##### October 8, 2025

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

**RE:** **WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee / Western Interconnection Congestion Management Working Group Activities**

On September 12, 2025, the WEQ Business Practices Subcommittee (BPS) finalized and voted out a recommendation for new and revised WEQ Business Practice Standards to support an interconnection-wide congestion management process for the Western Interconnection. The Western Interconnection Loading Relief (WLR) Process is a new, uniform mechanism intended to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and consistency of congestion management practices and improve visibility into the source of constraints, including those that cause loop flows. The proposed WEQ WLR Business Practice Standards provide the framework for this process, establishing a standardized, flow-based methodology that uses real-time data to assign curtailment and relief obligation priorities to relieve constraints on transmission facilities.

Over forty individuals representing approximately twenty different entities participated in standards development, working diligently to craft language that will support clarity, equity, and coordination within the WLR Process. Under the standards, the WLR Process can be used to curtail and reload interchange transactions, intra-balancing authority transactions, and generation-to-load materially impacting system operating and interconnection reliability operating limits, defined as a threshold of 5% or greater. Curtailments and relief obligations will be issued on a pro-rata basis, based on the transmission service level of the transaction, helping ensure the priority of firm transmission over non-firm. As discussed by participants, the expanded interconnection-wide curtailment functionality supported by the WLR Process may improve upon a reliability coordinator’s capabilities to resolve congestion and ability to manage loop flows.

The WLR Process is intended to be used alongside the NERC Reliability Standards that support the Western Interconnection Unscheduled Flow Mitigation Plan and other local procedures for congestion management documented in individual tariffs and business practices. NAESB coordinated with both NERC and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) throughout the standards development effort to address the industry submitted request, and WECC staff regularly participated in the meetings.

The formal industry comment period for the recommendation ends on October 14, 2025. The WEQ BPS has scheduled a meeting for October 17, 2025 to review any formal comments received and consider additional revisions to the proposed standards to address any issues raised. The WEQ Executive Committee will consider the recommendation as part of its meeting on October 22, 2025. If approved and subsequently ratified by membership, the new and revised standards will be considered a final action and included in the next publication.