The Northwest Power Pool, with the financial support of 18 of its 35 members, has embarked on the design of a voluntary Resource Adequacy Program for electric utilities in the West. The purpose of the Resource Adequacy Program is to ensure adequate generating capacity is available in the future to meet consumer demand for electricity. Electric utilities in the West currently manage resource adequacy on an individual utility basis and many employ different methodologies when forecasting resource adequacy. A regional Resource Adequacy Program will allow utilities to forecast and manage resource adequacy in a consistent and coordinated manner. The program will be voluntary, but once a utility joins, it will be contractually committed to fulfilling its program requirements. A key design criterion of the program is to maintain local autonomy over utility investment decisions and operations and respect the existing rights of individual utilities, state regulatory commissions, and local utility governing bodies. This panel will discuss the key design elements of a voluntary Resource Adequacy Program. Questions for consideration will include the following:

- Will the Program Administrator calculate the regional capacity need and assign capacity obligations to utilities participating in the program?
- Will the Program Administrator determine the capacity contribution of different electric generating technologies?
- What are the likely forecast windows and compliance timelines?
- Will the Resource Adequacy Program be FERC jurisdictional? Which design elements trigger FERC’s authority? How do you preserve the non-jurisdictional status of participating entities if they are part of a FERC jurisdictional program?
- What are the state jurisdictional implications of a regional Resource Adequacy Program and how might these interplay with elements of the program that are FERC jurisdictional?

- Frank Afranji, Executive Director, Northwest Power Pool
- Susan Ackerman, Chief Energy Officer, Eugene Water & Electric Board
- Scott Kinney, Director of Power Supply, Avista Utilities
- Mark Holman, Managing Director – Power, Powerex
Price Formation in Wholesale Electricity Markets
Friday April 24, 2020
11:00 – 12:30 PM Mountain Time
10:00 – 11:30 AM Pacific Time

Presentations

The primary role of a market price is to reflect equilibrium between supply and demand. In a well-functioning and competitive wholesale electricity market, the market price represents the cost per megawatt-hour to procure the next megawatt needed to balance the system. This common understanding of price formation in wholesale electricity markets can give the false impression that the establishment of prices in wholesale electricity markets differs from the process in other commodity markets. In fact, price formation in wholesale electricity markets is the same as price formation in other commodity markets with one primary difference – electricity must be delivered at the precise moment it is needed by consumers. Most of the complexity and many of the challenges associated with price formation in wholesale electricity markets derives from the current grid’s limited ability to store large quantities of electricity, as well as the high costs associated with supply failure. This panel will discuss two developments related to price formation in wholesale electricity markets. First, a representative from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will discuss FERC’s investigation of price formation in wholesale electricity markets and the actions the Commission has taken to improve price formation. Second, a representative of the entities participating in the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) will discuss the group’s recent request that the California ISO conduct a comprehensive review of price formation options for an Extended Day Ahead Market, including evaluations of fast-start pricing and scarcity or shortage pricing.

- Angela Amos, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Energy Market Regulation-West, FERC
- Donald Tretheway, Senior Advisor, Market Design & Regulatory Policy, California ISO
- Mark Holman, Managing Director – Power, Powerex
- Eric Hildebrandt, Executive Director, Market Monitoring, California ISO

Role of Regional States Committees in Wholesale Electricity Market Governance
Friday May 1, 2020
11:00 – 12:30 PM Mountain Time
10:00 – 11:30 AM Pacific Time

In 2015, the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM)– Body of State Regulators (BOSR) was established to provide a forum for state regulatory commissioners to learn about, discuss, and advise the EIM Governing Body on the development of the EIM. At that time, the EIM included only two participating entities and its future was uncertain. Today, the Western EIM includes 9 participating utilities with 15 additional utilities indicating their intent to join the market between 2020 and 2022. Eleven states will participate in the BOSR. As the geographic footprint and scope to the Western EIM expands, how should the role and resources of the BOSR also evolve?
What can we learn from the experiences of other regional states committees that are similar to the BOSR and operate in conjunction with other regional electricity markets?

How do other regional states committees engage with the market operator and other stakeholders?

Has the role or focus of these regional committees changed over time?

How do the other regional states committees obtain funding and deploy staff resources?

What are the benefits of the states working together and what are the pitfalls?

This panel will discuss these questions and other topics related to the maturation of the Western EIM Body of State Regulators.

- Letha Tawney, Commissioner, Oregon PUC and Chair of the EIM BOSR
- Talina Matthews, Commissioner, Kentucky PSC
- Ted Thomas, Chair, Arkansas PSC

**Western Electricity Industry CEO Discussion**

Friday May 8, 2020

11:00 – 12:30 PM Mountain Time

10:00 – 11:30 AM Pacific Time

**Registration Link**

Leaders of the electric utility industry will discuss the emerging issues and key strategic initiatives that will shape the landscape of the western electricity industry over the next five years.

- Pat Vincent-Collawn, President & CEO, PNM Resources
- Lisa Grow, President, Idaho Power Company
- Doug Cannon, President & CEO, NV Energy
- Gary Hoogeveen, President & CEO, Rocky Mountain Power
- Elliot Mainzer, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration