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Northwest Power Pool Reserve Sharing Group
Rocky Mountain Reserve Group
Southwest Reserve Sharing Group
California Independent System Operator
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
WECC Operating Committee Balancing Authorities

This letter is being provided to the Reserve Sharing Groups (RSGs) and Balancing Authorities (BAs) that are not a member of an RSG in the Western Interconnection to inform you of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) field test waiving compliance with BAL-002-WECC-2a, Requirement R2.

On May 6, 2015, WECC received a Standards Authorization Request (SAR) for the retirement of BAL-002-WECC-2 (now BAL-002-WECC-2a) Requirement R2. The SAR stated that North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standard BAL-003-1 (now BAL-003-1.1) Requirement R1 renders WECC Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-2, Requirement R2 unnecessary and redundant.

The WECC Standards Committee approved the SAR, giving it project number WECC-0115, and the formation of a drafting team to develop the justification for retirement of BAL-002-WECC-2, Requirement R2. During the development efforts, WECC staff submitted comments expressing concern with retiring the requirement prior to knowing the potential impact of that retirement on reliability. After discussing the comments, the drafting team agreed a field test waiving compliance with BAL-002-WECC-2, Requirement R2 was the prudent way to proceed.

In late March 2017, NERC approved WECC's request for a field test that allows WECC to waive compliance with BAL-002-WECC-2a, Requirement 2 for all RSGs and all BAs that are not members of an RSG, that opt to participate in the field test. Participants must notify WECC of their intent to participate in the field test prior to receiving the waiver. WECC plans to begin the field test on May 1, 2017 and it will continue in effect until the earliest of (a) March 30, 2019, or (b) the termination of the field test due to negative reliability impacts.



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WECC hopes that all RSGs and BAs that are not members of an RSG will participate in the field test. The greater the participation, the more accurate the information on the impact to reliability will be.

To enable WECC to monitor the reliability impacts of the field test, as a condition to participation in the field test, and to meet conditions specified by NERC in approving WECC's request for a field test, WECC will require U.S. entities to provide at least the following information:

1. For any reportable Disturbance Control Standard (DCS) event, the:
 - a. Date and time of the event.
 - b. Required amount of Contingency Reserves at the time of the event.
 - c. Actual amount of Operating Reserves – Spinning¹ at the time of the event.
 - d. Actual DCS performance.
2. For all instances of a loss of resources 700 MW or greater whether or not it is a reportable DCS event:
 - a. The date and time of the event.
 - b. The name of the resource(s).
 - c. Total MW loss.
 - d. Any other relevant information.

This information should be provided to Tim Reynolds at treynolds@wecc.biz for each incident.

If, after one year, no negative impact to reliability is identified as a result of the field test, WECC staff and the WECC-0115 drafting team will utilize the information collected during the field test as justification for retirement of the Requirement.

If you have any questions please contact Steve Rueckert, steve@wecc.biz or 801 883-6878.

Thank you,

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¹ Because the field test waives the requirement for 50 percent of the Required Contingency Reserves to be Operating Reserves – Spinning, there is no compliance implication related to this information.