

Status **Active** PolicyStat ID **16831255**



Information Sharing Policy

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to set forth Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) policies for the sharing of certain data, reports, maps, or other types of information. This policy:

- Provides direction to WECC staff regarding the sharing of information;
- Describes whether and how persons can obtain access to specific types of information; and
- Makes clear to those who provide information to WECC the conditions under which the information is made available to others.

1.1. Notice

This policy constitutes WECC's notice to submitting entities under Section 1503.3 of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Rules of Procedure that WECC intends to share Confidential Information as set forth in this policy. This policy also constitutes WECC's notice to submitting entities under Section 1505 of the NERC Rules of Procedure that WECC may share information with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in accordance with the terms herein.

1.2. Document Owner

The owner of this document is the WECC General Counsel.

1.3. Scope

This policy applies to employees, the Board of Directors, and Members.

Nothing in this policy is intended to apply to or restrict how WECC Members or other submitting entities receive their own information or share their own information directly with others.

1.4. Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed every two years or as needed.

2. Policy

This policy categorizes information into the following different Information Access Categories which set forth how information may be shared.

2.1. Public Information

The following types of information are not restricted and may be made publicly available.

1. General
 - Charters, meeting agendas, open meeting materials and minutes
 - Reliability Standards, Regional Criteria, Policies, and Guidelines
2. Loads and Resources
 - Existing generation list
 - Planned generation list
 - Projected and actual demand reduction data
 - Projected peak demand (years 4–10)
 - Projected energy forecasts (years 4–10)
 - Scheduled peak-hour generation outages (years 4–10)
 - Actual year peak-hour generation outages
 - Actual historic hourly wind, solar and hydro generation (aggregated at the BA or BA area level)
 - Actual year hourly demand data
 - Transfer Capability
3. Event Analysis and Situational Awareness
 - Major WECC Remedial Action Schemes (RAS) table
 - Event analysis lessons learned (including brief event background)
4. System Stability Planning
 - Major WECC Transfer Paths table
 - Principal transmission and planned facilities maps
 - i. Will not be posted on public portions of WECC website
 - Latitude, longitude, line and two-dimensional data
 - i. Will not be posted on public portions of WECC website

5. System Adequacy Planning

- Production Cost Models and data not integrated with power flow, detailed transmission topology or other restricted information
- Long term planning tool data (not otherwise restricted by Section 2.6).
- Path descriptions, planned ratings, system conditions, allocation and interactions with other transfer paths from the WECC Path Rating Catalog

2.2. Confidential Information

The following types of information will be treated as Confidential Information under Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure and may only be shared with persons who (1) at the discretion of WECC have demonstrated a legitimate need, and (2) have executed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA).

1. Event Analysis and Situational Awareness

- Transmission and generation protection system misoperations reports (Critical Energy Infrastructure Information or CEII)
- Event analysis reports and brief reports (CEII)
- Resolved and unresolved disturbance logs (CEII)
- RAS database and RAS database summaries (Operating Procedures) (CEII)

2. System Stability Planning

- Base case data (power flow and dynamics data) including Geomagnetic Induced Current (GIC) and Remedial Action Scheme (RAS) models (CEII)
- Underfrequency Load Shedding (UFLS) data required to be provided by PRC Reliability Standards and Regional Criteria (CEII)
- Under-Voltage Load Shedding (UVLS) data required to be provided by PRC Reliability Standards (CEII)
- Comprehensive progress reports provided pursuant to the WECC Path Rating Process (CEII)
- WECC Path Rating Catalog (CEII)
- Generator model data validation test reports (CEII)
- Short circuit models (CEII)
 - i. These models will only be shared with NERC Registered Entities and non-U.S. entities in the Western Interconnection who perform similar functions.

3. System Adequacy Planning

- Complete Production Cost Model cases that include power flow, detailed system topology or other restricted information (CEII)

2.3. Market Sensitive Information

The following types of information will be treated as Confidential Business and Market Information under Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure and may only be shared with persons who (1) are not (a)

Market Function Employees as defined by FERC, nor (b) actively and personally engaged in day-to-day sales of electric power or other marketing functions, (2) at the discretion of WECC, have demonstrated a legitimate need, and (3) have executed an NDA.

1. Loads and Resources

- Projected peak demand (years 1–3)
- Projected energy forecasts (years 1–3)
- Scheduled peak-hour generation outages (years 1–3)

2.4. Western Interconnection Data Sharing Agreement (WIDSA)

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this policy, information WECC receives that is subject to the Western Interconnection Data Sharing Agreement (WIDSA) may only be shared in accordance with the terms therein.

2.5. Information Not Shared

Due to the nature of the following types of information and/or any applicable restrictions, this information may not be shared outside the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise (NERC and the Regional Entities). The WECC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) can approve exceptions allowing for the sharing of this data unless otherwise prohibited. Exceptions approved by the CEO require execution of an NDA by the requester, notice to submitting entities, and consent from any applicable non-U.S. entity, prior to sharing the information.

1. Compliance

- Control performance data (CPS1 and CPS2 scores) collected under BAL- 001
- Disturbance control performance data collected under BAL-002
- Operating reserve data collected under BAL-STD-002/BAL-002-WECC
- Frequency response data provided to NERC under BAL-003
- Transmission vegetation outage data collected under FAC-003
- Automatic voltage regulator data collected under VAR-002-WECC
- Power system stabilizer operating status data collected under VAR-501- WECC
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) information and documentation, such as, violation information, Self-Reports, Audit Reports, Notices of Alleged Violation, Settlement Agreements, etc.

2. General

- Closed session presentations and minutes

3. System Stability Planning

- Transmission planning system performance assessments required to be provided by TPL Reliability Standards

2.6. Other

The following types of information are not treated in accordance with an Information Access Category set forth above and may be shared as specified.

- Proprietary vendor, contractor or consultant information may only be shared as permitted by the applicable request for proposals, contract or agreement.
- WECC reports and white papers will be shared in accordance with the Information Access Category pertaining to the information contained therein.

3. Administration

3.1. Applicable Laws, Agreements, and Policies or Processes

Nothing in this policy shall be read as authorizing the release or restriction of information in a manner contrary to (1) applicable law, such as the NERC Rules of Procedure, the FERC Standards of Conduct and Reliability Standards, (2) applicable agreements, such as the NERC/WECC Regional Delegation Agreement and the WIDSA, or (3) rules in other applicable policies or process documents, such as the WECC Confidentiality Policy.

3.2. Unrestricted Information

Information in any Information Access Category may, at the discretion of WECC, be made publicly available by WECC if it has lawfully been made public by another source or the information was obtained by WECC from the owner of the information without restriction.

3.3. Information from Multiple Sources

Identical data sets received from multiple sources may be treated in accordance with the restrictions that allow the broadest sharing of the data.

3.4. Redacted or Aggregated Information

Information in any Information Access Category may, at the discretion of WECC, be made publicly available by WECC if it has been aggregated and/or redacted to eliminate the confidential or restricted nature of the information.

3.5. Availability of Information Internally

All information addressed herein may, subject to applicable restrictions above, be made available to the following persons for internal WECC purposes:

- WECC staff;
- Contractors doing work for WECC who have executed an NDA; and
- WECC member committees, subcommittees, task forces and working groups who at the discretion of WECC have demonstrated a legitimate need and upon execution of an NDA.

3.6. Availability of Information to NERC, FERC and Other Governmental Entities

WECC may share information in any Information Access Category, including non-U.S. entity data, with NERC, as the Electric Reliability Organization, pursuant to the confidentiality provisions in the NERC/WECC Regional Delegation Agreement approved by FERC, unless otherwise prohibited by applicable law or agreement.

A request from FERC for reliability information with respect to owners, operators, and users of the bulk power system within the United States is authorized by Section 215 of the Federal Power Act. Accordingly, WECC may share information in any Information Access Category from such entities with FERC.

When providing non-public information to FERC or other governmental authorities or entities, WECC will preserve any mark of confidentiality, inform the governmental authority or entity that the information is non-public, and consider the need for notice to submitting entities.

WECC will also take precautions to protect the information from disclosure under applicable freedom of information or sunshine laws. Such precautions may include terms in an agreement and/or asserting exemptions to disclosure under applicable laws.

3.7. Legitimate Need

Persons in the Electric Line of Business, as defined in the WECC Bylaws, and persons doing work set forth in writing for such persons, may, at the discretion of WECC, be presumed as having a legitimate need for non-public information, subject to applicable restrictions above.

Other persons will be determined to have a legitimate need for information if their need for the information relates to: (i) directly maintaining and improving the operational performance and reliability of the Bulk Power System or reducing Bulk Power System operating costs; (ii) analysis for better theoretical or actual understanding of the operation and reliability of the Bulk Power System; or (iii) development of new technologies and applications to directly support the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of the Bulk Power System.

3.8. Requests for Information

Public Information will generally be posted on the WECC website. Requests for Public Information not posted on the WECC website may be submitted to support@wecc.org.

Requests for Confidential Information and Market Sensitive Information shall describe the requester's legitimate need for the information and shall be sent to support@wecc.org. Persons whose requests are

approved and who have executed an NDA shall be given access to the requested information, which may include a login and password to restricted portions of the WECC website which may contain similarly restricted information.

In responding to requests for non-public information, WECC will consider providing the least amount of non-public information needed, whether aggregated and/or redacted information should be provided in lieu of non-public information, and/or whether information can simply be shown, rather than transferred, to the requester.

3.9. Protection of Information

Any person provided access to information under this policy shall take all reasonable precautions to preserve and protect the information from unauthorized disclosure.

3.10. Information Not Addressed

WECC may treat other types of information not specifically addressed herein pursuant to an Information Access Category listed above or in another manner as appropriate at the discretion of WECC.

Persons seeking to have information not listed herein included in and treated pursuant to an Information Access Category may submit a request to WECC at support@wecc.org. WECC may ask the requester to provide information justifying the request.

3.11. Categorization Changes

WECC staff may categorize or change the categorization of information without Board approval. Prior to categorizing or changing the categorization of any information, WECC shall (1) post the proposed categorization on the WECC website including reasons and rationale for the change, (2) notify submitting entities, the Governance Committee, the Member Advisory Committee, and applicable WECC technical committees, and (3) provide an opportunity for comments. Posting and notification shall be done at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the change becoming effective. WECC will treat as confidential any public information it proposes for recategorization as confidential during this outreach and any appeal.

4. Dispute Resolution

Disputes regarding denied requests for information or the categorization of information may be appealed in writing to the WECC CEO within 30 days of the determination. The appeal will follow a process similar to the process described in Section 1503.5 of the NERC Rules of Procedure. The outcome of this appeal may be appealed in writing to the WECC Board of Directors within 30 days.