

WECC's Potential Value to Resource Adequacy: Now and in the Future

WECC is well positioned to provide a valuable contribution to resource adequacy issues in the Western Interconnection.

- WECC already maintains some of the important datasets.
- WECC can build upon existing expertise.
- WECC has convening power and could bring together relevant experts as well as elicit input from a variety of policymakers and other stakeholders to understand what studies and work products would be most valuable.

WECC's current resource adequacy work products do not maximize the potential value of its work.

- While the online tool is useful, value is lost by not having a freestanding report regarding the state of the interconnection. A freestanding report would facilitate wider distribution and provide for better use in regulatory proceedings.
- Until recently, the data sources were not identified, making it difficult to compare to other resource adequacy studies conducted in the region.
- WECC's current contributions to the NERC long-term reliability assessment (LTRA) and its State of the Interconnection analysis lack nuanced narratives that could provide important context and explain the appropriate use of the results. This leads to the potential misinterpretation and misuse of the analysis.
- WECC's resource adequacy work is not widely used, known, or distributed among policymakers.

WECC could increase its value to resource adequacy analysis with some changes in approach and emphasis. Many improvements could likely be accomplished relatively soon.

- Recent WECC staff commitments are likely to increase the value of WECC's resource adequacy work:
 - Producing a Western Interconnection report this fall.
 - Providing more narrative and context in its Western Interconnection report as well as in its contributions to the 2020 NERC LTRA.
 - Working with the MAC Reliability Assessment Work Group (RAWG) and others to find ways to improve the distribution of and communication regarding resource adequacy studies and reports.

How WECC Adds Value to Resource Adequacy: Now and in the Future

- Additional outreach to stakeholders beyond resource adequacy experts would help WECC understand which analyses and work products would be valuable to the industry, policymakers, and regulatory proceedings.

WECC should consider expanding its analysis of resource adequacy in the Western Interconnection to address a wider range of reliability issues related to evolving public policy, changing resource mixes, and the resulting impacts on short- and long-term resource adequacy.

- For example, WECC could conduct additional reliability studies evaluating policy proposals that affect resource adequacy (e.g., transition to a carbon-free grid), assessing specifics like the adequacy of system frequency response, voltage and stability support, required changes, or additional protection systems.
- WECC should maintain and expand its role as an independent expert by conducting studies, from a position of policy neutrality, and focus on providing technical analysis to help policymakers understand the reliability implications of their proposals.

