



### WECC Board determines 2024 Reliability Risk Priorities

At their quarterly meeting in June, WECC's Board of Directors approved the Reliability Risk Priorities (RRP) that will focus WECC's work over the next two years. Identifying, studying, and helping industry mitigate risks to the reliability and security of the bulk power system are at the core of WECC's mission. Coordination and collaboration with our stakeholders is the key to our success. The following RRP's have been identified as posing the greatest risks to the Interconnection:

- Aridification and associated natural events,
- Impact of inverter-based resources,
- Lack of coordinated resource and transmission planning,
- Modeling quality and input validation,
- Potential effects of energy policies in the West.

More information about the RRP's and the process by which they were developed is available [here](#).

### ITCS Update

The Interregional Transfer Capability Study (ITCS) calls for an analysis of the amount of power that can be moved or transferred reliably between regions in North America. Congress ordered the study in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, and NERC is leading the effort in consultation with WECC and the other Regional Entities. The first phase of the initiative is nearly complete and will identify transfer capability and areas that are generation-deficient versus those with a generation surplus. Phase 2 will consist of defining the metrics for identification of "prudent transmission additions" based on reliability, as well as final recommendations. Phase 2 is scheduled to be completed by August 30, and the final report must be submitted to FERC by December 2, 2024. More information on the ITCS is available at [WECC's ITCS page](#) or at [NERC's ITCS site](#).

### NERC releases Summer Reliability Assessment

NERC recently released the [2024 Summer Reliability Assessment](#) (SRA). The SRA evaluates the adequacy of North America's generation resources and transmission system, as well as energy sufficiency to meet projected summer peak demand and operating reserves over the summer period, June until September. The assessment identifies potential reliability issues and regional topics of concern. Among the notable findings for the Western Interconnection:

- All areas have adequate resources for normal summer demand.
- British Columbia, California-Mexico, and the Desert Southwest have "elevated risk" under "extreme conditions."

## FERC releases Order 1920

FERC released Order 1920 with a 2-1 vote in May, adopting specific requirements for transmission providers to conduct long-term planning for regional transmission facilities. It requires transmission operators to conduct long-term transmission planning over a 20-year horizon, and to periodically update those plans. More information on FERC Order 1920 is available [here](#).

## WECC releases Year-20 studies

FERC Order 1920 emphasizes a need for long-term transmission planning that WECC and its stakeholders identified in 2022 as a critical need in the West. WECC's work addressing the issue led to the recently released Transmission Trends study, one of four assessments that examine reliability risks in the Year-20 time frame. WECC has traditionally studied risks in the Year-10 time frame but identified a need for longer-range studies. These studies look at system performance under a range of scenarios that may present reliability risks in the year 2042. The studies can be found through the following links:

- [Compound Load Impacts](#)
- [Transmission Trends](#)
- [Extreme Heat Event](#)
- [Extreme Cold Weather Event](#)

## WestTEC Update

[The Western Transmission Expansion Coalition](#) (WestTEC) is a West-wide effort to develop an actionable transmission plan that supports the needs of the future electric grid and identifies benefits such as enhanced reliability and improved economic efficiency. WECC is partnering with the Western Power Pool to complete the analytical work, with broad stakeholder participation. Details of the process and progress of the WestTEC work can be found [here](#).

## West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative Update

The [West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative](#) took a step forward in June when participating stakeholders approved the first of two steps required to create an independent organization to oversee the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) and the pending Extended Day-ahead Market. The approved proposal turns over primary authority of the two markets to the EIM's governing body (the governing body currently shares this responsibility with the California Independent System Operator's board).

The initiative began in July 2023, when individual regulators in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington signed a letter to the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation (CREPC) that spelled out a vision for a new, independently governed entity that would offer a full suite of market services and invited volunteers to help advance the concept. A 26-member [launch committee](#) was then created.

## Registration now open for Grid Fundamentals in August

WECC offers its Grid Fundamentals course twice a year, giving participants a comprehensive overview of the bulk power system. Among the topics covered are the technology, operation, generation, transmission, and markets of a modern, reliable power grid, as well as environmental issues and regulations. The course is geared toward anyone interested in gaining a broader understanding of the grid, from industry newcomers to policymakers to legal personnel. More information and a registration link are available [here](#).

## Reliability in the West webinar resumes in August

WECC hosts its monthly webinar series, Reliability in the West, on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. MT. The discussion series brings in experts from across the industry to discuss a range of topics and issues related to reliability, offering stakeholders an opportunity to stay current, gain knowledge, and participate in discussions on the most pressing issues affecting the West. The webinar series is on hiatus in July but will be back on August 7. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on discussion topics; please share them with us at [engage@wecc.org](mailto:engage@wecc.org). Previous discussions are available [here](#).

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Western Electricity Coordinating Council