##### February 14, 2025

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Caroline Trum, Director of Wholesale Electric Activities

**RE: WEQ/RMQ BPS Activities**

On January 21, 2025, the WEQ BPS held a meeting to begin discussion on Standards Request R24005 / 2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.b. The request, submitted jointly by Southwest Power Pool and RCWest/CAISO proposes the development of standards to support congestion management process for the Western Interconnection. As part of the meeting, the WEQ BPS voted to create the WEQ BPS Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group to address this effort and develop a recommendation for WEQ BPS consideration. The first meeting of the working group is scheduled for February 20, 2025.

During the January 21, 2025 meeting, the requesters provided a presentation overviewing the proposal. As stated by the requesters, the request was submitted in response to discussions held as part of other industry forums that led to recommendations for expanding the functionality of one tool used by the Western Interconnection as part of its congestion management process, the Enhanced Curtailment Calculator. The requesters explained that their proposal is to use the NAESB process to develop WEQ Business Practice Standards that will support the implementation of the expanded tool functionality, including a standardized methodology for issuing curtailments and relief obligations. It was noted that such standards could help to enhance transparency and efficiency in congestion management processes and that the intent is for any developed standards to be used in addition to the interconnection’s established congestion management procedure, the Unscheduled Flow Mitigation Plan.

In addition to this effort now underway, the 2025 WEQ and RMQ Annual Plans have several distributed energy resource (DER) related standard development efforts. These include items jointly assigned to the WEQ and RMQ BPS to consider and develop business practices to help promote interoperability in the integration of DER management systems, which can be used to aggregate and centralize management of DERs, and other industry tools that facilitate access to DER data. Currently, the WEQ BPS and RMQ BPS are working jointly with the WEQ Cybersecurity Subcommittee regarding the development of cybersecurity standards to help secure DER-related electronic commercial communications, and efforts regarding the other jointly assigned items have not yet been initiated.