

Establishment and Authority

The Studies Subcommittee (StS) was established by the Reliability Assessment Committee (RAC).

Purpose and Responsibilities

The purpose of the StS is to develop, review, and approve study programs for reliability assessments to address a variety of potential reliability risks to the Western Interconnection.

The StS is responsible for:

1. Providing a forum for considering various study approaches to assess potential reliability risks identified through coordination with other RAC groups.
2. Collaborating with the appropriate groups and stakeholders to create the cases needed to perform reliability studies.
3. Managing Project Coordination, Path Rating, and Progress Report processes for planned projects (generation/transmission), for new generation projects (200 MW or greater), or any new or upgraded transmission facility additions over 200 kV.
4. Reviewing and validating public policies such as renewable portfolio standards (RPS), clean energy goals, and energy efficiency requirements.
5. Collaborating with other RAC groups and relevant stakeholders to ensure that all needed expertise is available to support each work product.
6. Drafting an annual work plan and schedule that aligns with the RAC work plan.
7. Staying informed of long-term (e.g., 20 years) reliability trends, researching data and tools needed for the long-term planning horizon, and undertaking sensitivity studies based on these trends.
8. Performing additional tasks as assigned by the RAC.

Committee Composition and Governance

1. Membership

- a. The StS will be composed of members from WECC Member organizations.

- b. Members will be selected by their organization's RAC representative or by their organization's WECC Member Representative if no RAC representative exists.
 - i. WECC Member organizations may have multiple members on the StS.
 - ii. Notice of selection should be sent to the chair or designee.
- c. Members will serve until they resign or until a successor has been selected.
- d. The StS will also include a liaison, appointed by WECC management, as a member.
- e. Committee members who miss three or more consecutive meetings will be removed from the committee.

2. Leadership

- a. The co-chairs of the RAC will approve one of the StS members to serve as the chair.
 - i. The chair will manage the committee and its meetings.
- b. The chair of the StS will appoint an StS member to serve as the vice chair for StS approval.
 - i. The vice chair will perform the duties of the chair in the chair's absence or in case of a vacancy in the office of chair.
- c. The chair and vice chair will each hold office for a term of two years, or until a successor has been duly appointed. The chair and vice chair may serve multiple terms.
- d. WECC staff will partner with the chair and vice chair to manage the committee and its meetings, plan the agenda, and coordinate efforts with the other technical committees to ensure alignment with WECC staff work plans and priorities.
- e. WECC staff will prepare minutes of StS meetings for the committee's approval.
- f. The chair may appoint a steering committee that will assist with meeting agendas and action recommendations. The steering committee will include the vice chair, WECC liaison, subgroup chairs, and may include other members.

3. Meetings

- a. The StS will meet as often as required to carry out its responsibilities.
 - i. Meetings will be held according to the WECC Meeting Policy.
 - ii. StS meetings may be in-person, virtual, a combination of the two (hybrid), or by conference call, as determined by the chair.
 - iii. Meetings will be open to the public except as otherwise approved according to Board policy.



- iv. A quorum for meetings will be committee members representing a third of WECC Member organizations with committee members on the committee.
- b. The StS will strive to make all decisions by consensus. If consensus is not possible, action taken by the StS will require a majority vote of the members present.
 - i. Voting may be by any means the chair determines appropriate.
 - ii. Voting must take place in a noticed meeting.
 - iii. StS members may not vote by proxy or absentee ballot.
 - iv. Each WECC Member organization may only have one vote.
 - v. Members who vote in the minority regarding an approval item should provide an explanation for their vote. This explanation or a summary will be included in the minutes.
- c. WECC will give notice to each member of the StS of the time and place of all meetings and will post notice of all meetings on the WECC website. Notice will be given no less than:
 - 30 calendar days before in-person and hybrid meetings.
 - 10 calendar days before virtual meetings and conference calls.
- d. An agenda and the items for which action may be taken, will be posted no less than:
 - 10 calendar days before in-person and hybrid meetings.
 - Three calendar days before virtual meetings and conference calls.
- e. Any person who wants notice of StS meetings may notify the WECC liaison. WECC will then email the notice of future meetings to that person when the committee members receive the notice.

Reporting

The StS will report to the RAC on its activities and any recommendations.

Review and Changes to the Charter

The StS will review this charter every three years or as needed and discuss any changes with the Joint Guidance Committee (JGC). The StS will then make a recommendation to the RAC for approval.

	Committee	Date
Approved	RAC	May 19, 2023
Endorsed	JGC	August 4, 2023
Reviewed	StS	February 27, 2023

