



RECOMMENDATION TO NAESB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

For Quadrant: WEQ

Requesters: Business Practices Subcommittee
Request No.: 2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.b / R24005
Request Title: Develop and/or modify the WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief – Eastern Interconnection Business Practice Standards to support congestion management processes for the Western Interconnection

1. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

☒ Accept as requested
☐ Accept as modified below
☐ Decline

EFFECT OF EC VOTE TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDED ACTION:

☒ Change to Existing Practice
☐ Status Quo

2. TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT/MAINTENANCE

Per Request:

☒ Initiation
☒ Modification
☐ Interpretation
☐ Withdrawal

☐ Principle
☒ Definition
☒ Business Practice Standard
☐ Document
☐ Data Element
☐ Code Value
☐ X12 Implementation Guide
☐ Business Process Documentation

Per Recommendation:

☒ Initiation
☒ Modification
☐ Interpretation
☐ Withdrawal

☐ Principle
☒ Definition
☒ Business Practice Standard
☐ Document
☐ Data Element
☐ Code Value
☐ X12 Implementation Guide
☐ Business Process Documentation

3. RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY:

The WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) proposes the following new and modified WEQ Business Practice Standards developed by the WEQ BPS Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group to support an interconnection-wide congestion management process for the Western Interconnection. The recommendation includes a new suite of standards, WEQ-XXX Western Interconnection Loading Relief, and modifications to WEQ-000 Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Definition of Terms to add defined terms and make consistency changes.

RECOMMENDED STANDARDS:

See Attachment (proposed modifications to WEQ-000 Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Definition of Terms Business Practice Standards and proposed WEQ-XXX Western Interconnection Loading Relief Business Practice Standards):

https://naesb.org/member_login_check.asp?doc=weq_2025_api_1b_R24005_rec_091225_attachment.d ocx



RECOMMENDATION TO NAESB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

For Quadrant: WEQ

Requesters: Business Practices Subcommittee

Request No.: 2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.b / R24005

Request Title: Develop and/or modify the WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief – Eastern Interconnection Business Practice Standards to support congestion management processes for the Western Interconnection

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

a. Description of Request:

2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.b / Standards Request R24005 – Develop and/or modify the WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief – Eastern Interconnection Business Practice Standards to support congestion management processes for the Western Interconnection

The item was included on the WEQ Annual Plan in support of Standards Request R24005, jointly submitted by Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and California ISO (CAISO) / RCWest.

b. Description of Recommendation:

The recommendation proposes a new suite of standards, the WEQ Western Interconnection Loading Relief (WLR) Business Practice Standards, and modifications to WEQ-000 Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Definition of Terms Business Practice Standards to add new defined terms and make consistency changes. These standards support a new congestion management procedure, the WLR Process, that can be used across the Western Interconnection to curtail and reload interchange transactions, intra-balancing authority transactions, and generation-to-load (GTL) impacts to relieve constraints on transmission facilities and flowgates. The WEQ BPS Western Interconnection Congestion Management Process Working Group leveraged the WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief – Eastern Interconnection as a template to develop the WEQ WLR Business Practice Standards, with modifications made to accommodate unique circumstances and processes within Western Interconnection.

The new WEQ Business Practice Standards establish a standardized, flow-based methodology that will utilize real-time data to assign curtailment and relief obligation priorities to applicable transactions materially impacting a constraint. As proposed, relief obligations and curtailments will be issued through the interconnection's Enhanced Curtailment Calculator (ECC) to those transactions with a 5% or greater impact on the system operating limit and assigned on a pro-rata basis, based on the transmission service level of the transaction, helping to ensure firm service is prioritized over non-firm. The standards specify two methods for how priority will be determined and the applicable requirements that must be used. The constrained path method will be used to established priority of a transaction when transmission service is reserved within a transmission service provider that includes the constraint. The weakest link method is used to establish priority of a transaction when transmission service is reserved within a transmission service provider that does not include the constraint.

The WLR Process is not intended to replace the Western Interconnection Unscheduled Flow Mitigation Plan (WIUFMP) or local congestion management processes. The WLR Business Practice Standards specify that a reliability coordinator has the ability to implement any available mechanisms to relieve congestion, and there is no anticipated impact to the NERC Reliability Standards (IRO-006-WECC-3 Qualified Path Unscheduled Flow (USF) Relief) that support the WIUFMP.

c. Business Purpose:

The proposal for the WLR Process originated with the ECC Future State White Paper, prepared at the request of the ECC Working Group and included as an attachment to Standards Request R24005. As stated in the White Paper, a uniform framework to address congestion management on an interconnection-wide level is needed to support the Western Interconnection's successful transition to services that require broader coordination with neighbors to facilitate organized markets and an evolving



RECOMMENDATION TO NAESB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

For Quadrant: WEQ

Requesters: Business Practices Subcommittee

Request No.: 2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.b / R24005

Request Title: Develop and/or modify the WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief – Eastern Interconnection Business Practice Standards to support congestion management processes for the Western Interconnection

generation fleets. The White Paper proposed to address this gap through a new process that can be used in coordination amongst market participants for both tagged and un-tagged transactions and further facilitate equity and reliability in congestion management for all systems and transmission customers.

The proposed WEQ Business Practice Standards establish a standardized framework for the WLR Process, specifying the requirements for how curtailments and relief obligations will be calculated and assigned, supporting equity, transparency and consistency in implementation. Under the WLR Process, the ECC will model an identified constrained transmission facility or flowgate and issue relief obligations for balancing authorities determined to have a material impact on the constraint. Differing from practices that rely on a defined path to manage congestion, the coordinated, flow-based WLR Process enabled by the WEQ Business Practice Standards provides a new mechanism reliability coordinators can use to model, calculate, and manage constraints in real-time at the actual point of congestion. The flow-based, real-time design of the WLR Process is anticipated to expand visibility into the sources of a constraint, including those that cause loop flows.

Additionally, the WEQ Business Practice Standards include requirements that support a transparent, equitable and comprehensive congestion management approach that, if implemented, should enhance a reliability coordinator's capabilities to resolve congestion on the bulk electric system and ability to manage loop flows. As required by the standards, the WLR Process will accommodate seams agreements and use real-time values, supporting accuracy of WLR calculations and equity in the assignment of curtailment and relief obligation priorities, based on the level of transmission service priority, to only those transactions with a material impact. The proposed WEQ Business Practice Standards define material impact as any tagged or untagged interchange transaction, intra-balancing authority transaction, or generation-to-load with a 5% or greater impact on a system operating limit or interconnection reliability operating limit. This is consistent with industry practices in the Eastern Interconnection, but a change from the 10% impact threshold used in other Western Interconnection methodologies. The WLR expanded curtailment capability will provide reliability coordinators with a mechanism that may help more effectively control existing, hard to manage areas of congestion commonly caused by isolated constraints that fall between 5% and 10% impact and provide a foundation for more coordinated congestion management practices to meet the evolving needs of the Western Interconnection.

d. Commentary/Rationale of Subcommittee(s)/Task Force(s):

See the minutes from the following WEQ Business Practice Subcommittee meetings:

- January 21, 2025
- September 12, 2025

See the minutes from the following WEQ BPS Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group meetings:

- [February 20, 2025](#)
- [March 18, 2025](#)
- [April 16, 2025](#)
- [May 16, 2025](#)
- [June 17, 2025](#)
- [July 17, 2025](#)
- [July 28, 2025](#)
- [August 7, 2025](#)
- [August 13, 2025](#)
- September 2, 2025