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## Technical Session

### Market Developments in the West

December 9, 2025

Energy markets in the Western Interconnection have undergone significant development over the past decade. Below is a list of events that have occurred and are expected to occur in the coming years.

**2014:** Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) was created. It started with PacifiCorp and the California ISO (CAISO), which operates the market, and now includes 25 entities.

**2021:** Western Energy Imbalance Service (WEIS) goes live. Today there are a dozen participants, mainly in Colorado and Wyoming. Southwest Power Pool (SPP) operates the market.

**2023:** The West-wide Governance Pathways Initiative (Pathways) begins when a group of state public utility commissioners and energy officials submit a letter to the leadership of the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB), the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB), and the Committee for Regional Electric Power Cooperation (CREPC), announcing their intent to create an independently governed entity that can deliver market services throughout the West. The push is in support of the creation of a single market for the entire West. That fall, a launch committee forms to develop a new and independent entity. The Pathways initiative calls for a three-step process leading to the creation of a regional transmission organization, if that is what participants want, that spans the Western Interconnection and uses the framework of WEIM and CAISO's pending Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM).

**2025:** California lawmakers pass AB 825, paving the way for a new, independent, West-wide organization to oversee the WEIM and the pending EDAM, which is also operated by CAISO. Intended in part to address concerns that California would have undue influence over other states through EDAM, the bill allows California utilities to participate in energy markets governed by an independent entity.

**2025:** The Regional Organization for Western Energy (ROWE) is formed, completing Step 2 of the Pathways initiative, with plans to be incorporated in 2026. Initially, ROWE offers a real-time market and a day-ahead market. Utilities can join one or both. Services are expected to grow over time, and could include an ancillary services market and transmission planning, similar to a traditional RTO but with utilities able to pick which services they want.

**2026:** Expected go-live date for EDAM. As of fall 2025, there are seven confirmed participants, with three entities leaning toward joining EDAM.

**April 1, 2026:** SPP is expected to begin offering real-time and day-ahead market services in the Western Interconnection to participants in Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming as part of its RTO West plan.

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**2027:** Expected go-live date for SPP's Markets+, a day ahead market that is competing with EDAM for participants. More than three dozen entities have committed to participate in Markets+'s developmental phase two effort. Participants can vote on market design initiatives but are not committed to participate in the market. Several entities have announced plans to join Markets+, including Arizona Public Service, Bonneville Power Administration, Chelan PUD, Tacoma Power, Salt River Project, and Tucson Electric Power.

**2027:** Target date for the implementation of the Restructured Energy Market (REM) in Alberta. In September 2025, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) unveiled the final design for the market after more than two years of industry engagement. The redesign features enhanced reliability operations and new reserve products intended to help Alberta prepare for a more diverse resource mix and increasing demand.

As the energy market structure in the West continues to change, there is potential to centralize and consolidate registered functions, such as transmission planning and operations, which may positively affect grid reliability.

This technical session will focus on the state of market development in the West and what to anticipate as the various markets develop. It will include a discussion about reliability considerations of market expansion and how coordination and communication will remain important in supporting these transitions. The session will address questions like:

- 1) What reliability opportunities can markets bring to the West, and what reliability risks should we be aware of through the transition?
- 2) How will market seams issues be addressed?
- 3) What should WECC consider through these transitions?

Panelists for this session are:

- David James, Deputy Minister of Affordability and Utilities, Government of Alberta
- Anna McKenna, VP of Market Design and Analysis, CAISO
- Carrie Simpson, VP of Markets, SPP
- Pam Sporberg, Director of Transmission and Markets, Portland General Electric and Co-Chair of the West-wide Governance Pathways Initiative

