

Issue 1 – Stakeholder Engagement Model

WECC has a long history of collaboration with members and staff working together to promote and improve reliability of the Western Interconnection. These working partnerships have primarily been in the form of technical Standing Committees. Over time, many sub-committees and work groups have been formed to address problems and issues as they have arisen. More recently, participation on the Standing Committees has waned as work has moved to the standards committee, the reliability coordinator, or has been performed at NERC.

This review will take a focused look at the process for engaging members and other stakeholders in the collaborative work of WECC. Could WECC and member companies operate more efficiently and effectively if the standing structure of current committees was replaced by a task force model with subject matter experts engaged on specific tasks rather than being members of a standing committee? Are there other models that may enable WECC to optimize stakeholder engagement? What lessons have we learned from the creation of the Reliability Assessment Committee? How well does the current structure address emerging risks and threats to reliability? Is the current structure nimble enough to address immediate concerns as they arise? Should the sheer number of committees, sub-committees, and task forces be evaluated for the possibility of elimination or consolidation?

Desired Outcomes:

- There is a rekindled excitement about engaging with WECC and joining with colleagues to address critical reliability issues.
- This new excitement comes from a clear line-of-sight from the work being carried out for the reliability and security of the interconnection.
- The work is compelling, focused, relevant, and actionable, because it serves the public interest and represents what is best for reliability and security within the interconnection.
- The model leverages the talent within the industry to bring the right expertise to bear on any issue.
- The model is nimble and multi-disciplined which creates the ability to pivot quickly to develop holistic solutions and recommendations.
- The model addresses the delegated responsibilities in the NERC-WECC Delegation Agreement.

Issue 2 – Strategic Planning Process

The WECC strategic planning process has been evolving since the last Section 4.9 review. In the 2015 Section 4.9 Report, one recommendation proposed a strategic, three-year operating planning process to encourage strong working partnerships between the Standing Committees, and the MAC. In 2016, the WECC board of directors developed a Strategic Direction Outline which included five strategic focus areas. Also in 2016 a 2017-2020 Operating Plan was developed. In 2017, the ERO Enterprise Framework was finalized, the WECC Strategic and Operating Planning Process was developed, and the 2018-2020 Operating Plan was revised to align with the ERO Enterprise Operating Plan. In 2019, NERC and the Regional Entities partnered to create an ERO Enterprise Long-Term Strategy, eliminating the three-year operating plan.

The electric industry continues to experience a rapidly changing environment. The level of variable generation in the resource mix and the increased use of digital control technologies present new risks to the reliability and security of the electric grid. Additional risks and threats will undoubtedly continue to emerge. With the ERO Enterprise revising its long-term strategy, how will these changes impact WECC? How can WECC improve and streamline its strategic planning process? How can WECC continue to align with the ERO Enterprise long-term strategy, while reflecting the uniqueness of the west? What are the long-term focus areas? How does WECC ensure member and stakeholder involvement in the strategic planning process? Is the bi-annual western reliability summit a useful method to gather input for the strategic plan? How long should the strategic planning horizon be?

Desired Outcomes:

- The process provides a clear linkage to our desired vision of the future and the high-level actions that are required to get there.
- The framework is streamlined and simple to understand, creating a plan that has enough detail to envision the possibility without being too prescriptive or resistant to new possibility.
- The plan created by this process is broad in scope, encompassing in its opportunity, and focuses more on the “why, what, and who” rather than on the “how.”
- Stakeholders are satisfied because they understand their opportunities to engage, are plugged in at the right time, and can see value for themselves in it.

Foundational Statements

The following foundational statements are meant to serve as useful guidance to each of the Section 4.9 work groups. The Vision and Mission of WECC were updated with the Bylaws approved by the WECC Board of Directors on June 18, 2018 as follows.

Vision – A reliable and secure bulk power system in the western interconnection



Mission – To effectively and efficiently mitigate risks to the reliability and security of the Western Interconnection bulk Power System while carrying out the responsibilities of the Regional Entity.

WECC creates value for the stakeholders in the Western Interconnection through:

Independence – We serve the public interest and represent what is best for reliability and security within the Western Interconnection with an impartial and unbiased voice.

Perspective – We are uniquely situated to develop comprehensive and influential work products for the reliability and security of the Western Interconnection.

Partnership – We collaborate with industry and other organizations to reduce risks to the reliability and security of the Western Interconnection.

