



Monthly Energy Update

October 2022

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by Chain Supply Issues**

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WRAP Draws Broad Support, Some Criticism at FERC

The Western Power Pool's (WPP) proposed resource adequacy program has received broad support from potential participants and others, comments submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) indicate. However, concerns were raised by some parties over the transmission capacity requirements in the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) tariff WPP filed with federal regulators.

Most of the comments were submitted Sept. 30—10 days after WPP released preliminary data for potential participants to use to evaluate if they will be able to meet the program's likely capacity requirements. Ahead of summer and winter, participants must show they have generation capacity to meet 100 percent of forecast peak demand and transmission capacity to get 75 percent of that demand to load centers.

Based on initial modeling using data submitted by participants, WPP calculated capacity factors for the most common resources across the West.

The effective load carrying capabilities for wind and solar differ depending on where in the West the resources are located and whether it is winter or summer. WPP split the West into five zones for wind and two for solar. Other resources each have a single capacity factor, regardless of location.

The program's initial modeling also produced preliminary planning reserve margins for summer and winter. WPP calculated different margins for the Northwest and the Southwest. Currently, WRAP has 26 potential participants whose service territories stretch from British Columbia to Arizona. They have a combined summer peak load of nearly 67,000 MW and about 65,000 MW in winter.

Using data submitted by potential participants, WPP and the Southwest Power Pool—which was contracted to run the WRAP—calculated the projected need to safeguard against a capacity shortfall in the two regions and two seasons.

The Southwest has higher projected reserve margins in 2026-2027 than the Northwest for both winter and summer. One significant reason that the Southwest's margin is higher is its projected growing reliance on variable energy resources and batteries as it retires thermal resources, Ryan Roy, WPP director of technology, modeling and analytics, told Clearing Up.

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