

**Panel 4 Statement**  
**Melanie Frye, Vice President of Operations and Planning**  
**Western Electricity Coordinating Council**  
**FERC Reliability Technical Conference**  
**July 9, 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the progress made by WECC and entities in the Western Interconnection in response to the 27 recommendations contained in the Arizona-Southern California Outages on September 8, 2011 Report (Southwest Outage Report). While WECC is the central coordination point, the many committees, subcommittees, and working groups within the WECC membership structure have invested countless hours to improve the reliability of the Western Interconnection by implementing 52 activities developed in response to the Report recommendations. WECC is tracking the completion of the activities that address the 27 Report recommendations through its monthly progress dashboard. As of June 30, 28 of the 52 activities, or more than half, have been completed, with timelines in place to complete the remaining activities by early 2015. The dashboard, as well as supporting information for each activity, can be found at the WECC September 8 Outage section on the WECC web site:

<http://www.wecc.biz/About/sept8/Pages/default.aspx>).

Today, I will highlight three activities that have broad-reaching and positive impacts across the Western Interconnection—data sharing, the base case coordination system, and Guidelines.

**Data Sharing**

The first topic is data sharing which is important as it offers visibility into neighboring systems, rather than just a Balancing Authority's (BA) and Transmission Operator's (TOP) individual system. In addition, increased data sharing has led to improved accuracy of the RC network model. In July 2012, the WECC Reliability Coordinator function began sharing its next-day studies with Balancing Authorities and Transmission Operators who signed a non-disclosure agreement. By the second quarter of 2013, 100

percent of the Balancing Authorities and Transmission Operators in the Western Interconnection had executed this agreement or signed a waiver.

In addition to the BAs and TOPs now having access to the generation and transmission outage information of their neighbors, sharing the next-day studies provides an opportunity for improvements to the accuracy of the network model used by the RC. Entities now work directly with the RC to resolve discrepancies. The data sharing was expanded this year when the RC began sharing real-time contingency analysis, and will be further expanded later this year when the RC's state estimator solution is shared. All of this information is shared via a secure website. The site has become the central repository where entities can upload their studies to be viewed by the RC as well as their neighboring BAs and TOPs.

### Base Case Coordination System

In addition to improving the accuracy of existing system models, WECC is also working to implement a system known as the Base Case Coordination System (BCCS). Base cases contain very large amounts of data necessary to model power system behavior of the entire Interconnection. The automated process will allow WECC to create additional scenarios each year, in addition to increasing the accuracy and timeliness of development. Once in place, the BCCS will be a centralized, web-accessible database that will automate the existing base case development process.

### Guidelines

In 2012, the WECC Operating Committee approved three Guidelines for use by its member entities: Protection System Loadability, WECC Operating Network Responsibilities and Procedures, and Real-time Tools. The focus of Guidelines is on "how" a particular operating practice should be performed, where standards focus on "what" must be done.

One of the long-standing strengths of the Western Interconnection is the interaction between WECC staff and industry volunteers. Through the WECC standing committee structure, WECC also has two additional Guidelines under development, with approval

expected in the fourth quarter of this year. Going forward, WECC will measure adoption of the Guidelines through the Annual Operating Practices Survey.

As you have heard, a significant amount of work has already been completed, yet much remains to be done. However, this isn't without its challenges. Some of the work underway may require a fundamental shift in the way the Interconnection is operated and planned. Cross functional groups comprised of WECC staff, RC staff, and industry subject matter experts are working on complex issues such as the System Operating Limit methodology and the Path Operator concept. In addition to addressing the challenge of determining how best to use existing and emerging technology, these groups will work to smooth the transition to new practices.

In conclusion, WECC has completed three significant activities—improved data sharing, creation of a base case coordination system, and development of Guidelines. WECC is on track to complete the remaining activities by early 2015. I am pleased and proud of the efforts made by WECC, in collaboration with the industry, to demonstrate our shared commitment to the reliability of the Western Interconnection. Thank you again for the opportunity to highlight our progress.