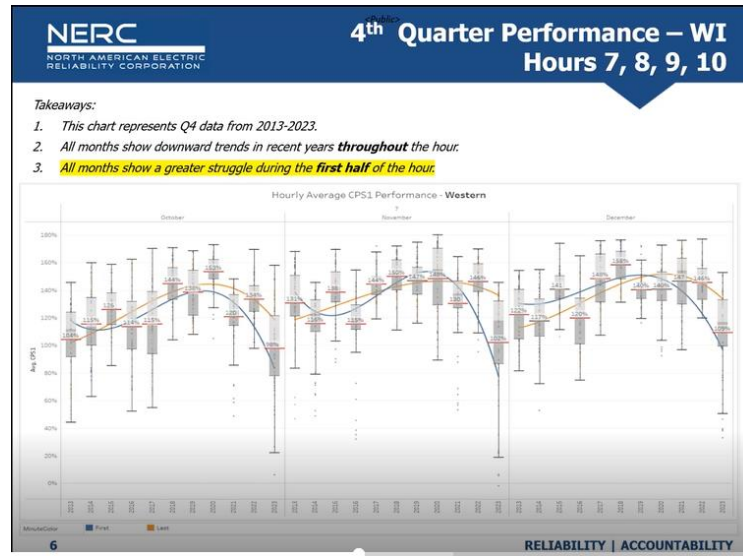
Greg Park shared a number of slides showing the CPS trends in the Western Interconnection and Eastern Interconnection. He committed to send out the word document that his presentation is based on. The purpose of this effort has been because there has been concerns that frequency is getting harder to control because of solar ramps.

The initial data indicated that in certain hours the interconnection performance was very poor. Hour 17 in February the average frequency was below the governor deadband. The first phase was to try and identify trends in control during ramp hours. This process is a data collection effort and tool creation effort. Greg went through the explanation on why CPS1 is a good indicator of frequency performance.

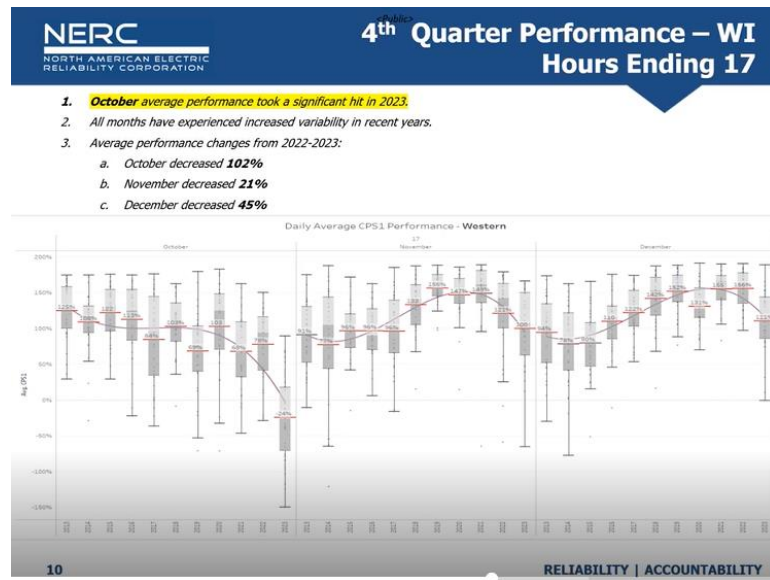
Greg then shared the slides showing the performance drop for Q4 HE7 in the Western Interconnection:







This was then compared to Hour 17 of Q4 of 2023 and how the performance continues to degrade:



Greg will get the committee a copy of the draft white paper. The next steps for the committee will be to figuring out the source of the poor performance by looking at the primary inadvertent accumulations. The report will help the committee focus on specific hours going forward to determine who is having specific impact on frequency control performance. Greg hopes it is everyone, but he doesn't know if that will be what they will see. If an entity, during low frequency has a negative primary inadvertent, then they are part of the problem. If we find some BAs that are having a hard time controlling frequency in these hours, the committee will reach out to work with those entities.

Greg also discussed the ERSWG Measure 6 that is used to look at BA annual performance. This year, 6 entities were identified in the WPP footprint as having increases in their Measure 6 scores. After analysis there was some data gaps that were identified, but it was not a BA problem as much as it was broken data streams when the RC switched over. Greg showed trends of when CPS1 scores were less than 100. There have been trends that some entities have had year-over-year increases of CPS1 scores in 3 consecutive hours. There can be a number of contributing factors, and the RS is committed to work with the entities to bring awareness to their performance. This is a good opportunity for lessons learned. EIM seems to have improved entities' performance due to a more demanding need to perform. There are 6 Eastern BAs and 5 Western BAs that are going to be contacted about their performance during the next months.

13. (Moved up to Item #10) RSTC Update

Rich Hydzik, AVA

Rich Hydzik provided an update on the activities at the RSTC. There are new leadership changes and a new work plan is being coordinated. Emerging risks identified as additions of large load customers, such as EV and other demand and growth trends will have a panel discussion at the

March meeting held in San Diego. High priority standards work plans have been approved and will be going out for public comment before going to the Standards Committee.

Based on the latest Risk Report, the RSTC strategic plan will put a focus on four areas of highlighted risk areas:

- 1) Grid transformation,
- 2) Inverter-based resources,
- 3) Resilience in extreme events, and
- 4) Security

Rich shared the NERC RSTC website and stepped everyone through how to find information about what is going on the RSTC. The RSTC is also producing a newsletter that should help in summarizing RSTC activities. There is a link that will also help to show what has been approved, endorsed, and what is pending. The newsletters will be published about a month after each meeting.

14. (Moved up to Item #11) Action Items Updates

Kevin Conway, WPP

The past Action Items were reviewed:

- 1) May 2, 2024 re: WWP Staff to collect data for renewables via ICCP links from those entities not currently providing the data was pushed to August 2, 2024.
- 2) November 1, 2023 re: Greg Park to provide WWP Staff CPS1 presentation was sent out by ChaRee Difabio. The task is now complete.
- 3) November 1, 2022 re: WPP to add voting agenda item on OC for two new training staff was completed as part of this meeting, and is now complete.
- 4) November 1, 2023 re: WPP to email OC end of last fiscal year and current financial update is still in progress.

New Action Items:

- 1) Bring the last version of the Energy Emergency Plan for review at the May 2024 meeting.
- 2) Review the Energy Emergency Plan at each May and November OC Meetings as a standing agenda item.

## MISCELLANEOUS

15. (Moved up to Item #12) Current Operations

All

Raj Hundal discussed that NAESB is updating its gas and electric coordination business practices to address gas during extreme weather events. They will be meeting on February 15, 2024.

There is standard out for initial ballot right now for Project 2020-03 BAL-007-1 Energy Reliability Assessments. There is a scheduled webinar scheduled on February 12, 2024 1:00 to 4:00 Eastern. This is related to the coordination of gas and electric during extreme weather. This is a

significant change to how BAs operate currently. Everyone is encouraged to review it and comment on it. General discussion continued regarding who in each organization may be responsible for performing to this standard.

Kevin Conway discussed some new language regarding the NERC final revisions to the proposed Rules of Procedure that are part of the IBR Registration Work Plan. NERC is changing its approach and instead of creating two new registrations (GO-IBR and GOP-IBR) they have decided to revise the definition of GO and GOP to create Category 1 (BES) and Category 2 (non-BES IBRs) GOs and GOPs. WECC outlined this change during its presentation at the January 10 IBR Focus Group meeting. Here are the proposed definitions:

- "Generator Operator" means the entity that: 1) operates generating Facility(ies) and performs the functions of supplying energy and Interconnected Operations Services (Category 1 GOP); or 2) operates non-BES inverter based generating resources that either have or contribute to an aggregate nameplate capacity of greater than or equal to 20 MVA, connected through a system designed primarily for delivering such capacity to a common point of connection at a voltage greater than or equal to 60 kV (Category 2 GOP).
- "Generator Owner" means an entity that: 1) owns and maintains generating Facility(ies) (Category 1 GO); or 2) owns and maintains non-BES inverter based generating resources that either have or contribute to an aggregate nameplate capacity of greater than or equal to 20 MVA, connected through a system designed primarily for delivering such capacity to a common point of connection at a voltage greater than or equal to 60 kV (Category 2 GO).

The technical parameters of the IBRs in scope have not changed – greater than or equal to 20 MVA, connected at greater than or equal to 60 kV. The changes will either be discussed at the February 15 NERC BOT meeting, and revised again, or the proposed changes will be approved during next week's meeting. There was a request to forward out this information to the OC.

#### 16. (Moved up to Item #13) OC Goals Discussion for 2024

All

Kevin Conway explained that the OC has not set formal goals since before COVID, and the group should start to think about starting this process again. The goals help to prepare for budgeting, and it is a good exercise to focus on what is next. There was some discussion on how to proceed, and perhaps have a full discussion at the next meetings. Chris asked everyone to think about this and bring some ideas to the May meeting. Some of the activities the OC sponsored have not been done in several years due to the difficulties in getting participation and agenda topics.

17. Review of Action Items Decided at this Meeting McDarmont, CHPD  
Addressed in Item 14.
18. (Moved up to Item #14) Future Meetings McDarmont, CHPD
- d. May 1, 2024 – May want to reschedule this to May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Due to conflicts with the SRSG implementation on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and a Chief Dispatcher’s Meeting the following week, **it was decided to move the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to May 15<sup>th</sup>**. This has to be coordinated with the RSGC and the OTS meetings. There were no objections.
  - e. August 7, 2024
  - f. November 6, 2024
  - g. February 5, 2025

The Meeting was adjourned at 1701.

## In Attendance

Rich Hydzik	Avista Corporation (AVA)
Ty Kristensen	Avagrid Renewables, LLC (AVRN)
Wei Shao	Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)
Ehson Syed	British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BCHA)
Dave Brown	Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
Annie Wu	Calpine Corporation (CALP)
<b>Chris McDarmont (Chair)</b>	Chelan County Public Utility District (CHPD)
<b>Jeff Heminger (Vice Chair)</b>	Douglas County Public Utility District (DOPD)
Nathan Anderson	Grant County Public Utility District (GCPD)
Antonio Franco	Gridforce Energy Management, LLC (GEM)
CJ Ingersoll	Gridforce Energy Management, LLC (GEM)
Gary Slayton	Idaho Power Company (IPCO)
Josh Harris	Idaho Power Company (IPCO)
Marcus Brown	BHE Montana Wind Holding, LLC (NAT)
Ansley Kulseng-Hansen	NorthWestern Energy (NWMT)
Jonathan Cox	NorthWestern Energy (NWMT)
Sam Ashmore	NV Energy (NVE)
Kathee Downey	PacifiCorp (PAC)
Brian McGuirk	Portland General Electric (PGE)
Raj Hundal	Powerex Corporation (PWX)
Richard McLean	Exel Energy, dba Public Service of Colorado (PSCo)

Thomas Bagnell  
Michael Jang  
Paul Haase  
Robert Riojas  
Matt Weiss  
Kerri Schlacter  
Adam Labuga  
Jim Emmons

Marc Desmarais

Chris Bultsma

Ryan Roy  
Rebecca Sexton, guest presenter  
Kevin Conway  
Charee DiFabio  
Harlan Tallman  
Justin Cochran  
Keith Schreiner  
Jessica Zamonis  
Greg Park, WECC  
Scott Brooksby  
RajaShekar (Raj) Thappetaobula

Puget Sound Energy (PSEi)  
Seattle City Light (SCL)  
Seattle City Light (SCL)  
Snohomish County Public Utility District (SNPD)  
Tri-State Generation and Transmission  
Tri-State Generation and Transmission  
Turlock Irrigation District (TID)  
Turlock Irrigation District (TID)  
Western Area Power Administration Upper Great  
Plains (WAUW)  
Western Area Colorado-Missouri (WACM)  
Western Area Power Administration Upper Great  
Plains (WAUW)  
Western Area Colorado-Missouri (WACM)  
WPP Staff  
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RC West Guest