



Upcoming Discussions:

[Reliability in the West: Gas-electric Interdependence](#)

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MT

On September 3, the series will bring together experts from organizations including the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee, Williams, Arizona Public Service, and Portland General Electric. These panelists will highlight a range of challenges and share contrasting experiences. The discussion will explore the essential relationship between the gas and electric sectors, address natural gas system challenges, and emphasize the need for close coordination to prevent incidents that put communities at risk. Panelists include:

- Crystal Ball, Executive Director, Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee
- Carolyn Ebner, Commercial Services Lead, NWP, Williams
- Jason Hartzell, Manager of Fuels and Contracts, Arizona Public Service Company
- Aaron Rodehorst, Manager, Term Trading, Portland General Electric

Previous Discussions:

[Reliability in the West Discussion Series: Public Safety Power Shut Off](#)

August 2025

Electric utilities have dedicated the past century to ensuring uninterrupted power for their customers, which makes the concept of power shutdowns particularly challenging. The August Reliability in the West Discussion Series explored Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and stressed the importance of having a strong safety culture within utilities as they work to minimize outages and safeguard communities. Panelists represented organizations at different stages with their PSPS programs; Southern California Edison (SCE) with an extensive history, PacifiCorp, whose service territory is encountering PSPS in new ways, and Public Service Company of New Mexico, whose PSPS program was recently implemented. Panelists include:

- Marco Aceituno, Senior Manager of PSPS Operations, Southern California Edison
- Carrie Laird, Managing Director Emergency Management and Meteorology, PacifiCorp
- Thad Petzold, Associated Director, Wildfire Risk and Vegetation Management, Public Service Company of New Mexico

[Reliability in the West Discussion Series: Cybersecurity](#)

June 2025

Our panelists explored the current cybersecurity threat landscape and shared strategies for risk mitigation, including the impact of AI and the use of cloud services.

- Treigh Pedroche, Senior Security Architect, WECC
- Phil Tonkin, Field Chief Technology Officer, Dragos

[Reliability in the West Discussion Series: Summer Outlook](#)

May 2025

The discussion provided a broad overview of summer 2025, the weather outlook, aridification, extreme weather events, and wildfires. The panel also discussed issues related to IBRs, battery storage, and resource adequacy for the summer.

Panelists included:

- James Hanson, Manager of Operations Analysis, WECC
- Vic Howell, Director of Reliability Assessments and Modeling, WECC
- Sunny Wescott, Chief Meteorologist, U.S. Department of Homeland Security – CISA

[Reliability in the West Discussion Series: Data and Modeling](#)

April 2025

This discussion explored the crucial role of modeling in system planning and operations, highlighting how models provide valuable insights and support decision-makers. Our panelists discussed the significance of assumptions, the necessity for high-quality data, and the inherent limitations of modeling.

Panelists included:

- Glenn Blackmon, Director, Energy Policy Office, Washington Department of Commerce
- Enoch Davies, Manager, Reliability Modeling, WECC
- Chelsea Loomis, Manager, Regional Transmission Planning Services, Western Power Pool

[Status Update—Large Loads](#)

March 2025

From data centers to electrolyzers, large loads pose a challenge to the West. The discussion explored key questions regarding the risk posed by large loads, the gaps in our understanding, and areas to look for solutions to meet that challenge. Additionally, this discussion offered insights from WECC's Large Loads Study conducted by Elevate Energy Consulting.

Panelists included:

- Julia Matevosyan, Associate Director & Chief Engineer, Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG)
- Katie Rogers, Manager, Reliability Assessments Reliability Assessments, WECC

[Large Load—System Performance Risks](#)

February 2025

This session focused on the practical considerations of large loads and their risks to generation and essential services. It explored the operational effects on the interconnection, including the potential for oscillations and the implications for Resource Adequacy.

Panelists included:

- Scott Beyer, Transmission Expansion Planning Director, PacificCorp
- Tricia Johnstone, Director of Operational Readiness, California Independent System Operator
- Kyle Thomas, P.E., Vice President Engineering and Compliance Services, Elevate Energy Consulting

2024 Reliability in the West Discussions:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Resource Challenges• Large Load Experiences• Large Load Impacts• Emerging Risks• Summer Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Outlook• Inverter-based Resources—Registration• Inverter-based Resources—Grid-forming Technology• Inverter-based Resources and Ride-through |
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2022 – 2023 Resource Adequacy Discussions:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transmission Considerations• Public Power• Considering Consumer Impacts• Summer Outlook—2023• Navigating a Regional Approach• Cutting Through the “Noise”—A Discussion with Commissioners | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NERC Winter and Long-Term Reliability Assessments• Resource Adequacy and Western Heat Domes• Spanning the Technology Gap• Steel in the Ground |
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