##### August 20, 2025

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Amrit Nagi, Staff Attorney

**RE: WEQ Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group Activities**

The WEQ BPS Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group (WICMWG) is advancing its 2025 annual plan assignment under Item 1.b, Standards Request R24005, to develop new WEQ Western Interconnection Loading Relief (WLR) Business Practice Standards. These standards will establish an interconnection-wide congestion management process designed to complement the Western Interconnection Unscheduled Flow Mitigation Plan (WIUFMP) and improve coordination, efficiency, and transparency in congestion management practices. WECC staff has been an active participant, and NAESB continues to coordinate with both WECC and NERC staff to ensure alignment with existing reliability requirements.

The WICMWG is currently seeking feedback as part of a second informal comment period, open through close of business on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. This version incorporates revisions based on input from the first informal comment period and provides additional clarity and consistency within the proposed standards language. The draft includes modifications to WEQ-000 Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Definition of Terms and a new suite of WLR standards developed to address Standards Request R24005 / 2025 WEQ Annual Plan Item 1.b.

As envisioned by the request submitters, Southwest Power Pool and CAISO/RC West, the new WLR Process proposes a standardized methodology for issuing curtailments and relief obligations on a pro-rata basis according to transmission service priority. This approach is intended to apply to all transactions that materially impact a constraint, including intra-balancing authority transactions, and aims to enhance visibility into and management of loop flows. Curtailments and relief obligations are anticipated to be implemented through new functionality in the Enhanced Curtailment Calculator (ECC), which is currently used in Western Interconnection congestion management.

Since early 2025, the WICMWG has worked through multiple iterations of draft standards, leveraging the WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief: Eastern Interconnection Business Practice Standards while tailoring provisions to the unique processes and practices of the Western Interconnection. Recent discussions have focused on refining transaction prioritization, addressing jointly owned facility constraints, defining generation-to-load (GTL) relief obligations, and clarifying the distinction between “on-path” and “off-path” service. Participants have also streamlined terminology, removed duplicative provisions, reformatted sections for clarity, and incorporated specific references to the WIUFMP while avoiding conflicts with NERC Reliability Standards.

Following the first informal comment period held from June 17–July 15, most feedback received was non-substantive and suggested revisions to improve clarity and consistency. The second informal comment period will help the working group finalize the proposed suite of WLR standards, related modifications to WEQ-000, and adjustments to the material impact threshold for constraints, from 10% to 5%, to better reflect Western Interconnection operational needs. The WICMWG is also evaluating whether additional examples and explanatory materials should accompany the standards to assist with implementation.

The next meetings are scheduled for September 2, 2025, with the goal of completing a recommendation for WEQ BPS during its September 12, 2025 meeting for the October 22, 2025 WEQ Executive Committee meeting.