



**NWPP Operating Committee
February 5, 2025
1300-1700 Pacific Time
Western Power Pool Offices
7525 NE Ambassador Place, Suite M
Portland, OR
Minutes**

Administration:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Adam Labuga at 1:00 p.m. ChaRee DiFabio took attendance and confirmed a quorum was present with 30 out of 40 members present at the start of the meeting.

Kevin Conway reviewed the Anti-Trust Compliance Statement and reviewed the safety and meeting protocols. The agenda was reviewed and the TPC update was moved up to before the administration discussion to accommodate Chelsea Loomis' and Ben Hutchins' scheduling conflicts.

The meeting began with a question regarding the changing of the NWPP Membership Agreement to use the WPP moniker. WPP staff explained how difficult it would be to coordinate a change with the multiple members. Any changes to the agreement would have to be unanimously agreed to, reviewed by each entity's legal staff, and then resigned. This process will open the contract for additional changes and could cause long and drawn-out negotiations with the committee, WPP staff and the various legal representatives. The change itself is not a heavy lift, but the process can be. Mr. Roy stated that if the OC, RSGC and WFRSG all feel it is time to revisit changing the agreement, the WPP staff can look at it again. Perhaps if the committees feel strongly enough about it, the timing may be good.

Action Items:

Mr. Conway discussed the list of action items from the previous meetings. All action items have been closed except for Action Item #7 RE: WPP staff will request ICCP for wind, solar and battery real time megawatts by entities that are not currently providing this information. Justin Cochran led a discussion on the progress of this Action Item. Mr. Cochran stated that progress has been very slow but is almost completed. There are approximately 5 BAs left who do not have links set up yet. Some entities have been slow to respond, and it was suggested that the OC reps be copied on communications with any stragglers to help apply pressure to finish this project up. Mr. Cochran also explained that some of the complications are due to firewall configurations to allow the traffic, because of the various security protocols used by the members. The addition of the new WPP software engineer will help.

Mr. Conway discussed Action Items #23 RE: WPP Staff to distribute Mr. Thompson's First-LightEnergy LLC presentation to the OC and #24 RE: WPP to request OC Representatives to provide any questions regarding First-LightEnergy LLC's application for membership by November 15, 2024. The Action Items were completed on 11/12/2023. The OC questions for First LightEnergy were combined with the RSGC questions and sent to Mr. Thompson for his response. Mr. Thompson responded back on February 4, 2025, too late for most members to have reviewed the responses.

The last action item from the last meeting was #25 RE: WPP Staff to distribute potential OC logos for consideration by the OC Members. This was closed on December 24, 2024 when the final vote was taken. Logo #1 was selected by almost 80% of the committee. Mr. Conway shared the new logo.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2024:

Chair Labuga asked if there were any corrections or changes to the last meeting's minutes. With no changes the minutes were approved by consensus.

Transmission Planning Committee

Chelsea Loomis introduced Ben Hutchins to discuss Electromagnetic Transients or EMTs. NERC Project 2202-04 is focused on EMTs and how they should be modelled especially as they related to Inverter Based Resources. This is an area of focus in the



industry since wind and solar models used in the various transmission study models do not really represent the performance in the field. Specifically, in the actual events we see momentary cessation and ramping issues. The planning models also fail to properly represent harmonics and imbalances that occur in the field. Mr Hutchins continued to discuss the issues and how the industry is trying to resolve these model inconsistencies.

NERC Project 2022-04, and other related projects, are focusing on identifying how manufacturers and owners need to provide accurate facility models to the planners, so that models can continue to improve and address EMTs, harmonics and overall facility performance for reliability. Ms. Loomis, Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Conway from the WPP continue to work together to provide input to these NERC projects and keep our members informed of the impacts and developments. Part of the difficulty of these projects for accurate models is that NERC and FERC do not have jurisdictional authority over many of the IBR and Distributed Energy Resources since they are below the threshold of the BES. FERC has required IBRs connected to the 60kV or above to register, but that still leaves a gap for many other IBRs and DERs. The proposed NERC standards are due to be submitted to FERC by November 4, 2024.

WPP Corporate Update

Ryan Roy began with an update on the OC budget through the month of November. The budget is based on the July 2024 through June 2025 fiscal year, and shows that, with the source training as part of the budget, the OC is running a little lower than expected. The budget so far seems to be roughly \$90,000 under budget, with an end-of-year forecast to be about \$300,000 under budget. The difference is attributed to timing around hiring: Keith Schreiner has recently hired two approved positions, and Mr. Conway has accepted a new position at the Power Pool. The Power Pool will need to backfill his position which was part of the approved 2024-2025 budget. With the time it takes to interview and hire staff, the positions have been filled a little later than anticipated in the budget.

There has been a 3% increase in General, Administration and IT costs (GAIT) and this looks like it will be offset by the savings from the delays in hiring the budgeted positions. WPP is expected to come in at or just below budget. Mr. Roy discussed the new CFO position and the progress that WPP is making on invoicing and accounting. There are still some consultants being used as the new staff gets acclimated to the workload.

The Power Pool has begun preparing the 2025-2026 budget for May discussions. This year we are making a change from a fiscal year to a physical year, so the budget will be an 18-month budget with a review around December. This will bring the Power Pool in line with most of its members for budget cycles and easing the burden on the members. This will also make tax and compliance filings easier for the Power Pool.

Mr. Roy summarized the hiring by explaining the Power Pool has hired a CFO, Software Engineer, Human Resource Manager, and there is still a couple more to fill. WRAP is looking to hire someone to implement the program and a policy person, but those costs go to the WRAP, not the committees. There is a senior role to fill at the committee level, and a transmission planning intern was recently hired.

There was a great turnout for the members meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Those who stood up and talked about their programs and who took questions were thanked for their participation and efforts. At the meeting there was discussion about enhancing communications and the Power Pool is currently working to expand our communications outreach by leveraging inhouse talent.

Operations Training Subcommittee

Keith Schreiner presented the highlights of the Operator Training Subcommittee. In 2024 the OTS delivered just under 25,000 CEHs compared to 2023, where there were just over 24,000 CEHs delivered. There were 5 NERC Test Prep courses being worked on, and a sample test was deployed. Additionally, there were 11 courses in the system that were added or updated. Mr. Schreiner shared the various metric of the delivery of 4th quarter courses.

The top 5 courses are the May 2024 GMD Event Discussion Podcast, Reserve Sharing Essentials, Disturbance Reporting, EOP-011-1 Podcast, and Real-Time Assessments. Mr. Schreiner was very happy to have a podcast be number one of the top 5, since he has been championing using podcasts as a way to get information out very quickly. With the ability to get credit on top of doing a podcast and has resulted in a win-win scenario for the group. This has also been the first time that two podcasts have turned up on the top 5 for NERC credit.



The RC agreements allow for the SPP and RC West RCs to access the training platform at the start of every June. When they attain 75% completion of the Reserve Sharing Program courses they can access the rest of the training. This is to encourage them to be well informed on the Reserve Sharing Program. Both the SPP and RC West have met their 75% threshold, with the RC West at over 90%.

Mr. Schreiner discussed subscriptions to the training platform, with United Power from Colorado being the newest subscriber. They found out about the training through operators of PSCO. Matanuska Electric Association, Golden Valley, Homer Electric and Chugach Power have all shown some interest. Mr. Scheiner has also spoken to ERCOT for the first time. CalSO has asked to extend their subscription for 10 more seats, so the subscription program is doing very well and helping to minimize development costs to the Operating Committee. The NERC Test Prep Course is being funded through the subscription dollars and has helped the training department to avoid asking for additional money to pursue this project.

The cost calculations per CEH were explained, and the calculated subscriber CEH costs were averaging about \$25 per CEH. This may not be the cheapest, as shown by a survey of other training providers, but it has proven to be in a good price range and the quality has proven to be much higher than the lower-cost CEH providers. The cost breakdown of the program was discussed, as was how those costs were paid by the income from the subscription services and ultimately resulted in avoided costs of the Operating Committee. The discussions were wrapped up on how the Test Prep Course is being built with the help of Mike Terbruggen, and how the test questions will be kept current.

New Operating Committee Logo

Mr. Conway introduced the new Operating Committee Logo to the group. The logo idea was introduced at the November 2024 meeting where 4 different designs were offered up for consideration. Through a series of votes during November and December of 2024 the group picked the final design. There was almost 100% response from the committee. Staff has created various templates for the Operating Committee, and we will start to see them used by the next meeting.

NWPP Transmission Map Update

Bart McManus from BPA had contacted the Operating Committee to ask about updating the NWPP Transmission Map. This map had been produced for many years but is now out of date with both the transmission system, and the footprint of the Western Power Pool. The members discussed the pros and cons of updating the map now that the Power Pool footprint is roughly the same as the WECC, less the CalSO. After extensive discussions, the cost, level of effort to maintain, and the limited benefit of an updated map outweighed the desire to continue to maintain the map.

Joint Meeting Proposal

Mr. Conway gave a presentation on a recommendation to consider having joint meetings with the Operating Committee, Reserve Sharing Group Committee and the Operator Training Subcommittee to help find efficiency and potentially give each committee more time to focus on their agendas. Joint meetings were discontinued in 2017, and those were conducted once a year. The proposal sought to reduce overlap in some WPP staff presentations, and presentations by guests who need to repeat information at each committee meeting. Three options were presented and discussed. There were a number of ways to modify each of the options. Due to transportation concerns, time allocation of the members, and the need to encourage in-person attendance, the group consensus was that we should continue to follow the current meeting schedule, and WPP staff should make shorter and more targeted presentations for each committee. Mr. Conway shared that staff was already working on making the presentation more targeted and succinct. A final recommendation was to move the Operating Committee meeting up to start a half hour sooner (1230 -1700) to give a little more time for agenda items. The committee members had consensus to try that schedule at the next Operating Committee meeting.

OC Charter Discussion

Mr. Conway made a proposal to the group regarding an Operating Committee Charter. He used a presentation to explain why a charter is beneficial and serves the committee better than just the agreement. He highlighted the ability for the committee members to modify a charter, while the agreement cannot be easily modified. He stated that the charter will help document how meetings are conducted, and how member representatives are the focus. It will also provide the committee one place to maintain special rules for voting, guest admission, and other procedural topics for conducting a meeting. Discussion followed.



Action Item: Mr. Conway will submit and circulate a draft Operating Committee Charter to the group for consideration and discussion and potential approval at the next committee meeting.

First LightEnergy Conditional Approval

Chair Labuga led a discussion of the approval of First LightEnergy to the Operating Committee. After the last Operating Committee meeting WPP staff had collected and consolidated questions for Mr. Thompson, of First LightEnergy, regarding their request to join the WPP. Mr. Thompson provided his response on February 4, 2025, but his submittal did not provide sufficient time for all committee members to review prior to this meeting. During the discussion First LightEnergy's responses were reviewed and most addressed questions more pertinent to the Reserve Sharing Group. Members were reminded that the Operating Committee should only base their decision of membership approval on the qualifications to be an eligible entity for the OC, independent of the Reserve Sharing Group. The OC discussed any reasons that First LightEnergy would not qualify for membership and, if so, what additional requirements would they need to address. The Northwest Power Pool Membership Agreement and requirements were reviewed.

Chris McDarment from Chelan PUD motioned to approve First LightEnergy's membership to the OC, subject to legal review. Al Austin, from WAPA, seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion passed with 22 out of 23 votes.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Ansley Kulseng-Hansen	Yes	Nathan Anderson	Yes	Brian McGuirk	Yes
Kathryn Downey	Yes	Nick Seitz - PSCo	Yes	Abraham Garcia	Yes
Michael J Pfeister	Yes	Chris McDarment	Yes	Calvin Dacus (TEP)	Yes
Michael Jang	Yes	Adam Labuga	Yes	Sam Ashmore (NVE)	Yes
Gary L. Slayton	Yes	Marc Desmarais	Yes	Ehson Syed	Yes
Thomas Bagnell (PSE)	Yes	Allan Austin (WALC)	Yes	Kyle Bryant	Yes
Dave Brown - BPA	Yes	Marvin Bradt - APS	Yes	Antonio Franco	Abstain
Chris Bultsma WAPA-WAUW	Yes	Aaron Burke - DEAA HGMA	Yes		

Action Item: WPP Staff to get a legal opinion that validates First LightEnergy does meet the qualification of an eligible entity and can be a member of the Operating Committee.

Compliance Subcommittee Proposal

Mr. Conway presented a proposal to form an Operating Committee Compliance Subcommittee. The subcommittee would be called the Standards Development and Compliance Coordination (SDCC) Subcommittee. The request is based on the need to be more responsive and be able to organize quicker responses to NERC and WECC standard development projects. The WPP has been very successful in influencing standard development and can be more influential with a subcommittee made up of voters and commentators from each of the members' organizations. The intent will be to conduct calls with the group when there is a public comment or vote. A question came up asking if Operating Committee members will be on the subcommittee. Mr. Conway stated that if the member is the individual who is voting and commenting, then yes; but, if that function is done by your compliance department, which is common, or another person, we would be looking for them to be on this committee.

Mr. Conway said that the costs to the Operating Committee would be virtually zero, since these would be short calls, not meetings. This would also just roll into the normal efforts of each utility to monitor and participate on standards development. The subcommittee is not trying to replicate WICF or WECC outreach but only trying to leverage and coordinate between member utilities on meaningful comments and a strong voting bloc.

Michael Jang, from Seattle City Light made a motion to form the committee, and Brian McGuirk, from Portland General Electric seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Action Item: Mr. Conway will prepare an SDCC Subcommittee Charter for review of the Operating Committee members for review and approval at the next scheduled meeting May 7, 2025.

Update on Current NERC and WECC Projects



Mr. Conway gave a presentation on the various NERC projects that are being tracked and monitored by WPP Staff. There are three active FERC Order 901 NERC projects affecting the integration of Inverter Based Resources that must be completed and submitted to FERC no later than November 4, 2025. There are approximately 17 more standards of various priority we are trying to keep up for the WPP committees. The staff tries to cover for each other when there are conflicts. There is a high pace of standards development meetings that occur sometimes 3-4 times a week for two hours or more for each project. This has made it difficult to be on drafting teams and still monitor the activities of the drafting teams.

Mr. Conway gave a short explanation of where the WECC Project WECC-0142 is. This project is designed to retire the NERC approved Regional Standard BAL-002-WECC-3. Mid-November of 2024 the whitepaper was finished and posted for a 60-day comment period. January 15, 2025, was the end of the posting period. It got 100% approval, with some minor comments. The Drafting Team met in late January to make some minor corrections and submit it to the WECC Standards Committee. The Standards Committee will now review the results, and we hope to have them send the paper out for final voter approval.

Once fully approved by the industry, WECC will prepare to send a request to retired BAL-002-WECC-3 to NERC. The NERC Board of Trustees will have to approve the requests before it goes to FERC for review. There are no guarantees that FERC will approve the retirement, and the committee discussed possible options. Mr. Conway recommended that everyone stay optimistic, and prepare for eventual retirement, since there will not be a lot of time between approval for retirement and the need to evaluate how much reserves can be reduced in the WPP Reserve Sharing Group. It is better to be proactive, than reactive.

Mr. Conway also announced to the group that he has been appointed as an At-Large Member of the NERC Reliability and Security Technical Committee. So, the members now have another voice on this important committee.

Current Operations

Chairman Labuga asked if there were any current operations topics to discuss. No one had anything to discuss with the group.

New Action Items

Mr. Conway reviewed the three action items that have been identified at this meeting:

- 1) Mr. Conway will submit and circulate a draft Operating Committee Charter to the group for consideration and discussion and potential approval at the next committee meeting.
- 2) WPP Staff will get a legal opinion that validates First LightEnergy meets the qualification of being an eligible entity and can be a member of the Operating Committee.
- 3) Mr. Conway will prepare an SDCC Subcommittee Charter for review of the Operating Committee members for review and approval at the next scheduled meeting May 7, 2025

Future Meetings

The next scheduled meetings are:

- a. May 7, 2025 – WPP Offices, Portland, OR
- b. August 6, 2025 – WPP Offices, Portland, OR
- c. November 5, 2025 – TBD (Potentially Phoenix, AZ)
- d. February 4, 2026 – WPP Offices, Portland, OR

Ms. DiFabio asked members in the Southwest if they would be willing to host the November 2025 meeting. She will be reaching to APS to try and schedule the meeting, but if they can't host, she will try and work with SRP.

Chair Labuga adjourned the meeting at 1708

Minutes taken by Kevin Conway, Western Power Pool



OC Meeting Attendance

Robert Bray	Arizona Electric Power Cooperative
Marvin Brandt	Arizona Public Service Company
Aaron Burke	Arlington Valley
Ty Kristensen	Avangrid Renewables
Wei Shao	Balancing Authority of Northern California
Marcus Brown	BHE Montana Wind Holding, LLC
Dave Brown	Bonneville Power Administration
Ehson Syed	British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Chris McDarment	Chelan County PUD
Jeff Hemminger	Douglas County PUD
Gerald Markey	El Paso Electric Company
Abraham Garcia	El Paso Electric Company
Nathan Anderson	Grant County PUD
Mathew Truscott	Grant County PUD
Antonio Franco	Gridforce Energy Management
CJ Ingersoll	Gridforce Energy Management
Gary Slayton	Idaho Power Company
Josh Harris	Idaho Power Company
Kyle Bryant	Imperial Irrigation District
Aaron Burke	New Harquahala Generating Company
Ansley Kulseng-Hansen	NorthWestern Energy

Nick Seitz	Xcel Energy, dba Public Service of Colorado
Richard McLean	Xcel Energy, dba Public Service of Colorado
Aidan Gallegos	Public Service Company of New Mexico
Camille Chavez	Public Service Company of New Mexico
Thomas Bagnell	Puget Sound Energy
Evan Sorrell	Puget Sound Energy
Mike Pfeister	Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District
Jeni Mistry	Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District
Michael Jang	Seattle City Light
Paul Haase	Seattle City Light
Cullen Ritchie	Tacoma Power
Calvin Dacus	Tucson Electric Power Company
Adam Labuga	Turlock Irrigation District
Jim Emmons	Turlock Irrigation District
Marc Desmarais	Western Area Colorado-Missouri
Chris Bultsma	Western Area Power Administration Upper Great Plains
Allan Austin	Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest
Stacy Russ	Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest
Todd "TJ" Crimmins	Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest
Dan DeGracie	Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest



Sam Ashmore	NV Energy
Rahn Sorensen	NV Energy
Kathryn Downey	PacifiCorp
Wesley Murar	PacifiCorp
Brian McGuirk	Portland General Electric
Cory McAlister	Portland General Electric