**via posting**

**TO:** Interested Industry Parties

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

**RE:** Draft Minutes from March 18, 2025 WEQ BPS Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group Meeting

**DATE:** April 17, 2025

**WHOLESALE ELECTRIC QUADRANT**

**Business Practices Subcommittee**

**Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group**

**Conference Call**

**April 16, 2025 – 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Central**

**DRAFT 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.

The participants reviewed the draft minutes from the March 18, 2025 meeting. No modifications were offered. Mr. Watkins moved, seconded by Mr. Thappetaobula, to adopt the draft minutes as final. The motion passed a simple majority vote without opposition. The final minutes from the meeting are available through the following hyperlink: <https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_WICM031825fm.docx>.

1. **Review and Discus Draft Standards Language to Address 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 Mr. Watkins submitted [revisions](https://naesb.org/member_login_check.asp?doc=weq_bps_WICM041625w3.docx) to the Proposed Business Practice Standards Work Paper to address several Parking Lot Issues identified during the previous meeting. He asked Mr. Watkins to review the work paper.

Mr. Watkins reviewed the proposed revisions to WEQ-XXX-3.3.2.1 to provide additional details regarding pro-rata relief obligations and address Parking Lot Issue 8. He noted that the modifications align with the UFMP transmission priorities with slight changes to reflect that the WELR process will not use the “on-path/off-path” distinctions. The participants agreed that no further revisions to address the issue are needed at this time and closed the item in the Parking Lot Issues List.

Mr. Watkins reviewed the proposed revisions to WEQ-XXX-3.3.2.4 to address Parking Lot Issue 7 and provide clarity regarding the treatment of intra-hour transactions. He explained that the intent is to create standards that will ensure the WELR process is consistent with the existing practices used by the Western Interconnection. Ms. Chung suggested that the participants consider including additional details within the standards to clearly outline the steps that are taken. Mr. Rice noted that [documentation](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_WICM041625w5.docx) on past practices within the Western Interconnection state that once a curtailment event has been called, no new e-Tags that would contribute positive flows to the congested transmission element should be held. He suggested that this could serve as a starting reference point for the standards language. Ms. Chung noted that this process was developed a number of years ago, and that since this time, there have been a large increase in the number of intra-hour e-Tags within the Western Interconnection. She suggested that the participants discuss if changes are needed to help ensure that transactions for firm transmission service continue to be appropriately prioritized over those for non-firm transmission. Mr. Rice agreed. Ms. Chung stated that she could provide a work paper for the next meeting outlining existing BPA business practices in this area.

Mr. Watkins stated that WEQ-XXX-3.1 was updated to address Parking Lot Issue 8 but that additional details will be needed. He explained that the participants will need to determine what level of detail is appropriate to include within the WEQ Business Practice Standards, like identification of required data categories, the party responsible for providing the notice, and who that notice is provided to, versus more technical details, such as tool requirements to automate notice processes. Mr. Thappetaobula stated that it may be helpful for participants to provide additional information on automated notices provided through existing tools and software platforms and other communications provided to Western Interconnection market participants regarding the initiation of a curtailment event. Mr. Hundal offered to provide an example of the automated communications market participants currently receive when a UFMP curtailment is initiated.

Mr. Hundal stated that, at a minimum, notice requirements for WELR events should include the same categories of information as are provided in notices sent to market participants for UFMP events. He explained that coordination between market participants will be an important to support an interconnection-wide congestion management process. Mr. Watkins agreed and suggested that the participants consider how the standards can help facilitate the availability of needed data. Mr. Rice stated that the proposed standards include requirements for information regarding WELR events to be posted to OASIS. He noted that transmission service providers are the entities responsible for posting information to OASIS and that any requirements to post information regarding WELR events will need to be supported through information sharing with reliability coordinators.

Mr. Thappetaobula asked if it would be helpful for the standards development and industry comment processes if there was documentation that provided a practical explanation of the envisioned WELR process. Mr. Hundal stated that this could help improve understanding around how the standards will be used to implement WELR events. Mr. Watkins noted that similar work papers were provided when the WEQ BPS developed modifications to WEQ-008 Transmission Loading Relief (TLR) - Eastern Interconnection to support Parallel Flow Visualization. He stated that SPP can reach out to the ECC software vendor regarding the availability of any white papers or functional specifications that could be used as reference documents by the working group.

The participants reviewed the [Parking Lot Issues List](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_WICM041625w2.xlsx). Mr. Watkins asked what sort of information would be most helpful regarding Parking Lot Issue 1 to determine if there are specific requirements needed to address the impacts and obligations of Canadian entities. Mr. Hundal stated that it would be helpful to understand how the TLR process in the Eastern Interconnection impacts Canadian entities. Mr. Watkins stated that he could reach out to subject matter experts and try to provide additional information for the next meeting.

Mr. Hundal stated that prior to informal comment, it would be helpful to provide additional details to WEQ-XXX-2.2 that clarify how parties will determine if a constraint has an on-path or off-path impact and the classification of interchange transactions that will be curtailed. This was added as Parking Lot Issue 12.

The Parking Lot Issues List as revised during the meeting is available through the following hyperlink: <https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_WICM041625a2.xlsx>

The Proposed Business Practice Standards Work Paper as revised during the meeting available through the following hyperlink: <https://naesb.org/member_login_check.asp?doc=weq_bps_WICM041625a1.docx>

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

Mr. Phillips stated that during the last meeting, the participants discussed holding an informal comment period to obtain industry feedback on the direction of proposed standards. Mr. Thappetaobula asked what timeline should be considered. Mr. Phillips stated this a determination for the working group. He explained that the request can include questions for the industry or identify areas where specific input is needed but that there should be sufficient detail within the draft standards that who have not participated will be able to provide meaningful feedback. Mr. Watkins suggested that the working group evaluate the modifications that can be made to the standards based on the material provided as action items for the next meeting and then discuss if the draft standards contain the level of detail and clarity to serve as a basis for informal comment. There was no objection to proceeding in this manner.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM Central on a motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Thappetaobula.

1. **Attendance**

| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Organization** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Steve | Ashbaker | WECC |
| Rebecca | Berdahl | BPA |
| Jonathan | Booe | NAESB |
| Tanner | Brier | BPA |
| Milli | Chennell | BPA |
| Robin  | Chung | BPA |
| Raj | Hundal | Powerex |
| Igor | Kormaz | Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association |
| Amrit | Nagi | NAESB |
| Joshua | Phillips | SPP |
| Jessie | Rice | WAPA |
| Mandee | Ripley | OATI |
| Aleksandr | Tereshchenkov | Puget Sound Energy |
| Raja | Thappetaobula | CAISO |
| Caroline | Trum | NAESB |
| Alex | Watkins | SPP |
| Jeremy  | West | OATI |