



**Western Governors' Association  
Policy Resolution 05-29  
November 8, 2005  
Phoenix, Arizona**

***Establishment of a  
Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body***

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. For the past six years, Western Governors and the electric power industry in the Western Interconnection have lobbied Congress to adopt federal legislation that provides a legal backstop for regional electricity reliability standards, *provided* such legislation includes deference to interconnection-wide standards developed in the West, delegation of the enforcement of such standards to an interconnection-wide reliability organization, and authorization for Governors to create regional advisory bodies.
2. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) authorizes Governors to create regional advisory bodies. Such regional advisory bodies would advise the FERC, a North American Electric Reliability Organization authorized by the law, and a Western Interconnection reliability organization. Canadian Provinces would be able to participate in such regional advisory bodies. Where a regional advisory body is organized on an interconnection-wide basis, FERC may defer to the decision of these bodies. In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy must consult with regional advisory bodies on the designation of national interest corridors.
3. Under EPAct, all users of the grid, including public power entities that are not generally subject to FERC jurisdiction, will be required to abide by the mandatory reliability standards. Individual state public utility commissions will no longer be able to determine if reliability standards are just and reasonable after they have been established.
4. The creation of a Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body is necessary to ensure that the public interest is fully represented in decisions on the reliability of the Western grid. It will help ensure that reliability standards implemented for the Western Interconnection reflect an appropriate balance between the benefits of a reliable grid and the costs of achieving reliability – costs that Western consumers will bear.

**B. GOVERNORS' POLICY STATEMENT**

1. Consistent with the provisions of EPAct, the Governors of States that have at least one-half their electric load in the Western Interconnection agree to establish a Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body under Section 215(j) of the

Federal Power Act. The Governors encourage the Provinces of Canada and the appropriate entity in Mexico to join the Advisory Body.

The Governors:

- a. Direct the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) to offer continual advice to (1) the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), (2) a North American electric reliability organization (ERO), (3) DOE, and (4) FERC, including advice on additional topics where FERC has asked for the WIRAB's assistance.
- b. Require that any actions by the WIRAB shall receive affirmative votes of at least one-half the participating states/provinces and that such states and provinces shall represent at least one-half of the electric load of the participating states and provinces.
- c. Designate their representatives, or the alternates for such representatives, to the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) within the Western Interconnection as their designees to the WIRAB.
- d. Direct that the WIRAB have staff support and resources sufficient to offer advice, as necessary, to the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, a North American Electric Reliability Organization and FERC.
- e. Require the WIRAB be funded from revenues for reliability activities under Section 215 of the Federal Power Act. Any voluntary contributions made by control area operators pursuant to WGA Resolution 05-02 for activities that are conducted by the WIRAB under Section 215 should be credited against fees collected under Section 215.

**C. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE**

1. The Western Interstate Energy Board shall approve necessary changes to its Bylaws to effectuate this resolution to enable the Board to serve as the WIRAB.
2. The WGA staff, in consultation with the Western Interstate Energy Board, shall make the necessary filing at FERC to create the WIRAB.
3. The WIRAB shall make reports as necessary to the Governors on its operation and shall alert Western Governors of issues that may warrant the Governors' direct involvement.