



WIRAB 2016 Business Plan and Budget Review

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Presentation to NERC FAC

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Discussion Outline

- Overview of WIRAB
 - WIRAB formation and membership
 - Statutory authority under Section 215(j) of FPA
 - Advice Highlights
- WIRAB 2016 Budget Discussion
 - Starting Assumptions
 - 2016 Initiatives
 - 2016 Budget Overview
 - 2015 to 2016 Budget Comparison
- Comments/Questions



WIRAB Formation & Membership

- Formed in 2006, after 7 years of lobbying by Western Governors
 - FERC authorized WIRAB formation on 7/20/06
- ***Only regional advisory body in the U.S.***
- Membership includes all states with territory in the Western Interconnection, the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, and Mexico
 - Energy offices
 - PUCs and PSCs
 - Governors' and Premiers' offices



Section 215(j) of the Federal Power Act

- Authorizes WIRAB to advise FERC, NERC, WECC (and Peak Reliability) on the following:
 - Governance of an existing or proposed Regional Entity within the region;
 - Whether reliability standards proposed to apply within the region are just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;
 - Whether fees proposed to be assessed in the region are just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest; and
 - **Any other responsibilities** requested by the Commission.



WIRAB Advice Highlights

- Since 2007, WIRAB has provided advice on a wide range of reliability topics, including:
 - Reliability standards (NERC standards and WECC variances)
 - Governance issues (e.g. WECC Section 4.9 Review)
 - Follow-up actions stemming from Sep. 8, 2011 outage
 - Annual budget filings of WECC and Peak Reliability

The independent boards of both WECC and Peak Reliability are looking to WIRAB as a major advisor to both organizations



WIRAB 2016 Budget Starting Assumptions

- *Activities/initiatives approved in the 2015 budget should be continued and expanded upon in 2016...*
- WIRAB has been the beneficiary of ARRA-funded SPSC activities, including:
 - Evaluation of gas-electric interdependencies and related reliability challenges
 - Evaluation of VER Integration and related reliability challenges
 - Reliability analysis under changing generation and load futures
- To do its job, WIRAB will need to fund some of these types of reliability-focused activities after April 2015



WIRAB 2016 Budget Starting Assumptions (con't)

- New reliability challenges and opportunities will be presented by more variable generation (wind, solar), more distributed energy resources that may not be visible to bulk power system operators, and less synchronous generation. EPA's final Clean Power Plan will accelerate these changes.
- Expansion of the California ISO Energy Imbalance Market, potential new members of the ISO, and reforms in system operations in other parts of the WI will present new reliability challenges and opportunities.



WIRAB 2016 Initiatives

- Improve WECC's ability to identify, analyze and recommend actions to address major reliability challenges and participate in the analysis of those challenges, as well as advise on potential solutions
- Encourage WECC and Peak to adopt more open and transparent data sharing practices



WIRAB 2016 Budget Overview

Expense Category	2015 Budget	Proposed 2016 Budget	Increase
Salaries	387,300	539,500	152,200
Indirect	364,761	517,920	153,159
Consultants	150,000	150,000	0
Conference Calls / Webinars	5,500	8,254	2,754
Meeting Expense	35,320	58,000	22,680
Travel	70,700	96,600	25,900
Total	1,013,581	1,370,274	356,693



Questions? Comments?

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