**via posting**

**TO:** Interested Industry Parties

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

**RE:** Final Minutes from July 17, 2025 WEQ BPS Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group Meeting

**DATE:** July 21, 2025

**WHOLESALE ELECTRIC QUADRANT**

**Business Practices Subcommittee**

**Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group**

**Conference Call**

**July 17, 2025 – 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Central**

**FINAL 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 June 17, 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 for the meeting are available through the following hyperlink: <https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_WICM061725fm.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 in response to the informal comment request regarding the [initial draft](https://naesb.org/member_login_check.asp?doc=weq_bps_WICM071725w1.docx), comments were submitted by [APS](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_WICM071725w4.docx), [Seattle City Light](https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_WICM071725w5.docx), and [BPA](https://naesb.org/member_login_check.asp?doc=weq_bps_WICM071725w7.docx) as well as [Mr. Hundal](https://naesb.org/member_login_check.asp?doc=weq_bps_WICM071725w6.docx). He explained that the feedback, proposals, and suggested revisions were consolidated into a [Combined Informal Comments Work Paper](https://naesb.org/member_login_check.asp?doc=weq_bps_WICM071725w8.docx) to assist with review.

The participants began by reviewing the informal comments regarding WEQ-000 Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Defined Terms. Ms. Berdahl noted that BPA proposed non-substantive changes to the definition for Balancing Authority Area to correct a typographical error and Credit for Redispatch for clarity. There was general agreement to make these changes.

Mr. Schick stated that APS proposed modifications be considered the definition for Enhanced Curtailment Calculator (ECC) to specify that the congestion management process supported by the standards will address constrained facilities and flowgates. Mr. Watkins suggested that this specificity may be more appropriate for inclusion in the definition of the congestion management procedure as proposed for inclusion in WEQ-000. The participants agreed to make this change.

Ms. Berdahl stated that BPA proposed minor changes to the ECC definition. She explained that the revisions will better clarify that the Western Interconnection Unscheduled Flow Mitigation Plan is a defined process. The participants agreed to incorporate these modifications Mr. Hundal confirmed that the changes to the definition for ECC and Western Interconnection Loading Relief addressed his comments.

Mr. Hundal and Ms. Berdahl reviewed the revisions proposed by their comments to the definition for Seams Agreement. The participants agreed to incorporate changes consistent with the proposals.

Next, the participants discussed the informal comments regarding the new suite of draft standards. There was general agreement to change the name of the congestion management procedure to the Western Interconnection Loading Relief (WLR) and incorporate the proposed revisions by Mr. Hundal to the introduction section.

The participants reviewed the informal comments proposing changes to XXX-1.1 and agreed to incorporate the modifications to existing language suggested by Ms. Berdahl and Mr. Hundal. Ms. Berdahl stated that the BPA comments also suggest new language to provide additional clarity. Ms. Chung explained that the new language is intended clarify that the Reliability Coordinator must coordinate with other entities before making a determination to initiate use of the WLR process. Mr. Watkins stated that the Reliability Coordinator is the entity responsible for maintaining reliability and has the authority to determine how constraints will be addressed. Ms. Berdahl noted that there are local congestion management procedures in place by entities that may be used in lieu or prior to the WLR process. Mr. Watkins stated that XXX-1.2 allows for use of a local congestion management procedure. He proposed that the new clarifying language proposed by BPA may be more appropriate to include as part of this standard. Mr. Hundal agreed, noting that additional details would be helpful. He suggested participants consider the need for language that will clearly articulate how a constraint is identified, who the identifying party is, and who is responsible for initiating congestion management procedures in response to an identified constraint.

The participants discussed the proposed revisions to XXX-1.4. Mr. Hundal stated that there is a need for additional clarity within the section related to how transmission priority will be assigned for transactions that are subject to curtailment and relief obligations. Mr. Watkins explained that the intent is for tagged transactions to use the transmission service priority of the e-Tag and non-tagged generation-to-load (GTL) impacts within a balancing authority will be treated as firm priority. Mr. Hundal suggested that the draft standards, as written, may not clearly communicate this intention. Mr. Kluza noted that as written, the standards language is not clear on if the amount of transmission for a transaction is determined based on the scheduled e-Tag or real-time data reflective of the actual amount of energy flowing. Mr. Watkins volunteered to revise the standards language to better capture the intent to use e-Tag priorities and real-time output (Action Item 14). Mr. West stated that he can provide additional information on how the IDC uses real-time telemetry (Action Item 15).

The participants discussed the proposed revisions to XXX-1.5. Mr. Schick stated that additional clarity regarding how a GTL relief obligation is assigned and implemented would be helpful. Mr. Hundal agreed, noting that the intent of the concept is not clearly captured by the proposed language. Ms. Berdahl stated that BPA proposed a new standard, XXX-1.5.3.2 to better clarify that pseudo-ties and dynamic schedules are included in determining GTL impacts and relief obligations.

The participants discussed the proposed revisions to XXX-1.6. Ms. Berdahl noted that language in XXX-1.5 as well as XXX-1.6 may be repetitive and confusing, as currently worded, to someone not involved in the drafting process and suggested participants consider how the standards could be consolidated and simplified. Mr. Kluza agreed. Mr. Watkins volunteered to reformat the standards to group together similar requirements and streamline the draft language (Action Item 16).

Ms. Chung stated that XXX-1.6.2 references action to “hold” a curtailment but that “hold” is not a defined term nor action with specific meaning within the industry. She suggested that the word be replaced with “curtail” within the standard and that the participants replace references to “hold” elsewhere in the standards with a different word to better specify the intended meaning. Mr. Watkins agreed. Mr. Hundal noted that the standards do not contain an explicit obligation for entities to maintain transactions at the level to which a relief obligation was provided. He suggested that this may be an area of further consideration. Ms. Chung agreed. Mr. Watkins noted that the obligation could be more clearly identified with addition of the new proposed standard, XXX-1.5.3.2 and the revisions being considered as part of Action Items 14 and 16.

The participants discussed the proposed revisions to XXX-2.2. Mr. Hundal explained that his suggested modifications are intended to better clarify that the transmission service priority is assigned based on the impacted Transmission Service Provider. He stated that the changes are also meant to help avoid confusion between WLR and the “on-path/off-path” designations in the Western Interconnection UFMP. There was general agreement to make the changes as discussed during the meeting.

The Parking Lot Issues List as revised during the meeting is available at the following hyperlink: <https://naesb.org/pdf4/weq_bps_WICM071725a2.xlsx>

The Combined Informal Comments as revised during the meeting available through the following hyperlink: <https://naesb.org/member_login_check.asp?doc=weq_bps_WICM071725a1.docx>

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

The participants agreed to hold an additional meeting on Monday, July 28 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Central to finish review of the informal comments.

Mr. Phillips stated that after the working group finalizes the recommendation, it will need to be voted on by the WEQ BPS to move forward to the formal industry comment period. He noted that the WEQ BPS would need to vote on the recommendation no later than September 17, 2025 for consideration by the WEQ Executive Committee at its upcoming meeting. Mr. Thappetaobula stated that the working group has future meetings scheduled for August 7 and September 2. He suggested that additional meeting time may be needed to complete a recommendation. Mr. Phillips stated that he would work with the NAESB office to identify additional meeting times for consideration.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM Central on a motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Ms. Berdahl.

1. **Attendance**

| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Organization** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kathy | Anderson | Idaho Power |
| Steve | Ashbaker | WECC |
| Rebecca | Berdahl | BPA |
| Tanner | Brier | BPA |
| Robin | Chung | BPA |
| Katie | Davis | BPA |
| Tina | Gary | Portland General Electric |
| Emily | Grenberry | SPP |
| Raj | Hundal | Powerex |
| William | Kluza | PacifiCorp |
| Amrit | Nagi | NAESB |
| Joshua | Phillips | SPP |
| Anne | Reed | El Paso Electric |
| Jessie | Rice | WAPA |
| Mandee | Ripley | OATI |
| Patty | Satkiewicz | PacifiCorp |
| Eric | Shick | APS |
| Raja | Thappetaobula | CAISO |
| Caroline | Trum | NAESB |
| Alex | Watkins | SPP |
| Jeremy  | West | OATI |