



Resource Adequacy Discussion Series

Upcoming Discussion:

[Load Growth](#)

Thursday, November 2, 2023

10:00–11:00 p.m. Mountain Time

The discussion will address changing load in the West and how different factors such as data centers, weather, population growth, and the increase in electrification are influencing the Western Interconnection.

Panelists include:

- Phil Jones, Executive Director, Alliance for Transportation Electrification
- Shane Lunderville, Business Development Manager, Grant County Public Utility District
- Amanda Sargeant, Senior Resource Adequacy Analyst, WECC

Future Discussions:

Over the past two years the “Resource Adequacy Discussion Series” has provided an effective platform for regionwide discussion about an important topic. WECC is expanding the scope of the series to cover a broader range of topics and reliability issues around the Western Interconnection.

The newly branded “Reliability in the West – A Discussion Series” will be held the first Wednesday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning in the new year. The expansion of the series is a great opportunity to stay informed, learn more and discuss critical issues impacting the region's reliability.

We are considering additional discussion topics. If you have an idea for a topic you would like to discuss, please let us know at engage@wecc.org.

Previous Discussions:

[Transmission Considerations](#)

September 7, 2023

Resource adequacy and transmission are intricately linked; our discussion took a step back and looked at things from a national perspective. The conversation discussed the role they both play in ensuring demand is met and that we have the transmission capacity to maintain a grid that is resource adequate and reliable.

Panelists included:

- Adria Brooks, U.S. Department of Energy, Senior Technical Advisor, Transmission Division
- Jason Fuller, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Principal Research Engineer, Electricity Infrastructure and Buildings Division
- Saad Malik, WECC, Director, Reliability Assessments
- Branden Sudduth, WECC, Vice President, Reliability Planning & Performance Analysis

[Public Power](#)

August 3, 2023

A discussion about public power and its relation to resource adequacy around the Western Interconnection. Our panel highlighted public power perspectives and experiences as entities work to ensure a reliable and resource adequate Bulk Power System.

Panelists included:

- Tony Braun, Braun Blasing & Wynne, P.C., President
- Delia Patterson, Salt River Project, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance

[Considering Consumer Impacts](#)

June 8, 2023

A conversation about resource adequacy and the consumer perspective as it relates to safe, reliable, and affordable energy in the west.

Panelists included:

- Michele Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services, Director
- Branden Sudduth, WECC, Vice President Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis
- Sherrie Villmark, Community Energy Project, Program Director

[Summer Outlook—2023](#)

May 4, 2023

The Western Interconnection’s summer resource adequacy outlook. WECC provided a preview of summertime conditions including supply chain disruptions, wildfire risks, and heat events.

[Navigating a Regional Approach](#)

April 6, 2023

In February 2023, FERC approved a tariff for the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP), the first regional program of its kind in the West. The programs of the WRAP and California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO) address most of the load in the West. Interoperability of programs like these will improve reliability in the Western Interconnection. This discussion is about running multiple programs, achieving interoperability, and what that means for states and resource planning in the West.

Panelists included:

- Sarah Edmonds, Western Power Pool, President and CEO
- Aly Koslow, Arizona Public Service, Director Federal Regulatory Affairs and Compliance
- Partha Malvadkar, CAISO, Principal of Resource Adequacy and Infrastructure Policy
- Rebecca Sexton, Western Power Pool, Director of Reliability Programs

[Cutting Through the “Noise”—A Discussion with Commissioners](#)

March 2, 2023

A discussion of common misconceptions about resource adequacy. This roundtable will “cut through the noise” that stakeholders across the Western Interconnection encounter when addressing resource adequacy issues.

Panelists included:

- Eric Blank, Colorado Public Utilities Commissioner
- Kris Raper, WECC, Vice President Strategic Engagement and External Affairs
- Branden Sudduth, WECC, Vice President Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis
- Mary Throne, Wyoming Public Service Commissioner

[NERC Winter and Long-Term Reliability Assessments](#)

February 2, 2023

A discussion about continentwide resource adequacy risks, NERC’s [2022–2023 Winter Reliability Assessment](#), and the [2022 Long-Term Reliability Assessment](#). The discussion covered takeaways from the reports, recent weather events, and the future of this kind of resource adequacy assessment work.

Panelists included:

- Mark Lauby, NERC, Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer
- George Lynch, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
- Branden Sudduth, WECC, Vice President Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis
- Letha Tawney, Oregon Public Utility Commissioner

2022 Resource Adequacy Discussions

July–November

- [Resource Adequacy and Western Heat Domes](#)
- [Spanning the Technology Gap](#)
- [Steel in the Ground](#)
- [Assessments, a Comparative Overview](#)
- [Landscape in the West](#)