

Address for 2019 FERC Reliability Technical Conference

Asher Steed

**Manager, Provincial Reliability Coordination Operations
BC Hydro and Power Authority**

Introduction - Good afternoon Chairman Chatterjee, and Commissioners Glick, Lafleur, and McNamee. I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this timely panel. I will provide some background about BC Hydro (British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority) including our contributions to support the continued reliability of the Western Interconnection, as PEAK RC winds down, and our efforts to establish the RC function. Further, I would like to share our perspective on addressing the issues associated with establishing new RCs.

BC Hydro background - BC Hydro is the largest utility in western Canada with 12,000 MW generating capacity, over 12,000 circuit miles of transmission and serves over 4 million people. Our system is primarily hydro-based with two significant storage reservoirs, one of which is part of the Canada/US Columbia River Treaty. BC Hydro is responsible for provincial resource demand balancing, and is a transmission operator and transmission service provider. We are connected to the US and Alberta, with total export capability exceeding 4000 MW and import capability of over 3000 MW. BC Hydro has a long history of coordination with our neighbors and we take an active role within the industry as demonstrated by contributions to committees and working groups at NERC, WECC, and the Northwest Power Pool.

BC Hydro's RC decision - In 2018, with the uncertainty surrounding the RC function, BC Hydro considered the options available and determined it was in the best position to provide the RC service for the province. In September we submitted our application to register as RC. We are working to ensure we have the capabilities in place to support the RC function for our area and to effectively coordinate with other RCs. Our regulator, the BCUC (British Columbia Utilities Commission) has ordered that we

undergo entity certification for the RC function with WECC leading the certification team to assess our readiness.

RC background - Reliability Coordination in some form has existed in the West for over 20 years. PEAK's operation, in my view, represents the collective learning and the development of industry best practice throughout North America over that time. There is strong recognition that much of what has been developed (by Peak or others) must continue in some form to support reliability.

Addressing Seams Issues – BC Hydro is one of many parties contributing to addressing issues arising from PEAK's transition to new RCs. The list of 'seams issues' contains over 50 specific items and can be broadly divided into those items resulting from the creation of a new RC seam, and those issues with an interconnection-wide impact, such as common tools and processes. I will highlight three of the prominent areas where work is underway.

Example 1 – Seams agreements. To address RC seams, the foundational document is the RC seams agreement or coordination agreement. This specifies the obligations of both parties to support common interests and any specific issues of managing the shared seams. Further, there may be a need for joint operating procedures that provide specific instruction to personnel on coordinating operational activities. This process is well underway between the current and future RCs to ensure issues are coordinated and handled in a consistent manner.

Example 2 – Common tools. Within WECC there are several tools and processes managed by PEAK that represent the collective work of many parties and there is broad support to see them sustained. These include the Western Interchange Tool, the Enhanced Curtailment Calculator and the West-wide System Model. The RC coordination group will determine how these tools and processes carry on. It is expected that all of the future RCs will sign a memorandum of understanding with underlying documents to support joint funding and governance.

Example 3 – Wide area coordination. Each RC will establish a wide area view to ensure awareness of current system status and allow for coordination with adjacent RCs. A WECC regional variance to reliability standard IRO-002-5 has been approved by WECC and NERC and submitted for FERC’s approval. Western RCs are contributing to a common methodology for modeling and monitoring to carry out the requirements in a consistent manner. In part, this is intended to address the broader concerns associated with dividing PEAK’s current RC area.

While the primary focus is to ensure that all entities within WECC prepare for PEAK’s closing, it is recognized that coordination efforts need to continue. The focus will shift towards sustainment of the work currently underway. I welcome today’s discussion to share and learn from each other in support of reliability.