

## **1. Welcome, Call to Order**

Karl Knoll, Telecommunications Subcommittee (TCOMS) Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. MT on March 13, 2025. A quorum was present to conduct business. A list of attendees is attached as Exhibit A.

## **2. Review WECC Antitrust Policy**

Scott Brooksby, Senior Cybersecurity Risk Advisor, read aloud the WECC Antitrust Policy statement. The policy can be found on [wecc.org](http://wecc.org).

## **3. Approve Agenda**

K. Knoll introduced the proposed meeting agenda.

**On a motion by John McCarthy, the TCOMS approved the agenda.**

## **4. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

K. Knoll introduced the minutes from the meeting on October 3, 2024.

**On a motion by J. McCarthy, the TCOMS approved the minutes from October 3, 2024.**

## **5. Review Previous Action Items**

Serena Stiehl, Administrative Coordinator, reviewed action items carried over from the TCOMS meeting on October 3, 2024. Action items that are not closed and will be carried forward can be found on the WECC website, TCOMS page, under the Action Items accordion.

## **6. Nominations for Vice Chair**

TCOMS Members were asked by K. Knoll to make nominations for the next TCOMS Vice Chair. Darin Brummet, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, nominated J. McCarthy, Southern California Edison, to be the next Vice Chair of the TCOMS. J. McCarthy accepted the nomination and was appointed as the new TCOMS Vice Chair by K. Knoll.

## **7. Southern California Edison Private LTE Overview**

Sopheap Srun, Southern California Edison (SCE), presented an overview of the SCE Field Area Network (FAN) project. He shared information on the current SCE FAN system, NetComm,

and outlined the project's plan to replace NetComm with a secure, high-capability private LTE wireless FAN solution.

## **8. Digital Circuits Synchronization Guideline Discussion**

The TCOMS discussed updates that Shaun Skidmore, Idaho Power Company, has made to the Digital Circuits Synchronization Guideline. There were no further changes, and the guideline will go out for a public comment period and, afterwards, go to the WECC communications and legal departments for review. The last step will be to receive final approval from the Reliability Risk Committee (RRC) during its July 2025 meeting.

## **9. Spectrum Updates**

Brett Kilbourne, Utilities Technology Council (UTC), provided an update on the status of 6 gigahertz (GHz) interference studies and spectrum sharing testing. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other agencies have established an implementation plan based on the four pillars of the National Spectrum Strategy (NSS). UTC will be meeting with new administration to address 6 GHz interference and holding a Policy Summit to strategize with utilities and engage with policymakers to address 6 GHz and other telecom issues, including spectrum, broadband, security and pole attachments.

## **10. 6Ghz Discussions**

The TCOMS had a discussion on 6 GHz utilization, mitigation, and observations. Members shared issues they were experiencing with recording the information and what their organizations have seen when working with 6 GHz.

## **11. Benefits of AI Large Language Models**

Chris Witthaus discussed the benefits of AI Large Language Models (LLM) in the workspace, and how in some cases AI is being used to supplement the workforce. TCOMS members discussed ways in which they use AI systems in their work and at their organizations.

## **12. Telecommunications Vulnerability Discussion**

Daniel Koppes, PacifiCorp (PAC), led a discussion concerning U.S. telecommunications system vulnerability. He shared the risks facing U.S. telecommunications infrastructure, the cyber-attack PAC response now in place, and PAC's plan to maintain communications in a situation where total loss of telecommunications fail.

TCOMS members agree that the topics in the presentation are a credible threat and discussed whether they are the right group to address these issues. Scott Brooksby will work with the



RRC liaison to determine whether there is another WECC committee that needs to be aware of or involved in the telecommunications vulnerability discussion.

### 13. TCOMS Charter Review

The TCOMS conducted a review of the charter. No changes were needed at this time and K. Knoll discussed options for meeting with Remedial Action Scheme Review Subcommittee (RASRS) and Protection and Control Subcommittee (PCS) in March of 2026. S. Brooksby will update the review dates and send the charter for a recommendation to the RRC for approval during their July 2025 meeting.

### 14. Inter-Utility Circuit interchange requirements

K. Knoll shared an initial draft of the Intertie Circuit Process document that outlines interchange requirements and how circuits are exchanged for critical traffic like Tele-protection, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), or Remedial Action Scheme (RAS) data. The process document will be posted publicly on the TCOMS page on the WECC website.

The next step is to determine how to transfer the information into one spreadsheet that can be accessed and maintained via the closed TCOMS team site. K. Knoll will send an email including an intertie tracking spreadsheet to TCOMS members.

**By consensus, the TCOMS approved the Intertie Circuit Process document.**

Later, S. Skidmore shared a diagram he has been working on and TCOMS members discussed topics such as seamless Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), and the interchange of data with other utilities.

### 15. Public Comment

K. Knoll discussed the open TCOMS secretary position and asked the group whether anyone would like to volunteer to fill that open role and take technical notes for the TCOMS meetings. He will send an email to the group and ask for volunteers for the secretary position before the next TCOMS meeting in July.

C. Witthaus expressed concerns regarding cloud-based services and how he views it as a large risk. AI is seen as a risk by utilities, but they are still using the cloud, which poses its own set of risks.

### 16. Review New Action Items

- Work with the RRC liaison to determine whether there is another committee that needs to be aware of or involved in the telecommunications vulnerability discussion.
  - Assigned To: Scott Brooksby



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- Due Date: July 17, 2025
- Send email to TCOMS group and ask for volunteers for the secretary position.
  - Assigned To: Karl Knoll
  - Due Date: July 17, 2025
- Send out intertie tracking spreadsheet to TCOMS members.
  - Assigned To: Karl Knoll
  - Due Date: July 17, 2025

### 17. Upcoming Meetings

July 17–18, 2025 ..... Salt Lake City, Utah  
November 6–7, 2025 ..... Salt Lake City, Utah  
March 4–5, 2026 (TBD) ..... Salt Lake City, Utah

### 18. Adjourn

K. Knoll adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:06 p.m.



## Exhibit A: Attendance List

### Members in Attendance

Chris Ah Choy ..... Bonneville Power Administration  
Scott Brooksby.....WECC  
Darin Brummett..... Tri-State Generation & Transmission–Power Management Division  
Casey Hutchinson.....Avista Corporation  
Ayo Idowu..... Bonneville Power Administration  
Scott Johnson .....Western Area Power Administration  
Karl Knoll.....Portland General Electric Company  
John McCarthy ..... Southern California Edison Company  
Caleb Murphy ..... San Diego Gas and Electric  
Brian Nordlund.....PacifiCorp  
Shaun Skidmore.....Idaho Power Company  
Jonathan Stefaniak.....Western Area Power Administration  
Bryan Szalewski.....NV Energy

### Members not in Attendance

Matt Barrington..... Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Ryan Beato ..... British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
Ryan Culley ..... Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Carlos Gonzales .....Salt River Project  
Wayne Klein ..... British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
Arturo Moreno.....Salt River Project  
David Parkhurst.....Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County  
Jack Raty .....NorthWestern Energy  
Ryan Wisness .....Portland General Electric Company

### Others in Attendance

Jeff Grosshauser .....Nokia



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Brett Kilbourne..... Utilities Technology Council  
Daniel Koppes.....PacifiCorp  
Donovan Le ..... Southern California Edison Company  
Sopheap Srun ..... Southern California Edison Company  
Serena Stiehl .....WECC  
Mark Willis .....WECC  
Chris Witthaus .....

