**via posting**

**TO:** Interested Industry Parties

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

**RE:** Final Minutes from February 20, 2025 WEQ BPS Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group Meeting

**DATE:** February 20, 2025

**WHOLESALE ELECTRIC QUADRANT**

**Business Practices Subcommittee**

**Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group**

**Conference Call**

**February 20, 2025 – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Central**

**FINAL MINUTES**

1. **Welcome**

Mr. Phillips welcomed the participants to the meeting. Ms. Trum provided the antitrust and meeting policies reminder. The participants introduced themselves. Mr. Phillips reviewed the agenda. Mr. Watkins moved, seconded by Mr. Thappetaobula, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed a simple majority vote without opposition.

1. **Begin Discussion Regarding Standards Request R24005 / 2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.b – Develop and/or modify the WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief – Eastern Interconnection Business Practice Standards to support congestion management processes for the Western Interconnection**

Mr. Phillips stated that the request submitters asked the attachment submitted as part of Standards Request R24005, the ECC Task Force White Paper, to be posted as a work paper for the meeting and asked Mr. Watkins and Mr. Thappetaobula to review.

Mr. Watkins stated that, as outlined in Standards Request R24005 and the white paper, the proposal is to develop a new set of standards, using WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief – Eastern Interconnection as a template, to support an interconnection-wide congestion management process for the Western Interconnection. Mr. Thappetaobula explained that the intent is for the new WEQ Business Practice Standards to establish a standardized curtailment methodology that will support curtailment of electronic tags (e-Tags) and generation-to-load relief obligations. Mr. Watkins stated that the standardized curtailment methodology would be a reliability coordinator-led approach and assess all factors having a material impact to a system operating limit (SOL) exceedance. He noted that one change differing from current Western Interconnection practices is the proposal to modify the material impact threshold of a constraint from 10% to 5% impact on the SOL. He explained that this would be consistent with Eastern Interconnection approach established in WEQ-008 and is supported by Western Interconnection data that has shown a number of constraints that fall between the 5% and 10% threshold that, when aggregated, have a significant impact on SOLs across the interconnection.

Mr. Ashbaker asked how the proposal will impact the Western Interconnection’s current congestion management process, the Unscheduled Flow Mitigation Plan (UFMP). Mr. Watkins responded that modifications are not proposed to the UFMP and that Western Interconnection participants would be able to manage congestion on the five qualified paths identified in the UFMP using the UFMP processes. He explained that the new standards will support a consistent, standardized approach for reliability coordinators to use real-time information to model, calculate, and manage constraints that occur outside of these five qualified paths. Mr. Ashbaker asked how the impact of actions taken under UFMP processes would be accounted for in curtailments and relief obligations in the interconnection-wide congestion management process proposal. Mr. Thappetaobula stated that the ECC already accounts for any actions taken as part of the UFMP because the tool uses real-time information in its modeling and is updated in fifteen-minute intervals.

Ms. Stringer noted that while the intent is not to impact any existing reliability-related standards, like NERC Reliability Standard IRO-006-WECC-3 Qualified Path Unscheduled Flow (USF) Relief, it may be helpful to ensure the effort is being coordinated with NERC and WECC. Ms. Trum stated that, at a staff-level, NAESB is already coordinating with NERC and WECC regarding the effort and will continue to do so. Mr. Ashbaker stated that he is the WECC liaison for NAESB coordination and can help to identify if there are any consistency issues between the developed business practices and existing reliability requirements.

Mr. Phillips suggested the participants review WEQ-008. Mr. Thappetaobula noted that WEQ-008-1 includes several standards that are intended to help ensure Eastern Interconnection tools are provided with the necessary information to support the use of real-time data. He explained that the ECC is configured using network modeling that already utilizing real-time data and that the same data submittal requirements may not be necessary. Ms. Stringer stated that WEQ-008 includes two methodologies to submit Intra-BA transactions, the Generator Prioritization Method and the Tag Secondary Network Transmission Service Method. She asked if the new standards will also use these same two processes. Mr. Thappetaobula responded that these methodologies are intended to establish the Generator Priority Schedule for Intra-BA transactions, explaining that the Tag Secondary Network Transmission Service Method accommodates BAs who tag Intra-BA transactions, which have associated e-Tag curtailment priorities. He stated that participants will need to determine if both of these methodologies are applicable to the Western Interconnection, if modifications need to be made, or if new methodologies need to be developed.

Mr. Watkins stated that the Western Interconnection can likely use very similar transaction priorities as those in WEQ-008-2 as the Western Interconnection has the same 0 – 7 priority levels. He noted that while the Western Interconnection priorities have both “on-path” and “off-path” designations, the standards will likely not need to reference the “on-path” designations as the intent is to define a congestion management process that can be used for constrains that occur outside of the five qualified paths identified in the UFMP. Mr. Phillips asked if the Western Interconnection process will also need to use the concept of sub-priorities, as referenced in WEQ-008-2.4 through WEQ-008-2.4.4. Mr. Watkins responded that the sub-priorities were developed to help ensure equitability in the treatment of BAs within the same RC footprint and designed to accommodate Eastern Interconnection-specific practices. He stated that the concept should be included in any developed standards but that participants will want to ensure that any processes are specific to Western Interconnection practices.

Mr. Watkins noted that curtailment procedures in WEQ-008-3 establish five TLR levels. He suggested that the new standards should use these same processes but that participants may be able to simplify some of the concepts based on Western Interconnection practices. Mr. Ashbaker stated that input from Western Interconnection market participants, specifically BAs, will be important to help ensure the standards meet industry needs. He noted that WECC can provide support for outreach to Western Interconnection market participants. Mr. Watkins stated that the requesters have been mentioning the effort as part of other industry meetings and encouraging interested parties to contact NAESB. He noted that it may be easier to solicit input on standards language, as opposed to the proposal concept described in the white paper, and offered to develop initial draft standards for the next meeting.

1. **Discuss Next Steps and Future Meetings**

Mr. Phillips stated that the next meeting of the working group is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM Central. He noted that monthly meetings of the working group had been scheduled with the intent to vote out a recommendation to be considered during the October 22, 2025 meeting of the WEQ Executive Committee. Ms. Trum noted that to do so, the working group would need to finalize a recommendation by the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 2. She explained that this would allow sufficient time for the WEQ BPS to hold a meeting to consider and vote on the recommendation and the thirty-day formal comment period.

Mr. Thappetaobula asked if additional meetings of the working group could be scheduled. Ms. Trum stated that the working group can adjust the meeting schedule as needed.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM Central on a motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Thappetaobula.

1. **Attendance**

| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Organization** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Toby | Armand | MISO |
| Steve | Ashbaker | WECC |
| Rebecca | Berdahl | BPA |
| Tanner | Brier | BPA |
| Jason | Brown | MISO |
| Kevin | Johnson | BPA |
| Darren | Lamb | CAISO |
| Katrina | McEvoy | Arizona Public Service |
| Denton | McGregor | Black Hills Service Company |
| Amrit | Nagi | NAESB |
| Joshua | Phillips | SPP |
| Jessie | Rice | WAPA |
| Kristen | Rowley | MISO |
| Eric | Shick | Arizona Public Service |
| Ashley | Stringer | SPP |
| Raja | Thappetaobula | CAISO |
| Caroline | Trum | NAESB |
| Alex | Watkins | SPP |