

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.,)	
)	
v.)	Docket Nos. EL13-11-000
)	RD13-1-000
)	
Western Electricity Coordinating Council and North American Electric Reliability Corporation,)	
Respondent.)	

**COMMENTS OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
IN SUPPORT OF THE WESTERN ELECTRICITY COORDINATING COUNCIL'S
MOTION FOR DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN COMMISSION STAFF AS NON-
DECISIONAL**

Pursuant to Rule 212 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("FERC" or "Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 385.212, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") hereby files these comments in support of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council's ("WECC") January 14, 2013 filing requesting that the Commission designate certain staff from its Office of Energy Policy and Innovation ("OEPI") as non-decisional in the above-captioned proceedings.

I. COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF WECC'S REQUEST

NERC supports WECC's January 14, 2013 motion. WECC's request, if granted, will remove communication restrictions now in place and will allow the continuation of staff discussions and pre-filing meetings between and among designated OEPI staff, as well as staff from WECC and NERC, regarding the upcoming joint filing of Reliability Standard IRO-006-WECC-2 and revisions to WECC's Unscheduled Flow Mitigation Plan.

II. CONCLUSION

Wherefore, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission accept these comments and grant WECC's request to designate certain OEPI staff as non-decisional in the referenced proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rebecca J. Michael

Gerald W. Cauley
President and Chief Executive Officer
North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
3353 Peachtree Road, N.E.
Suite 600, North Tower
Atlanta, GA 30326
(404) 446-2560
(404) 446-2595– facsimile

Charles A. Berardesco
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Rebecca J. Michael
Associate General Counsel
North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 400-3000
(202) 644-8099– facsimile
charlie.berardesco@nerc.net
rebecca.michael@nerc.net

*Counsel for North American Electric
Reliability Corporation*

Dated: January 17, 2013

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties listed on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 17th day of January, 2013.

/s/ Rebecca J. Michael

Rebecca J. Michael
*Attorney for North American
Electric Reliability Corporation*