



## WestTEC's study plan approved

The [Western Transmission Expansion Coalition](#) Steering Committee unanimously approved the [Study Plan](#) developed through the WestTEC technical committee. The coalition was formed to address long-term transmission needs across the Western Interconnection as the grid evolves, and its goal is to create an 'actionable' study that assesses transmission needs in 10- and 20-year time frames. The 10-year study is expected to be completed by September 2025. The 20-year study will begin in spring 2025 and is expected to be finished in the first quarter of 2027.

## WRAP to go binding in 2027

The [Western Resource Adequacy Program](#) recently announced its new transition plan to begin its binding phase in 2027. Participants asked for a delay of the binding phase in April. In August, the WRAP Resource Adequacy Participant Committee approved the new [transition plan](#) for full implementation of the WRAP.

## Pathways Initiative: CAISO Approves Step 1

The [West-wide Governance Pathways Initiative](#) took a step forward in August when the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) Board of Governors approved Step 1 of the initiative to create an independently governed regional organization that delivers market services throughout the West. Step 1 would give the Governing Body of the Western Energy Markets (WEM) "primary authority," or the initial vote to approve or reject a proposed tariff change.

## State of the Interconnection - UPDATE!

WECC recently released an update of the [2024 State of the Interconnection](#) report. This version contains the most recently available data on interconnection-wide generation and capacity, an update on Western markets, and a new section that highlights the winter storms we saw in January as well as recent disturbances associated with inverter-based resources.

## New System Performance Data Portal

WECC has unveiled its new [System Performance Data Portal](#). Featuring simplified navigation; real-time updates; downloadable datasets on generation, capacity, and system demand; and interactive charts and maps, this enhanced tool provides an interactive view of reliability across the interconnection.

## NERC Partnerships

### ITCS Update

The [Transfer Capability Analysis](#) released in late August examines the current total transfer capability between neighboring transmission planning regions in North America. NERC, WECC, and the other Regional Entities released the [Overview of Study Need and Approach](#) in June.

### Impact of large loads

WECC is set to participate in [NERC's Large Loads Task Force](#), which kicks off October 8 and aims to gain a better understanding of the reliability impacts of large loads such as data centers and manufacturing facilities. WECC has also contracted with Elevate Energy Consulting to conduct an analysis of what large loads entail and the data/modeling recommendations for future WECC assessments on this emerging issue.

### IBR Registration Initiative updates

WECC is working with NERC and the other Regional Entities on the

[Inverter-based Resource \(IBR\) Registration Initiative](#), the result of a 2022 FERC directive addressing IBR performance during several disturbances of the bulk power system.

Email Matt Evans at [mevans@wecc.org](mailto:mevans@wecc.org) to be included on the quarterly newsletter distribution list.